



Tuesday 11 December 2012

NZ Bred Ambitious Dragon Wins Hong Kong Mile at Sha Tin

Ambitious Dragon (Pins x Golden Gamble 6YO gelding) continued the run of New Zealand-bred horses to win the prestigious Hong Kong Mile with success at the International meeting at Sha Tin on Sunday night.

Ambitious Dragon has twice been the Hong Kong horse of the year. In this year's race he headed home rival New Zealand-bred Glorious Days (Hussonet x San Century 5YO gelding).

Ambitious Dragon has won 12 of 23 starts and \$HK52,991,600 (\$NZ8.2 million) in stakes.

Other New Zealand winners of this race have been Sunline (by Desert Sun), Lucky Owners (by Danehill), Beauty Flash (by Golan) and Able One (by Cape Cross) last year.

Two other New Zealand-breds, Solar Great (by Falkirk), and Real Specialist (by Storming Home), also won at Sha Tin on Sunday.

Further NZ Bred Group 1 Success in South Africa

Exciting filly Rumya (Red Ransom x Sayuri San (Aus) 3YO filly) kept her winning record intact when she stormed to victory in the Group One Avontuur Estate Cape Fillies Guineas (1600m) at Kenilworth in South Africa on Saturday. Having just her fourth run the filly added a second Group One to her record as she had earlier won the Durban Golden Slipper (1400m) as a two-year-old in July of this year.

Rumya was bred and is raced by Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, having been raised at Brighthill Farm.

NZ Racing Board AGM - Solid Year Delivers Results for the Racing Industry

The New Zealand Racing Board has announced a final distribution of \$133 million to the country's racing industry in 2011/12.

The distribution from the TAB betting operation to the three Racing Codes – New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, Harness Racing New Zealand and Greyhound Racing New Zealand – was \$3 million more than forecast and \$5 million more than in 2010/11, with betting turnover on racing and sport exceeding \$1.6 billion for the first time.

Speaking at the NZ Racing Board's Annual General Meeting and presentation of the 2012 Annual Report in Wellington today, Dr Jackson said the results were strong despite challenging circumstances in 2011/12.

Uncertainty continued to influence economic conditions, though the NZ Racing Board had successfully countered this by delivering new betting products and opportunities domestically and internationally. In addition, efficiencies had been implemented throughout the business to maximise returns to racing industry stakeholders.

Dr Jackson said underlying trends being experienced by the business necessitated the need for new thinking to grow and sustain returns to an industry that contributes approximately 1% to gross domestic product.

"The overall shift in our betting mix has continued with Fixed Odds Betting on racing and sport growing in popularity in place of the Tote.

“In racing we are seeing convergence in turnover share between domestic and import product, while sport continues to grow in popularity.”

This popularity was highlighted by the success of the Rugby World Cup 2011 campaign, with TAB betting turnover on the tournament exceeding \$30 million and making RWC 2011 the TAB's biggest ever betting event.

Levies paid to National Sporting Organisations on whose sports the TAB takes bets (calculated as a percentage of turnover and profit) hit \$4 million in 2011/12, up \$1 million on the previous year.

Financial Highlights 2011/12

	2010/11	2011/12
Betting turnover	\$1.533 billion	\$1.622 billion
Net dividends	\$1.261 billion	\$1.336 billion
Surplus (before industry expenditure and distributions)	\$124 million	\$127 million
Distribution from betting operation	\$128 million	\$133 million
Net proceeds from NZRB Class 4 gaming	-	\$6 million
TOTAL FUNDING	\$128 million	\$139 million

Full information and financial statements can be found in the NZ Racing Board's 2012 Annual Report, available online at: www.nzracingboard.co.nz.

Presentations from the NZ Racing Board's AGM and the Minister for Racing's Regional Roadshow were filmed for subsequent broadcast on Trackside. The remaining screenings are as follows:

NZ Racing Board AGM

(Dr Alan Jackson, Peter V'Landys and Chris Bayliss)
Trackside - Sky Channel 36 and Freeview Channel 11
Wednesday 12 December at 12.30 am

Minister's Regional Roadshow

(Minister for Racing, Dr Alan Jackson and Chris Bayliss)
Trackside - Sky Channel 36 and Freeview Channel 11
Wednesday 12 December at 2 am

TAB Initiatives

TABCorp are now betting into **NZ Trifecta** pools. This is in addition to the Win, Place, Quinella and First4 pools that have been co-mingled for some time. NOTE this only applies to NZ races. NZ are not betting into the Australian Trifecta's.

For the thoroughbred code there will be an additional **Holiday Season Pick6** on the Ellerslie meeting on Tuesday 1 January 2013.

\$75,000 Bonus Money into Place6 pools this Weekend

In a weekend full of features, each New Zealand meeting will have at least \$5,000 injected into its Place6 pool. Each day's major meeting will have the Bonus raised to \$10,000.

The list of Place6 Bonus meetings for thoroughbreds:

Saturday 15 December

Waikato RC	Waikato Cup Day	\$10,000 Bonus Place6
Manawatu RC	Eulogy Stakes Day	\$5,000 Bonus Place6
Southland RC		\$5,000 Bonus Place6

Sunday 16 December

Auckland RC	Mad Butcher Champs Day	\$10,000 Bonus Place6
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Christmas at the Races – Biggest Week Yet !!

Several Racing Clubs are set to host the biggest Christmas at the Races weekend yet! There's Group racing, visits from Santa (and picks from Santa), big screens and hopefully lots of sunshine. Christmas at the Races events include:

Hastings	13 December	(Twilight – new Christmas at the Races event)
Tauranga	14 December	(one of the biggest parties in the bay)
Awapuni	15 December	(featuring the Ezibuy Eulogy Stakes)
Te Rapa	15 December	(featuring the Waikato Times Gold Cup)
Ascot Park	15 December	(Club preparing to host one of the biggest on-course crowds in the country)

Visit theraces.co.nz for details.

Australia's Marcus Oldham Equine Sports Scholarship

Australia's outstanding Equine Management course is delivered at Marcus Oldham at Geelong near Melbourne.

On offer for study in 2013 is the AUD\$10,000 Marcus Oldham Equine Sports scholarship for ambitious and determined students who want to start their career with the one-year Diploma of Horse Business management.

You will gain skills in business management, equine science, training and handling, horse husbandry, breeding and much more; you'll enjoy study tours in Australia and New Zealand, a strong industry network and alumni in both countries, and excellent employment opportunities.

Applications close Friday 4 January 2013. Course commences Monday 4 February 2013.

Information on the course and how to apply for the scholarship on www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au.

2012 New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Annual

The Perfect Christmas Present for any Racing Enthusiast

This is a must read for thoroughbred racing enthusiasts of all generations, an opportunity to reflect on the past season and experience the excitement and glamour of the New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing industry. With detailed profiles on equine champions the length and breadth of the country, and the people behind them, the New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Annual is the perfect Christmas gift for anyone interested in racing.

Continuing in the vein of Annuals past, the 41st Edition recaps on all the highlights of the 2011/2012 season and includes features on:

- New Zealand Horse of the Year Mufhasa (NZ)
- Star Kiwi three-year-old Silent Achiever (NZ)
- Top class sprinters Guiseppina (NZ) and Atomic Force
- Champion 2YO Warhorse (NZ)
- Weight-for-age stars Jimmy Choux (NZ), Veyron (NZ) and Shez Sinsational (NZ)
- International high-flyers So You Think (NZ), Super Easy (NZ), Fay Fay (NZ) and Little Bridge (NZ)
- In depth profile on the Raffles Farm team of Sacred Falls (NZ) fame
- A tribute to Black Caviar
- And much, much more....

Purchase the Racing Annual online at <http://www.nztm.co.nz/Racing-Annual> or send a cheque for \$45.50 to New Zealand Thoroughbred Marketing, PO Box 20580, Hamilton 3241

Feature Race Nominations and Withdrawals Information

Wellington RC

Wednesday 12 December – 1st withdrawals and 1st late noms Pacific Jewellers Wellington Cup

Turnover Information for the Period ending 9 December 2012

Date	Club	On-Course		Off-Course		Fixed Odds		Starters	
								12-13	11-12
3/12	Waikato (1)	3,178		48,769		37,365		8	
5/12	Counties (2)	22,150		150,928		40,797		21	
6/12	Taranaki (3)	83,673		690,484		211,483		89	
7/12	Canterbury (4)	23,772		87,672		22,854		12	
8/12	Wellington	270,241	0.2%	1,502,201	17.6%	519,350	24.9%	93	27.9%
8/12	Auckland (5)	180,807	2.6%	1,498,490	6.2%	470,543	51.9%	128	23.1%
9/12	Waipukurau (6)	137,473	5.7%	700,218	16.5%	273,576	42.7%	87	14.7%

- (1) Waikato RC; no equivalent meeting last year; this year's meeting was held at Paeroa, where the meeting was abandoned after 1 race due to slippery track conditions.
- (2) Counties RC; the meeting was abandoned after 2 races due to slippery track conditions.
- (3) Taranaki TR; last year this was a Racing Rotorua meeting at which there were 9 races. There were 9 races this year.
- (4) Canterbury Racing; last year this was an Ashburton RC meeting at which there were 9 races; this year the meeting was abandoned after the scheduled second race due to slippery track conditions.
- (5) Auckland RC; last year there were 10 races, compared with 11 races this year.
- (6) Waipukurau JC; last year there were 9 races, compared with 8 races this year.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(-%)
Races	1,058	1,085	(27)	(2.49%)
Starters	11,215	11,435	(220)	(1.92%)
Avg Field Size	10.60	10.54	+0.06	+0.58%
Off-Course Turnover	113,496,679	117,326,055	(3,829,376)	(3.26%)
On-Course Turnover	10,989,224	12,815,736	(1,826,512)	(14.25%)
Total Totalisator Turnover	124,485,903	130,141,791	(5,655,888)	(4.35%)
Fixed Odds	32,345,669	22,004,257	+10,341,412	+47.00%
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	156,831,572	152,146,048	+4,685,524	+3.08%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	148,234	140,227	+8,007	+5.71%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,984	13,305	+679	+5.10%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	555,026,686	484,085,233	+70,941,453	+14.65%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	88,547,577	94,177,852	(5,630,275)	(5.98%)
Total NZRB Turnover	643,574,263	578,263,085	+65,311,178	+11.29%

The largest betting race for the week was the Group 1 Westbury Stud Captain Cook Classic at Trentham which turned over (tote + final field) \$333k, down 11.4% on last year's edition of the race.

Note: NZRB supplied On-course Turnover total represents On-course turnover placed on NZ thoroughbred meetings from all on-course venues. 'Total' NZ Thoroughbred turnover figure includes Off-course (including Pick 6), On-course (NZRB figure as commented above) and all Fixed Odds Turnover. All Turnover figures are supplied by the NZRB.

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