



Letter from the President

In this year's U.S. Presidential race, the campaign theme for most of the leading candidates is change. Like many politicians, they have difficulty explaining the details of what change really means. In our sport of Thoroughbred racing and breeding, there were clearly winds of change in 2007. And by most accounts, change was good.

Under TOBA's leadership, the Sales Integrity Task Force met the challenge presented to it last spring by key leaders in the Kentucky State Legislature and industry constituents. While the final recommendations were greeted by limited criticism, the widespread consensus was that the task force balanced the interests of integrity standards, free enterprise, privacy rights and disclosure requirements.

Overlooked by many critics are the new independent arbitration process and the sales companies' agreement to abide by its rulings. This addresses concerns that the new code of conduct does not have the enforcement "teeth" to punish those guilty of transgressions in the public auction process. Now, for the first time ever, there is a contractually imposed binding arbitration process, governed by the rules of the American Arbitration Association, with guidelines for penalties that will ban guilty parties from participating in the sales at Keeneland and Fasig-Tipton.

The voluntary ownership registry will be market-driven, just as the medical repository has been for more than a decade. It is critical to understand that ownership disclosure is not as simple as some will lead us to believe. Personal rights to privacy must also be considered, as well as the buyer's responsibility to perform due diligence.

It was a very encouraging to see the country's two leading auction houses implement an anabolic steroid policy beginning in 2008. It is long overdue. In addition, a special committee has been established, with TOBA representation, to review and recommend on an annual basis additions and deletions to the list of Prohibited Practices included in the Conditions of Sale to the sales companies. It is one small step forward, but one of hopefully many more ahead.

The sport is also moving forward on the regulation

of anabolic steroids in racing. The Mitchell Report on steroids in Major League Baseball dominated the news headlines for weeks and has drawn Washington's attention to anabolic steroid use in racing and other sports.

Our entire industry must come to the realization that the unregulated use of anabolic steroids does not have a place in Thoroughbred racing. Iowa has regulated anabolic steroids in racehorses for over 15 years and racing has managed to survive. Other states, such as Indiana and Arkansas, have adopted the RCI model rule on anabolic steroids (see page 3) while several others are in the process of adopting the rule. Recent reports of efforts to delay the implementation of the model rule are disheartening. Changing old habits is always difficult. But in the end, any delay in or retreat from adopting the RCI model rule will create more harm than good for the sport.

Winds of change are also blowing on the economic front in Thoroughbred racing with the battles over content-sharing and revenue splits from advanced deposit wagering (ADW). With the uncertain future of two of the nation's leading ADW providers, Youbet and TVG, as well as the mixed signals coming out of the Churchill Downs/Magna Entertainment venture, TrackNet Media, any comment about positive change will have to be reserved for a later date.

Sincerely yours,

Dan Metzger
President



Dan Metzger

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2008 TOBA EVENT SCHEDULE

- **TOBA National Awards Dinner**
Saturday, September 6, 2008
Lexington, Kentucky
- **Breeders' Cup Weekend Getaway**
October 23 – 26, 2008
Santa Anita Park, Arcadia, California
- **TCA Stallion Season & Art Auction**
Friday, December 5, 2008
Keeneland Entertainment Center
Lexington, Kentucky

2008 TOBA SEMINAR SCHEDULE*

The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association offers educational seminars and clinics for prospective, new and established owners.

TOBA's goal is to provide participants with the knowledge necessary to improve their likelihood for success in the Thoroughbred business. All TOBA seminars and clinics are sponsored by *The Blood-Horse*.

- **New Owner Seminars**
February 22 – Gulfstream Park, Hallandale, Florida
April 18 – Prairie Meadows, Altoona, Iowa
May 1 – Churchill Downs, Louisville, Kentucky
July 18 – Woodbine, Toronto, Canada
- **Pedigree and Conformation Clinics**
August 5, Saratoga Springs, New York
October 6 – 7 Lexington, Kentucky
- **Breeding Clinic**
June 6 – 8 Lexington, Kentucky

*subject to change

TOBA SEMINAR TESTIMONIAL

The following was submitted by John Ligett, a new Thoroughbred owner and TOBA member.

The TOBA [Pedigree and Conformation] clinic was very helpful and directly led to my investment in the industry. I found each of the presentations informative and useful as were the farm visits.

I was particularly impressed with P. Headley Bell from Mill Ridge Farm/Nicoma Bloodstock and contacted him soon after the clinic. I told him of my interest in becoming involved in the breeding of thoroughbreds and my level of investment. He was very open and up-front about the risks involved in the business. Only after I assured him I was aware of the risks and understood I could lose all of my investments did he agree to become my buyer's agent at the November Keeneland Breeding stock sale.

Without the TOBA clinic, I would not have so quickly invested in the industry, nor would I have likely found an advisor so honest and knowledgeable as Headley Bell, whom I now regard as a true friend.

Thank you so much for the clinic.



INTERNATIONAL RACING TRAVEL 2008

ROYAL ASCOT

June 14 - 21

Six nights in London and a side-trip to Goodwood.

A WEEK IN DEAUVILLE

August 10 - 18

Seven nights in Deauville featuring racing at Deauville, Clairefontaine and Cabourg, farm visits in Normandy, an excursion to the D-Day landing beaches and the Deauville Select Yearling Sale.

IRELAND

August 29 or 31 (TBD) - September 7

Eight nights in Ireland, racing at Leopardstown and The Curragh featuring the Irish Champion Stakes and farm and training visits.

AUSTRALIA

October 26 or 28 (TBD) - November 9

Stays in Melbourne, Sydney and the Hunter Valley, racing at Flemington and Randwick featuring the Melbourne Cup and farm and wine visits in Victoria and New South Wales.

For more information visit www.racing-europe.com or call (800) 261-0499.



Pedigree and Conformation Clinic attendees evaluate the conformation of a Thoroughbred at Mill Ridge Farm in Lexington, Kentucky.



Report from TOBA's American Graded Stakes Committee

The American Graded Stakes Committee met on November 27 in Lexington for its annual grading session.

The Committee reviewed 718 unrestricted U.S. stakes races with a purse of at least \$75,000, and assigned graded status to 481 of them for 2008, seven more than were graded in 2007. A total of 10 graded races were upgraded, including three new Grade I races and seven new Grade II races; 18 new Grade III races were identified.

There were eight races whose status was downgraded for 2008, three going from Grade II to Grade III and five being downgraded from Grade III to Ungraded status. Six NYRA races, three races which carried Grade II status and three races which carried Grade III status in 2007, were no longer eligible for grading in 2008.

The committee will meet again in April for its annual policy review.

2008 Graded Stakes	Number	% Graded	% Eligible	Change from 2007
Grade I	110	22.9%		+3
Grade II	155	32.2%		-2
Grade III	216	44.9%		+6
All Graded	481		67.0%	
Ungraded	237		33.0%	
All Eligible Races	718			

Breakdown of all grade levels for the 2008 racing season

RCI Model Rule on Androgenic-Anabolic Steroids (AAS) as referred to in president's letter

- (1) No AAS shall be permitted in test samples collected from racing horses except for residues of the major metabolite of stanozolol, nandrolone, and the naturally occurring substances boldenone and testosterone at concentrations less than the indicated thresholds.
- (2) Concentrations of these AAS shall not exceed the following urine threshold concentrations for total (i.e., free drug or metabolite and drug or metabolite liberated from its conjugates):
 - (a) 16β-hydroxystanozolol (metabolite of stanozolol (Winstrol)) – 1 ng/ml in urine for all horses regardless of sex;
 - (b) Boldenone (Equipoise® is the undecylenate ester of boldenone) in male horses other than geldings; – 15 ng/ml in urine. No boldenone shall be permitted in geldings or female horses.
 - (c) Nandrolone (Durabolin® is the phenylpropionate ester and Deca-Durabolin® is the decanoate ester) –
 - (A) In geldings - 1 ng/ml in urine
 - (B) In fillies and mares – 1 ng/ml in urine
 - (C) In males horses other than geldings – 45 ng/ml in urine
 - (d) Testosterone
 - (A) In geldings – 20 ng/ml in urine
 - (B) In fillies and mares – 55 ng/ml
 - (C) Male horses other than geldings will not be tested
 - (3) All other AAS are prohibited in racing horses.
 - (4) The presence of more than one of the four AAS identified in (2) above at concentrations greater than the individual thresholds indicated above shall not be permitted.
 - (5) Post-race urine samples collected from intact males must be identified to the laboratory.
 - (6) Any horse to which an anabolic steroid has been administered in order to assist in the recovery from illness or injury may be placed on the veterinarian's list in order to monitor the concentration of the drug or metabolite in urine. After the concentration has fallen below the designated threshold for the administered AAS, the horse is eligible to be removed from the list.

New Benefits for TOBA Members

KENTUCKY DERBY MUSEUM

TOBA members receive discounted admission to the Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, Ky. Simply show your membership card to receive your discount.

NTRA ADVANTAGE

As a TOBA member you are eligible for discounts with Dodge, John Deere, UPS, Sherwin Williams, and new discounts with Toshiba and Office Depot. Call NTRA at 866-678-4289 for more information.

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State Association Members

TOBA's mission is to improve the economics, integrity and pleasure of the sport on behalf of Thoroughbred owners and breeders.

■ SALES INTEGRITY PROGRAM

TOBA manages the Sales Integrity Program, a program designed to educate, inform and protect new owners at public auctions. www.salesintegrity.org

■ NEW OWNER RECRUITMENT

TOBA is the only national organization that coordinates new and prospective owner seminars, effectively recruiting new owners and breeders to the Thoroughbred industry.

■ AMERICAN GRADED STAKES COMMITTEE

TOBA manages the American Graded Stakes Committee. Graded stakes races provide owners and breeders with a benchmark for quality of races and horses.

■ THE RACING GAME

TOBA manages The Racing Game, a marketing program designed to introduce new owners and breeders to the sport of Thoroughbred racing. www.theracinggame.com

■ RACING MEDICATION AND TESTING CONSORTIUM

TOBA is a founding member of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, a program that develops policies to ensure the integrity of racing and welfare of racehorses and protect the interests of the betting public.

■ LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

TOBA is an influential voice in the American Horse Council, the national trade association representing the horse industry in Washington, D.C. TOBA provides representation for owners and breeders on national and international racing and breeding topics.

■ CONTINUING EDUCATION

TOBA coordinates pedigree, conformation, breeding and auction clinics to further the knowledge of industry participants, helping them make informed decisions.

■ CLAIMING CROWN

TOBA co-created racing's championship day for blue-collar runners. www.claimingcrown.com

■ THOROUGHBRED CHARITIES OF AMERICA

TOBA has an alliance with TCA, a non-profit organization, whose mission is to raise money for Thoroughbred rescue, retirement, retraining, research, education, backstretch and therapeutic riding programs. www.ThoroughbredCharities.org

■ NATIONAL AWARDS DINNER

TOBA hosts an annual awards dinner, a formal event recognizing the efforts of our colleagues in the Thoroughbred industry.

For more information on how TOBA is working for you, visit www.toba.org.

TOBA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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Are you a subscriber to *The Blood-Horse*: Yes No

Annual TOBA membership includes a subscription to *The Blood-Horse* magazine*.

\$250 Individual \$350 Family \$500 Corporate \$1,000 Sponsor (one time fee, \$250 each year thereafter)

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TOBA dues may be tax deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense.

Contributions or gifts to TOBA are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

Please return to the address below.

*Annual TOBA dues include \$10 for Blood-Horse subscription.

Alabama Thoroughbred Breeders Racing Association

Arizona Thoroughbred Breeders Association

California Thoroughbred Breeders Association

Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society

Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' & Owners' Association

Georgia Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

Illinois Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Foundation

Indiana Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association

Iowa Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association

Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association

Maryland Horse Breeders Association

Massachusetts Thoroughbred Breeders Association

Michigan Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

Minnesota Thoroughbred Association

Mississippi Breeders and Owners Association

Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association

New Mexico Horse Breeders Association

New York Thoroughbred Breeders Inc.

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

Ohio Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners

Oklahoma Thoroughbred Association

Oregon Thoroughbred Breeders Association

South Carolina Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association

Texas Thoroughbred Association

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Virginia Thoroughbred Association

Washington Thoroughbred Breeders Association

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