



BC THOROUGHBRED OWNERS & BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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

NEWSLETTER March 30, 2012

By Mike Heads

The excitement continues to build with just over two weeks until opening day and it is very encouraging to a busy worktab in the mornings at Hastings Racecourse. The number of horses on the backstretch continues to grow and reported by Director of Racing, Paul Ryneveld, that the number was approaching 650. As of last Sunday, the total workers for the week were 420 with 285 breezing a half-mile or farther so combined with the horses returning from a winter racing campaign we are hoping the first weekend is a successful one at the entry booth as obviously everyone wants to see the season start off on a great note.

At the recently completed rule changes meeting, many of the changes were in the language of the rule and not an actual rule change. Here are three of the rule changes that were passed.

1. A horse that is NOT tattooed is allowed to enter but not start until it is fully identified and tattooed on the inside of the upper lip.
2. If a rider books off and the replacement rider is an apprentice, then the apprentice weight allowance will be given on ALL occasions. In the past, a trainer had to claim the bug at time of entry to get the apprentice weight allowance.
3. An apprentice must have ridden at least 100 races before being eligible to ride a 2 year old.

When a copy of all of the rule changes becomes available including language and slight alterations to rules, it will be posted on the BCTOBA website and I will also go over the changes in a future newsletter.

The New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society has been very successful of late finding adoptees for numerous retired racehorses and they are having their spring open house at Allbury Farms in Abbotsford. Everyone is invited from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, April 1st. The address is 4799 Olund Rd, Abbotsford. It is quite easy to get to but if you don't have GPS in your vehicle then googlemaps.com or mapquest.com are your best resources.