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TRAINERS' MEMO: SEPTEMBER 2014

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ON-COURSE BARNs

Trainers are reminded that the official registration of ownership and payment of rent for on-course barns is to be made at the Rockhampton Jockey Club office. All changes can also be made through the office and no sub-letting of barns is permitted.

PRIZE MONEY INCREASES

The recent announcements by Racing Queensland on the higher prize money levels for all Clubs are a great boost for the local racing participants. The increases although variable, represent a major stimulus and include increases at all levels of racing.

Here at Callaghan Park the standard mid-week TAB race of \$10,000 will become \$13,000 and the \$12,000 semi-features will also rise to the \$13,000. A standard seven-race program on a Thursday will have \$91,000 in prize money and where the Fridays are an eight race program there will be \$104,000 available in prize money.

The feature race days have been stimulated with nearly \$300,000 in prize money on Rockhampton Cup Day and nearly \$200,000 on XXXX Gold Newmarket Day.

There are no changes in the value of the feature races themselves but the minimum prize on both days is \$15,000.

Rockhampton Cup Day will have the prize money of 1 x \$100,000; 2 x \$50,000; 2 x \$25,000; and 3 x \$15,000 races. A great grand final day for the season!

The feature lead-in races of the Tattersall's Sprint and Cup have 50% increases to \$30,000.

In addition RQ has commenced trialling a special races race series with Rockhampton included in the first of those trials. The RQ Summer Provincial Series will be a \$100,000 final at Doomben on 6 December over 1350m with seven

qualifying heats of \$20,000. The trainer of the winner of the final receives a \$5,000 bonus.

One of the heats will be held at Callaghan Park as the Sky Racing \$20,000 BM75 1200m on 13 November. The winner of the event automatically qualifies for the final that will be comprised of horses based on points earned in the series.

The prize money for the Saturday meetings that are on Sky2 have not been increased and remain at \$10,000. The RJC has commenced dialogue with RQ requesting a review of that position.

The non-TAB meetings that are so important to many participants in CQ will have an increase to \$7,000 minimum prize money.

It has also been good to see a structured approval to the increase in riding fees over the next three years for jockeys.

BREEDERS' PLATE

THE first two-year-old race of the new season is just around the corner with the Breeders' Plate to be run at Callaghan Park on October 24. Horses can qualify by running placings at barrier trials at Yeppoon on Monday, September 29 and at Rockhampton on Monday, October 13. There will also be special grass gallops at Callaghan Park for two-year-olds on Wednesday, October 8 and Monday, October 13.

NEW 600M MARK CAMERA

Callaghan Park will see the introduction of a new camera at the 600m mark from its next meeting on September 11. The purpose of this camera is to record the last 600m of all runners on race days. Technical experts will put the finishing touches on this equipment on September 9 and 10. The times will be displayed for all racing participants on the RJC's website, as will the photo at the 600m mark and the photo finish.

ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

The RJC annual awards were presented at a function at Callaghan Park on Saturday, August 30.

The winners were:

Leading Rider - Adrian Coome (pictured top left)

Leading Trainer - Lyle Rowe (pictured top right)

Best Strike Rate Trainer - Jamie McConachy (pictured top middle)

Leading Apprentice - Matthew McGillivray (absent)

Horse of the Year - Vandalised (connections pictured bottom right)

Strapper of the Year - Nicole Seymour (pictured bottom left)

Breeder of the Year - Laurel Glen Equine Centre (pictured bottom middle)

On the night the jockeys, through Adrian Coome, made a special presentation to Ricky Bono as Barrier Attendant of the Year. The RJC will look to add the award to the annual list and will invite the local jockeys to select the Barrier Attendant of the Year.

For a full rundown of the night, see attached media release titled "RJC Racing Awards 2013-14". Or to listen to acceptance speeches from the night visit www.callaghanpark.com.au and access the podcasts in the news section through the main menu on the website homepage.

2015 CAPRICORNIA SALES CHAMPIONSHIP 3YO RACE

The \$20,000 2015 Capricornia Yearling Sale Championship 3YO race over 1300m has a \$275 first acceptance payment deadline of 11am Friday 10 October. Only horses paid up for their first acceptance fee for the 2015 Capricornia Yearling Sale Classic are eligible for this event.

Payments are to be made to the RJC on or before **11am Friday 10 October 2014**.

2014/15 RJC RACING CALENDARS

Rockhampton Jockey Club racing calendars for season 2014/15 are available from the RJC office, free for trainers. The calendars contain dates for race meetings in Capricornia, barrier trials, jump-outs and grass gallops.

TRAINERS' CONTACT DETAILS

If you haven't already provided the RJC office with your email address please do so and we'll add you to our distribution list to receive regular correspondence.

RACING QUEENSLAND POLICY

By way of explanation, the decision on racing matters such as the race programme, race order, time of races, the dividing of races and the decision not to proceed with a race after acceptances, are all handled by RQ. The race programme is set by local RQ Country Manager Col Truscott with quarterly consultation with local representatives of the Trainers' Association and RJC and is interwoven with the CQ country racing programme. The matters of race order, times, division and abandonment of races are made independently by RQ, subject to their policy statements.

To clarify the policy on the minimum number of acceptances for a race to be conducted the key elements of the RQ policy are stated below.

TAB MEETING-MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

For provincial meetings or metropolitan mid-week meetings - this policy will only be enforced if there are more than six (6) races on the card.

Where the minimum requirement of six races *has been* met, each race on the card [after the sixth] must have *seven (7)* acceptors or more.

NON-TAB MEETINGS - MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The minimum race and field policy will only be enforced if there are more than *four (4)* races programmed.

- Where the minimum requirement of four races *has been* met - any race on the card after the fourth must have six (6) acceptors or more.
- The only exception to this is Cup or Feature Races.
- Where the minimum standard of races has *not* been met, the Thoroughbred Racing Manager is to exercise discretion in determining whether the meeting proceeds.

For example: Non-TAB Meeting 5 Races (the minimum requirement of 4 races is met and each race after the fourth must have 6 acceptors or more)

POLICY FOR SPLITTING OF RACES

Once acceptances have closed, if the number of acceptors for a non-Feature race allows for two full fields or, failing that, has at least 24 horses, the handicappers may seek approval to have the race divided.

The handicappers must seek approval to divide the race from the Thoroughbred Racing Manager, or other senior manager.

Kind regards,

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