

Tuesday 26 February 2013

“From the horse’s mouth ...”

The strong performance of the New Zealand Racing Board (NZRB) will see an extra \$1.6 million flow into thoroughbred racing this season. It was thanks to this that we could remove the nomination fees for all maiden and rating 65 events from 1 March 2013. Importantly, NZRB performance continues to strengthen.

New Zealand thoroughbred racing continues to perform strongly despite a relatively soft field size performance over the last fortnight, in part due to the lack of recent rainfall in many areas. Thoroughbred domestic turnover is up \$16.3m (or +6.3%) year-to-date. Domestic harness racing turnover is up by \$5.2m (or +3.7%) and domestic greyhound turnover is up \$2.6m (or +3.4%), with domestic racing turnover for the three codes up \$24.1m (or +5.1%).

Despite a proliferation of small fields last week, the number of races with less than eight starters has actually fallen by 55 compared to the last season. Whilst this sounds a lot it is actually 253 for the year compared with 308 last year, so given the conditions we are racing in suggests we are doing quite well.

Last week in response to the Bulletin I was asked to provide the turnover per race figures for the other two codes, including for export. I think you’ll agree the figures show things are looking positive for the gallops.

As at 23 February 2013 totalisator and fixed odds combined were:

- Up \$8,766 (or +6.1%) per race on New Zealand thoroughbred (with 4 more races conducted);
- Up \$1,932 (or +2.2%) per race on New Zealand harness (with 25 more races conducted);
- Down -\$516 (or -1.9%) per race on New Zealand greyhounds (with 150 more races conducted).

As at 31 January 2013 New Zealand export sales in Australia were:

- Up \$14,540 (or +11.9%) per race on New Zealand thoroughbred racing;
- Down -\$5,684 (or -8.6%) per race on New Zealand harness racing;
- Down -\$4,111 (or -8.2%) per race on New Zealand greyhound racing.

Another question I often have to answer is whether in fact individual starters are well down. They aren’t. To date we have +28 more female horses that have started in a race this season and -51 less male so -31 fewer individual starters (or -0.5%) when compared with last year.

Our business plan factored in a reduction of -1.0% so we are pleased to see the individual starter numbers showing some resilience. This doesn’t mean we aren’t watching the numbers closely and with the promising outlook of the New Zealand Racing Board our next focus for spending will be aspirational races which we hope will encourage people to get back into racing.

Greg Purcell CEO NZTR

Hosting of Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour

Since 2003, the EMCT has provided towns and cities across Australia and New Zealand a valuable opportunity to raise funds for community groups and unite in a celebration of the race that stops a nation™.

During the Tour the iconic Emirates Melbourne Cup trophy, valued at \$175,000, travels thousands of kilometres to rural, regional and metropolitan locations in Australia and New Zealand in the months leading up to the first Tuesday in November.

The VRC invites councils, racing clubs, tourism bodies, sporting organisations, schools, hospitals, nursing homes and other community groups to apply to host the 2013 Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour.

As part of the tendering process, host destinations are invited to organise visits to schools, nursing homes, hospitals, community fun days, charity events, cocktail parties and street parades to honour the Tour's visit to their town.

To host the 2013 EMCT please submit an application online by Monday, 8 April, 2013 at www.melbournecuptour.com.au

In your tender application, we encourage you to outline a schedule of community events and explain how the Tour could raise community spirit in your town or celebrate local icons.

Please visit the Tour website for more information and follow the links to submit an online proposal at www.melbournecuptour.com.au

For further information on the 2013 EMCT, please contact the EMCT team at Wrights PR +61 (0) 3 9690 9911.

Waikato RC - General Manager Vacancy

The General Manager of the Waikato Racing Club is retiring after more than 30 years and the club is now searching for his replacement.

The racing industry in New Zealand is highly competitive and fast paced, and this is a great opportunity to become involved in an organisation that prides itself on remaining at the forefront of the racing and entertainment industries.

To be successful in this position, you will bring well developed management skills, strong marketing and financial experience and the ability to create new business opportunities. You may have previous industry experience or just be passionate about the industry.

To register your interest in confidence or to request a position description, please contact Judy Davison at judy@assetrec.co.nz

Applications close on Friday 15 March 2013.

Vacancy – Transport Manager (Waikato Based)

Required for progressive well established NZ wide specialist transport company.

Specific requirements for this role are:

Some work experience and knowledge of the bloodstock industry; excellent communication skills within the company and with clients; operational and organisational management skills; computer literacy; be able to work flexible hours; extensive geographic knowledge,

Full training will be offered along with a very good remuneration package. Please apply with CV to:

John Kenny,
Managing Director
Majestic Horse Floats Ltd
P O Box 164, Takanini 2245

Email: john@majesticfloats.co.nz

Midweek Pick6's to Terminate for Auckland Cup Week

All four mid-week Pick6s will Terminate for Auckland Cup week. This includes the Pick6 at Ellerslie (Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup Day) on Wednesday 6 March, where the Terminating Pick6 will be \$100,000.

Otago Racing Club Cromwell Golf Tournament – Saturday 2 March

With the racing at Omakau on Friday and the famous Cromwell Races on Sunday, why not plan to enjoy a huge sporting weekend and take in a golf tournament on Saturday 2 March at the outstanding Cromwell Golf Club

The event is a two-man ambrose contest commencing at midday. The cost of entry is just \$10 per person.

For entries and further information contact Graham Mercer at the Golf Club on 03 445 0165.

The Famous Cromwell Races - Sunday 3 March

For over 150 years the Cromwell Cup meeting has been a "must be at" social occasion for the people of Central Otago. A huge crowd of race-goers is expected at the Roundhill Racecourse next weekend carrying on the tradition of generations.

The race meeting features the Claas Cromwell Cup, a \$25,000 event - where a competitive field is guaranteed for those who like a flutter.

No Cup Day is complete without a Fashions on the Field and we expect a colourful turn-out of fillies on the catwalk a week on Sunday, where Classic Racing Attire is the simple theme. 49 Frocks are sponsoring the girls...whilst Structure have kindly put forward a prize for the few men that make the effort!

Fillies Day at Wingatui - Saturday 9 March

A new date in the diary for the girls is the Fabulous Fillies Day. There's a strong focus on food and fashion and ladies, you know you enjoy a day out - and you love to treat yourself - so there are two great options for you to consider.

The first is the Ladies Luncheon which will be a sophisticated affair in the Winning Post Lounge where you can enjoy a lovely two course buffet, a welcome drink with a seafood theme and a variety of entertainment on the side. **Tickets are \$85 each with part proceeds going to Catwalk.**

The second is for the younger set in the Noble Bijou Room, where the \$40 ticket will pay for a bus from town, a \$10 lunch voucher at the Great Sensation Cafe, admission to the course, a complimentary drink and a great party!

To book tickets or for more information phone 03 489 6233 or email megan@wingatui.co.nz

Turnover Information for the Period ending 24 February 2013

Date	Club	On-Course		Off-Course		Fixed Odds		Starters	
								12-13	11-12
11/2	Southland (1)	15,228		301,322		126,061		70	
13/2	Counties (2)	12,960		249,493		107,560		36	
13/2	Te Aroha (3)	22,495		409,084		162,419		57	
14/2	Canterbury (4)	27,492	21.2%	654,177	8.4%	218,269	34.9%	93	14.7%
16/2	Matamata	231,895	6.7%	1,308,654	10.4%	466,039	38.6%	93	2.1%
16/2	Otaki-Maori (5)	118,101	14.9%	844,706	25.1%	273,294	9.2%	71	15.5%

- (1) Southland RC; there was no equivalent meeting on this day last year; this year there were 8 races.
- (2) Counties RC; last year this was a Dargaville RC meeting, at which there were 7 races. This year there were 6 races this year.
- (3) Racing Te Aroha; last year this was a Woodville-Pahiatua RC meeting at which there were 8 races; there were 7 races this year.
- (4) Canterbury Racing; there were 9 races this year, compared with 10 races last year.
- (5) Otaki-Maori RC; there were 8 races this year, compared with 9 races last year.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(-%)
Races	1,790	1,786	+4	+0.22%
Starters	18,653	18,818	(165)	(0.88%)
Avg Field Size	10.42	10.54	(0.12)	(1.10%)
Off-Course Turnover	193,909,117	195,135,870	(1,226,753)	(0.63%)
On-Course Turnover	23,006,640	23,711,351	(704,711)	(2.97%)
Total Totalisator Turnover	216,915,757	218,847,221	(1,931,464)	(0.88%)
Fixed Odds	57,461,801	39,313,093	+18,148,708	+46.16%
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	274,377,558	258,160,314	+16,217,244	+6.28%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	153,284	144,547	+8,737	+6.04%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,710	13,719	+991	+7.22%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	889,415,285	797,751,739	+91,663,545	+11.49%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	133,744,894	134,631,094	(886,200)	(0.66%)
Total NZRB Turnover	1,023,160,179	932,382,833	+90,777,345	+9.74%

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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