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Leading by Example

by **EDWARD I. HALPERN**
CTT Executive
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The New Year is upon us. 2003 is now a series of memories. The highlight of the year was, of course, Richard Mandella's incredible success on Breeders' Cup Day. I take particular joy in his accomplishments because I know how hard he works both with his horses and for the benefit of the entire industry. When called upon, he always responds, and when not called upon, he is always looking for ways to help. Without fanfare or gratitude from others, he flies around the country at his own expense to participate in conferences and meetings that benefit all of us. He has been present at every meeting of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, and his valu-

able input will, hopefully, lead to the adoption of uniform medication rules nationally. At home, he is the first to donate funds for industry causes as the need arises. He has made major contributions to the California Thoroughbred Trainers Political Action Committee, as well as supporting the Edwin J. Gregson Foundation. In my role as Executive Director of the CTT, I find myself asking, all too often, for his assistance or advice. When it comes to charitable and political matters, his response is always "how much do you need."

Within the past few weeks, he has approached me regarding how he can provide assistance for an exercise rider he hardly knew. He did know the rider needed help and did all he could to make sure that help was provided. On another occasion, he noted that a certain Santa Anita Park employee should be recognized for his

assistance to trainers and backstretch personnel. He asked that the CTT take action to recognize that person and offered to pay the expense of that recognition. A few days later, I found that this honoree was a person with whom Richard had once had personal differences. That did not get in the way of Richard's generosity or concern that someone who had done a good job be recognized for that service.

The overall story for California racing in 2003 was not necessarily a good one. But, it did have its highlight. So, congratulations Richard, and Happy New Year.

All of the staff at the California Thoroughbred Trainers take this opportunity to thank the entire membership for their support and input during 2003. We wish for each of you a successful and healthy 2004.

Northern California News

by **CHARLES E. DOUGHERTY, JR.**
CTT Deputy Director

Tom "Bomber" Doutrich began his job as racing secretary at Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields in September 2003. Since his arrival, trainers have raved about his enthusiasm and passion for the position. He has made some minor adjustments to the starter races eligibility that has received a positive response. Look for more changes as he moves forward. Thus far, Bomber is working very closely with the TOC (Thoroughbred Owners of California) and CTT. He is seeking feedback and/or comments as to how the racing office can better serve the owners and trainers.



Doutrich has been very proactive in trying to recruit new horses to Northern California. He was able to lure several of his long-time friends from Washington to come the Bay Area. Currently, the field size at the Golden Gate meet is at 8.05. Last year at this time, the field size was 7.4.

The new equine hospital at Golden Gate has opened its doors and is now in full operation. The state-of-the-art facility has been embraced by the racing community in Northern California. The vets are loving life, as they now are able to perform procedures in the new building and are not having to deal with makeshift facilities as they have done for the past few years. Special thanks should be given to MEC (Magna Entertainment Corp.) for building

the facility. Dent Caton, a former trainer, should also be given special recognition, as he has spent hundreds of volunteer hours helping coordinate the final planning stages of the facility. A ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of the facility was held on December 13.

The Santa Rosa Fair management announced that they had commenced the process to have a turf course built and in use for its 2005 race meet. This was welcome news to all trainers as it looks promising that turf racing will become a reality at a fair site. This can only help to make the fair circuit an attraction for out-of-state horses and help to increase the field sizes on the fair racing calendar. Kudos to Santa Rosa for being proactive in building the first and much needed turf course for the fair circuit.