

Thursday 11 December 2014

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Waikato Racing Club has their biggest attendance day of the year on Saturday. The card has drawn large fields with 140 acceptances over 10 races. The highlight on the card, the Group 2 \$100,000 Cal Isuzu Stakes, includes Soriano, Abidewithme, Zonza, Pussy O'Reilly and Postman's Daughter. All have performed at the top. The Group 3 \$100,000 Waikato Times Gold Cup has drawn a quality local field with international form lines. Zennista and Deane Martin have been successful in Australia; their experience is reflected on the weight scale. Zennista has the better recent form line.

The New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of The Year series continues at Awapuni on Saturday. In recent years the \$70,000 Group 3 Lawnmaster Eulogy Stakes has been won by King's Rose, Soriano and Zurella. O'Marilyn will look to add her name to that list after a disappointing effort over the Riccarton Mile.

The Twilight Racing season has begun. I cannot stress enough the importance for trainers to be aware of scratching times. For any meeting scheduled to start after 4.01pm, the final scratching time is 12.30pm. Please check with the National Racing Bureau for more information.

ANONYMOUS RACING INTEGRITY LINE – 0800 RIU 123

The Racing Integrity Unit (RIU) has launched an anonymous 0800 number for the racing industry to report integrity concerns.

Based on the NZ Police Crimestoppers 0800 number, the **0800 RIU 123** Integrity line gathers information volunteered anonymously from industry participants, employees, punters and anyone with an interest in racing with guaranteed anonymity.

The service is run through the Crimestoppers operation. All calls are received by trained call takers. They record the information offered and the intelligence provided is then forwarded on to the RIU for investigation.

As a new service based on anonymity, the integrity line will add to the Racing Integrity Unit's intelligence gathering. "The guarantee of absolute anonymity provides a way for people to feel safe about passing on what they know, so we are likely to receive information we haven't had before and from people who in other circumstances would not normally come forward" says Neil Grimstone, Manager of Integrity Assurance for the Racing Integrity Unit.

There is no visibility or record of the phone number the call is being made from, so it cannot be traced back. However the caller is given the opportunity to leave contact details if they wish to be contacted further about the concerns they raise.

MCDONALD TAKES THIRD PLACE IN LONGINES INTERNATIONAL JOCKEYS' CHAMPIONSHIP IN HONG KONG

James McDonald got his evening and the competition off to a flying start when winning the first leg (of four) of the LONGINES IJC on well fancied Expectator, from Joao Moreira aboard Golden Scalpel, with Zac Purton in third place on Win It.

McDonald had Expectator in the perfect spot three off the pace set by S'Manga Khumalo and Jade Pippo, and when he delivered the horse off the final turn the issue was never in doubt. "I was very confident throughout the race. I knew that I was riding the best horse in the race, and I was in the right spot to use him. It was a good start to the evening."

Japan's Yuichi Fukunaga joined McDonald at the head of affairs when taking the second leg of the Championship in the 1,000m sprint on the Almond Lee-trained Ocean Roar, while local jockey Vincent Ho opened his account with a second place finish for six points aboard Excel Oneself. Hong Kong's current leading rider Joao Moreira added to his tally with a third place finish on the Caspar Fownes-trained Family Interests.

Thus, at the half way stage McDonald and Fukunaga were tied on 12 points, with Moreira in third with 10 points.

Yuichi Fukunaga put his hands on the victor's trophy when riding his second winner of the night, taking the third leg on the Tony Millard trained Vara Pearl with a well-judged ride.

Going into the final leg Fukunaga led on 24 points with only Joao Moreira on 16 points from three placed efforts able to catch him, with first leg winner McDonald on 12 points needing a win to tie. No one else was close enough to claim the crown.

In the final leg Fukunaga was unable to add to his tally on Wah May Baby, while McDonald's second place finish with Sempiternal took his score to 18, with Moreira - despite scoring points in all four legs - finishing runner-up on 20, still short of Fukunaga's winning total of 24.

It was Japan's night as Yuichi Fukunaga, twice the Champion Jockey in Japan, became the second Japanese jockey to win the LONGINES IJC, following Yutaka Take who tied with Christophe Soumillon to win the contest in 2004.

TIES LAUNCHES VIDEO FOR RETIRED THOROUGHBREDS

NZTR has launched a video on [youtube](#), [facebook](#) and its [website http://www.nzracing.co.nz/News/14840/TIES-Launches-Video-for-Retired-Thoroughbreds.aspx](http://www.nzracing.co.nz/News/14840/TIES-Launches-Video-for-Retired-Thoroughbreds.aspx) , promoting Thoroughbreds who have finished their racing careers and are looking for new homes/second careers. It will also be featured on Trackside TV and on Country TV.

There are currently over 60 people from equestrian sports registered on Equestrian Sports New Zealand's database interested in receiving information about retired Thoroughbreds.

Owners and Trainers are asked to provide information about their horse (preferably with a photo) and the location of the horse to Nicky McBride at nicky@nzquestrian.org.nz at ESNZ. These details will be sent out to the ESNZ database and they are asked to contact Owners and Trainers directly for more information and possible viewing.

FULL TIME FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT - WELLINGTON BASED

NZTR is seeking a Financial Accountant to work as part of the NZTR Finance Team. Areas of responsibility will include:

- Assist Finance Manager with preparation of monthly cost centre reports and participate in monthly review with relevant cost centre managers
- Prepare month end and, as required, financial reporting for the Finance Manager
- Assist Finance Manager with the annual NZTR budget and with code funding model
- Be the primary contact and co-ordinate all NZTR audits
- Oversee financial management of other NZTR entities
- Deliver accurate and timely input of all transactions on NZTR's and other entities bank statements into the finance system

Candidates must have 3-5 years and a relevant tertiary qualification with experience in a Junior or Intermediate Accountants role, with strong interpersonal communication skills, both written and verbal. It involves AP, AR, Bank reconciliations, preparation of trial balances through to GAAP compliant financial reports.

Applications close on Thursday 18th December 2014. Applications to be sent to natasha.freeman@nzracing.co.nz

For a full copy of the position description please visit our website www.nzracing.co.nz or for further information about the role please email natasha.freeman@nzracing.co.nz or phone 04 576 6263.

WINGATUI WILD WEST HOEDOWN WITH MORE FM

Two Hoedown dinners are being staged at Wingatui on Friday, December 12th and Saturday, December 13th. These events, hosted by Damian from More FM, have limited tickets remaining. Tickets are \$75 each and include a feast from Spitroast, complimentary drink on arrival, live music from Tempo, Bucky the bucking bull and a few saloon girls. To book call the Otago Racing Club on (03) 489 6233.

CHRISTMAS AT THE RACES DATES/VENUES 2014

Date	Club	Race Course
Friday, 12 December 2014	Racing Tauranga	Gate Pa
Saturday, 13 December 2014	Manawatu RC	Awapuni

Saturday, 13 December 2014	Waikato RC	Te Rapa
Saturday, 13 December 2014	Southland RC	Invercargill
Sunday, 14 December 2014	Auckland RC	Ellerslie
Wednesday, 17 December 2014	Matamata RC	Matamata
Thursday, 18 December 2014	Levin RC	Otaki
Friday, 19 December 2014	Ashburton RC	Ashburton
Saturday, 20 December 2014	Manawatu RC	Awapuni
Saturday, 20 December 2014	Waikato RC	Te Rapa
Sunday, 21 December 2014	Tapanui RC @ Gore	Gore
Monday, 22 December 2014	Taranaki TRI	Pukekura Raceway

NZTR 2015-17 BUSINESS PLAN & NZTR 2014 PERFORMANCE REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 2015-2017 NZTR Business Plan and 2014 NZTR Performance Report are available on the NZTR website at <http://www.nzracing.co.nz/NZTR/Resources/NZTR-Publications.aspx>

TURNOVER INFORMATION

Date	Club	On-Course (Tote & FOB combined)		Totalisator (Off & on-course combined)		Fixed Odds (Off & on-course)		Races		Starters	
		14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14
3-Dec	Avondale	62,162	56,198	770,447	723,710	339,170	266,149	8	8	88	88
4-Dec	Taranaki	73,301	20,126	844,430	20,126	355,697	-	8	-	103	-
5-Dec	Canterbury	73,058	67,148	738,183	684,526	304,774	235,718	9	8	94	80
6-Dec	Wellington	363,478	276,748	2,384,448	1,918,824	959,898	594,957	11	10	143	108
6-Dec	Auckland	180,282	181,422	1,401,591	1,410,767	690,428	453,259	9	9	89	93
7-Dec	Waipukurau	114,220	128,672	801,936	799,331	301,972	252,615	8	8	89	84

NZ Thoroughbred Summary FY15	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance + / ()	Variance + % / (%)
Meetings	115	122	(7)	(5.74%)
Races	979	1,018	(39)	(3.83%)
Total Starts	10,602	10,840	(238)	(2.20%)
Avg Field Size	10.83	10.65	+0.18	+1.70%
Number of races less than 8 starters	116	147	(31)	(21.09%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	145,031,406	139,808,052	+5,223,355	+3.74%
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	11,876,398	11,939,181	(62,783)	(0.53%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	156,907,804	151,747,232	+5,160,572	+3.40%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	114,183,763	117,273,612	(3,089,849)	(2.63%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	42,724,041	34,473,605	+8,250,436	+23.93%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	160,274	149,064	+11,209	+7.52%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,800	13,999	+801	+5.72%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	611,499,803	546,696,090	+64,803,713	+11.85%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	124,098,536	97,402,602	+26,695,933	+27.41%
Total NZRB Turnover	735,598,339	644,098,693	+91,499,646	+14.21%

NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 30 Nov)	117,883,961	116,399,947	+1,484,014	+1.27%
Total Races (to 30 Nov)	926	966	(40)	(4.14%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	127,304	120,497	+6,808	+5.65%

Meeting details:

- Avondale JC Wednesday meeting equivalent was run by Counties RC at Pukekohe last season.
- Taranaki TRI Thursday meeting ran 8 races. This meeting was abandoned due to rain and the state of the track in FY14.
- Canterbury Racing Friday meeting ran 9 races this season, 8 races last season.
- Wellington RC Saturday meeting ran 11 races in FY15, 10 races in FY14.

Turnover summary notes:

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is up 3.4% year to date.
- 7 less meetings and 39 less races have been run than to the same date last season.
- Turnover per race is up 7.5%.
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are down 238, 2.2% less.
- Average field size is 10.83 in FY15, up from 10.65 in FY14.

- The number of races with less than 8 starters is 31 less than the season prior (116 v 147).
- The decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 2.6%) has been offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 23.9%).
- Export turnover per race (\$NZ) is up 5.7% to 23 November.

Note: Turnovers are provided by the NZRB from various reports. On-course is totalisator turnover on the meeting and on intertrack meetings, plus FOB racing turnover on the meeting only (FOB intertrack is not provided from these reports at present). Total NZRB racing turnover is NZ thoroughbred, harness, greyhound plus all imported thoroughbred, harness and greyhound turnover; combined with sports this provides the total NZRB turnover. NZ thoroughbred export turnovers are stated in \$NZ, generally up to a week or two behind other turnover numbers.



PUNCHESTOWN FESTIVAL RACING TOUR

April 24 to May 4, 2015

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FLIGHT CENTRE
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Info & Bookings: Travel Broker: Tracey Stephens
 Email: tracey.stephens.nz@flightcentre.co.nz
 Telephone: 027 6053506