

Tuesday 29 January 2013

Removal of Nomination Fees to Save Owners \$1.2 Million per Year

The Board of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) has removed the \$50 (excluding GST) nomination fee from all races below rating 75 from 1 March 2013. There will be no nomination or acceptance fees for horses that nominate, accept and start in all maiden, rating 65, non-black-type two-year-old, three-year-old, four-year-old, and special conditions races.

NZTR Chairman, Matthew Goodson, stated: "Removing nomination fees from lower tier races will provide direct savings of more than \$1.2 million to Owners each year."

"This decision follows the New Zealand Racing Board's (NZRB) very welcome announcement of an increase in its forecast profit for FY13 and a projected increase in distributions to the three Racing Codes of \$135 million (from \$134 million), and continues our phased new structure of racing and prizemoney, which we started in March 2012, designed to maximize field sizes for domestic and international wagering across the week, and to encourage ownership."

Neil Oldfield, President of the New Zealand Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Federation (NZTROF) expressed his delight and support, on behalf of owners, for this initiative: "The NZTR Board must be congratulated for following through on their stated intent to remove nomination fees for these races and to reduce owners costs, and the NZRB Board for increasing its profitability and pay-out to the industry."

"New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing has delivered on its aim, set out in its 2013-15 Business Plan, to *reduce owner costs by supporting some elements of free racing.*"

The only fees payable for maiden, rating 65 and non-black-type two-year-old, three-year-old, four-year-old, and special conditions races are as follows:

- \$57.50 (including GST) non-acceptance fee when a nominated horse does not accept for the race;
- \$57.50 (including GST) non-acceptance fee and a scratching fee equivalent to 0.75% (plus GST) of the total prizemoney for that class of race when a horse accepts but scratches before declaration of the rider;
- \$57.50 (including GST) non-acceptance fee and a scratching fee equivalent to 0.75% (plus GST) of the total prizemoney for that class of race, plus a rider's engagement fee of \$57.50 (including GST) when the rider has been declared for a horse, which is subsequently scratched, provided that the rider is not subsequently declared for another horse in the same race.

\$2.6million Scheme Ups the Ante for Fillies & Mares

A new scheme for fillies and mares offering nearly \$2.6 million in bonuses was launched in timely fashion, just days out from the New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sales Series at Karaka.

The NZB Insurance Pearl Series 2013 offers bonuses across 200 individual races nationwide for two-, three- and four-year-old fillies and mares. The scheme has been designed to benefit all owners, trainers and breeders of thoroughbred fillies racing in New Zealand.

Administered by the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (NZTBA), the NZB Insurance Pearl Series 2013 is open to fillies born in 2011.

Sponsored by New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance, the series will see bonuses of up to \$20,000 paid to connections (owner, trainer and nominator) across the following races:

- 15 specified open-sex two-year-old races (\$8,000)
- 180 midweek fillies and mares' races (\$11,500)
- 20 Saturday fillies and mares' races (\$20,000)
- Super Bonus of \$100,000 to the winner of the 2014 New Zealand One Thousand Guineas if series-nominated and insured by New Zealand Bloodstock.

"Anything that encourages the domestic racing of fillies and has the potential to bring new owners and breeders into our industry is vital to the future," said Michael Martin, CEO of the NZTBA. "The new NZB Insurance Pearl Series bonuses, and the number of races now programmed for fillies and mares, will assist the breeder who is racing a filly and, in turn, help secure the future of New Zealand thoroughbred breeding and racing."

A nomination fee of \$690 is payable to the NZTBA on or before 31 March 2013, with late entries of \$920 up until 31 July 2013.

For more information, visit the NZTBA marquee at the Karaka yearling sales or check out www.nzthoroughbred.co.nz

Roy Robinson Passes Away

Roy Robinson, one of New Zealand's most successful owner-trainers, passed away at his Matangi home on Saturday at the age of 82.

Roy Robinson was synonymous with Van Der Hum, a raw-boned gelding in the old-fashioned mould who emerged in the winter of 1976 to go all the way to victory in the Melbourne Cup. That year's edition of the great race is best remembered for the quagmire that followed a raceday downpour at Flemington racecourse, conditions that were made to order for the Bob Skelton-ridden horse from Matangi. Van Der Hum, who Robinson trained in partnership with his brother Leo and co-owned with Wyn Abel, had a long career which in its latter years included wins in the Waikato Hurdles and over country.

Beginning with Roy and Leo Robinson's father Ivan, the Robinson family enjoyed decades of success with numerous high profile horses, going back to 1964 Auckland Cup winner Senor, the champion colt of the 1960s Piko, and prolific weight-for-age performer Bardall. Robinson was also well involved in racing administration, headed by five years from 1979 to 1984 as president of the Waikato Racing Club, while he was also district representative on the New Zealand Racing Conference during the same period.

Roy Robinson's funeral will take place at the Te Rapa racecourse at 1.30 pm on Thursday afternoon.

Auckland RC Trials, Tuesday 5 February 2013 – Transferred to Thursday 7 February at Paeroa

Following consultation between NZTR & the Northern Region Programming Committee, the trials programmed for Eilerslie on Tuesday 5 February have been transferred to Paeroa & will now be held on Thursday 7 February.

Nominations will now close at 12 noon, Wednesday 6 February.

Waikato RC 9 February – Change in Distance

In consultation with NZTR and the RIU, Waikato RC has reduced the distance of the 2400m Premier R85 BM Handicap programmed for Te Rapa on Saturday 9 February to 2200m to bring the race forward 200m to enable the event to be started on the course proper, which is being extensively irrigated.

Turnover Information for the Period ending 27 January 2013

Date	Club	On-Course		Off-Course		Fixed Odds		Starters	
								12-13	11-12
21/1	Wellington (1)	112,576	29.5%	609,217	37.1%	184,233	9.0%	72	36.8%
23/1	Waikato (2)	35,891		678,107		256,077		86	
24/1	Gore (3)	28,823		630,704		165,189		93	
25/1	Rotorua	44,042	2.1%	701,992	10.6%	230,174	56.7%	77	6.1%
26/1	Canterbury	127,896	5.3%	909,737	12.6%	213,335	1.1%	115	3.4%
26/1	Wellington	983,652	4.3%	3,244,248	4.7%	821,914	30.7%	153	12.5%
27/1	Auckland	408,156	7.9%	1,261,415	6.1%	460,214	37.6%	74	15.9%

(1) Wellington RC; there were 7 races this year, compared to 9 races last year.

(2) Waikato RC; this meeting last year was a Hawke's Bay RI meeting; this year there were 8 races.

(3) Gore RC; meeting was abandoned last year after 4 races due to gale force winds; there were 8 races this year.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(-%)
Races	1,576	1,551	+25	+1.61%
Starters	16,558	16,327	+231	+1.41%
Avg Field Size	10.51	10.53	(0.02)	(0.19%)
Off-Course Turnover	172,727,420	174,127,935	(1,400,515)	(0.80%)
On-Course Turnover	20,799,754	21,611,727	(811,973)	(3.76%)
Total Totalisator Turnover	193,527,174	195,739,662	(2,212,488)	(1.13%)
Fixed Odds	50,676,641	33,184,849	+17,491,792	+52.71%
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	244,203,815	228,924,511	+15,279,304	+6.67%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	154,952	147,598	+7,354	+4.98%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,748	14,021	+727	+5.19%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	784,304,176	692,931,491	+91,372,685	+13.19%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	118,748,321	119,237,160	(488,839)	(0.41%)
Total NZRB Turnover	903,052,498	812,168,652	+90,883,846	+11.19%

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.

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