

REPORT OF THE
GRADED STAKES COMMITTEE

Group & Listed Races
2004/2005 Season

1 OCTOBER 2004

CONTENTS

	Page No.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
<u>SECTION 1</u>	
INTRODUCTION	3
<u>SECTION 2</u>	
GUIDING PRINCIPLES	5
<u>SECTION 3</u>	
COMMENTS	7
<u>SECTION 4</u>	
SUMMARY	8
<u>SECTION 5</u>	
PROMOTIONS & RELEGATIONS	9
<u>SECTION 6</u>	
WARNINGS SUMMARY	10
<u>SECTION 7</u>	
WARNINGS REMOVED OR REVERTED	13
<u>SCHEDULE OF RACES</u>	APPENDIX
In Date Order	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 The Graded Stakes Review for races to be run in the 2004/2005 season has been completed by the Committee established for that purpose.
- 2 The information set out in the Introduction (Section 1) and Guiding Principles (Section 2) is similar to previous reports, with the exception of minimum stakes (para 2.4). The Committee has previously signalled that the minimum stake of \$25,000 will apply for Listed races from the 2003/2004. However with the additional funding now available for the current season the Committee expects a minimum stake of \$30,000 for all Listed races.
- 3 The Graded Stakes Committee was delighted with the decision of the N Z Thoroughbred Racing Board to commission a review of the pattern of racing. At the time of completion of the 2004 Graded Stakes Review the final recommendations of the Pattern of Racing Review Committee were not to hand. It is likely, however, that its recommendations, together with the decision of the Auckland Racing Club to relocate a number of its key races to a new Cup Week in March will significantly change the flow of black type races. This in turn may require greater flexibility by the Graded Stakes Committee over the next year or two in applying the Guiding Principles.
- 4 There was one race promoted from listed to Group III and one race downgraded from Group III to Listed on the schedule of black type races for 2004/2005. The total number of black type flat races and prestige jumping races are 146 and 12 respectively.
- 5 The Committee is of the view that to maintain flexibility for future deliberations first warnings be issued at the earliest sign of any decline in quality of a race. There are currently 38 races with first warnings compared to 44 on the previous list, and 21 races with second warnings compared with 16 previously.

SECTION 1**INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** The Committee appointed to review the Graded Stakes races in 2004 was as follows:

Chairman:	Mr Allan Fenwick, NZTR, Wellington
NZTR Nominees:	Mr Justin Blackburne, NZTR, Wellington Mr Peter Fennessy, Dunedin Mr David Jewell Palmerston North
NZTBA Nominees:	Mr Michael Martin, NZTBA, Auckland Mr Jeff McCall, Canterbury Mr Stephen Till, Waikato Mr Chas Amon, Arion Pedigrees, Auckland (as a representative of the Bloodstock (Sales) Agents)

- 1.2** The 2004 review was undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Rules 607-612 of the Rules of Racing. Attention is drawn to the guiding principles set out in Section 2.

- 1.3** The objective of the Committee was to produce a list in five categories (namely, Group I, Group II, Group III, Listed Stakes and Prestige Jumping Races) of the best races in New Zealand for horses of different ages, sex and aptitudes in terms of the quality of the horses contesting those races.

One of the main purposes of the list is to protect the international reputation of New Zealand bloodstock by demonstrating that performance is measured according to the specifications of the International Cataloguing Standards Committee for inclusion in Part 1 of the International Cataloguing Standards Handbook.

- 1.4** A feature of the operation of the Graded Stakes Committee is the two year warning process. Warnings have been part of the report of the Committee since 1995 and the Committee believe the warning system is working well.

- 1.5** Although there is no appeal process available to any party against the decisions of the Committee in respect of any race or races, application may be made to a Review Panel for a review of the Committee's List. In considering any such application for review the Review Panel shall have regard to the following:

- (a) whether the Committee has adequately carried out its functions as defined in Rule 610(1);
- (b) whether adequate notice has been given to the Club concerned in terms of Rule 610(3) prior to the downgrading or delisting of any particular race or races;

- (c) whether the changes relied upon by the Committee for downgrading or delisting a race pursuant to Rule 610(3)(c) justify such actions;
- (d) whether new information or changed circumstances have arisen since the Committee made its determination in respect of any particular race or races.

The Review Panel may confirm the List produced by the Committee or set aside the List and prescribe the terms for referring it back to the Committee for reconsideration.

Parties that can request a review are the Board of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, individual racing clubs, the N Z Thoroughbred Breeders' Association or any branch thereof, and the Bloodstock Agents' Federation.

All requests for review must be lodged with the Chief Executive of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing no later than 28 days after the date of publication of the List.

It should be noted that applications to the Review Panel for a review of the Committee's list can only be made in respect of races downgraded or deleted from the list. The review process does not apply in respect of warnings.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 The primary consideration in assessing the standing of races is the quality of horses competing. The Committee looks for consistency over time in the quality and depth of the field, taking into account the performances of the horses involved, principally in Group and Listed races.
- 2.2 The Committee also places emphasis on the timing and pattern of the race on the annual calendar and the prize money offered.
- 2.3 Maintaining continuity of races on the List is regarded as desirable, so long as the continuity is credible.
- 2.4 The Committee has previously set a minimum stake of \$100,000 for a Group I race, \$60,000 for a Group II race and \$35,000 for a Group III race. The Committee has also previously recommended that the minimum stake for a Listed race be \$25,000 from the 2003/2004 season. Due to additional funding being available for Listed races, the minimum stake was \$22,500 from 1 August 2003 increasing to \$30,000 from 1 February 2004. Accordingly the Committee expects this to be the minimum for 2004/2005.

The Committee believes that the minimum stake for Group III races needs to be increased and is recommending this be \$40,000 from 1 August 2005.

Group and Listed races run at stakes below these levels will be automatically downgraded.

- 2.5 A race must have been a Listed race for not fewer than two runnings under the same terms and conditions, distance and timing before consideration is given to its inclusion as a Group race. This is deviated from only in exceptional circumstances. The quality of the field precedes the gaining of black type rather than the reverse.
- 2.6 The Committee has assessed the races and issued its report on the basis of information supplied by the clubs in May 2004. Where a significant change is proposed to the race in terms of one or more of the distance, the date, stake money, venue, club conducting the race, or the conditions of the race, clubs should be aware under Rule 610(3)(c) that the status of the race shall be liable for immediate review in the 2004/2005 season. The race rated by the Committee is the event conducted by the club under which it currently holds its status.

It is the responsibility of the club to notify the Graded Stakes Committee where a significant change in circumstances is contemplated. Changes in one or more of the distance, timing and conditions can in fact result in an entirely different race being conducted. Although the Committee is sympathetic to programming and other issues, at the end of the day the integrity of the system is paramount.

- 2.7** The Committee believes its decisions should reflect the pattern of racing. The Committee is prepared to make recommendations where it feels that racing could be improved, or that a particular type of race or races should be instituted.
- 2.8** The personnel appointed to the Committee are expected to have the expertise and experience to exercise flexibility and discretion whilst continually maintaining a review of appropriate levels of black type opportunity for horses of different age, sex and aptitudes throughout the total New Zealand racing scene.
- 2.9** The Committee believes that as far as possible Group and Listed races for two and three year olds should be run at set weights, and overall weight for age races are given a higher priority than set weight races which in turn are given a higher priority than handicap races.
- 2.10** As a target the Committee restricts the number of black type races in total to approximately 5% of the estimated number of races run during the season. This is in line with international guidelines and is considered appropriate for New Zealand conditions.
- 2.11** The annual review is not restricted to those races on the existing list and those for which submissions have been received. All open races on the calendar are entitled to, and many are given, consideration by the Committee.
- 2.12** When a race is to be demoted or delisted, a written warning will be given to the club and the race will not be demoted or delisted until there have been two consecutive annual runnings of that race since the first warning. Where clubs have already had a first warning in respect of a race, the warning may be maintained, lifted or replaced with a second warning. Where a second warning has been issued, this may be maintained or lifted, or reverted to a first warning, or the race downgraded or delisted.

The warning period is not applicable where a race has undergone changes in respect of either distance, timing, stake money, venue, club conducting the race and/or conditions from the original race, or when the race has been abandoned or not renewed.

Because a club is entitled to have two further runnings of a race after the first warning is given, to maintain flexibility for future deliberations the Committee intends to issue and maintain first warnings at the earliest sign of any decline in quality of a race.

- 2.13** Although there is no appeal process available against the decisions of the Committee in respect of any race or races, application may be made to a Review Panel for a review of the Committee's list. An application for a review does not apply in respect of a warning.
- 2.14** Registered Race Names have been introduced to enable a race to be identified over a period of time, regardless of the changes that may be made to the name, due primarily to sponsorship. The Registered Race Names are run in conjunction with the sponsor's name and provide the historical link for the race.

SECTION 3**COMMENTS**

- 3.1** In the 2003 Report the Committee suggested that a Strategic Review of the Pattern and Structure of Racing in New Zealand should be considered. Accordingly, the Committee was delighted when the Board of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing commissioned the Strategic Review of the Pattern of Racing in November 2003. The key outcome required of the Review is to ensure that the black type structure of the New Zealand racing calendar recognises and helps to find the strength of the New Zealand thoroughbred, particularly in the international context. The terms of reference that have been set for the Review should ensure that this does occur.
- 3.2** Although the Graded Stakes Committee commenced its review of the races run in the 2003-04 season from a traditional standpoint, it became apparent after meeting with the Pattern of Racing Review Committee that a number of changes were likely to occur in the 2005-06 calendar. Notable among these changes was the decision of the Auckland Racing Club to reposition the New Zealand Derby and Auckland Cup from its Christmas meeting to a new Cup Week in March. In addition, the Auckland Racing Club is to reposition the Great Northern Steeplechase and Great Northern Hurdles to an end of season September date. The change for the jumping races will occur in the winter of 2005.
- 3.3** Without pre-empting the final recommendations of the Pattern of Racing Review Committee, it is more than likely that the significant number of changes to race conditions and/or timing, which is part of the overall review, will necessitate a more flexible approach being undertaken by the Graded Stakes Committees over the next year or two.
- 3.4** The Committee is pleased to note the additional funding available to increase the minimum stake for Listed races to \$30,000. Bearing in mind this increase, which appears to be sustainable into the future, the Committee believes that the minimum stake for Group 3 races needs to be increased to \$40,000 from 1 August 2005.
- 3.5** The Committee spent considerable time during its review reflecting on the depth and quality of fields being attracted, in particular in recent runnings of the 3200m Group 1 handicaps. In the final analysis the Committee elected not to signal any change, but does believe that these races need to be kept under review. It is noted that in some overseas jurisdictions there is similar debate going on as to the appropriate status of some handicap races.
- 3.6** Appreciation is expressed to those involved with making submissions, the majority of whom follow the guidelines advised to clubs which in turn assists the Committee with its deliberations.

SUMMARY

- 4.1** As a result of the review the number of black type races for 2004/2005 compared with previous seasons are as follows:

	<u>04/05</u>	<u>03/04</u>	<u>02/03</u>	<u>01/02</u>	<u>00/01</u>	<u>99/00</u>	<u>98/99</u>	<u>97/98</u>	<u>96/97</u>	<u>95/96</u>
Group I	23	23	22	22	21	21	21	21	21	20
Group II	21	21	22	21	22	22	22	21	21	22
Group III	34	34	37	38	39	37	37	41	41	40
Listed	68	68	70	72	70	71	72	70	69	67
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	146	146	151	153	152	151	152	153	152	149
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Prestige Jumping Races 13		12	12	12	14	13	13	13	13	13
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

- 4.2** The 2004/2005 list includes the following changes to the previous season:

Promotions

To Group III Alistair Simpson Challenge S (Auckland RC)

Relegations

From Group III

To Listed Crombie Lockwood Cornwall H (Auckland RC)

- 4.3** There were 2,658 flat races run in the 2003/2004 season with slightly more likely in 2004/2005. The number of black type races for each season approximates the 5% guiding principle.
- 4.4** There are 38 (2002/03 - 44) races currently with first warnings and 21 (2002/03 - 16) races with second warnings.

PROMOTIONS & RELEGATIONS

5.1 Promotion to Group III

Alistair Simpson Challenge S

*WFA 1400m conducted in November by Auckland Racing Club.
2003 stake \$50,000.*

This race was originally run in October and was downgraded to Listed at the 2001 Review. The event was moved to a late November date and has consolidated in its new position with strong fields in the last two runnings.

5.2 Relegation from Group III to Listed

Crombie Lockwood Cornwall H

*Handicap 2200m conducted in June by Auckland Racing Club.
2004 stake \$50,000.*

This race had a second warning for the 2003 and 2004 runnings having previously had a first warning for five of the previous six years. The quality of field is below that of Group III quality and is not distinguishable from many Listed races.

WARNINGS SUMMARY

- 6.1** Rule 610(3)(a) states that provided there are no changes to distance, timing, conditions and/or stake money *before downgrading or delisting a race from its ranking, the Committee shall give written notice to the club concerned of its intention to do so and no race shall be downgraded or delisted until there has been two consecutive annual runnings of that race after the giving of such notice.*

In this year's review the Committee adopted the following approach:

- (a) Where a race in the 2003 report contained a first warning the options available to the Committee were either to remove the warning, maintain the warning or issue a second warning. By maintaining a first warning the Committee retained flexibility in that if a race did not meet the required standard in its next running, a second warning could be issued.
- (b) In the case of a race in the 2003 report with a second warning the Committee had the option of downgrading the race in status (in which case the warning no longer applied), retaining the warning (in which case the race could be downgraded or deleted from the list at the next review) reverting the warning to a first warning, or removing the warning.

6.2 Policy in Respect of Warnings

Because a club is entitled to have two further runnings of a race after the first warning is given, to maintain flexibility for future deliberations the Committee has issued and/or maintained first warnings at the earliest sign of any decline in quality of a race.

6.3 Summary of Warnings

	Second Warnings Issued	Second Warnings Maintained	Reversion to First Warnings	First Warnings Issued	First Warnings Maintained	First Warnings Removed
Group I	1	-	-	-	1	-
Group II	3	-	1	1	3	2
Group III	1	2	-	-	8	3
Listed	3	11	1	7	14	2
Jumping	-	-	-	-	2	1
	8	13	2	8	28	8

6.4 Second Warnings Issued**Group I**

New Zealand S (Auckland RC)

Group II

Lindauer Guineas (Auckland RC)

Championship S (Auckland RC)

Lawnmaster Awapuni Gold Cup (Manawatu RC)

Group III

Intercontinental Wellington Cuddle S H (Wellington RC)

Listed

New Zealand Bloodstock Two Year Old Fillies S (Avondale JC)

Mason Appliances 4YO (Taranaki RC)

Dunedin Casino Waikouaiti Cup H (Waikouaiti RC)

6.5 Second Warnings Maintained**Group III**

White Robe Lodge H (Otago RC)

Christchurch Casino Easter Cup H (Canterbury Racing)

Listed

Ford Champagne S (Otago RC)

Fairview Ford Slipper (Racing Matamata)

Law Courts Hotel Dunedin Guineas (Otago RC)

Ascot Park Hotel Southland Guineas (Southland RC)

Liquorland Gore Guineas (Gore RC)

Couplands Bakeries Pharlap Timaru Cup H (Timaru RC)

NRM Timaru S H (Canterbury JC)

Lindauer Grandeur Mitchelson Cup H (Auckland RC)

Cambridge Thoroughbred Sales Wanganui Cup H (Wanganui JC)

Wairarapa Thoroughbred Breeders' S (Wairarapa RC)

South Island Thoroughbred Breeders' S H (Canterbury Racing)

6.6 Reversion To First Warnings**Group II**

Wellington Thoroughbred Breeders' Guineas (Wellington RC)

Listed

Selwyn River Stud South Island 2YO S (Canterbury Racing)

6.7 First Warnings Issued**Group II**

Jerry Clayton BMW Trophy H (Auckland RC)

Listed

Great Northern Champagne S (Auckland RC)

Lindauer S (Auckland RC)

Westbury Stud Foxbridge Plate (Waikato RC)

Jim & John Evans Metric Mile H (Counties RC)
 Paritai Stud Pegasus S H (Canterbury Racing)
 Fairdale Stud Riviera Flying S H (Manawatu RC)
 Windsor Park Stud Manawatu Breeders' S (Manawatu RC)

6.8 **First Warnings Maintained**

Group I

Family Hotel WFA (Otaki-Maori RC)

Group II

Sky City Avondale Guineas (Avondale JC)
 Matua Valley Wines Concorde H (Avondale JC)
 Hawke's Bay Gold Cup H (Hawke's Bay RI)

Group III

Montjeu Wellington S (Wellington RC)
 Indian Danehill Lowland S (Masterton RC)
 Roberston Holden Eulogy S (Manawatu RC)
 Angus Inn Desert Gold S (Wellington RC)
 Lion Red Plate (Racing Rotorua)
 Lindauer Stewards S H (Canterbury Racing)
 Christchurch Casino Churchill S H (Canterbury Racing)
 First Sovereign Trust Rotorua Cup H (Racing Rotorua)

Listed

Life Members' Wellesley S (Wellington RC)
 Ford Welcome S (Canterbury Racing)
 Great Northern Foal S (Auckland RC)
 Danroad Northland Breeders S (Whangarei RC)
 New Zealand Bloodstock Castletown S (Foxton RC)
 Carters Your Building Partner Wanganui Guineas (Wanganui JC)
 Slade Farm Canterbury S (Canterbury Racing)
 New Zealand Bloodstock Canterbury Belle S (Canterbury Racing)
 New Zealand Bloodstock Airfreight S (Canterbury Racing)
 New Zealand Bloodstock Warstep S (Canterbury Racing)
 Christchurch Casino Winter Classic S H (Canterbury Racing)
 Telecom Invercargill Cup Gold H (Southland RC)
 Selwyn River Stud Canterbury Breeders' S (Canterbury Racing)
 Gould Photographics Rotorua S (Racing Rotorua)

Prestige Jumping Race

Golddiggers Inter Island Steeplechase (Paeroa RC)
 Wellington Steeplechase (Wellington RC)

6.9 **First Warnings Removed**

Group II

Ford Wakefield Challenge S (Wellington RC)
 NRM Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders' S (Counties RC)

Group III

Lindauer Grandeur S (Auckland RC)
 Coca-Cola Canterbury Gold Cup (Canterbury Racing)

Merial Metric Mile H (Marton JC)

Listed

Fairview Ford S (Waikato RC)

Waikato Stud S (Wanganui JC)

Prestige Jumping Races

Ashwell Farm Hawke's Bay Steeplechase (Hawke's Bay RI)

WARNINGS REMOVED OR REVERTED

7.1 The first warning on the following races has now been removed:

(a) **GROUP II**

(i) **Ford Wakefield Challenge S**

*Two Year Old 1200m conducted in January by Wellington RC.
2004 stake \$100,000.*

(ii) **NRM Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders' S**

*Fillies and Mares 1400m conducted in November by Counties RC.
2003 stake \$60,000.*

(b) **GROUP III**

(i) **Lindauer Grandeur S**

*WFA 2000m conducted in November by Auckland RC.
2003 stake \$35,000.*

(ii) **Coca-Cola Canterbury Gold Cup S**

*WFA 2000m conducted in April by Canterbury Racing.
2004 stake \$60,000.*

(iii) **Merial Metric Mile H**

*Handicap 1600m conducted in September by Marton JC.
2003 stake \$50,000.*

(c) **LISTED**

(i) **Fairview Ford S**

*Two Year Olds 1000m conducted in December by Waikato RC.
2003 stake \$30,000.*

(ii) **Waikato Stud S**

*Three Year Old Fillies 1200m conducted in September by Wanganui JC.
2003 stake \$30,000.*

(d) **PRESTIGE JUMPING RACES**

Ashwell Farm Hawke's Bay Steeplechase

*Steeplechase 4800m conducted in July by Hawke's Bay RI.
2004 stake \$40,000.*

7.2 The following races which were under second warning have now reverted to a first warning:

(a) GROUP II

Wellington Thoroughbred Breeders' Guineas

*Three Year Olds 1500m conducted in October by Wellington RC.
2003 stake \$60,000.*

(b) LISTED

Selwyn River Stud South Island Two Year Old S

*Two Year Olds 1200m conducted in April by Canterbury Racing.
2004 stake \$30,000.*