



Wednesday 24 October 2012

HS Dyke Waikato Guineas Stake Increase to \$100,000

The Waikato Racing Club has increased the stake for this season's Group 2 HS Dyke Waikato Guineas to \$100,000 after discussions with the Dyke family. The 2000m three-year-old feature, will be held at Te Rapa on 2 February 2013.

Race sponsor Herbie Dyke died in August, but the Dyke family was keen to continue the revered racing identity's link to a race which has fast become the preferred New Zealand Derby lead up.

Last season's HS Dyke Waikato Guineas was run at Group 3 level for a stake of \$70,000. The race was won by subsequent New Zealand Derby winner Silent Achiever defeated current Group 1 star Ocean Park by a neck. The HS Dyke Waikato Guineas has since been elevated to Group 2 level on the recommendation of the New Zealand Pattern Review Committee, meaning it needed a stakes increase to \$85,000.

Waikato Racing Club general Manager Tony Enting said the additional stake increase to \$100,000 came from additional sponsorship from the Dyke family. "The stakes increase is the result of a concerted effort by the family to keep Herbie's name synonymous with the Waikato Racing Club," Enting said. "They are looking to cement a long-term relationship with a race and the club is delighted to accommodate them."

Enting said the HS Dyke Waikato Guineas had grown in stature since the transfer of the race in 2006 from the club's November meeting when it ran as a 1600m event. The new date in February and increased distance to 2000m was part of a review of the pattern of racing throughout New Zealand and Enting said the on-going success of horses that had contested the Guineas in the past few seasons would continue to make it an attractive option for connections.

Herbie Dyke was the president of the Waikato Racing Club from 1987 to 1992 and was a successful businessman in Hamilton as the founder of Fairview Motors and the Dyke Motor Group. He was a prominent racing administrator at national level, as well as enjoying considerable success as an owner and breeder.

More Kiwis Than Ever Before Have Booked In To Celebrate The Festive Season At The Races

In 2011 Christmas at the Races was voted 'Best Nationwide Christmas Party Option' in the Corporate Events People's Choice Awards, and in 2012 demand is indicating it warrants this title. Over half of the events have nearly completely sold out with some Clubs having to create totally new packages to cater to the demand.

By the end of September Wanganui Jockey Club had sold every hospitality package available - indoors and out. A new package has been created to cater for the traditionally late booking crowd. Bret Field, Operations Manager at Wanganui was delighted considering the local bookers were usually 'late movers and in previous years bookings had only picked up in late September'.

And as it appears Wanganui Jockey Club is not the only Racing Club reaching for the sold out signs. For the third year running Geraldine Trotting Club (TC) in Canterbury is a sell-out event. Jackie Nelson from Geraldine TC said 'this year we will have more marquees on-course than ever before – the course will be full and requests are still coming'. Tauranga, Awapuni (Manawatu), Te Rapa (Waikato) and Ascot Park (Invercargill) have also nearly sold out all their available hospitality packages at select events.

So not only is the Christmas party tradition well and truly alive here in New Zealand, people who would not traditionally attend race meetings are heading on-course for the party. In 2011 Christmas at the Races hosted over 100,000 people, including 18,000 who had never set foot on a racecourse before. This indicates that Christmas at the Races has hit a niche like no other – it's engaging more Kiwis in one of the oldest sports in history while simultaneously helping the Racing Club's deliver profitable events.

Brand Manager, Louisa Ross is 'looking forward to seeing the crowd's on-course for the festivities,' and urges those 'thinking about taking their Christmas party to the races to secure their spot soon'. More information about Christmas at the Races and other summer racing events can be found at theraces.co.nz.

Northern Trials – Ellerslie, Thursday 8 November

Following consultation between NZTR, the Auckland RC and the Northern Regional Programming Committee trials have been confirmed on the inside track at Ellerslie on Thursday 8 November 2012.

These trials replace those previously advertised at Avondale on this date, with Avondale JC now due to race Monday 12 November.

Nominations for the Ellerslie trials close at 12 noon, Wednesday 7 November with National Racing Bureau.

Equine Industry Training Survey

The Equine Training arm of the Primary Industry Training Organisation have launched a research project into the training needs for the Equine sector and to establish training awareness, attitudes towards training and barriers to training.

As part of this research, you are invited to participate in an on-line survey which is being circulated to all stakeholder groups within the Equine industry.

The survey should take no longer than 15-20 minutes to complete, please click on this link <http://Training.NZTR-HRNZ-Survey.sqizmo.com/s3/>

NZTR would greatly appreciate your support and encourage you to complete the survey.

Turnover Information for the Period ending 21 October 2012

Date	Club	On-Course		Off-Course		Fixed Odds		Starters	
								12-13	11-12
15/10	Waimate (1)	20,386		438,137		126,341		86	
17/10	Whangarei (2)	53,589		648,029		260,234		89	
18/10	Taranaki (3)	34,160		641,281		189,368		81	
19/10	Ashburton (4)	40,192		842,623		261,474		123	
20/10	Rotorua	117,741	27.0%	1,591,261	25.7%	379,084	44.4%	113	68.5%
20/10	Wanganui	86,419	23.4%	1,172,679	0.1%	282,472	38.3%	114	15.2%

- (1) Waimate RC; no equivalent meeting last year; this year there were 9 races.
- (2) Whangarei RC; last year this meeting was a Winton JC meeting at which there were 7 races; this year there were 9 races.
- (3) Taranaki TR; last year this meeting was a Hawke's Bay RI meeting at which there were 10 races; this year there were 9 races.
- (4) Ashburton RC; last year this meeting was a Counties RC meeting at which there were 9 races; this year there were 10 races.

(5) Last year on the Sunday there were Auckland RC and Ashburton RC meetings at which there were 8 and 10 races respectively. The Auckland RC meeting was the National Jumps Day meeting.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(-%)
Races	631	677	(46)	(6.79%)
Starters	6,491	6,837	(346)	(5.06%)
Avg Field Size	10.29	10.10	+0.19	+1.86%
Off-Course Turnover	63,987,069	66,903,812	(2,916,743)	(4.36%)
On-Course Turnover	4,870,394	5,767,354	(896,960)	(15.55%)
Total Totalisator Turnover	68,857,463	72,671,166	(3,813,703)	(5.25%)
Fixed Odds	17,071,138	12,758,691	+4,312,447	+33.80%
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	85,928,601	85,429,857	+498,744	+0.58%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	136,178	126,189	+9,990	+7.92%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,238	12,495	+743	+5.95%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	323,654,710	285,939,434	+37,715,276	+13.19%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	62,998,476	75,828,701	(12,830,225)	(16.92%)
Total NZRB Turnover	386,653,186	361,768,135	+24,885,051	+6.88%

Overall turnover was down 7.8% (-\$2.73m) last week on the same week last year, with Rugby World Cup (final, 3rd versus 4th play-off & resulting tournament markets) having contributed \$6.32m turnover to the same week last year.

Racing turnover was up 9.5% (+\$2.49m) for the week, with Domestic racing turnover up 6.2% (+\$816k).

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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