



BC THOROUGHBRED OWNERS & BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

"One Voice for Thoroughbred owners & breeders in British Columbia"

NEWSLETTER April 16, 2012

by Mike Heads

The 2012 thoroughbred racing season at Hastings is off and running and what a great opening weekend it was. The crowd was amazing on Saturday afternoon, the atmosphere was electric and everyone seemed to enjoy the show that was put on by our great thoroughbreds. The extremely important 'live' handle was up considerably, almost 30% over last year's opening weekend, and total handle was up an eye-catching 40%. Hats off to the horsemen and management for putting on a successful start to this very important year.

Congratulations to the Swift Thoroughbreds and Dino Condilenios, the connections of Almost Time who vied three wide on the pace throughout to capture the \$50,000 George Royal on Sunday. In a surprising move, Almost Time was taken out of his usual 'late running' style and put up near the early lead by regular rider Frank Fuentes and had plenty left in the stretch to hold off the late charges of Jump Up and Kissme and Heavenly Chorus. The final time for the six furlongs was 1:10.72 and a very generous win payoff of \$20.20 to his loyal supporters.

And speaking of supporting, the New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society has put out forms for donations in the racing office that can be signed and handed in to the Horsemen's Bookkeeper. The forms will also be on the Hastings website and will ask if you wish to donate 0.5 % (half of one percent) of all of your horses 1st, 2nd and 3rd place earnings for 2012 to New Stride. The society has done great work in training retired racehorses for new careers as event horses, jumpers or simply pleasure horses. You may recognize some of the names of recent adoptees; Willie Katchem, Guided In Silver, Marseille Pearl and Tarazine. Everyone's participation in this worthy program is greatly appreciated and also the donations are tax deductible.

Entries for next weekend will be taken on Wednesday and hopeful we can carry the positive momentum that we built up into the next weekend.

Good luck to all.

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