



Thursday 13 March 2014

PAEROA TO CEASE RACING

The Waikato Racing Club, in consultation with New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR), has today confirmed that racing and trialling at Paeroa is to cease forthwith.

The upcoming Waikato Racing Club meeting at Paeroa, to be held on Friday 28 March 2014, will now be transferred to the Counties Racing Club.

NZTR, in consultation with the New Zealand Racing Board's Dates Committee (NZRB) and the Northern Regional Programming Committee, will look to make a further announcement next week regarding the remaining race dates and trials fixtures scheduled to be held at Paeroa for the remainder of the current racing season.

No licences will be issued for racing at Paeroa in the 2014-15 season.

The Waikato Racing Club advised the NZTR Board in February this year that it was their intention to cease racing at Paeroa from the conclusion of the current 2013-14 season and wishes to relinquish all dates as soon as possible. The Paeroa Racecourse is being marketed for sale by its owner, the Barbara Anderson Trust. The Waikato Racing Club's lease over the property terminates at the end of July.

Waikato Racing Club General Manager, Ken Rutherford, said the decision by the club to discontinue racing and trialling at Paeroa now, rather than carry on racing there until July, is due to issues with the Paeroa track. "Recent inspections of the track by NZTR's Garry Foscett, along with the Racing Integrity Unit (RIU) and club representatives, have determined that before the course is used again for racing there needs to be a considerable amount of maintenance work carried out including aeration, fertilising and reseeding."

"The track really needs to be shut for at least six weeks. If this was to happen we would be unlikely to be able to race or trial there until May. Given the cost involved and the fact that the Club would have just the one further race meeting this season at the end of July it was decided to stop racing immediately."

In the interests of the wider industry, and at considerable cost, the Waikato Racing Club took over responsibility for the management of Paeroa in August 2012 when the Paeroa Racing Club was wound-up. The initial agreement was for one year only. This was subject to a full return to racing at Avondale given industry concerns around the impact the potential loss of Paeroa that year would have had on racing and trialling in the Northern region.

NZTR Chairman Matthew Goodson said that the Waikato Racing Club Board was to be congratulated for funding the cost of maintaining Paeroa for the past two years and that with Avondale now racing, the ability for the industry to manage without Paeroa was sustainable.

FINAL 'TICK' CONFIRMS RESUMPTION AT RICCARTON PARK ON SATURDAY 22 MARCH 2014

Trackwork undertaken on the Riccarton Park Course Proper and 1200 metre chute this morning provided the final 'tick' for the resumption of racing on Saturday week.

On a track that was described as a 'true dead' horses worked from the 1800 metres and another group from the 1200 metre start at the top of the chute in the presence of Club officials, Stipendiary Steward Michael Zarb and New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing ('NZTR') National Venue Inspector Garry Foskett.

All riders, headed by David Walsh, were extremely positive of the condition of the racecourse surface and have no issues with the results of the work undertaken to install lateral drains into the back straight and both these and sand-slits into the 1200 metre chute.

The unanimous view was that there is no impediment to racing resuming as planned and NZTR have formally sanctioned the use of Riccarton Park Racecourse for the Canterbury Racing-Hororata meeting on Saturday 22 March 2014.

ASHBURTON RACING CLUB – FRIDAY 14 MARCH 2014 - MINOR DISTANCE CHANGE

There has been a minor change to the distance of the R65 stayers race which was recently added to the programme at the Ashburton Racing Club race meeting on Friday 14 March 2014.

Following consultation between the Club & the Racing Integrity Unit, the distance has been changed from 2000m to 2100m.

WAIPUKURAU JOCKEY CLUB – FRIDAY 21 MARCH 2014 - FINAL RACE CONFIRMED

NZTR, in consultation with the Club, the Central Regional Programming Committee and the CD Trainers' Association, has confirmed that a Maiden 1400m race will be added to the programme for the Waipukurau JC race meeting on Friday 21 March, as follows:

Maiden SW – 1400m

Of \$7,000. \$4,375, \$1,400,\$700, \$350, \$175.

All other races on the programme remain unaltered.

The CD Clubs are trialing a new initiative where 10 days out from a mid-week industry meeting the Central Regional Programming Committee will confirm the additional 8th race to be programmed based on recent nominations and a review of upcoming opportunities for those horses in the region. The flexibility to programme the extra race is designed to provide an opportunity for horses which might otherwise not be able to start.

WOODVILLE PAHIATUA RACING CLUB – THURSDAY 15 MAY 2014 - CHANGE TO PROGRAMME

Following consultation between NZTR & the Central Region Programming Committee there has been a change to the programme for the Woodville Pahiatua RC race meeting on Thursday 15 May 2014.

The Benchmark R75 Hcp 1200m has been deleted & replaced by:

Benchmark R85 Hcp 1400m

\$8,000. \$5,000, \$1,600, \$800, \$400, \$200.

Nom \$57.50. Acc \$69.00

This change will not appear in the programming booklet or the March edition of the THOROUGHBRED RACING MONTHLY but will be noted in the April 2014 edition of the THOROUGHBRED RACING MONTHLY.

RANGITIKEI RACING CLUB – SATURDAY 17 MAY 2014 - CHANGE TO PROGRAMME

Following consultation between NZTR and the Central Region Programming Committee there has been a change to the programme for the Rangitikei RC race meeting on Saturday 17 March 2014.

The Benchmark R85 Hcp 1400m has been deleted & replaced by:

Benchmark R75 Hcp 1200m

DUNSTAN FEEDS AUTUMN SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

\$17,500. \$10,935, \$3500, \$1,750, \$875, \$440.

Nom \$57.50. Acc \$150.94

This change will not appear in the programming booklet or the March edition of the THOROUGHBRED RACING MONTHLY but will be noted in the April 2014 edition of the THOROUGHBRED RACING MONTHLY.

TURNOVER INFORMATION (FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 9 MARCH 2014)

| Date | Club | On-Course (Tote & FOB combined) | | Totalisator (Off & on-course combined) | | Fixed Odds (Off & on-course) | | Races | | Starters | |
|-------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------|--|-----------|------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|----------|-------|
| | | 13-14 | 12-13 | 13-14 | 12-13 | 13-14 | 12-13 | 13-14 | 12-13 | 13-14 | 12-13 |
| 5-Mar | Auckland | 744,304 | 772,732 | 2,649,296 | 2,626,542 | 859,206 | 808,770 | 10 | 10 | 115 | 108 |
| 6-Mar | Canterbury Racing | - | 23,314 | - | 487,516 | - | 160,950 | - | 8 | - | 73 |
| 7-Mar | Otaki-Maori | 39,893 | 28,615 | 537,965 | 512,474 | 217,509 | 164,860 | 8 | 8 | 78 | 76 |
| 8-Mar | Auckland | 431,165 | 403,516 | 2,532,260 | 2,146,197 | 923,894 | 789,344 | 10 | 10 | 108 | 100 |
| 8-Mar | Otago | 38,596 | 37,075 | 1,051,749 | 937,876 | 271,819 | 221,260 | 9 | 9 | 100 | 98 |
| 9-Mar | Masterton | 47,048 | - | 461,481 | - | 165,442 | - | 7 | - | 59 | - |

| NZ Thoroughbred Summary | This Season, Year to Date | Last Season, Year to Date | Variance +/- | Variance +%/(-%) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Meetings | 220 | 223 | (3) | (1.35%) |
| Races | 1,820 | 1,886 | (66) | (3.50%) |
| Total Starts | 18,921 | 19,543 | (622) | (3.18%) |
| Avg Field Size | 10.40 | 10.36 | +0.03 | +0.33% |
| Number of races less than 8 starters | 299 | 273 | +26 | +9.52% |
| Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB) | 262,460,444 | 265,522,226 | (3,061,781) | (1.15%) |
| On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB) | 26,867,314 | 28,335,765 | (1,468,451) | (5.18%) |
| Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover | 289,327,758 | 293,857,991 | (4,530,232) | (1.54%) |
| Subtotal Totalisator Turnover | 221,591,929 | 232,431,617 | (10,839,688) | (4.66%) |
| Subtotal FOB Turnover | 67,735,814 | 61,426,374 | +6,309,440 | +10.27% |
| NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race | 158,971 | 155,810 | +3,161 | +2.03% |
| NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter | 15,291 | 15,036 | +255 | +1.70% |
| Total NZRB Racing Turnover | 959,987,710 | 942,817,823 | +17,169,887 | +1.82% |
| Total NZRB Sports Turnover | 164,920,663 | 141,407,310 | +23,513,353 | +16.63% |
| Total NZRB Turnover | 1,124,908,373 | 1,084,225,133 | +40,683,240 | +3.75% |

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 23 Feb) | 200,654,596 | 238,501,880 | (37,847,284) | (15.87%) |
| Total Races (to 23 Feb) | 1,720 | 1,781 | (61) | (3.43%) |
| NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race | 116,660 | 133,915 | (17,255) | (12.89%) |

Meeting details

- Canterbury Racing Thursday meeting at Motukarara was abandoned due to heavy rain and the state of the track.
- Masterton RC Sunday meeting at Tauherenikau had no direct equivalent in FY13.

Turnover summary notes:

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is down 1.5% year to date.
- With 66 less races than run over the same period last season, turnover per race has actually increased, up 2.0%.
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are down 622, 3.2% less.
- Average field size is up from 10.36 in FY13 to 10.40 in FY14, 0.03 starters per race (0.3%) more.
- The number of races with less than 8 starters is now 26 higher than a season ago.
- Decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 4.7%) has been partly offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 10.3%).
- \$NZ export turnover per race to 23 February is down (12.9%). The variance in the \$NZ/\$A exchange rate is responsible for 11.7% of this decline. The remainder of this decline (1.2%), as well as the absence of any growth, appears to have resulted from the loss of coverage on Sky 1 in Australia for midweek races run after 2pm.