



**Tuesday 24 December 2013**

### **BEST OF THE SEASON**

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing wishes all thoroughbred racing participants a very Merry Christmas, a happy New Year and a prosperous 2014.

Be safe, and best of luck to all those racing during the festive season, starting with the Boxing Day meetings at Ellerslie, Awapuni and Wingatui.

### **2014 JUMPS RACING PROGRAMME RELEASED**

A further increase in total jumps racing prizemoney and an enhanced South Island jumps racing programme are two key changes announced by New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) for the 2014 season.

The changes, among a number of successful new initiatives introduced this year, follow consultation with clubs and regional programming committees on the outcomes of an extensive review of the 2013 jumps racing year that was undertaken in October by New Zealand Jumps Racing and NZTR.

NZTR has budgeted for \$2.08 million in prizemoney for jumps racing in 2014, a significant increase on the \$1.818 million distributed across 109 races in 2012 and the \$1.956 million paid out across 106 races this year.

The major issue of concern highlighted by the Jumps Review was the sustainability of jumps racing in the South Island. In 2013 there were 61 individual starters across 23 jumps races conducted in the South Island, with an average of just 6.74 starters per race. More than half of all South Island jumps starters this year were North Island-trained horses that campaigned there, with the majority targeting the Riccarton Grand National Carnival in August.

In total there were 897 jumps starters (down just five starts) across 106 jumping races nationally in 2013, with the overall starter average increasing slightly from 8.3 to 8.5. NZTR is looking to achieve an average of nine starters per jumps race in 2014 across a comparable number of races.

The average number of starters per jumps race in the Northern Region in 2013 was 9.1 across 50 races, while in the Central Region the average was 8.6 average starters across 33 races.

The four South Island clubs which will conduct jumps races next winter have agreed to support a New Zealand Jumps recommendation to overhaul the 2014 jumps season, with three fewer jumps licences scheduled in the South Island and the season starting a month later, in early May at Riverton.

A series of six 'feature' jumps meetings have been programmed, at roughly fortnightly intervals, leading up to the Canterbury Jockey Club's Premier Grand National Carnival beginning on 2 August 2014 at Riccarton.

Stakes savings achieved from the restructured schedule will be used to boost prizemoney to \$20,000 for six Open Entry Hurdle and six Open Entry Steeplechase races across all six South Island jumps licences – Riverton (1 May and 19 May), Otago (1 June), Timaru (13 June), Otago (26 June) and Timaru (11 July) in 2014.

Where there are sufficient nominations for an Open Entry race, an additional Maiden Hurdle will be added at these meetings.

The programming change will see the traditional Great Western Steeples at Riverton reclassified and run as part of the new \$20,000 series alongside similar races at Otago and Timaru.

The New Zealand Jumps Review endorsed the programming of Open Entry races introduced nationally this year, which resulted in every horse nominated for a jumps race having the opportunity to start. This effectively meant that no jumping races were deleted due to a lack of nominations in 2013, while in the previous year 19 jumps races were dropped due to insufficient entries at nomination time.

Open Entry races were generally programmed midweek for a stake of \$12,000 and where there were sufficient nominations a \$7000 Maiden opportunity was provided.

NZTR will increase the prizemoney for all midweek North Island Open Entry races to \$15,000 in 2014, with the South Island Open Entry races being run from \$20,000 given the limited number of opportunities.

NZTR will also fund the Restricted Open Entry races programmed to be run at Saturday meetings at Waikato in May and Wellington in June as \$20,000 races to reflect they are being held on a Saturday at a feature meeting.

Minimum prizemoney for all Prestige Jumps Races (PJR) has been increased from \$40,000 to \$50,000 in 2014. This increase will apply to Waikato Hurdles and Steeples in May, the McGregor Grant and KS Browne Hurdle at Ellerslie on Queens Birthday weekend in June, the Manawatu Hurdles and Steeples, Hawke's Bay Hurdles and Steeples and the Pakuranga Hunt Cup Hurdles and Steeples in August. The Wellington Hurdles and Steeples and the Grand National Hurdles and Steeples at Riccarton will all carry \$75,000 in prizemoney, with the Rodd & Gunn Great Northern Steeples and the Great Northern Hurdles having minimum stakes of \$100,000.

Other recommendations of the Jumps Review which will be introduced in 2014 include:

- Maximum topweight of 70kg for all PJR races.
- Continuation of the amateur riders' series, with a minimum of 12 races to be programmed. This year a record 36 registered amateur riders competed.
- NZTR and NZ Jumps are investigating the development of a synthetic brush that could be adapted for steeplechase fences.

- NZTR will work with NZ Jumps to fund at least two jumping schools to be held in the South Island prior to the season and will assist NZ Jumps to recruit several United Kingdom-based jumps riders to ride in the South Island during the jumps season.
- NZTR is working with clubs to move a number of licences to accommodate the new jumping programmes in 2014, including work to reduce back-to-back South Island/North Island jumps scheduling to support North Island jumps riders travelling to ride in the South Island.
- NZTR has also agreed that where an Open Entry races is split and a Maiden jumps race is held on a Saturday feature programme it will be run for the same \$10,000 minimum stake as a Maiden flat race.

### **WEIGHTS AND CONDITIONS EARLY ENTRY HANDICAPS**

NZTR in consultation with the Regional Programming chairmen and the New Zealand Trainers' Association has determined that should weights for any of the following six early entry races need to be increased at withdrawal time, the handicapper will not re-weight these early entry races as is now provided under Standard Regulation 8.3(a) because the nominations for these races closed prior to the new Standard Regulation being introduced on 13 December.

Weights for the six early entry races will be issued as was provided under the Standard Regulations at the time of entry, with a 59kg minimum topweight.

Should the weights need to be raised at withdrawal time, they will be increased to provide for a 58kg minimum topweight, as was previously required under the Standard regulations, with the weights allocated to the horses comprising the remainder of the field adjusted accordingly at that time. For example, all weights may be raised by 1kg.

This departure from the new Standard Regulation 8.3(a) will apply to the following races:

- the **Scot Thrust City of Auckland Cup** and **Dunstan Feeds Championship Final** (Ellerslie 1 January 2014)
- the **Barfoot and Thompson Auckland Cup** (Ellerslie March 5, 2014)
- **J & R Berkett Telegraph Handicap** (Trentham 18 January 2014)
- **Platinum Homes Wellington Cup** and **Harcourts Thorndon Mile Handicap** (Trentham 25 January)

### **RACING TAUPO: STAKE INCREASE, DECEMBER 30, 2013**

The following race at the Racing Taupo meeting on Monday, December 30 has incurred a stake increase provided by the connections of Knight Wager.

The new stake and race details:

MDN 1400 – \$8000 (previously \$7000), new breakdown being \$5000, \$1600, \$800, \$400, \$200.

All other conditions pertaining to this race remain the same.

### **HAWKE'S BAY RI: STAKE INCREASE, JANUARY 1, 2014**

The following race at the Hawke's Bay RI meeting on Wednesday, 1 January 2014 has incurred a stake increase provided by the connections of Flying Captain.

The new stake and race details:

MDN 3YO 1200 – \$8000 (previously \$7000), new breakdown being \$5000, \$1600, \$800, \$400, \$200.

All other conditions pertaining to this race remain the same.

### **CENTRAL OTAGO RC: STAKES INCREASES, JANUARY 3, 2014**

The following races at the Central Otago Racing Club race meeting on Friday 3 January 2014 have had stake increases:

- Maiden (Spec Cond) SW 2000m, was \$7000, increased to \$8000
- Maiden (Spec Cond) SW 1400m, was \$7000, increased to \$8000
- Maiden 2YO +(Spec Cond) SW 1100m, was \$7000, increased to \$8000

These amendments will not be listed in the regional programming booklet or the January edition of Thoroughbred Racing Monthly.

### **CLUB/VENUE CHANGE – WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2014: WAS RIVERTON RC NOW GORE RC**

The race meeting on Wednesday 5 February 2014, previously programmed for Riverton RC, has been changed to a Gore RC meeting at Gore. The programme will now be as follows:

- Benchmark Rating 85 Hcp 2000m: \$8000
- Benchmark Rating 85 Hcp 1200m: \$8000
- Benchmark Rating 75 Hcp 1335m: \$8000
- Benchmark Rating 65 Hcp 2000m: \$7000
- Benchmark Rating 65 Hcp 1335m: \$7000
- Maiden SW 2000m: \$7000
- Maiden SW 1335m: \$7000
- Maiden 2YO+ SW 1200m: \$7000

The changes will be recorded in the January 2014 edition of Thoroughbred Racing Monthly.

### **CANTERBURY JC VENUE CHANGES IN EARLY 2014**

With work on the second stage of the Riccarton Park drainage project commencing immediately following the club's Christmas at the Races meeting on December 6, the Canterbury Jockey Club will not be racing at Riccarton in the first part of next year.

NZTR, in consultation with the Canterbury Jockey Club and the NZ Racing Board, has confirmed the following licence/venue changes:

- Saturday 25 January 2014: Canterbury JC at Riccarton becomes a Canterbury JC licence at Ashburton
- Wednesday 29 January 2014: Transfer Canterbury JC licence to an Ashburton RC licence at Ashburton
- Monday 10 February 2014: Transfer Canterbury JC licence to an Ashburton RC licence at Ashburton
- Friday 21 February 2014: Transfer Canterbury JC licence to a South Canterbury RC licence at Timaru on Sunday 23 February (note: this will become a dual code race day in conjunction with the Timaru HRC)
- Thursday 6 March 2014: Canterbury JC proposed venue change to be confirmed

#### **CENTRAL REGION TRIALS: CHANGE OF VENUE, FOXTON TO WAVERLEY**

As a result of the unavailability of the Foxton venue due to the start of the demolition of the grandstand, the following trials meeting has been moved from Foxton to Waverley:

- Tuesday 14 January 2014

#### **TURNOVER INFORMATION (FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 22 DECEMBER 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
16-Dec	Otago	7,999	18,802	52,606	313,682	15,826	95,270	1	7	7	66
18-Dec	Matamata	98,684	102,432	998,130	1,004,379	327,980	294,541	8	8	111	101
19-Dec	Levin@OTAK	63,810	42,296	811,099	613,463	287,963	157,379	9	7	96	81
20-Dec	Ashburton	46,029	48,225	657,635	788,005	207,240	213,213	8	8	93	92
21-Dec	Manawatu	280,837	295,340	1,695,404	2,043,194	708,046	569,379	9	10	97	111
21-Dec	Waikato	174,315	168,397	1,726,185	1,659,911	508,470	475,809	9	10	107	112
22-Dec	Tapanui@GORE	72,423	73,428	731,071	809,917	199,228	219,748	8	9	89	97

- Otago RC Monday meeting abandoned after 1 race in FY14 due to unsafe track conditions. Last season the equivalent meeting ran 7 races.
- Levin RC Thursday meeting ran 9 races this season, 7 races in FY13.
- Manawatu RC and Waikato RC Saturday meetings both ran 9 races this year compared to 10 the season prior.
- Tapanui RC Sunday meeting was 8 races this season, 9 the season prior.

<b>NZ Thoroughbred Summary</b>	<b>This Season, Year to Date</b>	<b>Last Season, Year to Date</b>	<b>Variance +/( )</b>	<b>Variance +%/(-%)</b>
<b>Meetings</b>	139	141	(2)	(1.42%)
<b>Races</b>	1,145	1,191	(46)	(3.86%)
<b>Total Starts</b>	12,268	12,683	(415)	(3.27%)
<b>Avg Field Size</b>	10.71	10.65	+0.07	+0.61%
<b>Number of races less than 8 starters</b>	160	143	+17	+11.89%
<b>Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator &amp; FOB)</b>	159,258,726	163,588,001	(4,329,275)	(2.65%)
<b>On-Course Turnover (Totalisator &amp; FOB)</b>	14,237,558	14,987,431	(749,872)	(5.00%)
<b>Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover</b>	173,496,284	178,575,432	(5,079,147)	(2.84%)
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	133,619,387	141,698,066	(8,078,678)	(5.70%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	39,876,882	36,877,366	+2,999,516	+8.13%
<b>NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race</b>	151,525	149,937	+1,588	+1.06%
<b>NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter</b>	14,142	14,080	+62	+0.44%
<b>Total NZRB Racing Turnover</b>	613,232,372	611,716,787	+1,515,585	+0.25%
<b>Total NZRB Sports Turnover</b>	106,324,748	95,530,463	+10,794,285	+11.30%
<b>Total NZRB Turnover</b>	<b>719,557,120</b>	<b>707,247,250</b>	<b>+12,309,870</b>	<b>+1.74%</b>

<b>NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 30 Nov)</b>	116,399,947	140,785,539	(24,385,592)	(17.32%)
<b>Total Races (to 30 Nov)</b>	966	988	(22)	(2.23%)
<b>NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race</b>	120,497	142,495	(21,999)	(15.44%)

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is down 2.8% year to date.
- With 46 less races than run over the same period last season, turnover per race has actually increased, up 1.1%.
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are down 415, 3.3% less.
- Average field size is up from 10.65 in FY13 to 10.71 in FY14, 0.07 starters per race (0.6%) more.
- The number of races with less than 8 starters is 17 higher than a season ago.
- Decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 5.7%) has been partly offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 8.1%).
- \$NZ export turnover per race to 30 November is down (15.4%). The variance in the \$NZ/\$A exchange rate is responsible for 9.9% of this decline. The remainder (5.5%), as well as the absence of any growth appears to have resulted from the loss of coverage on Sky 1 in Australia for midweek races run after 2pm.

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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