

REPORT OF THE
GRADED STAKES COMMITTEE

Group & Listed Races
2005/2006 Season

31 AUGUST 2005

CONTENTS

	Page No.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
<u>SECTION 1</u>	
INTRODUCTION	3
<u>SECTION 2</u>	
GUIDING PRINCIPLES	6
<u>SECTION 3</u>	
COMMENTS	8
<u>SECTION 4</u>	
SUMMARY	9
<u>SECTION 5</u>	
PROMOTIONS & RELEGATIONS	10
<u>SECTION 6</u>	
WARNINGS SUMMARY	11
<u>SCHEDULE OF RACES</u>	APPENDIX
IN DATE ORDER	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 The Graded Stakes Review for races run in the 2004/2005 season has been completed by the Committee established for that purpose. The schedule of Group, Listed and Prestige Jumping Races to be run in the 2005/06 season has now been confirmed.
- 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 & reference to the Strategic Review of the Pattern of Racing.
- 3 The Committee has previously indicated that the minimum stake level for Group 3 races be set at \$40,000 for the 2005/06 season and this has now been incorporated within the Guiding Principles (Section 2.4).
- 4 During the 2004/05 season, a Strategic Review of the Pattern of Racing was commissioned by the Board of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Inc. A Committee was appointed in early 2004 with the requirement to report to the Board by November 2004.

The key outcome sought from the Review is that the black-type structure should recognise and help define the strength of the New Zealand thoroughbred, particularly in the International context. Therefore, any proposed changes need to be viewed as being designed to produce an overall benefit to the New Zealand racing industry.

The key recommendations are contained within Section 1.6.

- 5 In the schedule of black type races for 2005/2006, there was one race promoted from Group 2 to Group 1, two races promoted from Group 3 to Group 2 and one race promoted to Listed Status. The total number of black type flat races and prestige jumping races are 148 and 12 respectively.
- 6 The Committee is of the view that to maintain flexibility for future deliberations first warnings will be issued at the earliest sign of any decline in quality of a race. There are currently 34 races with first warnings compared to 38 on the previous list, and 20 races with second warnings compared with 21 previously.

There are 8 races that have had their warnings removed on account of the Strategic Review of the Pattern of Racing.

SECTION 1**INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Committee appointed to review the Graded Stakes races in 2005 was as follows:

Chairman:	Mr Peter Fennessy, Dunedin
NZTR Nominees:	Mr David Ellis, Waikato (Mr Guy Sargent acted as alternate, attending both meetings)
	Mr Tom Jamison, Otaki
	Mr John Rattray, Wellington
NZTBA Nominees:	Mr Michael Martin, Auckland
	Mr Peter Hutt, Timaru
	Mr Stephen Till, Waikato
	Mr Chas Amon, Arion Pedigrees, Auckland (as a representative of the Bloodstock (Sales) Agents)

1.2 The 2005 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 1, Group 2, Group 3, 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 believes 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 New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association or any branch thereof, and the Bloodstock Agents' Federation.

All requests for a 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.

- 1.6** During the 2004/05 season, a Strategic Review of the Pattern of Racing was commissioned by the Board of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Inc. A Committee was appointed in early 2004 with the requirement to report to the Board by November 2004.

The key outcome sought from the Review is that the black-type structure should recognise and help define the strength of the New Zealand thoroughbred, particularly in the International context. Therefore, any proposed changes need to be viewed as being designed to produce an overall benefit to the New Zealand racing industry.

Recommendations:

The Committee established by New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing to conduct the review made the following eight key recommendations, which were subsequently endorsed by the NZTR Board:

1. *That* the industry takes a proactive series of steps to re-emphasise the New Zealand industry's strength in middle distance and staying races and programmes races accordingly; and that NZTR notes the importance of adopting patterns, schedules and funding of races to ensure that the New Zealand industry can regain its former position of strength.
2. *That* NZTR adopts the philosophy that Group 1 and 2 races are regarded as National targets, whereas Group 3 and Listed races are generally regarded as Regional targets.
3. *That* NZTR adopts the philosophy that Easter Saturday be ignored in the Dates Calendar for Clubs hosting black-type events on that day.

4. *That* NZTR supports the proposed Auckland March Carnival and the associated re-positioning of feature races as proposed by the Review Committee.
5. *That* the industry commits to an investment in track maintenance and upgrading, and in research and assessment of tracks, so that track surfaces are presented at their optimum.
6. *That* the Graded Stakes Committee be instructed that changes in conditions of individual races to help develop the new pattern will not affect the current black-type status of those races for a period of two years from the commencement of the 2005/06 racing season.
7. *That* NZTR establishes an independent group whose obligation it will be to keep under review the pattern of racing in New Zealand. The group would be expected to work with the Graded Stakes Committee.
8. *That* NZTR develops some criteria, in respect of early entry races, to regulate the direct cost to owners including limiting the type of race, (e.g. Group 1 and 2 only), determining the total proportion of the stakes budgeted to be contributed by horses that do not start in the race, and supervising the timing and the number of payments.

The Graded Stakes Committee has been cognisant of the aims expressed within these recommendations for the 2005 review.

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. The Committee also places emphasis on the timing and pattern of the race on the annual calendar and the prize money offered.
- 2.2** In order to accommodate the changes arising from the Strategic Review of the Pattern of Racing, the following decisions were made;:
- a) any changes in the black-type status of individual races that are not judged to be impacted upon by the new Pattern Of Racing Review will be assessed on a case-by-case basis; and
 - b) the fate of warnings on any races impacted upon by the Pattern Of Racing Review will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, with the exception that where there are significant changes in the conditions of a race, such that a new race is constituted, then current warnings will be removed and no new warnings added during the 2005 & 2006 reviews.
- 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 set a minimum stake of \$100,000 for a Group 1 race, \$60,000 for a Group 2 race, \$40,000 for a Group 3 race and \$30,000 for a Listed Race for the 2005/06 season.
- 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 2005. 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 2005/2006 season. Each change or combination thereof is considered on a case-by-case basis. The race rated by the Committee is the event conducted by the club under the advertised conditions.

- 2.7** The Committee makes recommendations where it feels that the pattern of racing could be improved with the introduction of a particular type of race or races. In this respect, the Committee notes NZTR has appointed a group to review the implications of the Pattern of Racing Review on an annual basis.
- 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** All Group and Listed races for two and three year olds are to be run at set weights. In the overall pattern, 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 being considered for demotion or delisting, a written warning will be given to the club and the race will not be demoted or delisted until the race has been run with a second 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, except in respect of changes due to the Pattern of Racing Review under 2.2.

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** There is no appeal process available against the decisions of the Committee in respect of any race or races. However, application may be made to a Review Panel for a review of the Committee's list as outlined under 1.5. 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. The Registered Race Names provide the historical link to the current race name and sponsorship.

COMMENTS

- 3.1** The Committee spent considerable time during its review reflecting on the depth and quality of fields being attracted to open staying races, with particular reference to recent runnings of the 3200m handicaps. In the final analysis the Committee elected to place first warnings on the Wellington and Avondale Cups (Group 1) and New Zealand Cup (Group 2).

It is noted that in some overseas jurisdictions there is similar debate going on as to the appropriate status of some handicap races.

One of the key recommendations of the Strategic Review of the Pattern of Racing was that the industry takes a proactive series of steps to re-emphasise the strength of the New Zealand industry in middle-distance and staying races and programme races accordingly. The Committee believes that New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing should be facilitating this wherever possible.

- 3.2** As a result of the Strategic Review of the Pattern of Racing, there are currently 8 races, which have had their warnings removed due to significant changes to their conditions. These races are not subject to warnings until the 2007 review and are listed under Section 6.8.
- 3.3** It is the responsibility of the club to notify the Graded Stakes Committee where a significant change in conditions 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.
- 3.4** For the 2006/07 season, the Committee is recommending to NZTR that minimum stake levels are as follows:
- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Group 1 | \$125,000 |
| Group 2 | \$75,000 |
| Group 3 | \$50,000 |
| Listed | \$35,000 |
| Prestige Jumping Races | \$30,000 |
- 3.5** 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.
- 3.6** Due to a miscommunication last season, the 2004 report was not circulated to all Clubs as required. Hence, insufficient notice was provided in respect of races with warnings, and as a consequence no races were downgraded within the 2005 review.

SECTION 4

SUMMARY

- 4.1** As a result of the review the number of black type races for 2005/2006 compared with previous seasons are as follows:

	<u>05/06</u>	<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 1	24	23	23	22	22	21	21	21	21	21	20
Group 2	22	21	21	22	21	22	22	22	21	21	22
Group 3	32	34	34	37	38	39	37	37	41	41	40
Listed	70**	69*	68	70	72	70	71	72	70	69	67
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	148	147	146	151	153	152	151	152	153	152	149
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Prestige Jumping Races	12	12***	12	12	14	13	13	13	13	13	13
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* The Committee granted retrospective Listed status to the Lindauer Classique run at Ellerslie on Saturday 25 September 2004; this resulted in an additional Listed race for the 2004/05 season from those originally approved by the Committee.

** The Kiwifruit Cup has been rescheduled from its abandoned June 2005 date to September 2005 on a once only basis, which effectively results in this race being conducted twice during the 2005/06 season.

*** Of the 12 Prestige Jumping Races originally scheduled, changes to the pattern of feature jumping races, resulted in the Great Northern Hurdles and Steeplechase being transferred from June to September. Consequently, these two races were not run in the 2004/05 season. The Wellington Hurdles and Steeplechase were not run due to abandonment and as a result only 8 Prestige Jumping Races were actually run during the 2004/05 season.

- 4.2** The 2005/2006 list includes the following changes to the previous season:

Promotions

To Group 1	Stoney Bridge S (Hawke's Bay RI) <i>[Horlicks Challenge S]</i>
To Group 2	Windsor Park Golan Hawke's Bay Guineas (Hawke's Bay RI) <i>[Hawke's Bay Guineas]</i> Gasmate S (Waikato Racing Club) <i>[Lady Norrie S]</i>
To Listed	Waikato Stud Opunake Cup (Opunake RC) <i>[Opunake Cup]</i>

- 4.3** There were 2,671 flat races run in the 2004/2005 season with slightly more likely in the 2005/2006 season. The number of black type races for each season approximates the 5% guiding principle.

- 4.4** There are 34 (2004/05 - 38) races currently with first warnings and 20 (2004/05 - 21) races with second warnings.

PROMOTIONS & RELEGATIONS

5.1 Promotion to Group 1

Stoney Bridge S

[Horlicks Challenge S]

WFA 1600m conducted in September by Hawke's Bay Racing Inc.
2004 Stake \$120,000.

Run on the middle day of the highly successful Hawke's Bay Spring Carnival this race has continued to feature in the very top echelon of races run throughout New Zealand each season.

Promotion To Group 2

Windsor Park Golan Hawke's Bay Guineas

[Hawke's Bay Guineas]

3YO 1400m conducted in September by Hawke's Bay Racing Inc.
2004 Stake \$100,000.

Following a slight change in timing and a major stake increase in recent seasons, this race has established itself as a Spring three-year-old feature.

Gasmate S

[Lady Norrie S]

Fillies and Mares 1600m conducted in December by the Waikato Racing Club
2004 Stake \$40,000.

This race has now established itself in its December date as an important feature of the summer racing season.

Promotion To Listed Status

Waikato Stud Opunake Cup

[Opunake Cup]

Open Handicap over 1400m conducted in July by the Opunake Racing Club.

This race was run for the \$50,000 in the 2004/05 season and has consistently attracted a high quality field.

5.2 Relegations

The 2005 review did not downgrade any races from their current status for the 2005/06 season (refer 3.6 above). Clubs affected have been notified that in normal circumstances, three races would have been downgraded.

WARNINGS SUMMARY

6.1 Summary of Warnings

	Second Warnings Issued Removed	Second Warnings Maintained	Reversion to First Warnings	First Warnings Issued	First Warnings Maintained	First Warnings	POR* Warnings Removed
Group 1	-	-	1	2	-	-	1
Group 2	1	1	-	1	-	3	3
Group 3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
Listed	1	13	1	5	17	2	2
Jumping	-	-	-	-	2		
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	4	16	3	10	21	7	8
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* Pattern Of Racing

6.2 Second Warnings Issued

Group 2

Davmet Hawke's Bay Gold Cup H (Hawke's Bay Racing Inc)
[Hawke's Bay Cup]

Group 3

Lion Red Plate (Racing Rotorua)
[Arawa S]

Lindauer Stewards' S H (Canterbury Racing)
[Stewards H]

Listed

Yesberg Insurance Services Pegasus S H (Canterbury Racing)
[Pegasus H]

6.3 Second Warnings Maintained

Group 2

Lawnmaster Awapuni Gold Cup (Manawatu RC)
[Awapuni Gold Cup]

Group 3

Christchurch Casino Easter Cup H (Canterbury Racing)
[CJC George Adams (Tattersall) H]
Cuddle S H (Wellington RC)
[Cuddle S]

Listed

Fairview Ford Slipper (Matamata RC)
[Matamata Slipper]

New Zealand Bloodstock Two Year Old Fillies S (Avondale JC)
[Avondale Fillies' Classic]

Liquorland Gore Guineas (Gore RC)
[Gore Guineas]
 Law Courts Hotel Dunedin Guineas (Otago RC)
[Dunedin Guineas]
 Ascot Park Hotel Southland Guineas (Southland RC)
[Southland Guineas]
 Mason Appliances 4YO S (Taranaki RC)
[Mason Appliances 4YO S]
 Active Charitable Trust Mitchelson Cup H (Auckland RC)
[Mitchelson Cup]
 Cambridge Thoroughbred Sales Wanganui Cup H (Wanganui JC)
[Wanganui Cup]
 Coupland's Bakeries Cup H (Timaru RC)
[Timaru Cup]
 Dunedin Casino Waikouaiti Cup H (Waikouaiti RC)
[Waikouaiti Cup]
 NRM Timaru S H (Canterbury Racing)
[Timaru H]
 Tui Brewery Wairarapa Thoroughbred Breeders' S (Wairarapa RC)
[Wairarapa Thoroughbred Breeders' S]
 South Island Thoroughbred Breeders' S H (Canterbury Racing – Hororata)
[South Island Thoroughbred Breeders' S]

6.4 Reversion To First Warnings

Group 1

Darley S (Auckland RC)
[Second Century S]

Group 3

White Robe Lodge H (Otago RC)
[White Robe Lodge H]

Listed

Ford Champagne S (Otago RC)
[ORC Champagne S]

6.5 First Warnings Issued

Group 1

New Zealand Bloodstock Avondale Gold Cup H (Avondale JC)
[Avondale Cup]
 Dulux NZ Colour Map Wellington Cup H (Wellington RC)
[Wellington Cup]

Group 2

Canterbury Draught New Zealand Cup H (Canterbury Racing)
[New Zealand Cup]

Group 3

Westbury Stud Eclipse S (Auckland RC)
[Eclipse S]
 First Sovereign Trust Rotorua Challenge Plate H (Racing Rotorua)
[Rotorua Challenge Plate]

Listed

Cullen S (Counties RC)

[Counties Challenge S]
 Ray Coupland S (Ashburton RC)
[John Grigg S]
 New Zealand Bloodstock St Leger (Wellington RC)
[New Zealand St Leger]
 Fruit World Classic H (Counties RC)
[Counties Bowl H]
 Dunedin Casino Dunedin Gold Cup H (Otago RC)
[Dunedin Cup]

6.6 **First Warnings Maintained**

Group 3

Williams & Adams Hyundai Wellington S (Wellington RC)
[Wellington S]
 First Sovereign Trust Rotorua Cup H (Racing Rotorua)
[Rotorua Cup]

Listed

Life Members' Wellesley S (Wellington RC)
[Wellesley S]
 Ford Welcome S (Canterbury Racing)
[CJC Welcome S]
 Selwyn River Stud South Island 2YO S (Canterbury Racing)
[CJC Champagne S]
 Carters-Gib Wanganui Guineas (Wanganui JC)
[Wanganui Guineas]
 Tip Top Bakeries 3YO S (Auckland RC)
[Great Northern Guineas Trial]
 New Zealand Bloodstock Canterbury Belle S (Canterbury Racing)
[Canterbury Belle S]
 New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance S (Canterbury Racing)
[Inglewood S]
 New Zealand Bloodstock Warstep S (Canterbury Racing)
[Warstep S]
 Christchurch Casino Winter Classic S H (Canterbury Racing)
[Winter Classic]
 Jim & John Evans Metric Mile H (Counties RC)
[Jim & John Evans Metric Mile]
 Telecom Invercargill Gold Cup H (Southland RC)
[Invercargill Cup]
 Paritai Stud Canterbury Breeders' S H (Canterbury Racing)
[Canterbury Breeders' S]
 Windsor Park Stud Manawatu Breeders' S (Manawatu RC)
[Manawatu Breeders' S]
 Gould Photographics Rotorua S (Racing Rotorua)
[Rotorua S]
 Phillips Fox Great Northern Foal S (Auckland RC)
[Great Northern Foal S]
 New Zealand Bloodstock Castletown S (Foxton RC)
[Triton S]
 Oceanz Seafood Northland Breeders S (Whangarei RC)
[Whangarei Breeders S]

Prestige Jumping Races

Dulux New Zealand Colour Map Wellington Steeplechase (Wellington RC)
[Wellington Steeplechase]

Lion Red Inter-Island Steeplechase (Paeroa RC)
[Inter-Island Steeplechase]

6.7 First Warnings Removed

Group 2

Wellington Thoroughbred Breeders' Guineas (Wellington RC)
[Wellington Guineas]
 Matua Valley Wines Concorde H (Avondale JC)
[Concorde H]
 Rich Hill Mile H (Auckland RC)
[ARC George Adams (Tattersall) H]

Group 3

Robertson Holden Eulogy S (Manawatu RC)
[Eulogy S]
 Christchurch Casino Churchill S H (Canterbury Racing)
[Churchill S]

Listed

Slade Farm Canterbury S (Canterbury Racing – North Canterbury)
[Canterbury S]
 Westbury Stud Foxbridge Plate (Waikato RC)
[Foxbridge Plate]

6.8 Warnings Removed – Change of Conditions Due to Pattern Of Racing Review

Group 1

Family Hotel WFA (Otaki-Maori RC)
[Otaki-Maori WFA]

Group 2

Sky City Avondale Guineas (Avondale JC)
[Avondale Guineas]
 Speights Great Northern Guineas (Auckland RC)
[Great Northern Guineas]
 New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance Championship S (Auckland RC)
[Great Northern Oaks]

Group 3

Indian Danehill Lowland S (Masterton RC)
[Lowland S]
 Marsh Limited Desert Gold S (Wellington RC)
[Desert Gold S]

Listed

Champagne S (Auckland RC)
[Great Northern Champagne S]
 Fairdale Stud Howbaddouwantit Flying H (Manawatu RC)
[Flying H]