

HBPA News

October 2010: Written and produced by Jeannie Spence for The Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association of B.C.

HBPA'S BLOG:

The 2010 racing season at Hastings comes to an end this Thanksgiving weekend. As a racing community our blessings are mixed. We are blessed if we are still able both physically and financially, to participate in a great game. We are lucky to have a life at the racetrack because it is rarely dull and provides us all with a sense of community that is not found in that many places anymore. We walk through the gates in the morning (and some of our community lives inside the gates) and there are the people we have known for many seasons, people whom we share similar deeply understood perceptions and realities of lives lived in the same time and place. We are blessed to be a group that will help each other out. The HBPA of BC has been an important part of that community for many years and, whatever organizational flaws there may be, no one can say that the HBPA has not helped people and those who are responsible for the organization all will say that they have been blessed with the opportunity to do so.

In other ways we are less than fortunate this Thanksgiving. It has gotten increasingly difficult to make a life at the track that makes financial sense. It is a great lifestyle, but it is no longer much of a living. We are worried about our industry and our way of life. Division has crept into our midst, or perhaps more accurately, been introduced there. But it is Thanksgiving and the HBPA is not going to deal in division.

These days the HBPA is about moving forward. We all have to find better ways to do things and the Association supports any well-intentioned group or individual that has ideas that benefit the industry and all its participants. We will not abandon what the HBPA has stood for over the years, that horsepeople are partners in the enterprise and deserve the respect and consideration a partner is due. We will not abandon the less powerful and under-represented in our community as well as we will not turn our back on those that need help.

Happy Thanksgiving and please come and join us starting at 10:30 a.m. on Monday in the Horsemen's Grill for our annual HBPA turkey dinner.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday October 28th - New Stride Hallowe'en Night, Derby Bar & Grill

Sunday, December 5th - HBPA's Children Christmas Party, (ages 0-10 years)

BACKSTRETCH HAPPENINGS

This will be the last newsletter until March 2011, BUT please keep on the HBPA website because we will keep everyone up-to-date on everything that is happening in our industry. This will include the Children's Christmas Party and the Awards Night as well. For the last weekend, there was a free meal each day: on Saturday, the Thoroughbred Ladies Club hosted their Annual Old Timers Luncheon, on Sunday the Troy Taylor barn hosted a breakfast for grooms, gallop persons and hot walkers, and on Monday the HBPA hosted a Thanksgiving Luncheon for all backstretch members. All these delicious meals were held at the Horsemen's Grill.

We said good bye to two of our special characters on the backstretch. For **Alex Duncan**, we had a Memorial Race; it was heart warming to see the overflow of people in the picture to pay tribute to Alex. Thanks to **Jackie Humber**, **Mike McCardell** did another show on Alex. He will never be forgotten. Then we had another full crowd to say good bye to **Alan Cuthbertson**, lots of stories and memories were heard. What a rider! I don't know if his record for being the leading jockey at the age of 61 will ever be topped! Now Alan, Moe, Wayne and their parents are together again.



Brad and Alan

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Greg Douglas, Dr. Sport, on his induction into the Sports Hall of Fame

Cassie Garcea on getting her apprentice licence; she is now riding at Woodbine

Both **Troy Taylor** and **Dancewithavixen**, will be inducted into the horse racing hall of fame. Both are deserving inductees.

VETS LIST

Anna Byrne we are glad that the operation was a success

Ruzaan Choksey hope you are on the mend after your track accident

Terry Forster glad you are feeling better, watch those low beams and tall horses

We wish both **Dave Dahl** and **Maurice Doyle** well on their future operations this winter

NEW FOALS

To **Monica Pinette** and **Alex Marchet** of Switzerland; a son **Bruno Josef**. Monica was my groom for several years until she became Canada's top female pentathlete. Monica competed in two Olympic Games.



NEW STRIDE RETIRED RACEHORSE FOUNDATION by Kim Inglis



Dave snoozing on the job

New Stride will be hosting a fundraiser at the Derby Bar & Grill on Thursday, October 28th at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and include a burger, potato salad, one beer, and a ticket for entry into a draw. The event will be a Halloween theme and a prize will be given for best costume. This will be a

fun event featuring racing games and trivia. For more information, please contact Kim at kinglis@newstride.com.

The New Stride Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation hosted a very successful silent auction at the CTHS Yearling & Mixed Sale on September 13th and 14th. The charity raised over \$11,000 in much-needed funds; more than doubling the amount raised at the 2009 sale. “We are very pleased with the silent auction” said Kim Inglis, President of the New Stride. “We received a huge amount of support from the Thoroughbred racing community. We are grateful for everyone’s generosity and are looking forward to a successful 2011 racing season.”

To learn more about the charity, visit www.newstride.com.

UNSUNG HEROES



The gate crew members are some of the many unsung heroes at the track. During each race they put their own lives at risk to make sure the jockeys and horses have a safe clean journey from the gate. You couldn’t get a better group of men, thank you so much for all your efforts!



THOROUGHBRED LADIES CLUB

The annual old timers luncheon was the usual success at the Horsemen’s Grill on the backstretch on Saturday October 9th, they will also be running the HBPA Children’s Christmas Party which will be held Sunday, December 5th, at Hastings Racecourse. (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.). Please don’t forget to sign up your children. Phone **Linda Sentes** (604-318-7949) to register your child (or children).



Sleeping beauty at Churchill Downs

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Last month I did an article on the 2 horses, **Foxy Belle and Sassy Linda**. I should have waited until the Thoroughbred sale was over before I wrote about this mix-up because there was a final twist. Sassy Linda, who sold as a yearling as Foxy Belle had a yearling filly, named Sassy Victory in the 2010 sale and **Dan Lee** bought the filly. The strange thing is: Dan was the buyer of Foxy Belle, aka Sassy Linda, the first time round. We had a good laugh about his purchase, Dan said he didn’t need another horse but he just liked this one. “And that’s the rest of the story”!



Russell Baze with Kelly Grant



THE LEARNING CENTRE

It was a busy season with over 2300 drop-ins, we had many different classes which were all a success. We will be open in February 2011. Please let us know what courses you would like us to have. We were given another government grant which means that Capilano University, once again will be with us next year. There was an Art Show in September; it shows how talented our backstretch people are as well as the people from our Sunrise Community. It is especially wonderful to see the young people showing their art work. A special thanks to our artists, **Alvina and Juanita**. In 2011 one of our tutors, Juanita

Sahl will be having her art shown at the Community Arts Council of White Rock & District, 1959-152nd Street, Surrey, B.C. from February 4th-February 25. For additional information, phone 604-536-8333. It is called **HERE AT HASTINGS**. Partial proceeds will be donated to New Stride Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. Thanks so much Juanita.

In 2011 we will be able to enjoy the second room to a better extent as we will paint it and spruce it up before the track opens next year.

KIDZ KORNER

Our author this month is **Lucia Clarke Alvarado** age 5; she has a way with horses like her Uncle Pedro. It will be interesting to see if her love of horses continues, I think it will.

Animal Farm Story

Smokey is my pony. He is very old and has a very kind face. Smokey isn't a riding pony but he still is my friend. Harriet is a white nanny goat and lives with Smokey. Sometimes Harriet eats Smokey's food. Jet lives at the farm too. In the summer I got to ride Jet by myself. Mummy cannot catch Jet in the field. He is very big but I can put the rope on his neck. After school one day I rode Jet with his new friend Elmo. It was fun.

