



BC THOROUGHBRED OWNERS & BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

“One Voice for Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders in British Columbia”

NEWSLETTER December 9, 2011
By Mike Heads

The date of November 16th was a crucial one for the state of the racing industry in British Columbia. This date was the last chance for the racing stakeholders to meet with the Horse Racing Industry Management Committee prior to announcing the allocation amounts for 2012.

Each racing sector (Great Canadian, Thoroughbred and Standardbred) was permitted to submit a detailed presentation of their hopes for the 2012 racing season. BCTOBA president Ole Nielsen and vice-president Leif Nordahl spent countless hours preparing this presentation which is available on our BCTOBA website. Prior to submitting the thoroughbred presentation it was shown to the HBPA, CTHS and the Standardbred sector. All three racing groups endorsed this presentation so in the end there were three proposals to be delivered to the Management Committee, one each from the Thoroughbred sector, one from the Standardbreds and from the track operator, the Great Canadian Gaming Corporation.

BCTOBA submitted a power-point presentation which was delivered by president Ole Nielsen. The guts of the presentation included showing the significant amounts of money it costs to be a breeder and an owner in British Columbia. Many members of the Management Committee were not aware of these costs which are necessary in keeping racing going in the province. When the costs were stacked up against the available purse money and breeder's awards monies it became even more evident to the Committee of the graveness of our situation and that the current 50% (Great Canadian), 30% (Thoroughbred), 20% (Standardbred) model of allocating money was not sustaining the industry.

Another bone of contention in the presentation was surrounding the slot grant money. This was also previously split 50-30-20. The presentation stated that this was never the intention of the government, or the Minister at the time, to give any slot grant money to GCGC. In the presentation, it was suggested that the slot grant money be split 50-50 by the Thoroughbred and Standardbred sectors.

A couple of weeks had passed after the meeting with the Management Committee, but it was worth the wait, as when the allocation announcements came there was \$31.08 million in available money, \$13.43m went to Great Canadian, \$10.45m to the Thoroughbred sector and \$7.2m to the Standardbreds.

Cont...



This will result in a purse increase of approximately 9 % while under the former 50%-30%-20% model of allocation we would have received \$9.3m which would have resulted in a purse decrease. Obviously this well thought out thoroughbred presentation hit home with the Committee as both the Thoroughbred and Standardbred sectors scored much needed victories with the allocation of funding for 2012. Horse Racing in British Columbia has received an early Christmas present with more funds to work with but we all still need to promote our great sport to ensure these numbers continue at their current levels and to cause them to increase in future allocations.

With the allocation of funds for 2012 now available, the racing groups are currently working on a stakes schedule as well as trying to project overnight purse pools for the upcoming season. The participation payment program will continue in 2012, the amount per starter has yet to be determined but the number of \$300 has been mentioned by all groups.

I will keep everyone updated as more information becomes available.

The best of the holiday season to you and your families and a happy new year for 2012.