



Thursday 7 November 2013

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH: NZTR CHIEF EXECUTIVE GREG PURCELL

It was a big Tuesday for thoroughbred racing in this part of the world with the running of the Melbourne Cup.

But here at home the focus goes on the Canterbury Jockey Club's New Zealand Cup Carnival starting this weekend. With stakes of more than \$2 million in races including the Group One NZ Bloodstock 1000 Guineas, the Group One Sothys 41st NZ 2000 Guineas, the Group Two Coupland Bakeries Mile and the New Zealand Cup, the whole week offers an unrivalled entertainment, social and sporting experience.

It's a red-letter year for the Christchurch Casino New Zealand Cup in particular, as the race celebrates its 150th birthday. To put that in context, the Melbourne Cup saw its 153rd running on Tuesday, so one of our big staying races is nearly as old and also has a storied history.

There's been a fair amount of debate on both sides of the Tasman about declining Kiwi and Aussie representation in the Melbourne Cup in recent years as more and more European raiders make the trip down under.

Thoroughbred racing is now a truly international industry and it is necessary to respond to changing market forces. Despite the absence of a New Zealand horse from this year's Melbourne Cup, over recent years the New Zealand racehorse has never been more internationally competitive, with demand for New Zealand bloodstock continuing to accelerate in Asia. For example, around a third of all horses racing in Hong Kong and Singapore are New Zealand-bred.

New Zealand studs will look to continue providing quality horses to meet this demand. That said, our hopes - along with those of Kiwi racing fans - is that one day we'll see New Zealand horses once again leading the way at Flemington on the first Tuesday in November.

NZTR BOARD TO CONSIDER RAISING HANDICAP TOPWEIGHT

The Board of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing is considering a recommendation from the Handicapping Review Group to increase the minimum declared topweight from 59kg to 60kg from 1 February 2014.

The recommendation follows concerns identified by the NZTR Handicappers that the current 5kg weight spread in the majority of our handicap races (59-54kg) is not sufficient.

New Zealand Trainers' Association representatives and the three Regional Programming chairmen who attended the recent Handicapping Review meeting unanimously supported the recommendation to amend NZTR Standard Regulation 8.2 which states: *that the topweight allocated in any Handicap shall not be less than 59kg (to 60kg) except in handicap Flat races in which only maidens, or only two-year-olds or only three-year-olds may start in which event the topweight allocated shall not be less than 58kg.*

If this change was to be adopted the spread of weights in the majority of handicap races would be 6kg (60kg-54kg) with a 7kg spread (60kg-53kg) in black type and Premier Open handicaps, which have the lower 53kg minimum weight.

Minimum weights in New Zealand were raised from 53kg to 54kg in November 2011 as part of an extensive ratings and handicapping review. At the time, Mark Webbey, who had undertaken the review on behalf of NZTR, had recommended that the new ratings based handicapping system required a bigger spread of weights than the

proposed 5kg to ensure that the provisions for the new 2kg fillies and mares allowance and the increased age group allowances were able to be claimed.

The minimum weights were raised to 54kg primarily to support jockey welfare. The minimum handicap weights in Australia were lifted from 53kg to 54kg in January 2012 and while most states there have retained the 59kg declared topweight, Racing Victoria immediately introduced a 60kg topweight when the minimum weights were raised to maintain at least a 6kg spread in their handicap races.

One of the consequences of only having a 5kg spread of weights in ratings based handicaps in New Zealand is the requirement to utilise dual bands by the handicappers, where horses on different ratings will carry the same weight at the lower end of the handicaps. The use of dual bands is generally not well understood by industry participants and leads to further confusion when it comes to the re-rating and weight penalties being allocated by the handicappers, particularly where a horse wins and as a result goes up into the next ratings band.

The use of dual bands was discussed at some length at the recent handicapping Review meeting. NZTR Chief Handicapper Brett Scelly said that increasing the spread of weights by introducing a 60kg topweight would alleviate the requirement for dual banding in most races.

Further consultation with the wider industry will take place ahead of any decision to raise the topweight to 60kg.

RACING ROTORUA STAKE INCREASE: FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2013

The following race at the Racing Rotorua meeting on Friday 8th November has incurred a stake increase provided by the connections of Von Krumm.

The new stake and race details are below:

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

All other conditions pertaining to this race remain the same.

AVONDALE JC: MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2013 - ADDITIONAL RACES

Following consultation between NZTR, the Northern Region Programming Committee & Avondale JC, there has been two additional races programmed for the Avondale Jockey Club's race meeting on Monday 11 November. The decision to programme these races was made following the abandonment of the Waikato RC (at Paeroa) race meeting on Wednesday 6 November.

They are:

Benchmark Rating 75 HCP	1400m	\$8,000. \$5,000, \$1,600, \$800, \$400, \$200. Nom \$57.50. Acc \$69.00
Maiden SW	1400m	\$7,000. \$4,375, \$1,400, \$700, \$350, \$175.

GROUP ONE LEVIN CLASSIC: NEW DATE AND LOCATION

Saturday, January 18, 2014 at Trentham Racecourse. Nominations close: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 4pm.

Nominations also close for the G2 Wellington Cup and the G1 Telegraph Handicap on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 4pm.

All nominations and withdrawals to:

National Racing Bureau

Ph. 0508 722 464

Fax: (04) 568 8213

nrb@nzracing.co.nz

NZ RACING BOARD TO CONSOLIDATE BROADCASTING OPERATIONS LATE NEXT YEAR

The NZ Racing Board will consolidate its broadcasting operations from Petone, Avalon and Ellerslie to a purpose-built facility in Auckland late next year.

The facility in Auckland - which will consolidate NZ Racing Board's broadcasting operations and Auckland-based staff - is one of a number of options which were the subject of extensive research and due diligence by a team comprising internal management and external expert advisors.

NZ Racing Board Chief Executive Officer Chris Bayliss said: "The NZ Racing Board has been considering the best long term location for its broadcasting operations for several years.

"The organisation is also prioritising improved customer experience and business growth from its broadcasting operations.

"This consolidation aligns with the corporate strategy we have developed to achieve our ambitious goals and vision for the industry.

"A key strategic initiative for our broadcasting operations is to address and resolve platform, studio and ageing infrastructure challenges to allow a high quality comprehensive content and channel plan to be delivered in 2014. The plan includes an upgrade from Standard Definition (SD) to High Definition (HD). "NZ Live, proven experts in studio production were selected as the best strategic partner for us to continue our outsourced studio model."

There will be a range of options available to the NZ Racing Board broadcasting staff based in Avalon and Petone, including moving to Auckland and moving to other divisions within the organisation.

The NZ Racing Board has no plans to relocate its Head Office from Petone.

NOTICE OF NZ RACING BOARD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REGIONAL MEETINGS

28 November 2013

10.30am-1.30pm

NZ Racing Board

Petone

Wellington

New Zealand Racing Board Chair Glenda Hughes invites interested parties to attend the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Racing Board to be held in Petone from 10.30am on 28 November 2013.

The Meeting will feature the release of the 2012/13 Annual Report by Glenda Hughes and an address by the Honourable Nathan Guy, Minister for Racing. The Meeting is scheduled to finish around 1.30pm.

Presentations from the Meeting will be filmed for subsequent broadcast on Trackside. Those unable to attend the Meeting will be able to view, or record for later viewing, these special broadcasts on the Trackside television channel at 3am on Saturday, 7 December and again at 1am on Sunday, 8 December 2013.

In order to ensure numbers can be accommodated, a RSVP is requested before November 11 by emailing your name to agm@nzracingboard.co.nz.

Regional Meetings will be held in your area to report a summary of the 2012/13 Annual Report highlights. The following meetings are scheduled:

- **Monday, December 9 at 11am:** Hobson Room, Alexandra Park Racecourse, Auckland
- **Tuesday, December 10 at 11am:** Kentucky Lounge, Te Rapa Racecourse, Hamilton
- **Wednesday, December 11 at 11am:** Silks Lounge, Awapuni Racecourse, Palmerston North
- **Thursday, December 12 at 11am:** Blossom Lady Lounge, Addington Racecourse, Christchurch
- **Friday, December 13 at 10am:** Takitimu Room, Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill

Those wishing to attend one of these meetings should email regionalsvp@nzracingboard.co.nz by November 25.

TURNOVER INFORMATION (FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 3 NOVEMBER 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
28-Oct	Waikato	157,217	153,346	1,558,385	1,720,018	530,157	544,777	10	11	115	125
30-Oct	Counties	63,743	56,429	869,919	879,136	277,476	249,706	10	10	108	119
31-Oct	Wanganui	43,976	30,523	866,924	792,118	269,672	231,685	10	9	124	104
1-Nov	Southland	13,459	22,913	450,332	596,435	132,813	186,601	7	9	67	84
2-Nov	Feilding	128,162	144,235	1,676,111	1,710,204	366,768	395,070	9	10	124	103
2-Nov	Tauranga	111,261	50,284	941,884	787,867	270,359	228,410	8	9	73	84
3-Nov	Banks Pen	69,768	78,698	696,511	691,956	164,305	173,729	10	9	106	83

- Waikato RC Labour Monday meeting effectively a week earlier, 10 races this season, 11 last season.
- Wanganui Thursday meeting ran 10 races this season, 9 last season.
- Southland RC Friday meeting was 3 weeks earlier in 2012/2013. 7 races this season, 9 last season.
- Feilding Cup meeting 9 races in 2013/2014, 10 in 2012/2013.
- Racing Tauranga Saturday meeting with 8 races this season, was a Friday with 9 races last season
- Banks Peninsula RC meeting 10 races in 2013, 9 races in 2012.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance /()	Variance %/(%)
Meetings	89	88	1	1.14%
Races	728	748	(20)	(2.67%)
Total Starts	7,564	7,812	(248)	(3.17%)
Avg Field Size	10.39	10.44	(0.05)	(0.51%)
Number of races less than 8 starters	118	97	21	21.65%
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	94,147,007	97,687,151	(3,540,144)	(3.62%)
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	6,301,845	6,740,296	(438,451)	(6.50%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	100,448,852	104,427,447	(3,978,595)	(3.81%)
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	78,118,674	83,582,375	(5,463,700)	(6.54%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	22,330,162	20,845,072	1,485,090	7.12%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	137,979	139,609	(1,630)	(1.17%)
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,280	13,368	(88)	(0.66%)
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	376,788,254	382,118,959	(5,330,705)	(1.40%)
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	71,785,747	68,746,515	3,039,232	4.42%
Total NZRB Turnover	448,574,001	450,865,474	(2,291,473)	(0.51%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 27 Oct)	75,426,184	95,355,698	(19,929,514)	(20.90%)
Total Races (to 27 Oct)	664	686	(22)	(3.21%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	113,594	139,002	(25,409)	(18.28%)

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is down 3.8% year to date.
- With 20 less races than run over the same period last season, turnover per race has declined by a smaller 1.2%.
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are down 248, 3.2% less.

- Average field size is down from 10.44 in FY13 to 10.39 in FY14, 0.05 (0.5%) less. Field sizes for the week were 0.81 up on the same week last season.
- The number of races with less than 8 starters is 21 higher than a season ago.
- Decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 6.5%) has been partly mitigated by an increase in FOB turnover (up 7.1%).
- Export turnover per race to 27 October is down (18.3%). One of the contributors to this is the variance in the \$NZ/\$A exchange rate.

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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