



Tuesday 19 February 2013

"From the horse's mouth ..."

It's still early days but the strategy to move racing until a bit later in the day appears to be paying off with total NZ turnover up by \$9,270 per race or 6.4 percent, with export turnover up by 10.5 percent per race.

Part of this is down to changes to race meeting scheduling and part is due to later start times, but we know there is a long way to go. One of the KPI's in the Business Plan is to steadily increase export turnover per race as well as average domestic turnover so this is a promising start.

This week racing clubs will be receiving the draft race dates for the 2014 season. It's a bit like a rubik's cube for the team that works on this - make one change and it has implications for the whole. However as anyone who has read the NZTR Business Plan knows we want to maximise returns to industry participants and one of the best ways we think we can do this is to ensure more racing on Saturdays at strategic and significant venues. The re-jigged calendar sees 363 meetings, (3 less than last season) and about the same number of races, roughly 3073. There's a better mix of Sunday races and an extra seven Saturdays. There will be no more Tuesday meetings because we had an inconsistent number of meetings. The draft calendar has more consistent Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and weekend racing.

One of the exciting new developments is the proposed establishment of a regular pattern of North Island winter Saturday racing at Ruakaka and Te Rapa. The South Island will benefit from five of the seven new Saturday licences. The increase in Sunday racing instead of mid-week is to create opportunities for community clubs to get greater community support, attendance and as a result we would all hope, increased wagering performance. An extra seven twilight licences are proposed to be introduced due to their success bringing the total number of twilight fixtures to 18 in the 2014 season.

Race clubs will have until 25 March 2013 to provide their comments on the proposed race dates, with the racing calendar for the 2014 season to be finalised by 1 May 2013.

Greg Purcell CEO NZTR

It Has To Be You heads NZ-reared shock in Hong Kong Classic Cup

In one of the biggest Group 1 shocks in recent memory New Zealand imports, and rank outsiders, It Has To Be You and President Lincoln came first and second in The Hong Kong Classic Cup before a dumbstruck Sha Tin crowd on Sunday.

Highly-rated European imports dominated most of the talk in the lead-up to the final major trial, a local Group 1 over 1800m, before the BMW Hong Kong Derby on March 17, but the two former Kiwis sprang a monstrous upset.

Trained by John Size, It Has To Be You, who paid 125/1 on the local tote, sneaked up the inside under Tim Clark to fend off President Lincoln, a 127/1 chance, by three-quarters of a length. The quinella paid a barely credible 1,894/1.

Both horses raced under the same names here in New Zealand, with the winner previously handled by Bruce Wallace to win two of his four outings late in 2011. It Has To Be You is a son of deceased champion sire Volksraad, and is now trained by John Size.

President Lincoln was the winner of the 2011 New Zealand Bloodstock Wellington Guineas for former trainer Lisa Latta.

Turnover Information for the Period ending 17 February 2013

Date	Club	On-Course		Off-Course		Fixed Odds		Starters	
								12-13	11-12
11/2	Waipa (1)	18,997		351,694		158,620		62	
13/2	Auckland	84,762	10.8%	442,558	7.5%	234,409	87.8%	49	7.5%
13/2	Canterbury (2)	23,113	12.2%	501,352	25.9%	179,212	13.9%	79	22.5%
14/2	Wairoa (3)	53,816	86.9%	688,959	64.9%	217,657	64.4%	96	74.5%
16/2	Taranaki	256,007	4.5%	1,723,287	9.1%	513,542	40.2%	107	10.1%
16/2	Southland (4)	67,141	13.3%	982,704	24.6%	275,272	119.4%	104	9.6%
17/2	Auckland	113,543	49.3%	1,067,784	11.4%	469,134	25.8%	84	2.3%
17/2	Wairoa (5)	117,779	23.8%	510,857	4.1%	164,700	18.7%	82	34.4%

- (1) Waipa RC; there was no equivalent meeting on this Monday last year; this year there were 8 races.
- (2) Canterbury Racing; there were 8 races this year, compared with 10 races last year.
- (3) Wairoa RC; last year the fields were detrimentally affected by Heavy track conditions.
- (4) Southland RC; there were 10 races this year, compared with 11 races last year.
- (5) Wairoa RC; there were 8 races this year, compared with 9 races last year. Last year the fields were detrimentally affected by Slow track conditions.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance /()	Variance %/(%)
Races	1,742	1,722	20	1.16%
Starters	18,233	18,204	29	0.16%
Avg Field Size	10.47	10.57	(0.10)	(0.99%)
Off-Course Turnover	190,053,472	188,938,479	1,114,993	0.59%
On-Course Turnover	22,607,477	23,007,110	(399,633)	(1.74%)
Total Totalisator Turnover	212,660,949	211,945,589	715,360	0.34%
Fixed Odds	56,096,900	37,816,159	18,280,741	48.34%
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	268,757,849	249,761,748	18,996,101	7.61%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	154,281	145,042	9,240	6.37%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,740	13,720	1,020	7.43%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	865,344,661	773,186,143	92,158,518	11.92%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	129,906,853	130,274,868	(368,015)	(0.28%)
Total NZRB Turnover	995,251,514	903,461,011	91,790,503	10.16%

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.

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING INC

P O Box 38 386, Wellington Mail Centre Telephone: (04) 576 6240 Fax: (04) 568 8866
 Internet: <http://www.nzracing.co.nz/> E-mail: office@nzracing.co.nz