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TRAINERS' MEMO: MARCH 2015

RACING PROGRAM & PRIZE MONEY AT CALLAGHAN PARK APRIL-JUNE 2015

The racing programme and prize money allocation for the period of racing during April, May and June has been finalised with Racing Queensland.

The RJC was not able to convince RQ of the folly of restricting Saturday meetings to a \$10,000 minimum but is very pleased that there are some significant changes to add to the previously announced mid-week increases of a \$13,000 minimum.

The XXXX Gold Newmarket will now be run for the same prize as the Rockhampton Cup - \$100,000. It is a major milestone for the Club to now have three \$100,000 races on its calendar.

The two lead-up races for the Newmarket and Cup - the Tattersall's Sprint and the DLV Finance Tattersall's Cup - have both been increased to \$25,000 and continue to provide an exemption to the ballot for the feature \$100,000 sprint and cup races.

A number of other changes add exciting opportunities for the owners of the restricted grade horses.

The Capricornia Yearling Sale's race meetings and social events are building in stature.

On Thursday, April 9, there will be two \$20,000 races - a Benchmark 65 over 1500m and the revival of the Rockhampton Mayor's Cup as a 1200m set weights Class 6.

In addition on Saturday, April 11, there will be a new \$20,000 Country Cup over 1200m for Benchmark 65 horses that have had five or more starts at non-TAB meetings this season. See RQ Calendar for the precise conditions.

What great additions to the \$100,000 Capricornia Yearling Sale 2YO Classic and the \$20,000 3YO Championship.

Two new initiatives have been introduced by the RJC for this period - a Stayers Series Bonus and a Rocky Cup Carnival Trainer's Bonus.

The Stayer's Series Bonus is determined over seven races from 1800m to 2200m held at Callaghan Park by the RJC.

There will be two \$2,500 bonuses.

Firstly for the trainer who earns most points with horses starting in these races and based on points for their finishing positions.

The trainer with the most points earned at the conclusion of the series on Rocky Cup day will receive a \$2,500 bonus.

Over the same races the owners of the horse winning the most points in total from points earned in the seven races (or part number) will receive a \$2,500 bonus.

For the two-day Newmarket and Rockhampton Cup meetings there will be a \$10,000 bonus for the trainer that earns the most number of points from starters over the two days.

The points earned will be based on the finishing position of the runners in each race held on the two days.

The RJC believes that this incentive will encourage trainers to convince their owners to have their horses primed for the two-day carnival to make the fields as competitive and entertaining as possible.

Of course the QTIS programme of two and three-year-old races continues with 17 races during this period, highlighted by the \$50,000 QTIS restricted race on Rockhampton Cup day.

Closely followed by the \$37,000 two-year-old 1100m Classic on May 22.

If your horse is QTIS qualified there is not a race less than \$22,000 to compete for over this racing period.

Trainers should review the racing program carefully as a number of race types, conditions and distances vary from last year and trainers are reminded to check carefully the full program details in the RQ Calendar as it is the official program.

Kind regards,

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