



**Tuesday 22 May 2012**

### **Cheltenham Festival Dream Series 2012**

The NZ Champion Series is a points-based competition to be contested during the 2012 Jump racing season.

The connections of the horse that wins the Series will be offered the opportunity to compete at the Cheltenham Festival in England in March 2013. Assistance will also be offered with logistics, stabling and access to training facilities in the UK.

The purpose of the series is to identify the most outstanding and consistent jump racing horse in the country. The series is open to both hurdlers and steeplechasers and equal opportunities exist for both divisions. The principal prize will be the payment of £6000 (approximately \$NZ12,000) towards transport costs and the guarantee of a start in a Championship race at the Festival.

A trophy will also be presented by NZ Jumps Inc to the winning horse, regardless of whether or not the opportunity to travel to Cheltenham is accepted.

The schedule includes 24 individual races. Points are tiered in relation to the grade of the event. The schedule of events runs from 8 May to 16 October. The overall winner will simply be the horse with the most points.

The Cheltenham Festival is a four day race meeting with a programme of 27 races.

Following the first 4 races in the Cheltenham Dream Series 2012 schedule (feature Jumps races at Riverton and Te Rapa) the points table is:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 25 points | Borrack<br>Myths And Legends                  |
| 20 points | Kid Columbus<br>Lautenschlager                |
| 17 points | Arose<br>Volkswagin                           |
| 13 points | Morpheus<br>Sir Heelan<br>Dubhdara<br>Ho Down |
| 10 points | At The Top<br>Zagata<br>O'Connor<br>Barado    |
| 7 points  | Cheap Date<br>No Rush'N                       |
| 6 points  | Karlos<br>Sportavian                          |
| 4 points  | Logan James<br>Relampago                      |
| 3 points  | Marli Juraj                                   |

## 2012 Bayer Lecture Series

### “Understanding Horse Behaviour”

Dr Sue McDonnell is the key-note speaker for this year's Bayer Lecture Series.

Dr McDonnell completed a post doctoral study in clinical veterinary reproduction at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Centre in 1987 and became board certified in Applied Animal Behaviour in 1991. She is the founding head of the Equine Behaviour Program at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, where her work includes clinical, research, and teaching activities focused on horse behaviour.

Dr McDonnell's first talk will be *“Horse Cognition 101: The science of how horses learn and why it's important to horse owners, handlers, trainers and veterinarians.”*

Horses follow the general laws of learning for all animals and humans that are well described in the scientific literature. This talk will focus on how to most effectively teach your horse to stand patiently when necessary, lift feet when asked, load for transport, happily accept veterinary treatments, come when called, or have otherwise generally good ground manners, using all-positive reinforcement techniques.

The second talk is titled *“Behaviour problems can be physical, psychological or both: why this is important for horse owners, handlers, trainers and veterinarians to appreciate.”*

When it comes to figuring out behavioural changes in horses, it can often be quite challenging to work out whether the underlying cause is physical, psychological or a combination of both, and if a combination of both, which came first. While problems are often assumed to be behavioural, in many cases the underlying cause is physical but difficult to identify.

This talk will feature a number of clinical behaviour cases presented to the New Bolton Centre for evaluation, where a team of behaviour and medical specialists were able to successfully diagnose the underlying cause. Examples will include difficulty with transport, collapsing in the cross-ties while being saddled, head tossing under saddle, panic-like episodes, aggression toward people, and self-mutilation. The method of evaluation and treatment for each case will be described in detail.

The 2012 Lecture Series will follow the same afternoon format as previous years and will be held from 1 pm to 5.30 pm on:

#### **Friday 29 June**

Auckland  
NZN karaka Sales Complex

#### **Sunday 1 July**

Matamata  
Matamata Club Inc  
Rawhiti Ave

#### **Tuesday 3 July**

Palmerston North  
Awapuni Racecourse

#### **Saturday 7 July**

Christchurch  
Riccarton Racecourse

### **Registrations are to be arranged through:**

Bev Stern, NZERF, P O Box 52, Palmerston North 4440  
Phone: 06 356 4940; Fax: 06 354 2885  
Email: [bev@manawaturacing.co.nz](mailto:bev@manawaturacing.co.nz)

Cost is \$50 pp which includes copy of printed proceedings and afternoon tea. Payment prior to the day is preferable, but payment can be made on the day. Numbers attending needs to be known prior to the day for catering purposes.

### **Warm up winter!**

The cooler months are fast approaching so we're planning to brighten up the mid-year by throwing a Mid-Winter Christmas party at the races! The Mid-Winter Christmas parties will take place around the country throughout June and July.

Book a table and you'll be catered for in a beautifully themed room where you can sit back and enjoy the hospitality, racing action and warming festive treats – yum!

Enquire about an event before 5 June 2012 and you'll go in the draw to win six bottles of Lindauer Special Reserve\*.

Galloping events involved are at Te Rapa on 9 June, Wingatui on 10 June, Riccarton Park on 23 June, Tauranga on 23 June, Hastings on 30 June and Trentham on 14 July.

For a full list of events or to enquire, email [info@theraces.co.nz](mailto:info@theraces.co.nz) or visit

\*Terms and Conditions apply and can be viewed at [theraces.co.nz](http://theraces.co.nz)

### **NZTR Handicapping Review – May 2012**

In early 2011 NZTR instituted a detailed Review of its Handicapping policies and procedures. The Review identified a number of key changes that were formally adopted by the NZTR Board and implemented on 14 November 2011. The NZTR Board made a commitment to monitor the changes including six monthly reviews.

NZTR now invites submissions and recommendations from industry participants on any aspect of the Review outcomes and the changes that were introduced in November.

NZTR will also be consulting with various sector groups in May including the three Regional Programming Committees, Racing Clubs, NZ Trainers Association, NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Association, NZ Jockeys Association, NZ Racehorse Owners Federation and the New Zealand Racing Board.

As part of your response please provide any supporting statistics, comments or examples of your viewpoint. If you wish, you might also like to provide a response to the following questions:

- Has the current NZTR Programming and handicapping system worked for you, and why?
- What parts of the current system do not work, and why?
- What would you change, and why?

Amongst the handicapping/rating issues that have been already been identified are weight penalties for horses racing out of their class, horses being re-rated out of their class for placings and the order of entry into Open Group One races for 3YO's.

NZTR welcomes further comment and feedback on any aspect of the current handicapping/rating system. Submissions close Thursday 31 May 2012 and should be directed to:

David Jewell  
Racing and Operations Manager  
New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing  
PO Box 38386  
Wellington Mail Centre 5045

Or by email to [david.jewell@nzracing.co.nz](mailto:david.jewell@nzracing.co.nz)

For further details, [click here](#).

## Turnover Information for the Period ending 20 May 2012

| Date | Club           | On-Course |       | Off-Course |       | Fixed Odds |       | Starters |       |
|------|----------------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|-------|
|      |                |           |       |            |       |            |       | 11-12    | 10-11 |
| 14/5 | Paeroa (1)     | 18,637    |       | 278,527    |       | 67,919     |       | 63       |       |
| 15/5 | Ashburton (2)  | 17,723    |       | 350,506    |       | 106,630    |       | 69       |       |
| 16/5 | Whangarei (3)  | 71,691    |       | 651,817    |       | 194,468    |       | 100      |       |
| 17/5 | Egmont (4)     | 37,010    |       | 601,145    |       | 127,011    |       | 99       |       |
| 18/5 | Wairio (5)     | 25,337    |       | 376,446    |       | 102,216    |       | 71       |       |
| 19/5 | Waikato (6)    | 151,612   | 22.2% | 1,193,294  | 20.3% | 291,565    | 14.8% | 107      | 21.3% |
| 19/5 | Rangitikei (7) | 94,138    | 0.6%  | 1,009,875  | 5.7%  | 207,653    | 24.8% | 110      | 10.0% |

- (1) Paeroa RC; no equivalent meeting last year.
- (2) Ashburton RC; no equivalent meeting last year.
- (3) Whangarei RC; this meeting last year was a Racing Matamata meeting.
- (4) Egmont RC; this meeting last year was an Otago RC meeting.
- (5) Wairio JC; this meeting last year was a Paeroa RC meeting.
- (6) Waikato RC; 9 races this year, compared to 10 races last year.
- (7) Rangitikei RC; 9 races this year, compared to 10 races last year.
- (8) Turbo Quaddie; turnover for this initiative last week was \$67,690.

| NZ Thoroughbred Summary                     | This Season,<br>Year to Date | Last Season,<br>Year to Date | Variance<br>+/( ) | Variance<br>+%/(-%) |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Races</b>                                | 2,535                        | 2,535                        | 0                 | 0.00%               |
| <b>Starters</b>                             | 26,782                       | 27,275                       | (493)             | (1.81%)             |
| <b>Avg Field Size</b>                       | 10.56                        | 10.76                        | (0.19)            | (1.81%)             |
| <b>Off-Course Turnover</b>                  | 266,167,899                  | 282,508,179                  | (16,340,280)      | (5.78%)             |
| <b>On-Course Turnover</b>                   | 30,599,837                   | 33,933,654                   | (3,333,817)       | (9.82%)             |
| <b>Total Totalisator Turnover</b>           | 296,767,736                  | 316,441,833                  | (19,674,097)      | (6.22%)             |
| <b>Fixed Odds</b>                           | 59,482,676                   | 49,098,623                   | +10,384,052       | +21.15%             |
| <b>Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover</b>       | 356,250,412                  | 365,540,456                  | (9,290,045)       | (2.54%)             |
| <b>NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race</b>    | 140,533                      | 144,197                      | (3,665)           | (2.54%)             |
| <b>NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter</b> | 13,302                       | 13,402                       | (100)             | (0.75%)             |

|                                   |                      |                      |                    |               |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <b>Total NZRB Racing Turnover</b> | 1,119,798,438        | 1,106,511,274        | +13,287,164        | +1.20%        |
| <b>Total NZRB Sports Turnover</b> | 193,651,080          | 148,107,642          | +45,543,438        | +30.75%       |
| <b>Total NZRB Turnover</b>        | <b>1,313,449,518</b> | <b>1,254,618,916</b> | <b>+58,830,602</b> | <b>+4.69%</b> |

Overall turnover was up 11.7% (+\$3.23m) last week on the same week last year, +4.7% season to date.

Racing turnover was up 7.0% (+\$1.67m) for the week, with Domestic racing turnover down 1.9% (-\$252k).

Domestic thoroughbreds turnover was up 6.3% (+\$390k) (tote + fob).

Note: NZRB supplied On-course Turnover total represents On-course turnover placed on NZ thoroughbred meetings from all on-course venues. 'Total' NZ Thoroughbred turnover figure includes Off-course (including Pick 6), On-course (NZRB figure as commented above) and all Fixed Odds Turnover. All Turnover figures are supplied by the NZRB.

### NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING INC

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