

Thursday 23 October 2014

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

The \$25,000 Rating 65 F&M race at Otaki with a \$20,000 Pearl Bonus was won stylishly by Dramatist. The stake of the race and bonus resulting had connections of DRAMATIST pocketing \$35,625 last Saturday.

In the R65 Rotorua Pearl Series Race, the bonus was just missed when Amber Rayne flew home, but couldn't quite pick up Golan Express. The next Pearl series events are at Counties Racing Club on Wednesday 29th October and Gore Racing Club Friday 31st October. I strongly encourage stakeholders to target these races and to enjoy the incentives. Thank you New Zealand Bloodstock for continuing the series.

It is a blockbuster weekend in New Zealand. There is no shortage of opportunities to invest in quality races with four hundred and seven acceptances and thirty one races across the country. The Cup Week "Prelude" meeting at Riccarton finishes at 6.36pm as additional races were added after the Ashburton abandonment. Five stakes races are programmed nationwide, with the \$70,000 TBS Thompson Handicap being a stand out. Puccini will look to earn support after a lackluster performance in the Livamol Classic. He is a Derby winner and is capable of winning.

New Zealand breeds finished 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively in the \$3,000,000 Caulfield Cup. It took top class Japanese stayer Admire Rakti to reel Donna Logan trained Rising Romance, despite a brilliant tactical ride from James McDonald. New Zealand could go one better in the \$3,000,000 Cox Plate at Moonee Valley this weekend. Roger James trained Silent Achiever has drawn barrier 11 and is betting at \$11. Sacred Falls is heavily favored by punters at \$4.50 and will look to give ex-patriot Chris Waller his first Cox Plate success.

A special mention to Bounding, who contests a world class field in the \$1,000,000 Manikato Stakes on Friday Night. The race is at 11.45pm.

CHRISTMAS AT THE RACES DATES/VENUES 2014

The NZRB's highly successful Santa's Pick promotion will be returning to Christmas at the Races events in 2014 for another festive season. Last year over 115,000 people attended a Christmas at the Races event and for over 18,000 of them it was their first time ever at the races.

One horse will be chosen as Santa's Pick for each race at a Christmas at the Races event. No Santa's pick hat will be worn in any Black Type races. The horse chosen as Santa's Pick will be promoted on-course in collaboration with the Christmas Cracker bet.

NZTR is seeking the support of owners and trainers whose horse is selected as "Santa's Pick" to allow their cap to be replaced with a red & white one at the time jockeys leave the weigh out area. Most connections embraced the idea last year but naturally both the NZRB and NZTR fully respect the wishes of owners and trainers. If the National Racing Bureau receives any requests asking that the owner's cap be worn, then naturally this will be accommodated.

Date	Club	Race Course
Saturday, 1 November 2014	Racing Tauranga	Gate Pa
Friday, 7 November 2014	Racing Rotorua	Arawa Park
Sunday, 9 November 2014	Hawke's Bay RI	Hastings
Saturday, 15 November 2014	Racing Tauranga	Gate Pa
Saturday, 22 November 2014	Rangitikei RC	Awapuni
Sunday, 23 November 2014	Cambridge JC	Te Rapa
Friday, 28 November 2014	Levin RC	Otaki
Saturday, 29 November 2014	Auckland RC	Ellerslie
Saturday, 29 November 2014	Wanganui JC	Wanganui
Saturday, 29 November 2014	Geraldine TC	Orari

Sunday, 30 November 2014	Otago RC @ Cromwell	Cromwell
Wednesday, 3 December 2014	Counties RC	Pukekohe
Thursday, 4 December 2014	Taranaki TRI	New Plymouth
Friday, 5 December 2014	Canterbury Racing	Riccarton Park
Saturday, 6 December 2014	Auckland RC	Ellerslie
Saturday, 6 December 2014	Wellington RC	Trentham
Sunday, 7 December 2014	Waipukurau JC	Waipukurau
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Otago RC @ Wingatui	Wingatui
Thursday, 11 December 2014	Hawke's Bay RI	Hastings
Friday, 12 December 2014	Racing Tauranga	Gate Pa
Saturday, 13 December 2014	Manawatu RC	Awapuni
Saturday, 13 December 2014	Waikato RC	Te Rapa
Saturday, 13 December 2014	Southland RC	Invercargill
Sunday, 14 December 2014	Auckland RC	Ellerslie
Wednesday, 17 December 2014	Matamata RC	Matamata
Thursday, 18 December 2014	Levin RC	Otaki
Friday, 19 December 2014	Ashburton RC	Ashburton
Saturday, 20 December 2014	Manawatu RC	Awapuni
Saturday, 20 December 2014	Waikato RC	Te Rapa
Sunday, 21 December 2014	Tapanui RC @ Gore	Gore
Monday, 22 December 2014	Taranaki TRI	Pukekura Raceway

THE CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB LABOUR WEEKEND MEETING

The Armadillo Stakes cements its place as a key lead up to the Sothys New Zealand 2000 Guineas® and the New Zealand Bloodstock 1000 Guineas®. The 1600 metre three-year-old feature will again be run for \$70,000 in 2014, \$20,000 above the standard stake for a Listed race.

The Christchurch Casino Spring Classic, the Listed open handicap over 2000 metres, has also been retained on Labour Weekend. The move is designed to enhance the quality of its field to protect its Listed status and provide an even more appealing pattern of staying races leading up to the 3200 metres of the 151st running of Christchurch Casino sponsored New Zealand Cup®. The race sits ideally now two weeks prior to the 2500 metres of the Gold Club Metropolitan Handicap which is itself one week prior to the NZ Cup®.

APPLICATIONS TO CLOSE FOR YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD - SPONSORED BY VALACHI DOWNS STUD

Applications close on 31 October, 2014 for the Valachi Downs Stud Young Achiever Award. Due to the generous sponsorship of Valachi Downs Stud the annual award of \$15,000 will be available to assist an individual (under the age of 35 years) in their career in the equine industry. Applications will be accepted from, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

- A post-graduate, masters or honours student undertaking study or research in an area of equine science
- An individual pursuing any specialized equine study or course (including farriery)
- An individual committed to embarking on a career in the equine industry
- An individual already contributing to the equine industry who wishes to further their career

Applicants will be expected to show evidence of both their commitment to the equine industry and their other attributes that would make them appropriate recipients of this Valachi Downs Stud Young Achiever Award. Applications are to be made on the Valachi Downs Stud Young Achiever Award application form available from the NZERF Office or from the NZERF website.

NZ BLOODSTOCK ADDING INCENTIVE TO RACES AT RICCARTON PARK

New Zealand Bloodstock has partnered with Majestic Horse Transport, The Informant Online and the Canterbury Jockey Club to offer the winners of two upcoming races at Riccarton Park a great package deal centred around New Zealand Bloodstock's Ready to Run Sale in November. New Zealand Bloodstock is sponsoring two races at Riccarton Park on 25 October and 12 November 2014.

The first race with the winning package attached is the \$15,000 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready to Run Sale 2YO 800m at Riccarton Park on Saturday 25 October. This is also an NZB Pearl Series race. The second race with the winning package attached is the \$30,000 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready to Run Sale 3YO 1400m at Riccarton Park on Wednesday 12 November. Nominations for this race close on Wednesday 7 November.

The winning trainers of these two races will receive a Ready to Run Sale package that includes \$500 towards personal travel and accommodation for the Ready to Run Sale, a New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance policy for a Ready to Run Sale purchase up to \$50,000, transport of a Ready to Run Sale purchase on Majestic Horse Transport to the trainer's stable and one year subscription to The Informant Online.

REMINDER OF AMENDMENTS TO RULE 652 - PREGNANT MARE OR FILLY RACING

Trainers are reminded of the requirement under Rule 652 (amended on 1 August 2014) to enter a filly or mare, under their care, which has been served by a stallion, through the Trainers Service Centre in the Gear Requests section by selecting '*Served*' and entering the date in the comments field report. This must be done within 7 days of that service.

Trainers are also required to report the outcome of a 42-day pregnancy test within seven days of the results of that test. If the test is positive select '*In Foal*' and enter the last date of service in the comments field report or if the test is negative select '*Not In Foal*'.

If a pregnant filly or mare subsequently slips or is otherwise found not to be pregnant the Trainer is required to report this by selecting '*Not In Foal*' and entering the date in the comments field report before the horse may participate in any Race or trial or jump out.

Trainers not using the Trainers' Service Centre can contact the National Racing Bureau on 0508 RACING (722 464) or nrb@nzracing.co.nz or the studbook department on: (04) 576 6240 Option 3 or studbook@nzracing.co.nz

These amendments aim to improve compliance of Rule 652 and increase information to bettors, taking into account a filly's or mare's potential change of racing performance (better or worse) when in foal.

MAJOR TRACK UPGRADE AT THE COUNTIES RACING CLUB'S PUKEKOHE PARK

Racing will cease at Pukekohe Park after the trial meeting scheduled for 8 December and the extensive drainage work and track reconstruction will take place over the summer months. Lateral drains at a 45 degree angle will be placed every five metres around the track and the track will be graded to make the surface even the whole way around. A new irrigation system will be installed and the work should be completed to allow sufficient autumn growth to consolidate the grass. The work is being done in conjunction with NZTR who are jointly funding the operation with the Counties Racing Club. The remaining seven meetings originally scheduled for Counties for the 2014-2015 season will be transferred to other Clubs in the Northern Region.

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>

SUMMER FUN AT THE RACES MAGAZINE

The Summer Fun at the Races magazine will be distributed as a lift-out in the Sunday Star Times this Sunday in South Island and the following Sunday, 26 October, in the North Island. The magazine is available online by clicking the following link: www.oliverlee.co.nz/horseracing2014

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.

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.

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
15-Oct	Avondale	57,677	18,604	768,908	380,321	294,511	177,044	9	7	110	51
16-Oct	Woodville	38,632	26,201	757,579	647,052	283,955	225,677	9	9	112	98
17-Oct	Tauranga	40,570	49,418	725,424	668,726	288,421	240,891	8	8	82	81
18-Oct	Rotorua	96,396	105,423	1,476,388	1,497,987	596,640	470,204	9	9	102	103
18-Oct	Otaki	87,032	93,033	1,247,498	943,350	436,163	230,186	10	8	119	88
18-Oct	Ashburton	5,744	52,237	79,649	928,992	27,629	343,226	1	10	13	127

NZ Thoroughbred Summary FY15	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance /()	Variance %/(%)
Meetings	69	75	(6)	(8.00%)
Races	570	606	(36)	(5.94%)
Total Starts	5,904	6,183	(279)	(4.51%)
Avg Field Size	10.36	10.20	0.15	1.52%
Number of races less than 8 starters	86	109	(23)	(21.10%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	78,234,983	76,835,770	1,399,213	1.82%
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	5,163,961	5,079,412	84,548	1.66%
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	83,398,943	81,915,182	1,483,761	1.81%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	60,860,462	63,781,939	(2,921,477)	(4.58%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	22,538,481	18,133,228	4,405,253	24.29%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	146,314	135,174	11,140	8.24%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,126	13,248	877	6.62%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	344,729,456	310,177,851	34,551,605	11.14%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	77,933,489	60,155,191	17,778,297	29.55%
Total NZRB Turnover	422,662,944	370,333,042	52,329,902	14.13%
NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 12 Oct)	62,857,188	59,419,843	3,437,345	5.78%
Total Races (to 12 Oct)	524	537	(13)	(2.42%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	119,956	110,651	9,305	8.41%

Meeting details:

Avondale JC Wednesday meeting ran 9 races this season, 7 races last season.

Otaki-Maori RC Saturday meeting ran 10 races in FY15, 8 in FY14.
Ashburton RC Saturday meeting was abandoned due to an unsafe racing surface after race 1; 10 races were run at the equivalent meeting last season.

Turnover summary notes:

Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is up 1.8% year to date.
6 less meetings and 36 less races have been run than to the same date last season.
Turnover per race is up 8.2%.
Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are down 279, 4.5% less.
Average field size is 10.36 in FY15, up from 10.20 in FY14.
The number of races with less than 8 starters is 23 less than the season prior (86 v 109).
The decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 4.6%) has been offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 24.3%).
Export turnover per race (\$NZ) is up 8.4% to 12 October.

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). Total NZRB racing turnover is NZ thoroughbred, harness, greyhound plus all imported thoroughbred, harness and greyhound turnover; combined with sports this provides the total NZRB turnover. NZ thoroughbred export turnovers are stated in \$NZ, generally up to a week or two behind other turnover numbers.