



Tuesday 20 March 2012

Wet Weather Impacts Monday Meeting at Rotorua

Rotorua's eight-race programme on Monday, 19 March, with a minimum \$7,000 stake, produced an average field size of 6.4 after 23 scratchings, including 6 late scratchings. Following persistent rain the track was downgraded from a Dead 4 at 7.30 am to a Heavy 10 when racing commenced at 12.47 pm.

This was the third week of regular Monday fixtures.

The meeting produced aggregate New Zealand TAB sales of \$416,400 (as compared to \$599,140 and \$583,979 for the past two weeks), and Australian totalisator sales of \$NZ530,906 (as compared to \$NZ801,838 and NZ\$1,001,707 for the past two weeks).

New Zealand off-course totalisator sales were \$297,863 (as compared to \$452,421 and \$422,612 for the last two weeks), on-course totalisator sales were \$17,139 (as compared to \$55,846 and \$42,623 for the last two weeks) and fixed odds sales were \$105,136 (as compared to \$90,873 and \$118,745 for the last two weeks).

There were four Australian thoroughbred race meetings conducted on the day, resulting in only the first four Rotorua races being broadcast in Australia on Sky 1, with races five to eight relegated to Sky 2 after 1 pm AEST.

A summary of New Zealand and Australian wagering on the Rotorua meeting is set out below.

	Total Actual	Per Race Actual	Per Race Budget	Actual % of Budget
<i>New Zealand Racing Board</i>				
NZ – Off-course	\$297,863	\$37,233	\$50,000	67.7%
NZ – On-course	\$17,139	\$2,142	\$3,000	71.4%
Fixed Odds	\$105,136	\$13,142	\$5,000	262.8%
Total NZRB	\$416,400	\$52,517	\$58,000	83.4%

<i>Australian Totalisator Operators</i>				
Supertab	NZ\$213,326	NZ\$26,666	-	-
Tab Limited	NZ\$210,429	NZ\$26,304	-	-
Tatts	NZ\$107,151	NZ\$13,394	-	-
Total Export	NZ\$530,906	NZ\$66,363	NZ\$80,000	83.0%

NZTR Chairman Matthew Goodson said that "NZTR remains cautiously optimistic about the performance of regular Monday fixtures and will be closely reviewing the performance over the first six months."

Tuesday Meeting at Taranaki Abandoned

The Taranaki TR meeting scheduled for today, Tuesday 20 March, was abandoned at 7.30 am due to unsafe conditions for racing caused by severe gale force winds that were unlikely to abate during the day. The running rail and grandstand had suffered damage, and trees had been blown down.

NZTR, in consultation with Taranaki Thoroughbred Racing and the Central Regional Programming Group, has re-scheduled the \$12,000 Rating 65 2000m National Fillies and Mares race that had been programmed for today's abandoned meeting to the Club's Thursday 7 June meeting.

Planet Rock - New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year

The final leg of the prestigious New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year Series - the Group One Wellfield New Zealand Oaks (2400m) was taken out by **Artistic** (Darci Brahma), handing the coveted title of Filly of the Year to **Planet Rock** (Fastnet Rock).

Despite being unplaced in Saturday's feature, the Peter and Dawn Williams trained **Planet Rock** (Fastnet Rock x Akris) claims the overall Filly of the Year crown after being dominant in the earlier legs of the Series.

The daughter of **Fastnet Rock** amassed 26 points in the Series, winning the Group One New Zealand Bloodstock 1000 Guineas (1600m), Group Two Eight Carat Classic (1600m) and the Oaks lead-up, the Group Three Lowland Stakes (2100m).

Bred by Bill Gleeson, Planet Rock was purchased by Ger Beemsterboer from Wellfield Lodge for NZ\$290,000 at New Zealand Bloodstock's 2010 Karaka Premier Sale. Her 12 career starts have seen her achieve five wins and four placings for just shy of NZ\$400,000.

Her name now joins the likes of **King's Rose** (Redoute's Choice), **Katie Lee** (Pins), **Daffodil** (No Excuse Needed), **Insouciant** (Keeper) and **Princess Coup** (Encosta de Lago) who have won the Filly of the Year Crown in the last five years.

Planet Rock	26
Zurella	21
Capital Diamond	15
Artistic	13.5
Quintessential	13
Testa Secret	10
Chicharita	8
Abeautifulred	7
Anabandana	6
Holy Moly	4
Our Famous Eve	4
Perfect Katch	2
Silent Achiever	2
Joy's Choice	2
Prestigious Miss	1.5
Whoshe	1

Artistic Invited to Race against Australasia's Best

Champion staying filly Artistic who won the Group 1 Wellfield New Zealand Oaks has been given an exclusive invitation to race in the Group 1 Treasury Casino Queensland Oaks during the Channel Seven Brisbane Racing Carnival.

Race fees and travel expenses for Artistic will be covered by the Australasian Challenge, a new invitational scheme designed to attract Australasia's best racing champions to Brisbane's winter racing carnival.

The new initiative, which is jointly funded by the Brisbane Racing Club and Events Queensland, aims to create a unique end of racing season show-down.

Brisbane Racing Club Chairman Kevin Dixon said this year's carnival was going to be better than ever. "The greatest races always involve great horses and Artistic will definitely make for a great race," he said.

“Our vision is to create the ultimate showdown of Australasia’s racing champions here in Brisbane, setting a new benchmark in Australian racing which champions our local industry.” Horses become eligible for the invitational scheme if they win select sprint legs or Oaks races in Australasia in the lead up to the Brisbane Racing Carnival.

An invitation to the prestigious race has already been sent to the 2011 VRC Oaks winner, Mosheen.

Winners of the upcoming Western Australian Oaks at Ascot later this month, the ATC Oaks at Randwick and the Australasian Oaks at Morphettville will also be invited to compete in the race.

“Winning sprinters from selected races will also be invited to compete in the \$1 million Group 1 AAMI Stradbroke (1200m),” Mr Dixon said.

"The Australasian Challenge will be the ultimate trifecta - the nation's best horses, in a first class racing carnival, located in the state which has the best winter weather."

The 2012 Channel Seven Brisbane Racing Carnival will take place at Doomben and Eagle Farm Racecourses between 12 May and 9 June

The \$400,000 Treasury Casino QLD Oaks will be run on Saturday 2 June with the \$1 million AAMI Stradbroke run a week later on Saturday, 9 June.

Falkirk's Fay Fay Gives John Size a first Hong Kong Derby

Fay Fay (NZ) gave trainer John Size a long-awaited first victory in a thrilling renewal of the Group 1 Mercedes-Benz Hong Kong Derby, thanks in no small measure to an ice-cool ride from perennial champion jockey Douglas Whyte.

Drawn widest of the 14 runners, the South African allowed his mount to roll forward three deep into the first turn before slotting in to sit handily within striking distance of the front-running Bullish Champion (Exceed and Excel). “When they slackened up on the stable bend I let him roll forward under his own steam and within a matter of 100m I had the race in control. He was just lobbing along beautifully so from that point of view I’ve got to say that Gate 14 was a blessing in disguise.

“Same World levelled up with me in the final 100m but this horse knows how to fight and he knows how to lay it down when the pressure’s put on him,” continued Whyte.

Bred by Peter Smith, Fay Fay is a graduate of the New Zealand Bloodstock Festival Sale, purchased for just \$13,000 from the draft of Maara Grange.

New Zealand-breds have now won six of the last nine editions of the Hong Kong classic, a sequence that began in 2004 with **Lucky Owners** (Danehill) and continued with **Vengeance Of Rain** (Zabeel) in 2005, **Vital King** (Almutawakel) in 2007, **Super Satin** (Danehill Dancer) in 2010 and Hong Kong Horse of the Year **Ambitious Dragon** (Pins) 12 months ago.

Stud and Stable Tour

On Sunday 1 April Auckland & Waikato Owners have arranged a Stud and Stable tour to Te Akau Stud, then a luncheon and on to Counties and Byerley Park. All for \$50 (non-members welcome). Ken Cramer-Roberts 09 570 5304 or Jenny Cowan 07 827 6654. Bus leaves CT Club Remuera 8.30 am, Cambridge track 9 am. Book early.

Turnover Information for the Period ending 18 March 2012

Date	Club	On-Course		Off-Course		Fixed Odds		Starters	
								11-12	10-11
12/3	Egmont (1)	59,459		452,376		130,240		83	
13/3	Waipa (2)	14,712		477,296		188,293		81	
14/3	South Waikato (3)	75,962	30.0%	581,473	23.1%	212,402	21.4%	73	33.6%
15/3	Wdv Pahiatua (4)	22,263	33.3%	569,632	8.2%	197,601	79.7%	79	11.2%
16/3	Ashburton (5)	29,598	19.8%	547,229	7.4%	122,399	24.5%	85	9.6%
17/3	Wellington (6)	268,038	7.3%	1,714,574	14.3%	585,237	30.7%	103	4.6%
17/3	Waikato (7)	89,661	7.5%	952,848	16.3%	272,257	53.0%	95	10.4%
18/3	Southland (8)	28,769	28.8%	460,777	28.1%	115,664	40.9%	80	22.3%

- (1) Egmont RC; No equivalent meeting last year.
 (2) Waipa RC; No equivalent meeting last year.
 (3) South Waikato RC; 8 races this year, compared to 10 races last year.
 (4) Woodville-Pahiatua RC; 8 races this year, compared to 9 races last year.
 (5) Ashburton RC; 8 races this year, compared to 10 races last year.
 (6) Wellington RC; 9 races this year, compared to 10 races last year.
 (7) Waikato RC; 9 races this year, compared to 10 races last year.
 (8) Southland RC; 8 races this year, compared to 10 races last year.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(-%)
Races	1,993	2,004	(11)	(0.55%)
Starters	20,952	21,307	(355)	(1.67%)
Avg Field Size	10.51	10.63	(0.12)	(1.12%)
Off-Course Turnover	217,110,384	230,721,969	(13,611,585)	(5.90%)
On-Course Turnover	26,639,783	29,658,348	(3,018,565)	(10.18%)
Total Totalisator Turnover	243,750,167	260,380,317	(16,630,150)	(6.39%)
Fixed Odds	45,904,165	40,136,170	+5,767,995	+14.37%
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	289,654,332	300,516,487	(10,862,155)	(3.61%)
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	145,336	149,958	(4,622)	(3.08%)
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,825	14,104	(279)	(1.98%)

Total NZRB Racing Turnover	887,707,147	884,703,734	+3,003,413	+0.34%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	149,440,687	109,808,673	+39,632,014	+36.09%
Total NZRB Turnover	1,037,147,833	994,512,407	+42,635,426	+4.29%

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.

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