

### Group 1 ratings

The Christmas and New Year period is always a hectic time for participants and followers. It is hard to believe that it is now five weeks since **Sanzzytavi** edged **La Crique** in a terrific renewal of the Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic on Boxing Day. Then it was onto a stunning **Grail Seeker** performance in the TAB Telegraph. **Provence** had a timely change of luck in a competitive Harcourts Thorndon Mile. And last Saturday we were treated to an enthralling match-up and contest in the Sistema Railway between last season's gun 3yo **Crocetti** and the electric filly **Alabama Lass**.

Re-ratings of our best races always draw discussion, so it is a good time to take stock of our domestic re-ratings of our elite races so far this season.

#### **Westbury Stud Tarzino Trophy**

Grail Seeker	100
Faraglioni	98
Sacred Satono	98

#### **Arrowfield Stud Plate**

One Bold Cat	103
Skew Wiff	102
Matscot	96

#### **Livamol Classic**

Sanzzytavi	104
Hi Yo Sass Bomb	98
No Compromise	102

#### **TAB Mufhasa Classic (Captain Cook)**

Ladies Man	110
La Crique	109
Perfect Scenario	107

#### **Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic**

Sanzzytavi	111
La Crique	110
El Vencedor	107

#### **TAB Telegraph**

Grail Seeker	106
Sacred Satono	100
Navigator	97

#### **Harcourts Thorndon Mile**

Provence	100
Qali Al Farasha	98
Town Cryer	102

#### **Sistema Railway**

Crocetti	108
Alabama Lass	97
Luberon	97

Well done to all those fortunate enough to have had a part in the list above.

Our focus now moves Legends Day at Te Rapa - the BCD Waikato Sprint is shaping as one for the ages. The pre-eminent sprinting star **Grail Seeker** against the boom 3yo colt **Savaglee**, with the highly touted Australian 3yo raider **Bosustow** thrown into the mix for good measure. And not understating the time-honored Herbie Dyke Stakes featuring New Zealand's highest rated horse in training, **Snazzytavi**.

### Top weights

**Perfect Scenario's** 60kg impost last week proved too much in the Speights Timaru Stakes (Listed), but did stir some queries pre-race that he should have been assigned a higher weight.

This is an appropriate juncture to reiterate and clarify the handicapping team's process and approach to assigning the top weight in Listed and Group 3 handicaps.

In simple terms, we need to see a horse prove its weight carrying capabilities in black-type races before increasing the weight. For example, **Belardo Boy** carried 59kgs to win the Sinclair Electrical Opunake Cup (Listed) last July and then moved to 60kgs in the Winning Edge Winter Cup (Group 3). Similarly, **Aljay** carried 59kgs to win the Sothys Spring Classic (Listed), subsequently moving to 60kgs for his next black-type assignments.

On recent form both horses would be back down from 60kgs if top weight.

**Perfect Scenario** was assigned 60kgs last Saturday having previously been carried the same weight in the TAB Mile (Formerly Couplands Mile) – same race conditions. The 60kgs was based on having won a Group 3 race with 59kgs previously.