

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
 Sacramento, CA 95825  
 (916) 263-6000  
[www.chrb.ca.gov](http://www.chrb.ca.gov)



**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS**  
**Watch and Wager, LLC.**  
 Cal Expo, Sacramento, California  
TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

Honorable Gregory L. Ferraro DVM, Chairman  
 Honorable Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chairman  
 Honorable Dennis V. Alfieri, Member  
 Honorable Damascus Castellanos, Member  
 Honorable Brenda Washington Davis, Member  
 Honorable Thomas C. Hudnut, Member  
 Honorable Wendy Mitchell, Member  
 C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director  
 Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director  
 Marc Shaw, Chief, Enforcement Division  
 Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

**Report for the Week of Tuesday, January 16 through January 21, 2024.**

**TUESDAY**01/16/24<sup>1</sup>**DARK DAY DUTY**

Steward **Rod Newhart** was present today accepting entries for Friday, January 19th and Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. One hundred forty (140) horses were entered with one hundred thirty-two (132) drawing in. There are nine (9) races scheduled for Friday with a scheduled post time of 6:45 PM and nine (9) for Sunday with a scheduled post time of 4:45 PM.

01/16/24<sup>2</sup>**QUALIFYING DRAW**

Entries were also taken for qualifiers to be held prior to the races on Friday January 19<sup>th</sup>. One (1) race was drawn with a scheduled post time of 6:15 PM.

01/16/24<sup>3</sup>**DARK DAY****WEDNESDAY**01/17/24<sup>1</sup>**DRIVER CHANGES & SCRATCH TIME**

Steward **Rod Newhart** was present to take changes for Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> with some driver changes and no scratches.

01/17/24<sup>2</sup>**DARK DAY****THURSDAY**01/18/24<sup>1</sup>**DRIVER CHANGES & SCRATCH TIME**

Steward **Rod Newhart** again was present to take any changes and scratches for Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. There were several driver changes, no scratches and one purse correction.

01/18/24<sup>2</sup>**DRIVERS IN**

Driver SEAN SMITHPETERS, who drove #5 HELP PAGE – Trainer Alexia Kehl – in the 3<sup>rd</sup> race on Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup> was in to discuss his drive regarding the 0.32.3 second quarter. Mr. Smithpeters admitted to the violation saying he just didn't realize he was going that pace with the off track conditions. Ruling to follow.

01/18/24<sup>3</sup> **TRAINER TEST**  
Owner Juan Pacheco, having successfully passed the USTA written examination for his Trainer's license met with Safety Steward Tom McCarthy and Track Representative James Lackey to complete the requirements by taking the Practical Exam. Mr. Lackey approved the practical and the results were faxed to the USTA.

01/18/24<sup>4</sup> **DARK DAY**

**FRIDAY**

01/19/24<sup>1</sup> **RACE DAY DUTY**  
Rod Newhart was the Reporting and Duty Steward.

01/19/24<sup>2</sup> **RULINGS WRITTEN**

**Cal Expo Ruling # 13**

Cal Expo Trainer James Ruchotzke, the trainer of record of #4 SWEET TIMBER programmed to race in the 7<sup>th</sup> race on Friday, January 12, 2024, at Cal Expo is hereby fined the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00)\* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1894(Duties of trainer-Late Driver Change).

**Cal Expo Ruling # 14**

Cal Expo Driver SEAN SMITHPETERS is hereby fined the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00)\* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1721 (I). While driving #3 HELP PAGE in the third race on January 14, 2024, at Cal Expo Harness, Mr. Smithpeters did fail to set and maintain a reasonable pace (slow second quarter 32.3).

01/19/24<sup>3</sup> **TRAINER IN**  
Outrider Billy Don Wainscott called Safety Steward Tom McCarthy this morning regarding trainer Luke Plano ponying horses outside of designated hours. Both appeared before the Stewards along with Safety Steward McCarthy. Mr. Plano was forthcoming in that he did indeed commit this offense. Ruling to follow.

01/19/24<sup>4</sup> **QUALIFIER**  
One (1) race went postward over a track rated "Fast" at 6:15 PM with all Five (5) of the participants meeting the qualifying standards.

01/19/24<sup>5</sup> **TEST BARN ISSUES**  
1<sup>st</sup> place finisher, NEBBLE HANOVER – Trainer James Lackey – was selected to be post-race tested. Mr. Lackey was informed of this but refused to take his horse immediately to the test barn. After returning to his barn, Mr. Lackey did eventually take NEBBLE HANOVER to the test barn. Mr. Lackey was summoned to the Stewards' office on Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup>.

01/19/24<sup>6</sup> **PROGRAM CHANGES**  
7<sup>th</sup> Race Equipment Change - #5 SWEET TIMBER – Trainer James Ruchotzke –Blinkers and Hood to a Bar Bit Overcheck.

9<sup>th</sup> Race Driver Change - #2 AERIAL VIEW – Trainer Kathleen Plested – from Stephen Chambers to Lemoyne Svendsen.

01/19/24<sup>7</sup> **RACE DAY**  
Nine (9) races were scheduled under the Watch and Wager banner with a scheduled post time of 6:45 PM over a track rated "Fast".

After the 3<sup>rd</sup> race, the stewards were notified by General Manager Chris Schick that they were having problems with the TV feed. They were unable to show graphics including the odds, probable payouts, the post parades, payoffs, and various other items. Announcer Scott Ehrlich was

also unable to be heard on the TV although he could be heard live. The video feed alternated showing the horses and the tote board and the tote board was shown after the races with the payoffs. This continued for a couple of races, and all returned to normal for the 6<sup>th</sup> race.

4<sup>th</sup> Race – The track condition was downgraded from fast to sloppy and horses were required to utilize mud fenders.

01/19/24<sup>8</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	115	\$17,242.10
<b>SCOTWINC</b>	N/A	\$208,687.60
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$399,771.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	115	\$625,700.79

**SATURDAY**  
01/20/24<sup>1</sup>

**DARK DAY**

**SUNDAY**  
01/21/24<sup>1</sup>

**RACE DAY DUTY**

Rod Newhart Reporting and Duty Steward.

01/21/24<sup>2</sup>

**PROGRAM CHANGES**

5<sup>th</sup> Race Declaration - #3 SKYWAY RAIDER – Trainer Amber Carter - Sick- Dr. Eduardo De La Cruz. A refund was issued of four hundred fifty-three dollars and sixty-three cents (\$453.63).

01/21/24<sup>3</sup>

**RACE DAY**

Nine (9) races were scheduled under the Watch and Wager banner with a scheduled post time of 4:45 PM over a track rated “Good” with a one (1) second variance.

01/21/24<sup>4</sup>

**6<sup>th</sup> RACE TOTE MALFUNCTION**

The Stewards were informed by Tote that the windows had locked prematurely. After looking into this matter, it was determined that the hub had lost communication with the track therefore, locking the windows automatically. This was a guaranteed \$25,000 Pick 4 race and General Manager Chris Schick asked the Stewards for permission to cancel the guarantee as they did not meet the minimum, according to Mr. Schick, because of the early lock. The Stewards did not feel that this was permissible and declined his request. After further looking into this matter, it was believed that the windows had only been locked seconds before they should have been.

01/21/24<sup>5</sup>

**9<sup>th</sup> RACE INQUIRY**

The stewards caused the inquiry sign to be lit against 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher PROMISING FLIGHT – Trainer Richard Schneider – driven by NICK ROLAND for possible interference in the stretch to 4<sup>th</sup> place Finisher DOWN IT – Trainer Jose Castillo – driven by BRETT ERICKSON. After video review and speaking with driver ERICKSON, the stewards determined that Mr. Roland did interfere with DOWN IT by moving to the right where clearance did not exist and momentarily hooking wheels. PROMISING FLIGHT finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and was placed 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Roland was summoned to the Stewards’ office on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Original Order of Finish – 7-8-1-5-4-3-6-2

Official Order of Finish – 7-8-5-1-4-3-6-2

01/21/24<sup>6</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	70	\$9,139.00
<b>SCOTWINC</b>	N/A	\$130,075.60
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$394,645.93
<b>TOTAL</b>	70	\$533,860.53

**SUMMARY**

	<b>Fri 1/19</b>	<b>Sat 1/20</b>	<b>Sun 1/21</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Meet</b>
<b>Accidents</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Claims</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Disqualifications</b>	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Inquiries</b>	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Refunds</b>	0	0	1	1	22
<b>Rulings</b>	2	0	0	2	27
<b>Voided Claims</b>	0	0	0	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

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Rod Newhart, Steward

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John Yinger, Steward

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Steve Carpenito, Steward

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom McCarthy, Safety Steward

BOS:RN:tw