



Tuesday 28 February 2012

Avondale JC Licences

The New Zealand Racing Board has confirmed the allocation of four midweek Northern Region licences to Avondale Jockey Club for the 2011-12 season. NZTR is also supporting Avondale being allocated 8 midweek licences in the 2012-13 season.

NZTR is actively working with the Avondale Jockey Club and the Auckland Regional Clubs to develop a long term strategy for racing in the wider Auckland region beyond 2013.

Licences approved for the 2011-12 Season:

- Wednesday 25 April 2012 (Anzac Day) Avondale JC
- Wednesday 2 May 2012 Avondale JC
- Wednesday 23 May 2012 Avondale JC
- Monday 23 July 2012 Avondale JC
- Saturday 30 June 2012 Whangarei RC

Final Field Place Betting

Final Field Place betting will operate as a trial across all races at Ellerslie on Derby Day and Cup Day.

If the trial is successful Final Field Place betting will operate on all New Zealand races from Saturday 10 March.

Auckland Racing Club Announces New Partnership with Haunui Farm

The Auckland Racing Club has announced a four year partnership agreement with Auckland's Haunui Farm, which will take naming rights to the Group 1 \$200,000 Diamond Stakes (1200m).

Auckland Cup Week's traditional two-year-old race will be known as the Haunui Farm Diamond Stakes.

Auckland Racing Club Chief Executive Chris Weaver said he was "excited to welcome Haunui Farm to Ellerslie's stable of sponsors. Haunui Farm is an Auckland breeding institution and so there is a wonderful link with the region's finest racing venue."

With more than fifty years of breeding and racing success, Haunui Farm's General Manager Mark Chitty said that "we have been looking to get involved with the Auckland Racing Club for quite some time and it has just been a matter of finding the right race. We have had a strong association with the Club in the past and it is nice to renew this. Haunui now sponsors two major Group 1 races on the New Zealand racing calendar and to be involved in Auckland Cup Week is certainly an exciting new development for us."

The Haunui Farm Diamond Stakes has constantly been among the highest-rated two-year-old races in the country with previous winners including 2007/08 Champion New Zealand 3YO, Alamosa; 2009/10 Champion New Zealand 2YO, Banchee; and 2010/11 Champion New Zealand two-year-old, Anabandana. This year's race is set to be run on the third and final day of Auckland Cup Week at Ellerslie – Diamond Day, on Saturday 10 March 2012.

150 Years of Racing at Cromwell, Sunday 4 March

This Sunday's race meeting at Cromwell is not expected to be an ordinary affair, not that any race day at Cromwell can ever be described as that! In fact, a special gala occasion is planned this Sunday where the historic landmark of 150 years of racing will be celebrated.

Racing commenced at the Roundhill Racecourse at Cromwell during the heady days of the gold rush in 1862 and as a local community pastime, a day at the races remains as popular as ever and if the sun shines, a crowd of 6,000 can be expected to attend.

There are a number of commemorative events and activities planned for the special day.

All the races are named in reflection of races run at the first recorded meetings staged at Cromwell. In addition to the time-honoured Cromwell Cup, sponsored for the first time this year by CLAAS Harvest Centre, there is a Publican's Purse, where local Otago pubs as well as Speights have contributed to the "purse". Other races are the District Handicap, the Hurry Skurry, the Miners and Packers Purse, the Ladies Plate and one that may cause a few eyebrows to lift, the Cromwell Derby. It is a little known historic fact that Cromwell was the first racing club in New Zealand to name a race after the famous English classic. Its revival here is the first running of the race in over fifty years.

Although no results from the original 1862 meeting are known, the race meeting is referred to in the press cuttings from that time. It is known however, that the 1863 racing programme included novel events such as the Cheroot Race where gentlemen, welterweight riders were expected to ride one lap of the course with a cigar lit for the duration of the challenge. There will be no re-enactment of this on Sunday but there will be another throw back to the race days of yesteryear, where human athletic events were also on the agenda. Last year's New Zealand Grand National winner, Kid Columbus, trained by Murray Hamilton at Omakau, will be taking on a team of runners selected by ActiveQT to a challenge handicap race over one lap of the course – Man v Horse. The handicapper has his work cut out in this one!

Another interesting attraction will be the Myers Marketing Country Fayre, a marquee set up on the course with a number of food, wine and other vendors selling locally produced items.

Additionally there will be live music from the Alexandra Pipe Band and My Kinda Country, as well the always entertaining, Fashions-on-the-Field, sponsored by Bella of Wanaka. Lord Money Bags will be running the Punters Club and be looking to continue his impressive run of five successive profitable race meetings.

All kids' entertainment will be free, including magic shows by Jonathon Usher, vertical bungy rides, giant bouncy castles and much more.

A fascinating history of racing at Cromwell has been compiled for the race book and can also be viewed on the Otago Racing Club website.

Gates Open at 10.30 am First race is 12.55 pm.

Travel & Ticket options are available from Alexandra, Wanaka and Queenstown.

For more information, contact:

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Visit: wingatui.co.nz

Approved NZTR Business Plan 2012-14

This NZTR Business Plan, which has been written by the Executive of NZTR with the active involvement of the Board of NZTR, has been approved by the New Zealand Racing Board in accordance with Clause 23 of the Racing Act 2003.

This Plan is part of a programmed delivery of NZTR improvement strategies designed to redefine the parameters and future opportunities for NZTR and its many stakeholders.

The Board of NZTR will deliver regular updates of this living document.

The Classic Royal Ascot Tour

Depart NZ: Friday 16 June

Depart UK: Sunday 26 June

Tour Highlights:

Royal Ascot - Newmarket Races - Warwick Races - National Stud Tour - Racing Museum
Lambourn Training Centre - Cheltenham & Epsom Racecourse Tours - Newmarket Training Centre.

Stable Visits in the Cotswolds, Lambourn, Epsom and Newmarket - Madness Live!

Madness playing live at Newmarket Races.

Private tour restricted to just 10 tour guests.

Hosted by English born & bred, NZ-based Racing Administrator, Andre Klein.

Staying at quality historic hotels in beautiful, carefully selected locations.

Tour Includes:

Flights from NZ to UK Return on Emirates Airlines
Accommodation (Twin Share) & Breakfast
Internal Travel
Tickets to all detailed race meetings & tours
Royal Ascot tickets are Grandstand & Furlong Club

For more information, contact:

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Turnover Information for the Period ending 26 February 2012

Date	Club	On-Course		Off-Course		Fixed Odds		Starters	
								11-12	10-11
22/2	Dargaville	40,427	25.3%	440,859	45.3%	123,977	120.9%	55	5.8%
23/2	Wdvl-Pahiatua (1)	29,380	3.1%	522,352	4.8%	136,937	44.9%	69	13.8%
24/2	Canterbury (2)	34,900		713,835		157,260		109	
25/2	Otaki-Maori (3)	138,817	1.0%	1,128,344	13.0%	283,285	2.9%	84	17.6%
25/2	Matamata	248,489	34.5%	1,460,326	4.8%	328,116	2.1%	95	5.9%
26/2	Counties	47,874	15.9%	651,900	6.4%	147,284	15.8%	83	4.6%

(1) Woodville-Pahiatua RC; 8 races this year, compared to 9 races last year.

(2) Canterbury Racing; meeting last year was not held in the aftermath of the Canterbury earthquake.

(3) Otaki-Maori RC; 9 races this year, compared to 10 races last year.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/-	Variance +%/(-%)
Races	1,813	1,831	(18)	(0.98%)
Starters	19,080	19,497	(417)	(2.14%)
Avg Field Size	10.52	10.65	(0.12)	(1.17%)
Off-Course Turnover	198,439,858	210,523,796	(12,083,938)	(5.74%)
On-Course Turnover	24,110,947	26,816,259	(2,705,312)	(10.09%)
Total Totalisator Turnover	222,550,805	237,340,055	(14,789,250)	(6.23%)
Fixed Odds	40,067,270	36,204,347	+3,862,923	+10.67%
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	262,618,075	273,544,402	(10,926,327)	(3.99%)
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	144,853	149,396	(4,543)	(3.04%)
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,764	14,030	(266)	(1.90%)
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	808,470,812	807,125,124	+1,345,688	+0.17%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	136,221,993	98,838,905	+37,383,089	+37.82%
Total NZRB Turnover	944,692,805	905,964,028	+38,728,777	+4.27%

Racing turnover was up 12.9% (+\$2.76m) for the week, Racing tote was up 8.6% (+\$1.62m) with Domestic tote up 14.5% (+\$1.42m).

Domestic thoroughbreds turnover was up 11.3% (+\$562k) with an extra meeting (Friday Canterbury meeting lost last year as a result of the Canterbury earthquake) and eight more races (+18.2%) with horse starts up 17.3%. The feature of the week (and top betting race) was the Group 1 Haunui Farm Group One WFA Classic on Saturday at Otaki, with turnover (tote and fob) of \$325k which was up 8% on last year (\$301k) having two more starters than last year's edition (+25.0%).

FOB Racing turnover was up 47% (+\$1.14m) last week (up 49% or \$764k domestically), with just 20 more options (+4.8%) available than in the same week last year.

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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