



Friday 13 September 2013

From The Horse's Mouth

I attended the Te Rapa race meeting on Wednesday to join the large crowd of people from all over the country who gathered to acknowledge the outgoing Waikato Racing Club chairman David Smith.

Dave has served as Chairman of the Waikato Racing Club for the last 11-years and will retire from the position at the upcoming annual meeting on 26 September 2013.

Dave is one racing's most affable and generous characters. On behalf of all racing fans I thank him for his contribution and commitment to the sport of Thoroughbred racing in New Zealand.

Levin Classic to be Run at Trentham

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing has confirmed that this season's Group One Levin Turf Classic will now be run at Trentham in January on Saturday 18 January 2014, the first day of the Wellington Racing Club's Cup carnival.

Levin Racing Club President Bruce McCarrison said his Club was pleased that this change could be facilitated for the current racing season. "We believe that shifting the Levin Classic to Trentham in January being in best interest of both Central Districts and New Zealand racing. "We are grateful for the support and co-operation that has been extended by the RACE Group and the Wellington Racing Club to accommodate this change."

The Levin Racing Club had earlier made a submission to the New Zealand Pattern Review Committee requesting a change of venue and date for the Levin Classic. The Club had also sent a submission to the New Zealand Pattern Committee (formerly the Graded Stakes Committee) seeking their endorsement.

Bruce McCarrison acknowledged that despite the best efforts of the Club to increase the advertised prizemoney for the Levin Classic in recent years, the race was at risk of being downgraded to Group Two status. "Levin Racing Club approached the RACE Group and the Club has reached an agreement, which will see the Group One Levin Classic conducted by the Levin Racing Club at the Wellington Racing Club meeting. This is a much better scenario for our Club than doing nothing and at some point in the future seeing the race loses its Group One status and funding."

New Zealand Pattern Review Chairman Mark Freeman said their committee had recognized the urgency of addressing the timing of the Levin Classic in the current 3YO pattern.

"Clearly, the existing pattern, which has seen New Zealand's only three Group One 1600m 3YO races being programmed in the space of just 20 days in November, was not only impacting on the quality of the Levin Classic, which had been issued with a second warning, but the clash had also resulted in the Group One New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas at Riccarton being issued with a first warning in 2012."

The Pattern Review Committee had called for submissions in June and has been meeting since May as part of their formal review process. The Committee has been looking at the timing and placement of all of the major carnivals and the current pattern and performance of black type racing in New Zealand, with a view that any changes that will be recommended could be implemented in the 2014-15 season.

At the request of the Levin Racing Club, RACE Inc, the New Zealand Pattern Review Committee, the Regional Programming Committee and New Zealand Pattern Committee, NZTR has expedited the approval of the Asian

Pattern Committee to change the date and venue for the Levin Classic this season in advance of the draft release of the other recommended changes to the New Zealand pattern proposed by the Pattern Review group. Their draft report is due to be released for further consultation early next week.

The Asian Pattern Committee met last week and endorsed the recommendation from New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing to change the venue and date of the Levin Classic to allow it to be run at Trentham on 18 January 2014. As a consequence of this change the Group Three Wellington 3YO Stakes will move from its current slot in January to replace the Levin Classic at Otaki.

Brent Wall, Racing Manager for the RACE Group, said the new date for the Group One Levin Classic will further strengthen the Wellington Cup carnival, with the first day's programme featuring both the Group One Telegraph Handicap and Levin Classic, the Group Two Wakefield Stakes for the two year olds, the Group Three Trentham Stakes (2100m) and the Listed Anniversary Handicap. "We expect the new date for the Levin Classic will support the current pattern, with the Group One 3YO race in January to be held two weeks before the Waikato Guineas (2000m), with a further two week gap to the Avondale Guineas (2100m) and then two weeks to the Group One New Zealand Derby (2400m).

"The Levin Classic will also now be an option for the top three year old fillies, which will have the opportunity of taking on the boys in the Levin Classic, or waiting for the Group Three Desert Gold Stakes at Trentham the following week, before having to step up in distance in the Sir Tristram Classic at Te Rapa en route to either the Derby or the New Zealand Oaks," said Wall.

Sunday Star Times Liftout - "And we're Racing"

Racing's first ever major promotion to mass media of the major racing carnivals and events is coming out this Sunday. It's a Sunday Star Times lift-out called "And we're Racing". This will promote major racing events to a wider entertainment focussed audience.

155,000 copies are being printed as free lift-outs in the SST, which is on sale nationally this Sunday. Though the NZ Racing Board has funded most of the costs, it is thankful for the support of advertisers and sponsors of racing in the production of this publication.

Taranaki TR 28 September - Grey's Only Race

In an attempt to make the New World Merrilands Xtreme Raceday more extreme, Taranaki Thoroughbred Racing will this year introduce the "Grey's Only Race" previously run by the Waikato Racing Club in the 1990's.

With additional club funding and NZTR Special Funding, the Rating 75 1600m race will be run for a respectable \$20,000 stake. The popular longest flat race at 3210m and a 3&4YO Special Condition races are quite unique to the day.

Turnover Information for the Period ending 8 September 2013

Date	Club	On-Course (Tote & FOB combined)		Totalisator (Off & on-course combined)		Fixed Odds (Off & on-course)		Races	
		13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13
2-Sep	Waikato@Paer	27,085		329,910		114,915		7	
4-Sep	Counties	41,107	45,358	514,682	548,036	174,661	147,840	7	8
5-Sep	Otaki-Maori	32,318	16,355	644,542	426,778	193,492	115,236	9	7
6-Sep	Te Aroha	17,630		339,364		123,547		6	
7-Sep	Auckland	270,229	289,865	1,519,951	1,896,596	393,251	407,809	10	10
7-Sep	Wanganui	103,917	106,335	1,149,504	1,316,366	289,109	292,573	10	9
7-Sep	Canterbury	48,778		568,093		148,567		9	

- (1) Waikato RC at Paeroa; last year this was a Racing Te Aroha meeting at which there were 8 races.
- (2) Otago RC; last year on the Tuesday there was an Otago RC meeting at which there were 7 races.
- (3) Racing Te Aroha; last year this meeting was an Ashburton RC meeting at which there were 7 races.
- (4) Whangarei RC; last year this was a Racing Tauranga meeting at which there were also 8 races.
- (5) Canterbury Racing; there was no equivalent meeting last year.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance /()	Variance %/ ()%
Meetings	34	34	0	0.00%
Races	261	276	(15)	(5.43%)
Starters	2,606	2,719	(113)	(4.16%)
Avg Field Size	9.98	9.85	0.13	1.35%
Number of races less than 8 starters	43	51	(8)	(15.69%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	33,881,832	34,717,014	(835,182)	(2.41%)
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	2,255,829	2,473,491	(217,661)	(8.80%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	36,137,661	37,190,504	(1,052,843)	(2.83%)
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	28,782,745	30,183,701	(1,400,956)	(4.64%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	7,354,917	7,006,804	348,113	4.97%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	138,458	134,748	3,710	2.75%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,867	13,678	189	1.38%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	145,158,186	148,543,007	(3,384,821)	(2.28%)
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	27,392,913	30,373,629	(2,980,716)	(9.81%)
Total NZRB Turnover	172,551,099	178,916,636	(6,365,537)	(3.56%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 1 Sep)	23,377,257	28,787,358	(5,410,101)	(18.79%)
Total Races (to 1 Sep)	203	220	(17)	(7.73%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	115,159	130,852	(15,693)	(11.99%)

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.

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