

Thursday 16 October 2014

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

The \$70,000 Group Three Lion Red Plate has produced another quality event at Arawa Park. The sprint features proven runners Spin doctor, Antonio Lombardo, Survived and Fix. Survived has drawn barrier one and will look to recapture the form that saw him victorious in last year's Group One Makfi Challenge Stakes. Also the \$50,000 Agrodome Rotorua Plate is on the card. Soriano has been allocated the top weight of 59kg. A stiff task, however the mare is proven at the elite grades and will look to further her summer feature race claims.

The \$3,000,000 Caulfield Cup is on Saturday, New Zealand-bred stars such as Might And Power, Sky Heights and Ethereal have claimed the Group One quality Handicap. It is considered Australasia's toughest race and has an international profile with six countries represented by breeding. Japan will look to restore national pride after a disappointing effort in the Qatar Prix De Arc De Triomphe in France with legitimate contenders Admire Rakti and Bande. However ex-patriot Lucia Valentina controls the betting currently at \$4.40 after her resounding Turnbull success. Who shot Thebarman and Rising Romance are paying \$13 respectively and will look to continue New Zealand's success in the event. New Zealand bred Brambles is currently \$26.

Ashburton Racing Club has attracted a number of runners across the country and features the \$50,000 Listed Ray Couplands Stakes. The local runner Elusive Catch will look to ward off Northern challengers for owner and All Blacks coach Steve Hansen. The meeting has attracted 122 acceptances across nine races.

NEW ZEALAND RACING BOARD POSTS NET PROFIT INCREASE

The New Zealand Racing Board has today announced a Net Profit increase of \$137.0 million for the financial year ending 31 July 2014.

NZRB Chief Executive Officer (Acting) Stewart McRobie says it has been a mixed year for the NZ Racing Board, but the core business is strong, underpinned by solid year on year growth. "The NZ Racing Board achieved record breaking turnover results surpassing the \$2 billion mark for the first time in the organisation's history. This was on the back of a highly successful Football World Cup tournament that was the TAB's biggest ever betting event with turnover of \$32.3m. Year on year we achieved growth in Betting and Gaming turnover of 6.8% and 6.5% respectively. Turnover growth from domestic customers is running over three times higher than the compound average of the last four years – a long term negative trend that is beginning to reverse."

Mr McRobie says rising Operating Expenses and other factors have meant that while Net Profit was marginally above the prior year result, and a record, it did not meet budget. "Some very positive improvements have been offset by the significant appreciation of the New Zealand dollar against the Australian dollar. Our key initiative projects – broadcasting and the mobile app have also cost more and taken longer to execute, but we expect to see benefits from these projects come through in future results," says Mr McRobie.

The three Racing Codes – New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, Harness Racing New Zealand and Greyhound Racing New Zealand – and the racing industry, received \$137.4 million from NZRB's operations, while \$5.0 million was paid or provided for distribution to National Sporting Organisations, and a record \$2.3 million to other sporting bodies from gaming activities.

	2013/14	2012/13 ¹	% change
Turnover	\$2.088b	\$1.957b	+6.7%
Net profit	\$137.0m	\$136.7m	+0.2%
Total Group distribution made from current year profit	\$137.4m	\$134.9m	+1.8%

Note: All figures comprise TAB betting and Class 4 gaming

The audited financial statements have been completed. The 2013/14 results exclude the gain realised from the sale of the NZ Racing Board Head Office in Petone, as this transaction was completed early in the 2014/15 financial year.

The NZ Racing Board's Statement of Intent is available on the NZ Racing Board website. The annual report, including the financial statements, will be available at the Annual General Meeting on November 24, 2014.

PUNTERS TO GET ACCESS TO MASSIVE HONG KONG POOLS

From yesterday Kiwi racing punters could bet into Hong Kong's multimillion dollar pools following an agreement between the TAB and the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

New Zealand Racing Board Wagering Consultant Martin Saunders says the TAB has joined a select group of international agencies approved to commingle into Hong Kong pools. "Our intention has always been to give our customers in New Zealand the opportunity to bet into 'native', or home field, pools and this allows us to do that. We'll be commingling into win, place and quinella pools initially, then into other pools including trifecta from next year and, in time, the huge dividend-bearing Triple Trio. Most importantly, it will reduce the volatility that can occur in smaller pools, skewing win and place dividends. Longer term, the goal is to have Hong Kong customers betting into New Zealand, which will be a real boost to liquidity of our domestic pools."

The arrangement with Hong Kong follows a taxation law change by the region's Legislative Council allowing commingling with overseas operators.

The TAB will be commingling directly into Hong Kong via a hub arrangement with international partner Tabcorp. In addition, the TAB will commingle First4 and Quaddie pools on Hong Kong racing directly with Tabcorp.

REMINDER OF AMENDMENTS TO RULE 652 – PREGNANT MARE OR FILLY RACING

Trainers are reminded of the requirement under Rule 652 (amended on 1 August 2014) to notify Stewards of a filly or mare, under their care, which has been served by a stallion. This is done either through the Trainers Service Centre by entering it in the Gear Requests section, selecting '*Served*' and entering the date in the comments field report, or through the National Racing Bureau (details below). This must be done within 7 days of that service.

Trainers are also required to report the outcome of a 42-day pregnancy test within seven days of the results of that test. If the test is positive select '*In Foal*' and enter the last date of service in the comments field report or if the test is negative select '*Not In Foal*'.

If a pregnant filly or mare subsequently slips or is otherwise found not to be pregnant the Trainer is required to report this by selecting '*Not In Foal*' and entering the date in the comments field report before the horse may participate in any Race or trial or jump out.

Trainers not using the Trainers' Service Centre can contact the National Racing Bureau on 0508 RACING (722 464) or nrb@nzracing.co.nz or the studbook department on: (04) 576 6240 Option 3 or studbook@nzracing.co.nz

These amendments aim to improve compliance of Rule 652 and increase information to bettors, taking into account a filly's or mare's potential change of racing performance (better or worse) when in foal.

SUMMER FUN AT THE RACES MAGAZINE

The Summer Fun at the Races magazine will be distributed as a lift-out in the Sunday Star Times this Sunday in South Island and the following Sunday, 26 October, in the North Island. The magazine is available online by clicking the following link: www.oliverlee.co.nz/horseracing2014

APPLICATIONS TO CLOSE FOR YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD – SPONSORED BY VALACHI DOWNS STUD

Applications close on 31 October, 2014 for the Valachi Downs Stud Young Achiever Award. Due to the generous sponsorship of Valachi Downs Stud the annual award of \$15,000 will be available to assist an individual (under the age of 35 years) in their career in the equine industry. Applications will be accepted from, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

- A post-graduate, masters or honours student undertaking study or research in an area of equine science
- An individual pursuing any specialized equine study or course (including farriery)
- An individual committed to embarking on a career in the equine industry
- An individual already contributing to the equine industry who wishes to further their career

Applicants will be expected to show evidence of both their commitment to the equine industry and their other attributes that would make them appropriate recipients of this Valachi Downs Stud Young Achiever Award. Applications are to be made on the Valachi Downs Stud Young Achiever Award application form available from the NZERF Office or from the NZERF website.

MAJOR TRACK UPGRADE AT THE COUNTIES RACING CLUB'S PUKEKOHE PARK

A major track upgrade is scheduled to begin at the Counties Racing Club's Pukekohe Park track in mid-December.

Racing will cease at Pukekohe Park after the trial meeting scheduled for December 8th and the extensive drainage work and track reconstruction will take place over the summer months. "The plan is to lay new drains and take the undulations out of the front and back straights to provide a good even surface," Counties Racing Club Chairman Darryl Butson stated at the Club's recent Annual General Meeting. After losing two meetings recently and transferring one already this season we need to make these improvements to our track and by closing down in December we can hopefully have an improved surface to race on in the 2015-16 racing season."

Lateral drains at a 45 degree angle will be placed every five metres around the track and the track will be graded to make the surface even the whole way around. A new irrigation system will be installed and the work should be completed to allow sufficient autumn growth to consolidate the grass.

The work is being done in conjunction with New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing who are jointly funding the operation with the Counties Racing Club.

The remaining seven meetings originally scheduled for Counties for the 2014-2015 season will be transferred to other Clubs in the Northern Region.

48TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS NOW AVAILABLE ON IFHAONLINE.ORG

Presentations and video replays from the 48th International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) Conference held in Paris are now available at ifhaonline.org.

Dinny Phipps, chairman of The US Jockey Club, was the keynote speaker restating The Jockey Club's call for medication reform in North America. The conference also featured two primary sessions, 'Racetrack Surfaces and Safety', and 'Building a Successful Social Media Strategy'.

The 48th conference also gave a synopsis of the recently concluded International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians (ICRAV) and the IFHA's ongoing collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to facilitate international horse movement. An update was delivered on the upcoming 2015 Pan-American Conference to be held in New York.

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) is the world peak body for Thoroughbred racing. The IFHA's activities include making and amending the International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering (the IABRW); policy development relating to welfare and safety of horses and riders; International Race Planning and Grading ("black type"), World Rankings; and harmonisation of Rules

2014 NZTR PERFORMANCE REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 2014 NZTR Performance Report, which records NZTR's performance against the 44 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the 2014-2016 NZTR Business Plan, is available on the NZTR website (together with the 2012 and 2013 Performance Reports) at <http://www.nzracing.co.nz/NZTR/Resources/NZTR-Publications.aspx>

NZTR's Business Plan 2015-17, which sets out key improvement strategies for New Zealand thoroughbred racing over the next three years focusing on the 2014-15 season will be published shortly. This is required to be approved by the NZ Racing Board before publication.

TAB ROLLING OUT EARLY QUADDIES

The TAB is rolling out early quaddies this month (in addition to existing quaddies). Each of the 28 NZ Thoroughbred meetings in October will have a \$40,000 Early Quaddie and a \$60,000 Quaddie.

RACING CLUB CONFERENCE/AGM

The annual Racing Club Conference and NZTR AGM will be held from 10.30am on 6 November 2014 at Room 4, Shed 6, Queen's Wharf, Wellington.

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
8-Oct	Taupo	40,346	35,324	776,438	814,183	308,903	349,328	8	9	88	103
9-Oct	Wairarapa	47,169	36,006	703,153	659,093	233,134	247,406	9	8	90	85
10-Oct	South Canterbury	40,024	19,111	676,303	439,370	239,846	152,852	9	7	100	68

11-Oct	Egmont	164,032	86,501	1,550,096	1,383,033	557,819	347,747	9	9	126	104
11-Oct	Matamata	121,583	87,655	1,404,164	1,229,732	482,012	343,666	9	9	104	99
12-Oct	Winton	50,444	48,193	601,401	675,615	202,570	213,020	10	10	99	103

NZ Thoroughbred Summary FY15	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance + / ()	Variance + % / (%)
Meetings	63	67	(4)	(5.97%)
Races	524	537	(13)	(2.42%)
Total Starts	5,366	5,448	(82)	(1.51%)
Avg Field Size	10.24	10.15	+0.10	+0.94%
Number of races less than 8 starters	83	99	(16)	(16.16%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	71,557,080	68,684,476	+2,872,604	+4.18%
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	4,837,910	4,653,615	+184,295	+3.96%
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	76,394,990	73,338,092	+3,056,899	+4.17%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	55,783,829	57,344,948	(1,561,119)	(2.72%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	20,611,161	15,993,129	+4,618,033	+28.88%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	145,792	136,570	+9,222	+6.75%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,237	13,461	+775	+5.76%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	311,326,531	280,121,222	+31,205,309	+11.14%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	72,361,075	54,284,348	+18,076,727	+33.30%
Total NZRB Turnover	383,687,607	334,405,571	+49,282,036	+14.74%

NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 5 Oct)	55,711,601	52,979,631	+2,731,970	+5.16%
Total Races (to 5 Oct)	470	474	(4)	(0.84%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	118,535	111,771	+6,764	+6.05%

Meeting details:

1. Racing Taupo Wednesday meeting ran 8 races this season, 9 races last season.
2. Wairarapa RC Thursday meeting ran 9 races in FY15, 8 in FY14.
3. South Canterbury RC Friday meeting ran 9 races this season, 7 races last.

Turnover summary notes:

1. Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is up 4.1% year to date.
2. 4 less meetings and 13 less races have been run than to the same date last season.
3. Turnover per race is up 6.8%.

4. Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are down 71, 1.5% less.
5. Average field size is 10.24 in FY15, up from 10.15 in FY14.
6. The number of races with less than 8 starters is 16 less than the season prior (83 v 99).
7. The decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 2.7%) has been offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 28.9%).
8. Export turnover per race (\$NZ) is up 6.0% to 5 October.

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.