



Wednesday 2 October 2013

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

Another big day in the Bay this Saturday with the third leg of Hawke's Bay Racing's Spring Carnival – the Turks Spring Classic.

We've had some terrific premier racing in the Hawke's Bay in the past month or so, with Makfi Challenge Stakes day and Windsor Park Plate day drawing good fields and good crowds despite some wet weather.

Here's hoping the weather gods play the game on Saturday and deliver clear, sunny skies.

I like the look of Nashville in the \$250,000 Group One feature on Saturday. Adrian Bull has done a fantastic job with him and he's quite possibly the best horse going around in New Zealand at the moment. A win on Saturday could well see him heading across the ditch soon.

Ban on anabolic steroids in and out of competition

An important decision was made by our Board at its meeting last week – a ban on the use of anabolic steroids both in and out of competition in thoroughbred racing in New Zealand.

The new ban will apply to all thoroughbreds from the age of six months. This six-month period has been allowed only in the interests of animal welfare and comes after consultation with the New Zealand Equine Veterinary Association.

While the use of anabolic steroids has not been a major problem in New Zealand, we believe it's important to amend the current Rules of Racing which prohibit anabolic steroids in horses only on race day. There's no place for performance-enhancing drugs in our sport and this is testament to our commitment.

Following the rule amendment, it's expected the ban will take effect from May 1 next year.

NZTR will be keeping all stakeholders updated on progress and developments.

RUAKAKA ABANDONMENT

Sand blown on to the course forced the abandonment of the Whangarei Racing Club's meeting at Ruakaka today.

The meeting was abandoned at 12.10pm for safety and integrity reasons following an inspection of the track by a committee comprising trainers, jockeys and club officials, along with the stipendiary stewards, which determined that it was unfit for racing.

Excess sand from an area of extensive earthworks on the inside of the course proper had been blown on to the track by high winds overnight, accumulating on the home bend and straight.

The course manager raised concerns with the stipendiary stewards, with an initial inspection conducted shortly after 10am while further remedial work was carried out by the club.

A delegation of riders including Leith Innes, Mark du Plessis and Matthew Cameron, along with trainer's representatives Stephen McKee and Hayden Allen, were asked to inspect the track with club officials and the stewards.

Whangarei Racing Club President Dean Logan said the club was disappointed the meeting had to be abandoned and said it would look help reimburse travel costs for horses engaged at the meeting.

NZTR Chief Executive Greg Purcell said the Board of NZTR Board had recently considered the issue of compensation when a race or meeting was abandoned on raceday.

"NZTR will be making a \$200 compensation payment to the connections of all horses that had accepted at 7.30am today with the intention of starting at Whangarei. NZTR has also waived all nomination and acceptance fees for this meeting."

The \$200 NZTR meeting compensation payment would also be paid retrospectively from the start of the 2013/14 season to connections of horses that had missed the opportunity to start at the Egmont meeting on August 29, when racing was abandoned after three races had been conducted, and those engaged in the last race at Hawke's Bay on September 21.

Mr Logan said the Whangarei Racing Club would pay an additional \$100 to the connections of horses from the Auckland region which had travelled on the day and a \$200 additional payment to those engaged from the Waikato region.

NZTR has left open all races at Avondale on Monday until 9am tomorrow and will look to divide races as required to provide additional opportunities for horses that missed an opportunity at Whangarei.

As provided in NZTR Standard Regulation 6.3, NZTR will look to exempt those horses engaged at Whangarei from the provision of the 2.5 late nomination entry provision for Avondale, which means any horse nominated for Avondale that was due to start at Whangarei will be treated the same as horses that had been nominated at midday for the Avondale meeting.

In consultation with the Regional Programming Committee, an \$8000 Benchmark Rating 85 1400m Handicap will be added to the Taupo programme on Wednesday, October 9, and NZTR will also look to split races at Taupo as required.

NZTR Racing and Operations Manager David Jewell said NZTR would investigate the circumstances leading to the abandonment of today's Whangarei meeting.

NZTR, in consultation with the club, contractors and NZTR National Venue Inspector Garry Foskett, will review what actions are required to avoid a repeat of today's issues ahead of the meeting scheduled at Ruakaka on Wednesday, October 16.

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.

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**.

Notices of Motion or General Business

Any notices of motion or items of general business that a Club wishes to have placed on the agenda for the AGM must be advised by email to simon.cooper@nzracing.co.nz or by fax to 04 568 8866 or by mail to Simon Cooper, Company Secretary, NZTR, P O Box 38386, Wellington Mail Centre by no later than **midday on Wednesday, 16 October 2013**.

PATTERN REVIEW COMMITTEE SUBMISSIONS

Pattern Review submissions

The release of the draft 2013 Pattern Review Committee report last month has generated a further 12 submissions.

Feedback on the report has generally been positive, with the majority of the submissions endorsing most of the draft recommendations.

The report was also discussed by the NZTR Board at its recent September meeting. The final report is expected to be provided to the 24 October NZTR Board meeting.

The Pattern Review Committee will meet again to review the submissions before finalising its report.

Among issues raised in the second round of submissions were:

- timing of the Group One Auckland Cup
- the move of the Group One Levin Classic to January at Trentham
- the proposed changes to the autumn 3YO pattern, with the recommendation that the Group Two Wellington Guineas move from October to March at Trentham and the Group Two Championship Stakes shift from December to April at Ellerslie
- the clash of the Matamata and Taranaki 2YO races in February and the recommendation that consideration be given to changing the conditions of some of the major Handicaps to Set Weight and Penalty races and the introduction of additional Set Weight and Penalty 3YO and Fillies and Mares Premier programming opportunities

NORTHERN PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES

NZTR has created additional opportunities in the Northern Region following the abandonment of the Matamata RC race meeting on 25 September.

These include the dividing of races at Whangarei RC on 2 October, Waikato RC on 4 October and Waipa RC on Sunday 6 October following large nomination numbers being received for these meetings.

TAKE US ON AND WIN \$500!

Have a go competing against members of NZTR staff to win a \$500 TAB betting voucher with Star Stable.

Registering is easy – simply follow the simple steps below, select the horses you think are going to be major players in this season's Spring Carnival in Australia, as well as jockey and trainer, and with two trades each week build a stable that will reap ongoing prize money throughout the spring. Leave out those (NZ) horses at your peril!

Star Stable registration is now open for you to create your stable, although the competition does not begin until **Saturday, October 5, at 10.30am.**

1. Go to www.starstable.com.au
2. Click 'Register Now' and enter your details on the registration page
3. Following that, enter a 'Stable' name that you will be known as throughout the competition
4. Below that, select the first box "*I was INVITED by someone to ENTER his or her Private League*" and enter the NZ Racing code – **100494** – then fill out the remaining fields
5. Design your silk colours
6. You should now have created your stable and are ready to select your horses, trainer and jockey. Follow the prompts on the page to select your horses, and remember, keep an eye on your budget as you only have \$1 million to spend!
7. By joining the NZ Racing League, you agree to the Terms & Conditions of this promotion

There is plenty of information on the Star Stable site home page (How to Play) that will get you started. Alternatively, email website@nzracing.co.nz for any registration assistance.

NZ RACING BOARD ANNOUNCES RECORD RESULTS

The New Zealand Racing Board has announced record results for betting turnover and net profit in 2012/13, resulting in a record distribution to the country's racing industry.

The three Racing Codes – New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, Harness Racing New Zealand and Greyhound Racing New Zealand – and the racing industry, received \$142.0 million from the NZ Racing Board's operations, an increase of \$6.5 million on 2011/12. In addition, \$5.7 million was paid or provided for distribution to National Sporting Organisations and other bodies as a result of sports betting and gaming activities.

The final distribution came as a result of record turnover of \$1.957 billion in the year to July 31, 2013, with a 13.2% increase in net profit to \$144.1 million.

NZ Racing Board Chair Glenda Hughes said the results were excellent, particularly given challenging conditions during the year.

“The business has exceeded expectations, having revised net profit targets higher in December 2012 to \$142.5 million.”

	2012/13	2011/12	% change
Turnover	\$1.957b	\$1.814b	+7.9%
Net profit	\$144.1m	\$127.3m	+13.2%
Distribution to Racing Industry	\$142.0m	\$135.5m	+4.8%
Total distribution made from current year profit	\$142.4m	\$135.8m	+4.9%

Note: All figures comprise TAB betting and Class 4 gaming

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 29 SEPTEMBER 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
23-Sep	South Canty	17,344	25,993	354,619	445,439	113,511	149,099	7	9	64	85
25-Sep	Matamata	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26-Sep	Levin	42,133	32,811	696,732	577,121	221,691	155,186	9	8	84	80
27-Sep	Te Aroha	20,809	44,903	388,643	919,383	158,221	271,463	6	10	53	126
28-Sep	Taranaki	85,441	82,487	990,804	1,116,276	238,828	231,939	8	8	82	84
28-Sep	Otago	21,379	17,632	536,570	574,726	155,938	132,862	7	7	58	67
28-Sep	Auckland	125,794	188,676	1,463,092	2,041,952	421,469	498,919	9	9	89	120
29-Sep	Waikato	42,384	45,196	471,333	483,917	122,636	113,686	7	8	7	8

- South Canterbury Monday 7 races this season, 9 races last season
- Matamata abandoned on Wednesday 25 September due to heavy rain and surface water
- Levin Thursday meeting was a Tuesday in 2012/13, 9 races this season, 8 in 2012/2013
- Te Aroha 6 races this season, 10 last season
- Otago Saturday meeting was a Wednesday in 2012/13
- Waikato Sunday meeting 7 races this season, 8 last season

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/-	Variance +%/(-%)
Meetings	56	55	+1	+1.82%
Races	428	451	(23)	(5.10%)
Total Starts	4,204	4,541	(337)	(7.42%)
Avg Field Size	9.82	10.07	(0.25)	(2.45%)
Number of races less than 8 starters	85	77	+8	+10.39%
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	53,854,713	57,139,943	(3,285,229)	(5.75%)
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	3,420,457	3,822,744	(402,287)	(10.52%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	57,275,170	60,962,687	(3,687,517)	(6.05%)
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	45,071,739	49,114,214	(4,042,475)	(8.23%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	12,203,431	11,848,473	+354,958	+3.00%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	133,820	135,172	(1,352)	(1.00%)
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,624	13,425	+199	+1.48%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	225,116,481	233,548,658	(8,432,177)	(3.61%)
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	43,901,505	46,276,852	(2,375,347)	(5.13%)
Total NZRB Turnover	269,017,986	279,825,510	(10,807,524)	(3.86%)

NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 22 Sep)	43,075,341	51,375,681	(8,300,340)	(16.16%)
Total Races (to 22 Sep)	375	385	(10)	(2.60%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	114,868	133,443	(18,576)	(13.92%)

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is down 6.1% year to date
- With 23 less races run than over the same period last season, turnover per race is down only by 1.0%
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are 7.4% less, and average field size down from 10.07 to 9.82, 0.25 (2.5%) less than last season
- With wet tracks and small field sizes at a number of our meetings during the week, the number of races with less than 8 starters is now 8 higher than a season ago
- Decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 8.2%) has been mitigated by some increase in FOB turnover (up 3.0%)
- Export turnover per race to 22 September is down (13.9%) – one of the main 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.

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