



**BC THOROUGHBRED OWNERS & BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**  
“One Voice for Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders in British Columbia”

**NEWSLETTER March 6, 2012**  
**By Mike Heads**

The opening day of April 14<sup>th</sup> is getting closer, as it's only five and a half weeks until the 2012 thoroughbred campaign begins at Hastings Racecourse. The barn area is starting to fill up and as of March 6<sup>th</sup>, the horse population on the grounds is just under 500. The steady migration back to Vancouver continues as many outfits that went to the U.S. for winter racing are returning to our East End oval. The clockers and gate crew begin this week so things will be heating up in the mornings. It should be noted that gate schooling in March will be Thursday to Sunday from 8 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

There have been some changes to the purse payouts for the 2012 season. The participation payment program will continue and the amount per starter has been set at \$300.00. To ensure that the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place runners in every category receive a fair amount more than the participation payment runners, it was necessary to change the purse distribution percentages. The new format is as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> place	-	57%
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	-	20%
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	-	11%
4 <sup>th</sup> place	-	7%
5 <sup>th</sup> place	-	5%

It appears that most of the jockey's that rode at Hastings in 2011 will be back with one possible exception being Mario Gutierrez, who has been successful in his attempt to crack the starting lineup on the very tough Santa Anita circuit. While we may lose Mario, it is likely we will be getting Fernando Perez back from Alberta.

In closing, the rules change deadline is March 20<sup>th</sup> so all submissions must be sent to GPEB by that date. If anyone has any rule change ideas please feel free to e-mail me [mike@bctoba.com](mailto:mike@bctoba.com) and I can forward them to all racing groups.