

Thursday 2 May 2013

From the Horse's Mouth

We all know it's been a tough few months, with weather conditions impacting on racing and trialing activities over the last ten weeks.

With three months of autumn and winter to go this season we have already registered the highest number of abandonments in the last decade with 14 abandonments consisting of:

- 5 full meetings abandoned due to wet tracks;
- 5 partial abandonments due to wet or slippery tracks;
- 5 full meetings abandoned due to hard tracks.

We have conducted -76 less races this season, compared to same time last season, despite the rescheduling of four of these abandoned fixtures.

Average field size has fallen by -0.19 starters per race, however the number of races with less than eight starters has improved to 334 this season, an improvement of 64 races (or 16%), over the 398 races conducted with less than eight starters at the same time last season.

While it has been a struggle to maintain starter numbers at times, NZTR continues to be encouraged by starter numbers around Premier and Feature meetings, with an average of 13 runners per race at the Cambridge Premier meeting last Saturday and positive numbers accepted for both Canterbury and Waikato this weekend. NZTR has continued to divide races and schedule additional races as required with two extra races run at the Waipa meeting last Monday and there is likely to be two additional races at Matamata next Monday.

NZRB sales on New Zealand thoroughbred events remain resilient up +2.28% (or +5.70% per race) and export sales up +3.85% (or +7.62% per race) compared to the prior year period, with NZRB gross betting margin on New Zealand thoroughbred also having improved significantly on the prior year.

Premierships Update

Following the conclusion of racing on Wednesday 1 May an exciting tussle is unfolding in the Trainer's Premiership. The Trainer's Premiership is likely to be a tussle all the way to the end of the season with Michael Pitman leading on 65 wins, followed by Lisa Latta on 61 wins, Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman on 56 wins, and Graeme & Debbie Rogerson on 51 wins.

In the Jockey's Premiership, following an impressive 4 wins at Pukekohe on Wednesday, Opie Bosson on 114 wins has opened up a gap on Mark du Plessis 99 wins, Matt Cameron 95 wins and Lisa Allpress 93 wins. But with 3 months of the season remaining this premiership contest is far from over.

Calico Joe promotes retrained NZ Thoroughbreds at Rolex Kentucky

The Rolex Kentucky Three-day Event took place last week (on 25-28 April). It is the Western Hemisphere's only Four Star Three-Day Event. It is also the toughest Three-day event in the United States. Of the 63 original entrants 17 were Thoroughbreds. Remarkably, 5 (or 30%) of these 17 are NZ-bred Thoroughbreds. The five are:

1. CALICO JOE: 2002 gelding by Clerkenwell – out of Elle Sheree ridden by Andrew Nicholson (NZL) – Finished Third
2. INMIDAIR: 1999 gelding by Wallenda – out of Jasmine June ridden by Jan Byyny (USA)
3. OUR QUESTIONNAIRE: 1996 gelding registered as Questionnaire by Westminster out of Strike a Pose. Had 13 starts and was placed twice and finished fourth three times. Ridden by Heather Gillette (USA)
4. CLIFTON LUSH: 1999 registered as Plato by Half Iced, out of All for Love (subsequently withdrawn from Rolex to run at Badminton) ridden by Jonathan Paget (NZL)
5. CLIFTON PROMISE: gelding registered as Bachelor Boy by Engagement out of Darn Style (subsequently withdrawn from Rolex to run at Badminton) ridden by Jonathan Paget (NZL)

SYD KENT: ridden by Jan Byyny (USA) 1998 is by Thoroughbred stallion out of Thoroughbred cross-bred.

Super Easy Triumphs Again in Singapore

Last year's Singapore Horse of the Year Super Easy (NZ) (Darci Brahma) showed he was back on an upward spiral when he returned to winning ways in brilliant fashion in the \$500,000 Sgp. Group One Lion City Cup (1200m) on Sunday.

Unbeaten at his first 12 starts, the Darci Brahma four-year old entire has not tasted success since taking out the Group Three Jumbo Jet Trophy (1400m) last September. He had four more starts without success – beaten for the first time in the Panasonic Kranji Mile (1600m) followed by two disappointing unplaced runs in Hong Kong last December before resuming with a tepid third to Speedy Cat at his Singapore comeback race in the Group Three Merlion Trophy (1200m) last month.

Super Easy, who started as the even-money favourite, was back to his best when he came through a dream run on the fence to account for stablemate Mr Big for a Michael Freedman quinella.

Turnover Information for the Period ending 28 April 2013

Date	Club	On-Course (Tote & FOB combined)		Totalisator (Off & on-course combined)		Fixed Odds (Off & on-course)		Races		Starters	
		12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12
22/4	Wyndham (1)	22,288		339,160		112,828		8		78	
24/4	Te Aroha (2)	21,389		321,737		66,173		5		45	
25/4	Feilding	89,298	119,347	902,222	1,152,514	209,191	254,348	8	8	83	80
25/4	Avondale	86,483	83,055	918,846	910,271	200,452	243,937	8	8	89	80
26/4	Marlborough	56,742	34,824	546,845	446,425	163,045	149,696	8	8	75	66
27/4	Cambridge	149,106	236,647	1,661,755	1,832,395	428,567	396,731	9	9	117	119
27/4	Wellington (3)	130,941		952,010		187,959		9		88	
28/4	Marlborough	61,456	53,885	606,441	518,116	156,721	140,658	8	8	79	69

(1) Wyndham RC, last year this was a Wanganui JC meeting at which there were 7 races.

(2) Racing Te Aroha; this meeting was abandoned after 5 races due to unsafe track conditions. There was no equivalent meeting last year.

(3) Wellington RC; last year this was a Masterton RC meeting held at Woodville.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(-%)
Meetings	270	263	+7	2.66%
Races	2,272	2,348	(76)	(3.24%)
Starters	23,449	24,682	(1,233)	(5.00%)
Avg Field Size	10.32	10.51	(0.19)	(1.82%)
Number of races less than 8 starters	334	398	(64)	(16.08%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	311,440,002	301,788,270	+9,651,732	3.20%
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	31,870,836	33,884,604	(2,013,768)	(5.94%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	343,310,838	335,672,874	+7,637,964	2.28%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	270,788,326	282,197,380	(11,409,054)	(4.04%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	72,522,512	53,475,494	+19,047,018	35.62%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	151,105	142,961	+8,144	5.70%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,641	13,600	+1,041	7.65%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	1,129,969,638	1,039,673,677	+90,295,961	8.69%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	180,411,499	176,014,553	+4,396,945	2.50%
Total NZRB Turnover	1,310,381,137	1,215,688,231	+94,692,906	7.79%

NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover (to 14 April)	282,600,427	272,126,499	+10,473,928	+3.85%
Total races (to 14 April)	2,148	2,226	(78)	(3.50%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover per race	131,564	122,249	+9,315	+7.62%

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

P O Box 38 386, Wellington Mail Centre ☎ Telephone: (04) 576 6240 ☎ Fax: (04) 568 8866

Internet: www.nzracing.co.nz ☎ E-mail: office@nzracing.co.nz