

Friday 26 April 2013

From the Horse's Mouth

Last week I attended an open meeting with all interested stakeholders to discuss the potential resumption of a race meeting at the Rangiora Racecourse.

Thoroughbred racing and trials at the racecourse were suspended after the serious fall of two riders at a race meeting in October 2006. Since 2010, there have been 19 trial days strictly controlled and monitored by NZTR.

Over the last six years, significant remedial work has been done to improve and monitoring the track's soil profile.

The stakeholder meeting considered a proposal to resume racing from June 2014 based on:

- No more than eight races
- Field size limit of a maximum of 10 runners
- The running rail must be in true position
- Track conditions to be prepared for a Dead 5 or below.

We are now calling for submissions from stakeholders and other interested parties in relation to the proposal to resume racing at Rangiora.

Submissions must be sent to the following - marked 'Rangiora' - and to arrive no later than Monday, 13 May 2013 to Greg Purcell, Chief Executive New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, PO Box 38-386, Wellington Mail Centre or by email to office@nzracing.co.nz or by fax to 04 568 8866.

Appointment Pattern Review Committee

This week NZTR has made another significant announcement with the appointment of a four person independent panel to undertake a review of the current pattern and performance of black type racing in New Zealand, with particular focus on Group 1 and 2 race events.

The New Zealand Pattern Review Committee will comprise Chairman Mark Freeman, Gary Chittick, Neville McAlister and John Wheeler.

The Review Group will announce the terms of reference, submission, consultation and reporting process shortly, with a final report due to be provided to NZTR by 30 September 2013.

Pearl Series

The NZTBA 2013 New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance Pearl Series is off to a great start with 544 yearling fillies nominated by the 31 March 2013 closure of "early bird" nominations.

The Pearl Series is a new scheme for fillies and mares offering almost \$2.6 million in bonuses and \$2.8 million in prizemoney across 200 races for fillies and mares over three seasons.

Nominations close on 31 July 2013 at a cost of \$920 (including GST).

NZTR Horse of the Year Awards

The NZTR Horse of the Year Awards will be held at Claudeland's Event Centre in Hamilton on 15 August 2013. Likely candidates for the Horse of the Year title include Ocean Park, Dundeel, Mufhasa and Habibi.

To be eligible for all categories of the NZTR Horse of the Year Awards, horses must have been trained by a person holding a NZ licence for the season and must have been stabled in NZ for more than half of the season. If a horse is transferred to an overseas stable those starts for the new trainer not licensed in NZ will not count for the purposes of these awards.

Whilst Ocean Park and Habibi have satisfied these conditions, under the current rules, Dundeel will need to return to New Zealand by 23 May 2013, Sacred Falls by 18 June 2013 and Mufhasa by 18 July 2013 to be eligible to be nominated for any award category.

Handicapping Guide Updated

NZTR has released an updated Version 4 of the Handicapping Guide to include some changes in the re-rating of Maiden 2YO and Maiden 3YO horses contesting Open 2YO or 3YO Handicaps.

The changes have been incorporated into Clause 7.4 - 2YO Handicap Races and 7.5 - 3YO Handicap Races to ensure that for ballot purposes only a Maiden 2YO starting in an Open 2YO Handicap will not be disadvantaged and shall at least be re-rated for placing 2nd to 5th (or for sixth at any of their first three career starts) on the same basis as if that horse had started in a Maiden 2YO race. The same amendment is reflected in 7.5 where a Maiden 3YO starts in an Open 3YO Handicap.

Because 2YO Handicap races are run as discretionary handicaps without reference to Ratings, depending on the quality of the field, a Maiden 2YO finishing (say) 5th has not necessarily been re-rated consistent with the automatic re-rating of 2YO's that start in a Maiden 2YO race. To ensure that Maiden 2YO or Maiden 3YO starting in an Open Age group race are not being disadvantaged for ballot purposes the changes to the Handicapping Guide policy has been made after consultation with the NZ Trainers Association and the Handicapping Review committee. The Handicapping Guide is available on the NZTR website.

New Zealand Equine Research Foundation

Research Grant Applications close 30 April, 2013

NZERF invites applications from interested parties for funding or projects in the field of Equine Research. Applications are to be made on the Research Grant application forms available from the NZERF Office or from the website www.nzerf.co.nz. Grant applications close **30 April, 2013**.

Professor Cliff Irvine Memorial Scholarship

Professor Irvine was a founding member of the NZ Equine Research Foundation, and it's Vice Chairman at the time of his retirement from the Board. Prof Irvine had a distinguished career in veterinary science, initially as a veterinarian in Southland, and later as a world renowned scientist while working at Lincoln College, specializing in thyroid and reproductive function in horses.

He also served as veterinary consultant to the Harness and Thoroughbred Racing codes in New Zealand for many years, and throughout his career he remained accessible to veterinarians for advice and information.

These contributions to veterinary science were recognised by the receipt of many awards, including a Doctor of Science from Massey University, a Doctorate of Veterinary Science from Sydney University, its highest award, the Bledisloe Medal from Lincoln University and The New Zealand Order of Merit for Services to Veterinary Science in 2000.

The NZERF Board is extremely pleased to be able to offer the Professor Cliff Irvine Memorial Scholarship in recognition and appreciation of Prof Irvine's enthusiasm and work on the Board and his scientific achievements.

The Scholarship may be awarded to an applicant for a Research Grant and may be used as part of a larger research project or as a standalone award. Applications should be made on the Research Grant application forms available from the NZERF Office or from the website www.nzerf.co.nz. **Closing date is 30 April, 2013.**

Parties interested in contributing to the Professor Cliff Irvine Memorial Scholarship Fund should contact the NZERF Office.

New Zealand Equine Research Foundation

Veterinarian-Farrier Scholarships

Annual scholarships for a veterinarian and a farrier to attend to spend some time with colleagues in the USA are provided by the Foundation. The purposes of these scholarships are:

- To improve the knowledge and skill of New Zealanders in care and treatment of the horses' foot
- To encourage veterinarians and farriers to work together as a team to overcome problems of the horses' foot.

Preferably applications should be made jointly or from veterinarians and farriers from the same geographical area.

Applications should be made on the Vet/Farrier Travel Grant forms available from the NZERF Office or from the website www.nzerf.co.nz. **Closing date is 30 April, 2013.**

Maximum Jumps Topweight Condition – Waikato 5 May

After consultation between NZTR, NZ Jumps Inc & the Waikato Racing Club, it has been agreed that with the possibility that horses targeting the Premier PJR Waikato Hurdle & the Waikato Steeplechase races on 18 May will be nominated for the Open Entry Hurdle/Steeplechase to be run at Waikato on Saturday 4 May, a maximum top weight of 70kg will be applied to the Restricted Open Steeple/Hurdle on Saturday 4 May; but only if there are sufficient nominations to divide either the Open Entry Steeplechase/Hurdle race and an additional Maiden Steeple or Maiden Hurdle race is provided.

If there are insufficient nominations to divide either the Open Entry Steeple/Hurdle, the maximum topweight condition will not apply in the event that only the one Steeple/Hurdle option is conducted.

Turnover Information for the Period ending 21 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
15-Apr	Avondale (1)	29,629		432,663		94,534		7		63	
16-Apr	Wanganui (2)	24,766		449,835		137,854		7		79	
17-Apr	Rotorua (3)	28,273		505,807		148,506		8		66	
18-Apr	Otago (4)	9,809		409,728		30,201		8		65	
19-Apr	Dargaville	62,691	53,652	454,000	581,280	138,370	142,794	7	8	57	71
20-Apr	Canterbury	64,616	65,476	1,048,079	954,154	242,434	243,276	9	9	95	108
20-Apr	Hawke's Bay	128,732	161,421	1,384,219	1,424,714	313,555	300,020	9	9	109	114
20-Apr	Tauranga	57,650	105,259	644,866	713,615	154,219	179,925	6	8	53	63

- (1) Avondale JC, last year this was a Waipa RC meeting at which there were 7 races.
- (2) Wanganui JC; there was no equivalent meeting last year. This meeting was originally scheduled to be held at Foxton, then Waverley, but the latter venue was unsuitable due to the effect of recent drought conditions.
- (3) Racing Rotorua; last year this was a Racing Te Aroha meeting at which there were 8 races.
- (4) Otago RC; last year this was a Woodville-Pahiatua RC meeting at which there were 8 races.
- (5) There was a Beaumont RC meeting on the Sunday last year at which there were 8 races.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(%)
Meetings	262	255	+7	2.75%
Races	2,209	2,283	(74)	(3.24%)
Starters	22,795	23,996	(1,201)	(5.01%)
Avg Field Size	10.32	10.51	(0.19)	(1.82%)
Number of races less than 8 starters	323	390	(67)	(17.18%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	304,189,433	293,801,791	+10,387,642	+3.54%
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	31,253,133	33,278,436	(2,025,302)	(6.09%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	335,442,567	327,080,227	+8,362,340	+2.56%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	264,444,990	275,240,939	(10,795,949)	(3.92%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	70,997,576	51,839,288	+19,158,289	+36.96%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	151,853	143,268	+8,585	+5.99%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,716	13,631	+1,085	+7.96%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	1,101,224,463	1,010,928,804	+90,295,659	+8.93%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	173,930,020	170,917,388	+3,012,633	+1.76%
Total NZRB Turnover	1,275,154,483	1,181,846,191	+93,308,292	+7.90%

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