

Thursday 17 July 2014

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

The last premier race meeting of the season will be run at Taranaki this weekend featuring the \$65,000 Waikato Stud Opunake Cup over 1400 metres. I am Sam trained locally by Bryce Revell will carry topweight in the Opunake Cup. I Am Sam has won eight of his eleven races on heavy tracks.

Jumping action returns to Te Rapa this weekend with 54 acceptances in the four jumping events. The first of eleven races at Te Rapa will commence at 10.30am.

NZTR has increased funded prizemoney for all remaining mid-week race meetings this season.

So far this season 140 races have been abandoned, compared to last year's 101 races. The FY13 season had previously been the highest number of race abandonments in a decade.

The NZTR Board agreed that additional prizemoney should be provided to compensate stakeholders for the record number of meeting and race abandonments that have occurred this season.

The remaining mid-week races at Matamata, Avondale, Awapuni, Ashburton, Wingatui, Rotorua and Waverley will now all carry minimum stakes of:

\$25,000 for Open Handicaps;

\$17,500 for Rating 75 and Rating 85 races;

\$15,000 for Rating 65, 3YO and 2YO races;

\$10,000 for Maiden races.

NZTR wants to ensure that thoroughbred stakeholders are not disadvantaged by this record number of wet weather abandonments.

The additional stakes funding is due to a combination of prizemoney not being paid out (from abandoned race meetings) and NZTR maintaining its core operating expenses for the fourth consecutive year (at FY11 levels).

Standard prizemoney levels will return from 1 August 2014.

LICENCE RENEWALS

For licence holders whose licence renewal applications have been received and approved it is intended that the 2014-15 Season ID Cards will be posted out early next week.

Any licence holder who has yet to submit their licence renewal form, which can be done either by post or fax or online through the NZTR website (www.nzracing.co.nz), is urged to do so as soon as possible.

Any enquiries can be sent through to licensing@nzracing.co.nz or phone the Licensing staff on 04 576 6279.

STEM CELLS, STRANGLES & EQUINE METABOLIC SYNDROME: 2014 BAYER LECTURE SERIES 26 JULY - 3 AUGUST

This year's Bayer Lecture Series presents three New Zealand-based Researchers making presentations on the outcomes arising from research projects that received NZ Equine Research Foundation funding.

The lectures start at 1.20pm at all four venues as follows:

CHRISTCHURCH	Saturday 26 July Riccarton Park Racecourse
PALMERSTON NTH	Tuesday 29 July Awapuni Racecourse
AUCKLAND	Saturday 2 August Karaka Sales Centre
MATAMATA	Sunday 3 August Matamata Club Inc, Rawhiti Ave

1. Dr Lee Morris

- Stem cells: how to turn fat into bone! This seminar will define "What are stem cells" and describe how stem cells are recovered from one type of tissue and transformed into different tissue types for healing injuries in the horse.
- Stem cells: new treatments for lameness on the horizon - snake oil or science?

This seminar will discuss the clinical application of stem cell therapies in horses, what has been done and what the future holds for this treatment option.

Dr Morris was trained as a veterinarian in Australia and performed her post graduate studies in Canada and the UK. She is now the director of EquiBreed NZ Ltd and specialises in veterinary treatment of equine infertility, frozen semen technologies and stem cell therapies. Lee is passionate about bridging the gap between the ivory towers of science and the clinical application of new technologies for the horse.

2. Dr Ray Cursons

- What is strangles? Aspects of the disease important in transmission and severity.
- Getting to Grips with Strangles: the discovery of the strains specific to NZ - applying this to better management and diagnosis.
- Vaccination: comparison of responses after natural infection or following vaccination.
- New Research: importance of other Streptococci in respiratory and reproductive tracts of horses.

Ray Cursons is currently a senior lecturer in molecular genetics in the Science Faculty of the University of Waikato. Ray's main interest is in disease caused by genetic mutation or disease caused by micro-organisms. He and his student, Olivia Patty, were recently invited to present their findings at the Havemeyer Workshop in Kentucky and to speak on their NZERF funded research on strangles.

3. Dr Michelle Logan

- Research into Equine Metabolic Syndrome. Is your horse at risk, how is it diagnosed, and how to treat and manage it.

Michelle Logan is a graduate of the University of Cambridge, UK and has practised as a veterinarian in the North and South Island as well as two and a half years at the Massey University Teaching Hospital. She is now based in Southland.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions after the lectures at about 5.00pm. -

For further information contact: Bev Stern Ph. 06 356 4940 Fax 06 354 2885 or Email nzerf@xtra.co.nz. Registration Fee: \$50.00 (Including GST) Includes afternoon tea, and a copy of the proceedings. (Registration fee is tax deductible if you derive your main income from horses).

OAMARU JC SUNDAY 20 JULY

Due to an increase in demand for Maiden races in the South Island, NZTR in conjunction with Gallop South and the Oamaru JC have programmed an additional MDN 1200m for the Oamaru JC meeting on Sunday 20 July. The full details are as follows:

Maiden SW 1200m \$10,000. \$6,250, \$2,000, \$1,000, \$250.

AVONDALE JC - WEDNESDAY 23 JULY - EXTRA 2YO RACE ADDED

Following consistently high numbers nominating for 2YO races in the North Island, NZTR in conjunction with the Avondale Jockey Club and Northern Region Programming Committee have added a MDN 2YO 1100m race to the Avondale JC programme, Wednesday 23 July. Details are as follows:

MDN 2YO 1100m - \$10,000 Nominations close 12Noon Friday 18 July

ASHBURTON RC - FRIDAY 25 JULY

Due to an increase in demand for Maiden races in the South Island, NZTR in conjunction with Southern Regional Programming Committee and the Ashburton RC have programmed an additional MDN 1200m for the Ashburton RC meeting on Friday 25 July. Details are as follows: Maiden SW 1200m worth \$7,000

All other races at the Ashburton meeting remain unaltered.

WAVERLEY RC - THURSDAY 31 JULY

The Waverley RC has increased the stake of the R75 1650m race on Thursday 31 July by \$2,500 to create a total stake of \$20,000. The race will also be named the Waverley Cup.

CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB GRAND NATIONAL RACING CARNIVAL

The three day Canterbury Jockey Club Grand National Racing Carnival starts on Saturday 2 August with the running of the EStarOnline 117th Winter Cup. Wednesday, 6 August features the Hospitality New Zealand Canterbury 125th Grand National hurdles and the meeting culminates with the Racecourse Hotel 139th Grand National Steeplechase on Saturday 9 August 2014. Eight of the 29 races over 'The National Meeting' are over obstacles.

With the assistance of the New Zealand Racing Board Riccarton Park Racecourse will be well positioned for the re-launch of TAB TV and the Trackside Channel in to Trackside 1 and Trackside 2 as from 1 August 2014. Everywhere on the race course where there was previously a television displaying the TAB TV Channel there will be two televisions to enable both Trackside 1 and Trackside 2 to be played to ensure punters don't miss a thing. Sitting alongside this development will be an overhaul of the sound system in the Club Grandstand.

A further assist for punters will be the availability of self service terminals at all Riccarton Park racemeetings as from this year's Grand National Meeting. A regular feature of pubs and TAB agencies this will ensure punters have a similar level of service in this regards whilst on course.

Two functions provide social interaction for owners, trainers, members, sponsors and general racing fans. The Grand National welcome event takes place in the Nightmarch Room on Friday 1 August from 5pm until 7:30 pm with a happy hour bar and a complimentary light meal. A similar function is again held on the Friday night prior to Grand National Day from 5pm to 7pm.

The annual Grand National Luncheon will again be hosted by the Canterbury Club with MC David McCarthy and guest leading trainer Lisa Latta. Tickets cost \$65 with meal and table wines included and can be obtained from gm@canterburyclub.co.nz or 03 365 0353. Winter meal specials will be available in the Phar Lap Room and Parade Ring Lounge. Bangers and Mash at \$7.50 and Venison Stew and Mash at \$8.50 will provide stout winter sustenance whilst one backs a winner.

The Canterbury Jockey Club will be the first New Zealand Racing Club to launch its own 'App' for cell-phones and ipads when it does so at the Grand National Racing Carnival. A wealth of raceday information will be available via this medium and can be easily downloaded as from late July.

NZTR REGIONAL MEETINGS

September 2014 Regional Meeting will be held as follows. All industry participants are welcome to attend.

Monday 22 September: 12pm - AUCKLAND at Ellerslie

5.30pm - HAMILTON at Te Rapa

Tuesday 23 September: 11.30am - INVERCARGILL at the Ascot Park Hotel

5.30pm - DUNEDIN at Wingatui

Wednesday 24 September: 12pm - CHRISTCHURCH at Riccarton Park

Friday 26 September: 10.30am - PALMERSTON NORTH at Awapuni

4.00pm - NEW PLYMOUTH at Pukekura Park

Other dates for the diary:

6pm 14 August 2014: Thoroughbred Horse of the Year Awards Dinner, Claudelands, Hamilton

Ticket enquiries: Erin Banks 04 499 6909 or erin@verve.co.nz

6 November 2014: Racing Club Conference and NZTR AGM, Wellington.

TURNOVER INFORMATION (FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 13 JULY 2014)

Date	Club	On-Course (Tote & FOB combined)		Totalisator (Off & on-course combined)		Fixed Odds (Off & on-course)		Races		Starters	
		13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13
10-Jul	Waverley RC	20,018	31,724	537,617	719,969	187,624	161,279	7	9	87	109
11-Jul	South Canterbury RC	18,327	15,109	416,064	522,131	162,453	160,935	8	8	70	78
12-Jul	Wellington RC	183,464	233,508	1,407,550	1,572,101	396,750	353,968	9	10	94	101
12-Jul	Whangarei RC	32,287	91,038	625,437	1,044,141	262,294	287,031	9	7	62	74

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance /()	Variance %/(%)
Meetings	332	343	(11)	(3.21%)
Races	2,765	2,886	(121)	(4.19%)
Total Starts	28,835	30,127	(1,292)	(4.29%)
Avg Field Size	10.43	10.44	(0.01)	(0.10%)
Number of races less than 8 starters	443	403	40	9.93%
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	374,159,781	378,086,847	(3,927,066)	(1.04%)
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	34,372,704	36,094,278	(1,721,574)	(4.77%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	408,532,485	414,181,125	(5,648,640)	(1.36%)
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	311,197,118	327,545,527	(16,348,409)	(4.99%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	97,335,352	86,635,599	10,699,754	12.35%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	147,751	143,514	4,237	2.95%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,168	13,748	420	3.06%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	1,462,178,311	1,417,331,286	44,847,025	3.16%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	297,654,740	236,452,940	61,201,800	25.88%
Total NZRB Turnover	1,759,833,051	1,653,784,226	106,048,825	6.41%
NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 22 Jun)	286,609,494	336,991,434	(50,381,939)	(14.95%)
Total Races (to 22 Jun)	2,639	2,728	(89)	(3.26%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	108,605	123,531	(14,925)	(12.08%)

Meeting Details

Waimate RC Monday meeting was abandoned due to storm damage to the grandstand
Racing Te Aroha Tuesday meeting was abandoned due to storm damage to the track and racecourse facilities
Waverley RC Thursday meeting ran 7 races in FY14, the FY13 meeting was held at Wanganui JC with 9 races run
Wellington RC Saturday meeting ran 9 races in FY14, the FY13 meeting ran 10 races
Whangarei RC Saturday meeting transferred to Avondale and ran 9 races in FY14, the FY13 meeting ran 7 races

Turnover Summary Notes

Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is down 1.36% year to date.

With 121 less races than run over the same period last season, turnover per race has actually increased, up 2.95%.

Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are down 1,292, 4.3% less.

Average field size is 10.43 in FY14, slightly lower than FY13 year to date.

The number of races with less than 8 starters is now 40 higher than a season ago.

The decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 5.0%) has been partly offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 12.4%).

\$NZ export turnover per race to 22 June is down (12.1%). The variance in the \$NZ/\$A exchange rate is responsible for a large proportion of this decline. The remainder, as well as the absence of any growth, appears to have resulted from the loss of coverage on Sky 1 in Australia for midweek races run after 2pm.