



Wednesday 16 October 2013

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH: NZTR CHIEF EXECUTIVE GREG PURCELL

If ever we needed reminding of just how much our industry is often at the mercy of the weather, we've received it again in recent weeks at Ruakaka.

Last season copped its fair share of 'bad' weather, with the abandonment of a record 101 races as a result of either too much rain or too little.

At Ruakaka it was wind – not rain – that caused problems. Work to upgrade our best winter track is in full swing and progressing well but sand whipped up by recent high winds and piled on the track forced the abandonment of one meeting and the transfer of the meeting scheduled for today to Avondale.

It took plenty of hard work from NZTR, the clubs and the connections of the horses affected to get the Ruakaka-Avondale transfer locked in and I'd like to acknowledge the support of all those involved in achieving what was an excellent result under difficult circumstances.

While the Ruakaka situation was unforeseen, it serves to underline why it is we've embarked on an ongoing upgrade programme to ensure key tracks are able to conduct racing in varying climatic conditions, particularly during winter.

A major component of this is our commitment to a synthetic training and trialling surface in the Waikato region as the preferred option. There's still plenty of debate about this but our strong view is that, rather than building a full synthetic racing surface, a trialling surface will allow us to properly 'test the concept' under New Zealand conditions, while providing many of the gains of a full racing surface in terms of horse capacity and location incentives for trainers.

There are big gains to be had in improving field sizes and cost savings to owners from a high-quality training and trialling surface allowing horses to get to the races more quickly and more often. We are continuing to work with the NZ Racing Board on a part-funding package and hope to achieve an outcome soon.

Outside the Northern region, our focus is on high-value spending on drainage and irrigation initiatives.

On a final note, good luck to the Kiwi connections flying the flag in this weekend's Caulfield Cup, particularly Roger James and Silent Achiever.

Another to look out for will be Jimmy Cassidy, who's gunning for his 100th Group One winner on race favourite Hawkspur.

NZTR ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13 NOW AVAILABLE

NZTR's **Annual Report for 2012-13** is now available online. This sets out NZTR's financial performance over the last season and reports on a range of planned initiatives to grow participation, interest and investment in the sport of thoroughbred racing.

The report, which aims to respond to results from NZTR's two annual stakeholder surveys (in **2011-12** and **2012-13**), should be read in conjunction with its **2013 Performance Report** and its **2014-18 Strategic Plan**, both published in September. NZTR's **2014-16 Business Plan** is currently being considered by the NZ Racing Board and will be published upon NZ Racing Board approval.

Printed copies are being sent to all clubs and copies will be provided at the Annual General Meeting on 7 November 2013.

2013 NZTR RACING CLUB CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2013 NZTR Racing Club Conference and Annual General Meeting will be held from 10.30am on Thursday, 7 November 2013 in the Oceania Room on Level 3 at Te Papa, Cable Street in Wellington.

The Racing Club Conference is open to **any number** of club committee members, club staff and sector organisation representatives wishing to attend.

The club conference will feature three sessions, with speakers and presentations including:

Session 1: Marketing Racing

- Marketing the Sport of Racing and the Racecourse Customer Experience - Rod Street, CEO, Great British Racing
- NZ Thoroughbred Marketing-NZTR Domestic Marketing Plan for NZ Racing – Andrew Birch, CEO, NZTM

Session 2: The Racing Club Partnership Programme

- Introduction to the NZTR Racing Club Partnership Programme
- On-course Event Marketing within the Racing Club Partnership, NZRB
- NZTR Racing Club Survey
- Essentials for Good Racing Club Governance - Graeme Nahkies, Co-founder of Boardworks International, Corporate Governance Consultancy
- Proposed Amendments to the Incorporated Societies Act - Professor Geoff McLay, Commissioner, Law Commission

Session 3: Strategies for Revenue Growth

- NZ Racing Board Broadcasting Strategy - Glen Broomhall, GM, Broadcasting, NZ Racing Board
- NZ Racing Board Strategic Plan - Chris Bayliss, CEO, NZ Racing Board

Committee members and staff from racing clubs and industry sector organisations wishing to attend the conference and AGM are requested to complete the attendance form [HERE](#) and return to amanda.patmore@nzracing.co.nz or fax to 04 568 8866 or mail to Amanda Patmore, NZTR, PO Box 38386, Wellington Mail Centre 5045 by **midday on Wednesday, 30 October 2013**.

ADDITIONAL NORTHERN TRIAL DATE: PAEROA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013

Following consultation between NZTR and the Northern Regional Programming Committee an additional set of trials has been programmed in the region. It will be:

Thursday, October 24, 2013 at Paeroa.

Nominations close at midday on Wednesday, October 23.

The decision to add the extra meeting was made on the basis that opportunities were lost following the abandonment of the Whangarei trials on Thursday, October 17.

GROUP ONE LEVIN CLASSIC: NEW DATE AND LOCATION

Saturday, January 18, 2014 at Trentham Racecourse

Nominations close: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 4pm

Nominations also close for the G2 Wellington Cup and the G1 Telegraph Handicap on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 4pm.

All nominations and withdrawals to:

National Racing Bureau

Ph. 0508 722 464

Fax: (04) 568 8213

nrb@nzracing.co.nz

NEW ZEALAND CUP STAKES INCREASE

The Canterbury Jockey Club has increased the stakes for the 150th running of the Christchurch Casino sponsored New Zealand Cup to \$250,000.

The Group 3, 3200m feature race is to be held at Riccarton Park Racecourse on Saturday 16 November 2013.

The increase of \$25,000 on the previously advertised stake comes with assistance from New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing's Special Interest Fund. NZTR viewed a race recording its 150th renewal as befitting the intent of the fund.

Nomination, withdrawal, late nomination and acceptance fees will remain as advertised.

NOTICE OF NZ RACING BOARD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

28 November 2013
10.30am-1.30pm
Level 1
NZ Racing Board
Petone
Wellington

New Zealand Racing Board Chair Glenda Hughes invites interested parties to attend the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Racing Board to be held in Petone from 10.30am on 28 November 2013.

The Meeting will feature the release of the 2012/13 Annual Report by Glenda Hughes and an address by the Honourable Nathan Guy, Minister for Racing.

The Meeting is scheduled to finish around 1.30pm.

Presentations from the Meeting will be filmed for subsequent broadcast on Trackside. Those unable to attend the Meeting will be able to view, or record for later viewing, these special broadcasts on the Trackside television channel at 3am on Saturday, 7 December and again at 1am on Sunday, 8 December 2013.

In order to ensure numbers can be accommodated, a RSVP is requested before the 11 November 2013, by emailing your name to agm@nzracingboard.co.nz.

TURNOVER INFORMATION (FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 13 OCTOBER 2013)

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
7-Oct	Avondale	60,866	53,486	670,004	492,235	295,526	141,850	12	8	126	84
9-Oct	Taupo	35,324	48,670	814,183	754,419	349,328	254,356	9	9	103	97
10-Oct	Wairarapa	36,006	33,516	659,093	694,650	247,406	204,744	8	8	85	84
11-Oct	South Canty	19,111		439,370		152,852		7		68	
12-Oct	Egmont	86,501	120,234	1,383,033	1,767,184	347,747	386,206	9	10	104	139
12-Oct	Matamata	87,655	102,931	1,229,732	1,638,508	343,666	376,224	9	10	99	120
13-Oct	Winton	48,193		675,615		213,020		10		103	

- Avondale Monday meeting was a week earlier in 2012/2013, 12 races this season (picking up races from the Whangarei abandonment the week before), 8 in 2012/2013
- South Canterbury Friday meeting no direct equivalent last season
- Egmont 9 races this season, 10 in 2012/2013
- Matamata 9 races this season, 10 last season
- Winton Sunday meeting no direct equivalent last season

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/-	Variance +%/(-%)
Meetings	70	69	+1	+1.45%
Races	547	570	(23)	(4.04%)
Total Starts	5,551	5,838	(287)	(4.92%)
Avg Field Size	10.15	10.24	(0.09)	(0.92%)

Number of races less than 8 starters	100	89	+11	+12.36%
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	69,524,919	73,671,000	(4,146,081)	(5.63%)
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	4,701,808	5,203,781	(501,973)	(9.65%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	74,226,727	78,874,781	(4,648,054)	(5.89%)
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	58,020,563	63,339,590	(5,319,027)	(8.40%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	16,206,149	15,535,191	+670,958	+4.32%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	135,698	138,377	(2,679)	(1.94%)
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,372	13,511	(139)	(1.03%)
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	283,994,020	291,333,517	(7,339,497)	(2.52%)
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	55,880,539	58,402,879	(2,522,340)	(4.32%)
Total NZRB Turnover	339,874,559	349,736,396	(9,861,837)	(2.82%)

NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 30 Sep)	48,254,738	61,704,393	(13,449,655)	(21.80%)
Total Races (to 30 Sep)	436	459	(23)	(5.01%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	110,676	134,432	(23,756)	(17.67%)

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover down 5.9% year-to-date
- With 23 less races run than over the same period last season, turnover per race by a smaller 1.9%
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in New Zealand are 4.9% less
- Average field size is down from 10.24 in FY13 to 10.15 in FY14, 0.09 (0.9%) less
- The number of races with less than 8 starters is now 11 higher than a season ago
- Decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 8.4%) has been mitigated by some increase in FOB turnover (up 4.3%)
- Export turnover per race to 30 September is down (17.7%). One of the contributors to this is the variance in the \$NZ/\$A exchange rate

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.

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING INC

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