

THURSDAY 14 MAY 2015

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Waikato R.C. will host our first prestige jumps meeting of the season with the \$50,000 Porrit Sand Waikato Hurdles and Warren Storm Lifebrokers Waikato Steeplechase headlining the eleven race card. The first race is at 10.35am and the feature steeplechase at 12.45pm.

Awapuni racecourse will host the Rangitikei R.C feature meeting on Saturday. The \$50,000 James Bull Rangitikei Gold Cup features Group one winner lamishwara, progressive Danza Lad and consistent Thorn Prince. The cup is scheduled to run at 3.28pm.

The Cambridge Trials on Tuesday were Abandoned due to the impending forecast. However, a new set of Trials have been scheduled for Cambridge on Thursday 21 May. Nominations will close with the National Racing Bureau on Wednesday 20 May.

A number of New Zealand trained thoroughbreds will compete at the Sunshine Coast meeting on Saturday. The \$125,500 Sunshine Coast Guineas at 4.42pm will include the Shaune Ritchie trained Redeem Code, and Steven Hansen/Sabin Kirkland owned Elusive Catch. Tony Pike trained Allez Eagle will contest the \$176,150 Glasshouse Handicap at 6.02pm.

New Zealand Champion stayer Silent Achiever has retired. The four time group one winner finishes her career with 10 wins and six placings from 36 starts, collecting \$3,132,532 in prize money.

UPDATED RULES OF RACING ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE NZTR WEBSITE – WWW.NZRACING.CO.NZ.

Amendments made to the Rules, which took effect from 1 May 2015, and changes gazetted today, to take effect from 12.01am tomorrow, 15 May 2015, are incorporated in these Rules. These latest changes regard:

1. removal of the Fourth Appendix (Prohibited Substances) from the Rules
2. introduction of Prohibited Substance Regulations (also available on the NZTR website under Regulations)
3. addition of an initial eight substance thresholds (section 4 of Prohibited Substance Regulations)
4. introduction of a threshold for cobalt at a mass concentration of 0.20 milligrams per litre in urine. The NZTR Board, while approving a cobalt threshold at 0.20 milligrams per litre in urine, agreed this threshold level would be reconsidered with a view to reducing it to 0.10 milligrams per litre in urine in the event the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) reduced its recommended threshold to 0.10 milligrams per litre, and subject to the threshold in Australia at the time of consideration. The IFHA's recommendation is still to be endorsed by the Association of Official Racing Chemists (AORC) and the International Group of Specialist Racing Veterinarians (IGSRV), but it is anticipated that a firm proposal will be made to the IFHA ExCo by the end of this month. Work is still continuing to establish an equivalent threshold in blood.

NZTR APPOINTS SENIOR HANDICAPPER AND RACE PLANNER

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) has appointed Mr Dennis Quirke to the position of Senior Handicapper and Race Planner.

Dennis has worked as part of the Racing Club Partnership Programme for the last three years with a focus on the financial analysis of race meetings and club accounts.

Dennis is a Member of The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and prior to working for NZTR he had extensive experience in analyst and finance roles.

Matthew Hall, General Manager of Racing and Chief Handicapper (Acting), said on his appointment: "Dennis has conducted extensive form analysis and rating of New Zealand thoroughbred racing over a long period of time. He has demonstrated a high degree of proficiency in analysing and assessing races and will be a great asset to the Handicapping team at NZTR."

"Dennis has also demonstrated the advanced numerical and analytical skills necessary for the handicapping and race planning role."

"His principal responsibility will be handicapping but he will also be supporting me in a number of areas including implementation of any racing and handicapping initiatives and liaising with Regional Programming Committees."

"Dennis will also be involved in the process of reviewing ANZ ratings and monitoring the performance of New Zealand horses, both domestically and in Australia, in preparation for the 2014-15 Pattern Committee meeting in August."

Dennis will be supported by Handicapper, George Strickland. George is to be congratulated on the outstanding contribution he has made in the role since the departure of Brett Scelly for Hong Kong.

This appointment takes immediate effect.

COMPULSORY REPORTING OF HORSE RETIREMENT FROM RACING

From 1 May 2015 it is compulsory for the Racing Manager of a horse to notify NZTR when their horse has been retired. There is no fee to do so.

NZTR Form SR24 for registering a horse's retirement (or death), to align with changes to Rule 417, can be found at <http://www.nzracing.co.nz/OnHorseFiles/Downloads/Forms/SR24.pdf>

This form is not required to be completed for horses retiring from racing and immediately entering the Thoroughbred breeding population.

The form also provides for a horse to be de-registered in the event an Owner wishes to prevent a horse from racing or breeding in the case of, for example, injury. The horse may not be re-registered except with the permission of NZTR.

The data gained through changes to Rule 417, in line with Australia, will provide the industry with greater insight into the reasons for retirement and horses' activities post racing. These statistics can be used to better direct welfare initiatives.

The changes to Rule 417 are as follows:

NOTIFICATION ~~ON HORSE'S DEATH~~ OF RETIREMENT OR DEATH OF HORSE

417 (1) On the retirement of any registered horse from racing and/or breeding, the Owner or Racing Manager of the Horse (as the case may be) at the time of retirement shall, within one month of the date on which the horse was retired, notify NZTR of the retirement by completing the prescribed form and forwarding it to NZTR.

(2) On receipt of a notice of retirement of a horse under Rule 417(1), NZTR shall de-register the horse from racing and/or breeding (as the case may be) and update the appropriate register(s). Rule 411(3) shall apply to a horse that has been de-registered under this Rule.

(1) (3) On the death of any registered horse, the Owner or Racing Manager of the Horse (as the case may be) at the time of death shall, within one month of the date on which the horse died, notify NZTR ~~in writing to that effect~~ of the death of the horse by completing the prescribed form and forwarding it to NZTR.

FLAIR NATIONAL AMATEUR RIDERS' SERIES 2015 KICKS OFF

After the first round of the Flair Amateur Riders' Series Scotty McNab heads the leaderboard.

There are 13 rounds in the competition, including Hawkes Bay last weekend, as follows:

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|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Egmont 24-5 | 7. Canterbury 5-8 |
| 2. Auckland 1-6 | 8. Te Aroha 9-8 |
| 3. Wellington 6-6 | 9. Pakuranga at Auckland 22-8 |
| 4. Otago 25-6 | 10. Egmont 30-8 |
| 5. Hawke's Bay 27-6 | 11. Rotorua 13-9 |
| 6. Manawatu 23-7 | 12. Waikato 27-9 |

		1 st Round Hawke's Bay 7-5	Total
1	Scotty MacNab	10	10
2	Harley Cushing	7	7
3	Linda Wheeler	5	5
4	Caley Myers	3	3
5	Aaron McDonald	2	2
6	Marita-Jane Frith	1	1

Points: 1st - 10; 2nd - 7; 3rd - 5; 4th - 3; 5th - 2; 6th - 1

Registered Amateur Rider numbers have soared from around 25 jockeys five years ago to close to 60 in 2015 season. This elevation in interest has come about in part to the increase in opportunities these riders are now being provided with.

The last few seasons has seen the creation of the Flair National Amateur Rider Series scheduled up and down the country between May and the end of September.

These races are run at both mid-week jumping race days and on some of the biggest race days of the year. The latest addition to high profile days with an amateur rider race is the middle day of Grand National week at Riccarton Park in Christchurch. Last year, this race, the Duke of Gloucester Cup, attracted a capacity field of 16 horses and was run as one of the most celebrated races in New Zealand. It provided a fairy tale moment for South Island-based amateur, Kezia Murphy as she won on the Cheri Trembath trained, Putt For Cash.

Other big days for the amateurs include the Pakuranga Hunt Cup Day at Ellerslie in the third week of August.

The Flair National Amateur Rider Series has been sponsored by FLAIR, a group that promotes the interest of women in horse racing, for several years.

OTAGO RACING CLUB MORE FM THINK PINK RACE DAY – 31 MAY 2015

The Otago Racing Club has partnered up with More FM and Arthur Barnett to guarantee you a great day out, helping us on our mission to raise funds for the NZ Breast Cancer Foundation. Last year we raised nearly \$7,000. Our aim for 2015 is to reach \$10,000.

Tickled Pink Sunday Luncheon - for \$70 per person you will receive a glass of bubbles followed by club priced beverages, a reserved seat in the Winning Post Lounge, a delicious roast lunch followed by a hot dessert, tea and coffee, a goodie bag courtesy of Arthur Barnett, 2 fundraising auctions as well as raffles throughout the day. \$5 from every ticket sold goes directly to the NZ Breast Cancer Foundation.

Key people on the day include our ambassador for the day Miss NZ Runner-Up Deborah Lambie, More FM's Sonia Van Der Klundert, Sahara McDonald and Jonothan Usher.

The day features the Otago Hurdles and Steeplechase and also a special fundraising race; The ABC Business Sales NZBCF Oaks where fourteen local riders will be riding against a champion jockey in an "extra" race on the programme. Each track rider is aiming to raise \$500 each for the privilege to compete, with all proceeds being donated to the NZBCF.

The day also plays host to the annual Showgate Awards. This award is dedicated to a South Island female who has delivered a lifetime contribution to racing and will be presented by a special guest of honour.

TURNOVER INFORMATION

Date	Club	On-Course (Tote & FOB combined)		Totalisator (Off & on-course combined)		Fixed Odds (Off & on-course)		Races		Starters	
		14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14
6-May	Matamata	40,275	31,385	715,647	653,464	276,168	187,695	9	8	111	91
7-May	Hawke's Bay	37,623	48,652	636,828	697,267	288,638	231,790	10	10	99	114
8-May	Avondale	47,968	40,358	792,237	656,909	367,728	245,253	11	10	136	110
9-May	Taranaki	103,880	108,482	968,429	804,098	333,003	288,256	9	8	103	82
9-May	Rotorua	145,434	157,217	1,526,859	1,485,211	525,314	478,116	9	9	116	113
10-May	Wairio@WINT	53,106	38,895	583,760	461,311	218,128	144,967	9	8	90	77

NZ Thoroughbred Summary FY15	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(-%)
Meetings	269	278	(9)	(3.24%)
Races	2,271	2,310	(39)	(1.69%)
Total Starts	23,647	23,971	(324)	(1.35%)
Avg Field Size	10.41	10.38	+0.04	+0.34%
Number of races less than 8 starters	371	387	(16)	(4.13%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	331,945,700	321,230,893	+10,714,807	+3.34%
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	29,888,111	31,092,138	(1,204,027)	(3.87%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	361,833,811	352,323,031	+9,510,780	+2.70%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	256,459,042	268,806,863	(12,347,821)	(4.59%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	105,372,466	83,516,153	+21,856,313	+26.17%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	159,328	152,521	+6,807	+4.46%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	15,301	14,698	+604	+4.11%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	1,348,571,509	1,209,248,113	+139,323,396	+11.52%
Subtotal NZ Racing Turnover	666,953,843	658,128,268	+8,825,574	+1.34%
Subtotal Imported Racing Turnover	681,617,666	551,119,845	+130,497,821	+23.68%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	312,878,503	218,523,875	+94,354,629	+43.18%
Total NZRB Turnover	1,661,450,012	1,427,771,988	+233,678,024	+16.37%

NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 30 Apr)	269,829,791	251,552,493	+18,277,298	+7.27%
Total Races (to 30 Apr)	2,184	2,222	(38)	(1.71%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	123,548	113,210	+10,338	+9.13%

Meeting details:

- Matamata RC Wednesday meeting ran 9 races this season, 8 races last season.
- Hawke's Bay RI Thursday meeting equivalent was run two weeks later in FY14.
- Avondale JC Friday meeting equivalent was run on a Wednesday a week earlier last season; 11 races this season, 10 races last.
- Taranaki TRI Saturday meeting ran 9 races in FY15, 8 in FY14.
- Wairio JC Sunday meeting ran 9 races at Winton this season, 8 at Invercargill last season.

Turnover summary notes:

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is up 2.7% year to date.
- 9 less meetings and 39 less races have been run than to the same date last season.
- Turnover per race is up 4.5%.
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are down 324, 1.4% less.

- Average field size is 10.41 in FY15, up from 10.38 (+0.3%) in FY14.
- The number of races with less than 8 starters is 16 lower than the season prior (371 v 387).
- The decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 4.6%) has been offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 26.2%).
- Export turnover (\$NZ) is up 9.1% per race to 30 April.

Note: Turnovers are provided by the NZRB from various reports. On-course is totalisator turnover on the meeting and on intertrack meetings, plus FOB racing turnover on the meeting only (FOB intertrack is not provided from these reports at present). On-course self service turnover is also not currently included. Total NZRB racing turnover is all racing bet on through the NZRB. NZ racing turnover is NZ thoroughbred, harness and greyhound turnovers combined; imported racing turnover is all imported thoroughbred, harness and greyhound turnover. Combined with sports, the racing turnover provides the total NZRB turnover. NZ thoroughbred export turnovers are stated in \$NZ, generally up to a week or two behind other turnover numbers.