



Friday 30 August 2013

From The Horse's Mouth

Hawke's Bay Carnival Kicks off New Season

The excitement of the new racing season kicks off with the Hawke's Bay Racing Carnival tomorrow, with many of New Zealand's best spring prospects on display including Final Touch, Nashville, Xanadu, Survived, Fleur De Lune, Thunderbird One and Rollout The Carpet.

Eight New Zealand Horses Make International Elite Status

A record eight horses trained in New Zealand have achieved international elite status in 2012/13 by recording an international rating of 115 for their peak race performance during the season, and will be included within the ranks of the world's best horses for 2012-13.

These were Ocean Park (122), Dundeel (121), Mufhasa (118), Veyron (118), Nashville (116), Sacred Falls (115), Final Touch (115) and Sangster (115). It is pleasing to see that six of the eight horses recorded their peak rating performance in races conducted in New Zealand.

Ocean Park and Dundeel are both rated within the world's top fifty thoroughbred horses in 2012-13.

Group One Events

The ANZ Classifications Committee confirmed the Otaki Maori Race Club's Haunui Farm Group One WFA Classic with a rating of 117.5 as the country's highest rating race in 2012-13, ahead of the Hawke's Bay Racing's Makfi Challenge Stakes (116.8) and the Auckland Race Club's Lindauer New Zealand Stakes (116.5).

New Zealand Pattern Committee Completes 2012-13 Review

The New Zealand Pattern Committee (NZPC) has undertaken its annual review of Group and Listed races run in New Zealand in the 2012-13 season. In accordance with the Rules of Racing the following decisions have been made:

1. The Auckland Racing Club's Bonecrusher Stakes (1400m) has been upgraded from Listed to Group 3 for the 2013-14 season.
2. The Manawatu Racing Club's Manawatu Breeders Stakes (2000m) was upgraded from Listed to Group 3 for the 2013-14 season.
3. Two new Listed races were confirmed - the Auckland Racing Club's Trevor Eagle Memorial (1500m), a race for three year olds in late November and Hawke's Bay Racing's Open 1200m Handicap, which was run as the Ocean Park@Waikato Stud 1200 on Hawke's Bay Cup day in April, were both promoted to black type status.
4. The Counties Racing Club's Counties Cup was downgraded from Group 2 to Group 3.

As a result of these changes the following number of Group and Listed races will be scheduled in 2013-14:

1. 22 Group One races;
2. 21 Group Two races (one less than in 2012-13 and two less than in 2011-12);
3. 39 Group Three races (3 more than in 2012-13 with one race having been downgraded from Group 2 and two races upgraded from Listed); and
4. 65 Listed races (no change).

In total there will be 147 Group or Listed races scheduled, an increase of two on 2012-13 and one more than in 2011-12. The NZPC will review the schedule of Prestige Jumping Races (PJR's) in October when the results for the

2013 jumping season are available. The Committee also considered a request from the Levin Racing Club and the RACE Group to shift the G1 Levin Classic from November, with the race to be run at Trentham in January on the first day of the Wellington Racing Club Cup carnival. The G3 Wellington Stakes, which is run over the same distance and with the same conditions, is proposed to be moved back to November to replace Levin Classic at Otaki.

The Committee agreed to retain a second warning on the Levin Classic and subject to a recommendation from the Pattern Review Committee and appropriate approval from the Asian Pattern Committee and New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, the Committee confirmed its support for the Levin Classic to be moved to Trentham in January with a second warning.

Chas Amon, Chairman of the New Zealand Pattern Committee said: "The Committee conducted its review of the 2012-13 season for the second time utilising the strict guidelines for qualifications for Graded (G1, G2, G3) status and the movement of races within that framework that had been established by the Asian Racing Federation's Pattern Committee (APC), which now oversees the work undertaken by the member countries of the Asian Racing Federation."

"The APC Ground Rules provide for automatic downgrades for Group 2 and Group 3 races to be enforced after three years and Group One races after four years, where those races have not met the minimum race rating benchmarks in successive years."

Amon added that the APC was not concerned with Listed races at this time.

The ANZ Race Classifications confirmed earlier this month for the 2013-14 season were again the basis for the review undertaken by the New Zealand Pattern Committee. Consistent with Rule 506 (8) of the New Zealand Rules of Racing, the NZPC continues to utilise its warning system as provided in the rules, with a first warning being issued where any race has failed to attain the minimum race rating required. Such a failure in consecutive years is likely to attract a second warning.

Two second warnings were maintained by the Committee - the Group 1 Levin Classic and the Group 2 Wakefield Challenge Stakes for two year olds.

A further 12 second warnings were issued - the Group 1 WRC Thorndon Mile; the Auckland Racing Club's Group 2 ARC Championship Stakes, City of Auckland Cup [Queen Elizabeth] and the Rich Hill [George Adams] Mile were all issued with second warnings, together with the Wellington Guineas (G2); the Japan Trophy (G2), the White Robe Lodge Handicap, Hawke's Bay Cup and Rotorua Cups - all Group 3 and the Listed Riverton Cup, CJC Spring Classic {Easter Classic} and the Dunedin Gold Cup.

First warnings were maintained on six races, including five Group One races, while a further nine first warnings were issued. Second warnings were removed from two Listed races and 14 first warnings were removed.

Chas Amon said the Committee had maintained a second warning on the Group 1 Levin Classic for another year in advance of any recommendation from the New Zealand Pattern Review committee, which is due to report shortly on proposed changes to improve the Group race pattern. "While reluctant to downgrade a Group One three year old race, the Levin Classic has continued to struggle."

He concluded: "The New Zealand Pattern Committee has noted the relatively low quality of a number of our major handicaps, which are likely to continue to trend down under the new regimen imposed under the ANZ rating system. The Waikato Cup was downgraded to Group 3 last year and the Counties Cup has also now been dropped to that status.

First warnings were issued on the Auckland Cup, the Wellington Cup, the Avondale Cup and the Manawatu Cup, which reflects a general lack of quality in those races. This trend mirrors the situation in the Australian pattern. With quality of place-getters being the over-riding factor in determining black type status, there is likely to be a continuing emphasis on set weight races, especially those run for three-year-olds and for fillies and mares."

Further information:

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Otaki Cleared to Resume Racing

The Otaki track has been cleared for racing to resume there next Thursday, 5 September, following supervised trials being conducted on the course proper this morning.

A total of 12 Otaki horses trialed in three heats, with senior riders Hayden Tinsley, Jonathon Riddell, Daryl Bradley and Rosie Myers confirming that next week's scheduled Otaki-Maori meeting should now proceed with the track having recovered from the drainage work around the bottom bend.

RIU Stipendiary Steward Neil Goodwin, together with NZTR Venue Inspector Garry Foskett, RACE Inc Tracks Manger Chris Allen and Otaki-Maori Racing Club officials were also in attendance and inspected the track, with the riders, following the three heats.

Garry Foskett reported that the track had recovered well from the work that had been undertaken in May and said there was a good sole of grass. He commented that according to the riders the Otaki track while heavy, was very consistent and there were no issues with the presentation of the track where the work had been carried out.

The Otaki Maori Racing Club with funding support from NZTR and the Racing Minister's Safety Fund undertook \$80,000 of new drainage work in May around the bottom bend at the Otaki racecourse to address ongoing issues with water ponding on the track surface in this area each winter.

The work included the installation of 60 new lateral drains, a main collector drain inside the running rail and a 225mm pipe outlet drain across the track. While the drainage work was completed on time and budget in May, it was agreed to reschedule the Levin July Ryder Stakes meeting to Awapuni and the Otaki-Maori Saturday feature meeting to Trentham to allow sufficient time for the track to recover and the new grass to become established.

Thoroughbred Breeding Show Returns

Season two of Trackside's popular thoroughbred breeding show Kiwi Bred begins next Wednesday, 4 September at 8pm.

The programme showcases New Zealand's thoroughbred breeding industry and takes an inside look at the people who make it happen. Alisha Neilson, a new addition to the Trackside stable, will host the half hour show that will include new season sires, prominent NZ horse breeders and an overseas segment. Produced by Jayne Ivil, Kiwi Bred is a must-see for anyone interested in the NZ breeding scene.

Turnover Information for the Period ending 25 August 2013

Date	Club	On-Course (Tote & FOB combined)		Totalisator (Off & on-course combined)		Fixed Odds (Off & on-course)		Races	
		13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13
19-Aug	Taupo	43,687	34,197	473,241	452,418	209,923	195,143	7	9
21-Aug	Waipa	23,574		635,140		212,020		8	
22-Aug	Woodville	31,413	18,571	655,936	460,895	168,316	104,550	8	7
23-Aug	Sth Canterbury	12,470	20,748	372,480	554,067	97,340	136,930	6	9
24-Aug	Taranaki	99,893	84,392	1,442,819	1,291,713	289,664	277,023	9	8
24-Aug	Pakuranga	127,589	192,966	1,024,076	1,124,146	242,653	207,003	8	8

- (1) Waipa RC; last year this meeting was a Whangarei RC meeting at which there were 8 races.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance /()	Variance %/ (%)
Meetings	21	21	0	0.00%
Races	162	172	(10)	(5.81%)
Starters	1,665	1,718	(53)	(3.08%)
Avg Field Size	10.28	9.99	0.29	2.90%
Number of races less than 8 starters	21	29	(8)	(27.59%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	21,549,719	21,990,985	(441,266)	(2.01%)
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	1,399,178	1,510,401	(111,223)	(7.36%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	22,948,898	23,501,386	(552,488)	(2.35%)
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	18,387,181	19,163,209	(776,028)	(4.05%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	4,561,717	4,338,177	223,540	5.15%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	141,660	136,636	5,024	3.68%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,783	13,680	104	0.76%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	93,793,067	94,899,828	(1,106,761)	(1.17%)
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	16,971,132	16,913,607	57,525	0.34%
Total NZRB Turnover	110,764,199	111,813,435	(1,049,236)	(0.94%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 11 Aug)	9,174,224	10,840,842	(1,666,618)	(15.37%)
Total Races (to 11 Aug)	80	92	(12)	(13.04%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	114,678	117,835	(3,157)	(2.68%)

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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