



Wednesday 20 March 2013

“From the horse’s mouth ...”

It’s been just short of two years since the independently appointed board of NZTR first got together and looked at how they might halt the downward trajectory of New Zealand thoroughbred racing. We all know this is one key factor undermining and affecting participation and investment in our industry.

Since then NZTR has implemented an annual business plan cycle and introduced a number of key performance indicators and key actions. To date this business plan has been largely “operational” in nature.

Recently we used facilitator David Cullwick for strategic workshops with a number of key stakeholders, including the CEOs and Chairs of the country’s five biggest race clubs and major stakeholder groups, to get their input on a number of items including:

1. Whether the level of reforms required to secure a sustainable and vibrant thoroughbred racing industry in New Zealand is “incremental”, “significant” or “very significant” in nature;
2. Identify key challenges and barriers that need to be overcome;
3. Identify the level of involvement, co-operation and collaboration that race clubs and key stakeholder groups would like in New Zealand thoroughbred racing’s strategic plan process.

We are committed to creating a robust and sustainable industry but as we all know these sorts of turnarounds don’t happen immediately and require efforts from each stakeholder. I look forward to sharing more information with you from these workshops as we work towards more incremental and ‘step’ changes.

If you have any comments email them to ceoq&a@nzzracing.co.nz

Black Caviar to race at Moonee Valley this Friday Night

This Friday Black Caviar races in the Group 1 William Reid Stakes (Moonee Valley R8) where she will attempt to stretch her unbeaten run to 24.

The race is scheduled to run at 11.55pm (NZT). After Race 12 from NZ Metro at 10.45pm Trackside will broadcast Moonee Valley Race 7. They will then go to their Singapore feed as per usual just after 11pm.

After Singapore Race 1 they will join the TVN team as soon as they’re available and stay with that feed (notwithstanding commercial breaks in Aussie) right up until Black Caviar’s race, thus giving around 20 -25 minutes of build-up to her race.

After her race they will take all the post-race coverage that is available.

Ambitious Dragon Triumphs in Hong Kong

Ambitious Dragon (NZ) (Pins x Golden Gamble) was back to his crowd-wooing best at Sha Tin Racecourse last weekend as Hong Kong’s champion treated the packed Derby day grandstand to a performance of scintillating brilliance as he clinched the HKG1 Queen’s Silver Jubilee Cup under Zac Purton.

The 1400m contest, the final leg of the Hong Kong Speed Series, had been billed as a three-way battle between the two-time Horse of the Year, his old rival Glorious Days and sprint star Lucky Nine. However, the race was all but over as the field of nine straightened for home and careered toward the winning post as Zac Purton was sitting confidently astride Ambitious Dragon while all around him the other jockeys were cranking their mounts into top gear.

Approaching the 250m, Purton finally shook the reins and the Tony Millard-trained six-year-old unleashed his trademark burst to surge clear of his eight opponents for an easy two and a half-length victory.

Ambitious Dragon has now won seven G1/HKG1 races and he will aim for a second triumph in the G1 Audemars Piguet Queen Elizabeth II Cup over 2000m at Sha Tin on 28 April, having landed that prize back in 2011.

NZB Insurance Pearl Series Reminder

First nominations for the NZB Insurance Pearl Series 2013 close 31 March with the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

This new scheme for fillies and mares offers bonuses of almost \$2.6 million and prizemoney of nearly \$2.8 million across 200 individual races for fillies and mares over three seasons' racing.

The scheme has been designed to benefit all owners, trainers and breeders of thoroughbred fillies racing in New Zealand. Bonuses are available throughout all regions of the country. The series is administered by the NZTBA.

The NZB Insurance Pearl Series 2013 is open to fillies which are of the 2011 crop (2012 yearlings).

Eligibility for the scheme is restricted to fillies nominated for the scheme as yearlings in 2013. Bonuses will be provided on 215 2YO, 3YO and 4YO races for each series comprising: 15 specified open sex 2YO races in the 2013-14 racing season; 180 mid-week fillies' and mares' races through the term of the Series, along with 20 Saturday fillies' and mares' races.

These races will be open to NZB Insurance Pearl Series-nominated and non NZB Insurance Pearl Series-nominated fillies and mares. Only fillies and mares nominated for the NZB Insurance Pearl Series are eligible for bonuses.

The early nomination fee for the NZB Insurance Pearl Series 2013, paid prior to 31 March 2013 is: \$690.00* per filly.

Racing Safety Development Fund

Clubs are reminded that applications to the second round of the Racing Safety Development Fund for the 2012/13 racing year close at the end of March.

There is up to \$1.0 million (GST excl.) available annually to fund projects that improve racecourse health and safety and all racing clubs have the opportunity to make an application that supports the objectives of the fund.

The RSDF application form outlines the criteria to be used to assess applications, and the supporting information that is required. Each project seeking funding requires an application form.

Please note that projects that are retrospective or have already been completed are not eligible for consideration and that late applications will not be considered.

Applications should be completed and received by the Department of Internal Affairs by 5.00pm on 31 March 2013.

Please contact the Department of Internal Affairs (phone: (04) 495 6834 or email: rsdf@dia.govt.nz) for any further advice on the Fund. An application form can also be downloaded from www.dia.govt.nz

Waipukurau Jockey Club – Friday 22 March – Additional Race

Following the abandonment of the race meeting at Waverley RC on Sunday 24 March an additional race has been programmed for the Waipukurau JC race meeting on Friday 22 March. The race is an Open Handicap over a distance of 2100m for a stake of \$15,000.

Wanganui Jockey Club – Thursday 28 March – Additional Race

Following the abandonment of the race meeting at Waverley RC on Sunday 24 March an additional race has been programmed for the Wanganui JC race meeting on Thursday 28 March. The race is a Maiden 2YO over a distance of 1200m for a stake of \$7,000.

Nominations close for the Wanganui meeting at 12 noon on Monday 25 March.

Riverton Racing Club – Monday 1 April 2013 – Additional Race

Following the abandonment of the race meeting at Southland RC on Sunday 17 March an additional race has been programmed for the Riverton RC race meeting on Monday 1 April 2013. The race will replace the opportunity lost for Fillies & Mares as part of the schedule of NZTR Bonus Series races.

The additional race is a Maiden Fillies & Mares (NZTR F&M Bonus Series Race) race over a distance of 1200m for a stake of \$12,000.

Canterbury Racing – Hororata; Petersens Jewellers donate their thirtieth Bracelet

For thirty years Petersens Jewellers have provided an added attraction for winning owners at the Hororata racemeetings with the presentation of a specially made gold, diamonds and sapphires bracelet.

Originally attached to the two-year-old race, in later years the bracelet has been presented to the winner owner of the two and three-year-old event over the 1000 metres. This year will be no exception when Canterbury Racing – Hororata holds its annual racemeeting on Saturday 23 March at the Riccarton Park Racecourse.

When the Hororata Racing Club held its centennial race meeting in 1984 Petersens Jewellers donated the bracelet for the first time to the winning owner of the two-year-old race. It was won on that occasion by Black Arrow who downed a field of 20. Black Arrow was owned by Mrs Mary Sutherland who still treasures the bracelet to this day.

The race at the centennial meeting was run as a reminder of the early days of racing when it was common for the race-card to include a "Ladies Bracelet" race.

Thirty years later, Petersens Jewellers continues to support this race. Canterbury Racing - Hororata is extremely grateful to Brent Morrison of the Bush Inn Centre and his family for their long and loyal support of the club.

Petersens Jewellers is New Zealand's oldest jewellery retailer, celebrating 150 years of service to Canterbury this year. Their premier ("blue-ribbon") reputation has been built up by family tradition, wide ranging expertise, professional service and attention to detail. Petersens specialise in quality diamond rings, wedding rings, gold jewellery and watches and are stockists of exclusive diamond and jewellery ranges.

This year's renewal of the Hororata annual racemeeting will be held on Saturday 23 March 2013 at the Riccarton Park Racecourse with the first race scheduled to start at 12:18 pm. Entry is Free.

Turnover Information for the Period ending 17 March 2013

Date	Club	On-Course		Off-Course		Fixed Odds		Starters	
								12-13	11-12
11/3	Egmont (1)	45,061	24.2%	254,089	43.8%	160,438	23.2%	50	39.8%
13/3	South Waikato	86,486	13.9%	627,500	7.9%	306,717	39.8%	89	21.9%
15/3	Ashburton	25,507	13.8%	493,034	9.9%	173,112	21.9%	76	10.6%
16/3	Wellington	274,933	2.6%	1,821,594	6.2%	647,925	4.3%	118	14.6%
16/3	Waikato	64,480	28.1%	845,821	11.2%	284,598	4.5%	72	24.2%
17/3	Southland (2)	13,407		61,947		19,222		10	

- (1) Egmont RC; there were 7 races this year, compared to 8 races last year
 (2) Southland RC; the meeting was abandoned after Race 1 due to slippery track conditions.
 (3) Waipa RC; the meeting scheduled for Thursday 14 March was not held due to particularly firm track conditions as a result of the drought and inability to irrigate.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(-%)
Races	1,938	1,985	(47)	(2.37%)
Starters	20,056	20,872	(816)	(3.91%)
Avg Field Size	10.35	10.51	(0.17)	(1.58%)
Off-Course Turnover	209,961,200	216,649,607	(6,688,407)	(3.09%)
On-Course Turnover	25,363,099	26,611,591	(1,248,492)	(4.69%)
Total Totalisator Turnover	235,324,299	243,261,198	(7,936,899)	(3.26%)
Fixed Odds	63,276,275	45,823,400	+17,452,875	+38.09%
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	298,600,574	289,084,598	+9,515,976	+3.29%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	154,077	145,635	+8,442	+5.80%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,888	13,850	+1,038	+7.49%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	971,862,168	884,437,307	+87,424,860	+9.88%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	147,427,183	148,412,594	(985,412)	(0.66%)
Total NZRB Turnover	1,119,289,350	1,032,849,902	+86,439,448	+8.37%

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.

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