

Thursday 2 October 2014

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

The final leg of the Hawke's Bay Racing Club's triple crown series this Saturday, the \$250,000 Livamol Classic, features a top class field including TV3 New Zealand Derby winner Puccini and last year's winner Ransomed. Previous winners of this race include Wall Street, Distinctly Secret and Princess Coup. History suggests form in the previous two legs is a successful path to winning this weight for age race.

This pattern would imply Pure Champion is the ideal candidate. Despite historical analysis, Puccini looks to be the main danger. He has a good draw of one and should remain on the pace. He is currently \$2 chance with bookmakers and will look to vindicate his \$3,000,000 Cox Plate dreams.

The \$100,000 DHL Hawke's Bay Guineas is a proven lead up to the Sothy's 2,000 Guineas. Previous winners Sacred Falls, Darci Brahma and Jimmy Choux have claimed the double. Group One two year old form has been favourable for past winners such as Antonio Lombardo, Darci Brahma and Jimmy Choux. Prince Mambo was runner up in The Oaks Stud Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes last season and will look to continue the tradition.

The Waikato Racing Club's flagship Herbie Dyke Stakes is set to become New Zealand's richest weight-for-age race. The stake has been raised to \$300,000 and will headline International Race Day at Te Rapa Racecourse on the 7 February 2015. Herbie Dyke was a huge supporter of New Zealand racing and I congratulate the club and the Dyke family for adopting this initiative to honour him.

Last week was productive for the breeding industry. Cambridge Stud sire Tavistock had a Feature race double at Ellerslie. Second season stallions sired the Group Three Manuka Doctor Bonecrusher Stakes trifecta. Windsor Park Stud based mare Opera House foaled a pure white High Chapparral filly featuring prominently on mainstream media.

NATIONAL RADIO INSIGHT: RACING FOR SURVIVAL - 8:12 AM SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER

A feature on National Radio on Sunday morning will look at Thoroughbred racing. The programme focuses on challenges facing the industry particularly competition for the gambling and gaming dollar like lotto and the casinos. Thoroughbred racing, along with greyhound and harness racing, contributes about one percent of the country's gross domestic product. Radio New Zealand's Waikato reporter, Andrew McRae talks to some in the Thoroughbred racing industry from trainers and owners, through to the breeders and jockeys about how it can try to keep pace with its competitors. National Radio frequencies are listed at www.radionz.co.nz/listen/amfm

TRACKSIDE REBORN WITH FRESH NEW LINE-UP

It's Trackside – but not as you know it – with brand new shows, a brilliant new studio and more racing than sports fans have ever seen before.

Starting next month, two new programmes – Weigh In and DogZone join the lineup, while fan favourites The Box Seat and The First Call have undergone exciting revamps.

The most anticipated addition to the new season, Weigh In, will debut on Trackside 1 on Monday, 6 October.

If the racing industry is talking about it, our team of experts will weigh in on it. Host Darryl Anderson will be joined by Andrew 'Butch' Castles, Paul Shailer and Mark McNamara for thorough analysis and in depth discussion of current racing issues.

TAB Executive General Manager Glenn Patrick says: "Viewers have told us they want to see more local stories and we've listened. The new programmes will highlight the people and animals that make the New Zealand racing industry a success."

The fresh line-up is a continuation of wider broadcasting strategic improvements which began this year, including the re-launch of Trackside 1 and 2, the move to broadcast exclusively on SKY TV and the relocation of our broadcasting operations to Auckland.

1. The Box Seat - Wednesday 1 October at 8.30pm
2. The First Call - Saturday 4 October at 10am
3. DogZone - Monday 6 October at 6.30pm
4. Weigh In – Monday 6 October at 7pm

HISTORIC FILM OF PHAR LAP TO BE SHOWN AT ROYAL RANDWICK

The Mighty Conqueror – a ten-minute film about Phar Lap made in late 1931 – was recently uncovered after the canister containing the original 35mm nitrate film was donated by Sydney racing media doyen Max Presnell to the Australian Turf Club, which in turn gave the film to the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA).

The only documentary made of Phar Lap while he was still alive will be screened in full for all racegoers at Royal Randwick on Saturday. The historic film features close ups of Phar Lap with his strapper Tommy Woodcock, rare footage at Royal Randwick trackwork and in Centennial Park, and includes interviews with several of the most important people in his story, including jockey Jim Pike and trainer and co-owner Harry Telford. Phar Lap is also filmed winning several races, including his famous 1930 Melbourne Cup, and the 1931 Randwick Plate, run on 10 October 1931.

That latter event, a two-horse race after Phar Lap scared away the opposition in the weight for age race, is the only known footage of the race and the last time the 'Red Terror' would run at a Sydney race meeting. The Mighty Conqueror finishes with Phar Lap being loaded on to the Ulimaroa at Sydney docks in November 1931, bound for a spell in New Zealand, before his voyage to the USA and a date with destiny in the Agua Caliente Handicap in Mexico.

An excerpt of the video can be viewed at http://youtu.be/bJcky5QK4_E.

2014 NZTR PERFORMANCE REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 2014 NZTR Performance Report, which records NZTR's performance against the 44 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the 2014-2016 NZTR Business Plan, is available on the NZTR website (together with the 2012 and 2013 Performance Reports) at <http://www.nzracing.co.nz/NZTR/Resources/NZTR-Publications.aspx>

NZTR's Business Plan 2015-17, which sets out key improvement strategies for New Zealand thoroughbred racing over the next three years focusing on the 2014-15 season will be published shortly. This is required to be approved by the NZ Racing Board before publication.

WINTON JC 12 OCTOBER 2014 – WINTON CUP STAKE INCREASE FROM \$15,000 TO \$25,000

NZTR has increased the stake of the Open Handicap 2000m Winton Cup race on Sunday 12 October from \$15,000 to \$25,000. This increase is a result of the added Country Cup funding NZTR has distributed for the 2014-15 season.

TAB ROLLING OUT EARLY QUADDIES

In October the TAB will be rolling out early quaddies on NZ Thoroughbred racing (in addition to existing quaddies). Each of the 28 NZ Thoroughbred meetings in October will have a \$40,000 Early Quaddie and a \$60,000 Quaddie

RACING CLUB CONFERENCE/AGM

The annual Racing Club Conference and NZTR AGM will be held from 10.30am on 6 November 2014 at Room 4, Shed 6, Queen's Wharf, Wellington. Clubs and Sector Organisations are requested to return their attendance forms.

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
22-Sep	South Canterbury RC	21,296	17,344	344,625	354,619	156,408	113,511	7	7	64	64

24-Sep	Matamata RC	29,176	-	533,798	-	232,149	-	8	-	64	-
25-Sep	Otaki-Maori RC	42,067	42,133	749,542	696,732	330,219	221,691	10	9	114	84
26-Sep	Te Aroha, Racing	21,648	20,809	422,908	388,643	177,000	158,221	7	6	57	53
27-Sep	Auckland RC	144,572	125,794	1,354,539	1,463,092	538,064	421,469	9	9	81	89
27-Sep	Taranaki TRI	120,455	85,441	1,398,023	990,804	521,177	238,828	10	8	114	82
27-Sep	Otago RC	21,313	21,379	454,425	536,570	197,048	155,938	8	7	65	58
28-Sep	Waikato RC	33,201	42,384	430,782	471,333	164,540	122,636	7	7	69	72

NZ Thoroughbred Summary FY15	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(-%)
Meetings	51	54	(3)	(5.56%)
Races	417	421	(4)	(0.95%)
Total Starts	4,139	4,132	+7	+0.17%
Avg Field Size	9.93	9.81	+0.11	+1.13%
Number of races less than 8 starters	74	84	(10)	(11.90%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	55,019,967	53,303,129	+1,716,838	+3.22%
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	3,313,872	3,378,072	(64,201)	(1.90%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	58,333,839	56,681,202	+1,652,637	+2.92%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	42,370,024	44,600,407	(2,230,383)	(5.00%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	15,963,815	12,080,795	+3,883,020	+32.14%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	139,889	134,635	+5,255	+3.90%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,094	13,718	+376	+2.74%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	244,085,556	220,799,084	+23,286,472	+10.55%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	58,453,628	42,403,325	+16,050,303	+37.85%
Total NZRB Turnover	302,539,183	263,202,408	+39,336,775	+14.95%
NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 21 Sep)	42,068,076	41,322,969	+745,106	+1.80%
Total Races (to 21 Sep)	351	367	(16)	(4.36%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	119,852	112,597	+7,255	+6.44%

Meeting details:

- Matamata RC Wednesday meeting equivalent was abandoned last season due to surface flooding; 8 races this season.
- Otaki-Maori RC Thursday meeting equivalent was run by Levin last season; 10 races in FY15, 9 in FY14.
- Racing Te Aroha Friday meeting ran 7 races this season, 6 races last season.
- Taranaki TRI Saturday meeting ran 10 races in FY15, 8 races in FY14.

- Otago RC Saturday meeting ran 8 races this season, 7 last season.

Turnover summary notes:

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is up 2.9% year to date.
- 3 less meetings and 4 less races have been run than to the same date last season.
- Turnover per race is up 3.9%.
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are up 7, 0.2% more.
- Average field size is 9.93 in FY15, up from 9.81 in FY14.
- The number of races with less than 8 starters is 10 less than the season prior (74 v 84).
- The decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 5.0%) has been offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 32.1%).
- Export turnover per race (\$NZ) is up 6.4% to 21 September.