



Tuesday 3 July 2012

NZTR Handicap Review Introduces Benchmark Races

Benchmark handicap conditions are to be introduced across all Rating 85, Rating 75 and Rating 65 races from 1 August following New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing's review of the current handicapping and programming template.

The change will support increased opportunities for horses to start and assist Clubs and the Regional Programming Committees to cater for a wider pool of horses in each region. The provision of the benchmark condition allows horses rated above the respective rating band to be entered for any race. Horses are weighted to carry an additional half-kilogram for every rating point above the stated band e.g. a R78 horse in an R75 Benchmark will carry an additional 1.5kg (3pts).

Benchmark Handicaps were introduced nationally by New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing last August having been used successfully in NSW for sometime. Racing Victoria is currently trialing the use of Benchmark races on selected events. While the Benchmark handicaps are to be expanded here to include all Ratings based Handicap races, the R65 Benchmark races will be open only to one-win horses rated R66 and higher. The intent of this condition is to remove any disadvantage to maiden winners having to compete with higher rated multiple winners in the R65 Benchmark band. Horses that have won two or more races will still be eligible to start in a R65 Benchmark race once their rating has fallen below R66.

For more information and a Summary of the June 2012 NZTR Handicapping Review [CLICK HERE](#)

AgITO Position Vacant - Equine Training Adviser

Join us in developing the profitability and performance of the Equine Industry through its people!

We're looking for an Equine Training Adviser, based in the central North Island, to work with trainers to encourage the training of their people.

As an Equine Training Adviser, you'll be out and about promoting and selling our training products to equine customers, as well as providing on-going support and service. You'll be working with everyone from employers to tutors and trainees. You'll seek out new customers, make sales, and build and maintain relationships. You'll also work closely with industry groups and different equine market sectors.

We're seeking someone with outstanding relationship management skills – the ability to network, establish new business relationships, and maintain these strong relationships. This will be enhanced by your proven sales experience and excellent communications skills. You'll also be well-organised and efficient, with an understanding of business processes so that you can achieve results.

An understanding of the equine industry is necessary.

This position would ideally be based in Hamilton, but could be based elsewhere in the central North Island.

So, if you have a passion for developing people through building relationships and sales we want to hear from you! For more information and to apply online please visit www.agitocareers.ac.nz.

Click on the link below to view the job description...

For further details, [click here](#) to view the full article (requires Adobe Acrobat reader).

2012 Horse of the Year Awards to be held in the Waikato

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing's 2012 Horse of the Year Awards will be held at the Claudelands Events Centre in Hamilton starting at 6.00pm on Wednesday 12 September 2012.

The Waikato Racing Club is racing on the same day.

Finalists for the Awards will be announced in early August. Voting papers are then sent out to the Voting Panel for submission to NZTR's auditor, Deloitte, in the week before the Awards night.

A total of 20 Awards for the 2011-2012 racing season are celebrated on the night.

Tickets are available for \$150.00 each and can be obtained from Amanda Fensom on 04 576 6240 or amanda.fensom@nzracing.co.nz

Ticketing information will be included in the July issue of the *Thoroughbred Racing Monthly* magazine published on Friday, 6 July 2012.

Cheltenham Dream Series 2012

Following the running of the Livamol Hawke's Bay Steeplechase and Te Whangai Romneys Hawke's Bay Hurdles on Saturday 30 June, the current leaders in the Cheltenham Dream Series 2012 table are as follows:

Points	Horse
78	Morpheus
45	Volkswagin
33	Sir Heelan
29	Ho Down, Zagata
28	Penstar
27	Myths And Legends
26	Lautenschlager
25	Borrack, At The Top
20	Kid Columbus, Lord Custom
19	Arose, Thatz David
17	No Rush'N, Bally Heights, Yourein
13	Dubhdara, Cheap Date, Solid Steal
12	O'Connor, Banna Strand
10	Barado, Big Brownie, Tom's Myth, Cee Gee Jay, Foremost, Brushman, Better On Top

The next races in the Series are the Wellington Steeplechase and Hurdles on Saturday 14 July.

Cambridge JC Meeting on 4 July – Leading Jumping Trainer and Jumping Rider Trophies

There will be trophies awarded for the leading jumping trainers and riders at the Cambridge JC race meeting at Te Rapa on Wednesday 4 July 2012. Points will be accrued in the jumping races on the programme as follows:

1 st	five points
2 nd	three points
3 rd	one point

The trophies have been kindly donated by Porritt Sand of Cambridge.

Turnover Information for the Period ending 1 July 2012

Date	Club	On-Course		Off-Course		Fixed Odds		Starters	
								11-12	10-11
25/6	Rotorua (1)	27,995		440,516		106,040		90	
27/6	Whakatane	45,299	17.2%	582,299	10.8%	123,978	41.8%	92	16.5%
28/6	Wairarapa (2)	28,421		591,545		128,360		95	
29/6	Waimate (3)	29,540		505,565		148,608		76	
30/6	Whangarei (4)	85,842	8.0%	1,378,481	4.0%	327,997	34.5%	107	10.8%
30/6	Hawke's Bay (5)	89,869	18.1%	941,409	14.4%	213,326	13.2%	84	17.6%

- (1) Racing Rotorua; no equivalent meeting last year; 7 races this year.
- (2) Wairarapa RC; was originally scheduled to be a Foxton RC meeting. This year there were 8 races.
- (3) Waimate RC; was a Sunday meeting last year, at which only 2 races were run before the meeting was abandoned due to slippery track conditions. This year there 8 races. Last year Egmont RC raced on this Friday date, with 10 races.
- (4) Whangarei RC; 9 races this year, compared with 10 races last year.
- (5) Hawke's Bay RI; 9 races this year, compared with 10 races last year.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(-%)
Races	2,870	2,866	+4	+0.14%
Starters	30,475	30,704	(229)	(0.75%)
Avg Field Size	10.62	10.71	(0.09)	(0.88%)
Off-Course Turnover	297,125,550	312,411,519	(15,285,969)	(4.89%)
On-Course Turnover	32,817,998	36,218,459	(3,400,461)	(9.39%)
Total Totalisator Turnover	329,943,548	348,629,978	(18,686,430)	(5.36%)
Fixed Odds	66,244,917	54,386,293	+11,858,623	+21.80%
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	396,188,465	403,016,271	(6,827,807)	(1.69%)
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	138,045	140,620	(2,575)	(1.83%)
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,000	13,126	(125)	(0.96%)

Total NZRB Racing Turnover	1,271,690,280	1,252,234,335	+19,455,945	+1.55%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	226,169,648	172,866,924	+53,302,725	+30.83%
Total NZRB Turnover	1,497,859,929	1,425,101,259	+72,758,670	+5.11%

Overall turnover was up 7.0% (+\$2.56m) last week on the same week last year, +5.1% season to date.

Racing turnover was up 5.0% (+\$1.15m) for the week, with Domestic racing up 6.7% (+\$774k).

Domestic thoroughbreds turnover was up 9.7% (+\$538k) (tote + fob) with the same number of meetings and just one race less (-2.0%) with horse starts up 5.6% (avg. field size up 0.8 starters a race).

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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