

Friday 2 August 2013

From the Horse's Mouth

Congratulations to:

- Michael Pitman (86 wins) on holding off Awapuni trainer Lisa Latta (84 wins) to win in the New Zealand trainers' premiership for his third time;
- Opie Bosson (152 wins) for taking the jockey's premiership holding out Matthew Cameron (149 wins);
- Rory Hutchings (73 wins) was leading apprentice and finished in eighth position in the jockey's premiership.

Over the last season New Zealand domestic racing has showed great resilience despite difficult some difficult conditions. Statistics show that there were:

- 358 thoroughbred race meetings conducted (350 in 2012);
- 3,007 races conducted (3,061 in 2012)
- 31,331 starters (32,425 in 2012)
- 5,480 individual horses that started in at least one race (5,610 in 2012)
- \$49,869,525 in prizemoney paid (\$47,285,953 in 2012)
- \$16,584 average race prizemoney (\$15,448 in 2012)
- 10.42 average field size (10.59 in 2012)
- 431 races with less than 8 starters (489 in 2012)
- \$429,434,411 of NZRB turnover (\$420,892,403 in 2012)
- \$142,812 average race NZRB turnover (\$137,502 in 2012)
- Male horses comprising 51.7% of flat race starters and winning 51.4% of flat races (52.7% and 53.3% respectively in 2012)
- Female horses comprising 48.3% of flat race starters and winning 48.6% of flat races (47.3% and 46.7% respectively in 2012)

I look forward to seeing you at the Thoroughbred Horse of the Year Awards Dinner at the Claudelands Events Centre, Hamilton on 15 August 2013, to celebrate the successes and outstanding performances of the 2013 racing season.

New Zealand to Host International Jockeys' Competition

For the first time New Zealand is to host the Asian Young Guns Challenge, an international apprentice jockeys' competition between New Zealand, Japan, South Africa, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Victoria (Australia) and Macau.

The fifth renewal of the event will be held across three races at the Waikato Racing Club's feature Waikato Stud Foxbridge Plate meeting at Te Rapa on Saturday, 17 August 2013.

Chairman New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR), Matthew Goodson, said: "We are very pleased to be invited by the Asian Racing Federation to host this prestigious Series. The Asian Young Guns Challenge was developed to showcase the very best Apprentice Riders from throughout the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) and we appreciate the support of all the major racing jurisdictions in Asia and the ARF."

"As hosts, New Zealand is permitted to enter two riders. We will be represented by two outstanding young jockeys: 2012-13 New Zealand Champion Apprentice, Rory Hutchings, and the first female Apprentice to compete in a Young Guns Challenge Series - New Plymouth-based Miranda Dravitzki. I encourage everyone to get to Te Rapa on 17 August and support this international event."

The quality of the riders competing at this year's international is arguably the strongest to date:

Hong Kong representative Alvin Ng (23) is familiar with the Te Rapa track, having ridden 69 winners in New Zealand when he was with the Lance Noble stable. Ng is the reigning Young Guns Champion, having won last year's series in Macau. He has ridden 27 winners since returning to Hong Kong.

A surname that will be especially well known to New Zealand is that of **Racing Victoria's** nominee Jordan Childs (17), whose father Greg Childs notched a remarkable 71 Group One winning rides in his career. Jordan, who will be joined in New Zealand by his father, has ridden 37 winners in his first season of riding across the Tasman.

Macau representative Charles Perkins (25) is poised to claim his second local apprentice title and has now won some 57 races there, including three Group One events this year. Perkins learned his trade in France, England and the USA before commencing his riding career in Macau in January last year.

Singapore's representative Harry Kasim (27) is also no stranger to the Waikato, having ridden his first ever winner at Te Rapa. Kasim has ridden 43 winners in Singapore this season and is 23 wins ahead of his nearest rival. He has already broken the Singapore record for the most number of wins in a season by an apprentice, with five months of their racing year remaining.

Japanese rider Yuji Hishida (20) has ridden 59 career winners since he commenced in March 2012. He won the Best Newcomer Award in the Western Japan province last year.

Malaysian representative W T Chung (24) might have ridden only 15 winners to date, but two weeks ago he was victorious in RM400,000 [NZ\$150,000] Group One Sultan Gold Vase sprint on Joe Czarina.

Kim hyun joong (24) will represent **Korea**, while Julius Mariba (20), who has ridden 50 winners to date, is making the long flight from **South Africa** to compete here.

The eight international and two New Zealand riders will spend two days in the Waikato and will be the special guests of NZTR at the Thoroughbred Horse of the Year Awards Dinner at the Claudelands Events Centre in Hamilton on the evening of Thursday, 15 August.

Rides in each of the three Asian Young Guns Series races will be balloted. NZTR will nominate other leading New Zealand Apprentices to take any other available mounts. However these Apprentices will not be included in the overall series.

To support the Asian Young Guns Series NZTR

- has increased the prize money for the two Rating 65 races to \$15,000.
- has waived nomination or acceptance fees
- will pay the riding fees for all starters
- will pay a \$300 starter incentive for runners in the three Series races that do not earn any prize money.

Participating Riders	Age	Country	Min. Riding Weight	NZ Claim	Career wins to date
Rory HUTCHINGS	18	New Zealand	54kg	nil	156
Miranda DRAVITZKI	25	New Zealand	53.5kg	2kg	56
Charles PERKINS	25	Macau	53kg	2kg	56
Jordan CHILDS	17	Victoria, Aus	53kg	2kg	36
Yuji HISHIDA	20	Japan	52kg	2kg	59
KIM Hyun Joong	24	South Korea	49kg	3kg	15
Alvin NG	23	Hong Kong	54kg	nil	115
CHUNG Wah Thong	24	Malaysia	50kg	3kg	13
Harry KASIM	27	Singapore	51kg	nil	125
Julius MARIBA	20	South Africa	50kg	2kg	50

2013 Thoroughbred Horse of the Year Awards Finalists for Owner, Trainer, Jockey and Jumps Jockey

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) has announced finalists for the Owner of the Year, Dunstan Trainer of the Year, Jockey of the Year, and the Jumps Jockey of the Year.

This separate announcement of four categories of Award finalists is due to the close contest between contenders for the Trainers' and Jockeys' Premierships in the 2012-13 season which closed at the end of July.

The winners will be announced at the Thoroughbred Horse of the Year Awards Dinner at the Claudelands Events Centre, Hamilton, on the evening of Thursday, 15 August 2013.

All other 2012-13 Thoroughbred Horse of the Year Awards finalists were announced separately in July.

For further information and tickets contact office@nzracing.co.nz or 04 576 6256.

NZTR Compliments Mayor and Hawke's Bay Racing On New Racecourse Plan

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) has expressed strong support for an initiative to undertake an independent feasibility study for a proposed new racecourse in Hastings under the leadership of the city's Mayor, Lawrence Yule.

The initiative involves the Hastings District Council, the Committees of Hawke's Bay Racing and the Hawke's Bay A&P Society, Rugby Club and Polo Club bringing together a shared vision and an initial plan to share a home.

This would involve Hastings Racecourse being sold and moving from its current location to a new purpose-built facility at the current show grounds.

The owners of neighbouring Elwood Park, on whose land the racecourse would be partly built, are also supporting this feasibility study.

The proposed multi-purpose venue could host race meetings, the annual A&P Show and Horse of the Year Show, rugby and polo matches, and the weekly farmer's market.

NZTR's Chief Executive, Greg Purcell, stated:

"This type of bold initiative is consistent with NZTR's strategy and its 2013 Business Plan of conducting our key meetings and focusing on improving our raceday facilities at 'Strategic' and 'Significant' racing venues.

"This project has significant potential for the Hawke's Bay community. NZTR will be discussing with Hawke's Bay Racing and its joint-stakeholders in this project how it can most effectively provide support."

NZ Jumps Annual Forum Notification

NZ Jumps, in co-operation NZTR, will be hosting an open forum during the Grand National Carnival at Riccarton Park and is extending an invitation to all of its members to attend.

The purpose of the forum is to provide jump racing stakeholders with an opportunity to raise any concerns they may have in regards to jump racing within New Zealand.

Any items you would like to see included on the agenda should be forwarded to Andre Klein by 2 August.

Date: Thursday, August 8
Time: 1pm
Venue: The Tea House, Riccarton Park

For further information:

Andre Klein, NZ Jumps Secretary
 Email: andre@wingatui.co.nz
 Telephone: 027 242 3767

Turnover Information for the Period ending 31 July 2013

Date	Club	On-Course (Tote & FOB combined)		Totalisator (Off & on-course combined)		Fixed Odds (Off & on-course)		Races		Starters	
		12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12
22-Jul	Avondale	24,508		320,695		106,519		5		46	
24-Jul	Waikato RC	34,544		557,646		149,399		8		83	
25-Jul	Manawatu RC	25,705	31,349	569,855	516,794	155,927	108,245	9	7	80	71
26-Jul	Marlborough RC	25,797	30,270	383,735	471,993	150,589	101,821	8	8	58	70
27-Jul	Levin RC	53,324	101,917	900,378	1,119,067	231,630	246,351	8	8	75	80
27-Jul	Taumarunui RC	233,215	234,178	1,882,922	1,704,602	452,641	335,809	9	9	120	126
29-Jul	Oamaru	16,409	15,564	473,123	473,483	176,130	99,746	10	8	96	85
31-Jul	Rotorua	47,235		592,831		186,186		7		65	

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/-	Variance +%/(-%)
Meetings	358	350	+8	+2.29%
Races	3,007	3,061	(54)	(1.76%)
Starters	31,331	32,425	(1,094)	(3.37%)
Avg Field Size	10.42	10.59	(0.17)	(1.64%)
Number of races less than 8 starters	431	489	(58)	(11.86%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	392,436,051	381,498,583	+10,937,468	+2.87%
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	37,001,690	39,393,819	(2,392,129)	(6.07%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	429,437,741	420,892,403	+8,545,339	+2.03%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	339,772,361	353,254,519	(13,482,157)	(3.82%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	89,662,049	67,637,884	+22,024,166	+32.56%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	142,813	137,502	+5,311	+3.86%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,706	12,980	+726	+5.59%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	1,480,389,066	1,377,488,286	+102,900,781	+7.47%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	246,047,190	245,763,547	+283,644	+0.12%
Total NZRB Turnover	1,726,436,257	1,623,251,832	+103,184,424	+6.36%

NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover (to 21 Jul)	358,171,210	352,289,078	+5,882,131	+1.67%
Total Races (to 21 Jul)	2,943	3,013	(70)	(2.32%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover per race	121,703	116,923	+4,780	+4.09%

Note: Meetings, races, starters and turnovers are totals of NZRB supplied meeting by meeting turnovers. Off-course turnover is totalisator and FOB combined. On-course turnover is totalisator and FOB racing combined, placed on-course at NZ thoroughbred meetings. Total NZRB racing turnover is NZ thoroughbred, harness, greyhound and all imported racing turnover; total NZRB turnover also includes sport. NZ thoroughbred export turnovers are now included, up to the most recently available meetings. All turnover figures are supplied by the NZRB, derived from various sources.

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING INC

P O Box 38 386, Wellington Mail Centre ☒ Telephone: (04) 576 6240 ☒ Fax: (04) 568 8866

Internet: www.nzracing.co.nz ☒ E-mail: office@nzracing.co.nz