



Friday 10 January 2014

FROM THE HORSES' MOUTH: NZTR CHIEF EXECUTIVE GREG PURCELL

We're off and running in 2014.

I've had the opportunity to attend a number of meetings in the past couple of weeks and I was extremely impressed by the quality of the events put on by the clubs. Big crowds and quality racing has been the hallmark of the start of a busy start to the year, which all bodes well for the rest of the season.

Country clubs nationwide play a hugely important role in racing and it's thanks to the hard work of committed club people that these festive events such a success. Many New Zealanders will attend race meetings this summer - some for the first time - and it's important we give them a great experience to make sure they come back. I'd like to make special acknowledgment of the Thames Jockey Club and President and Secretary Jim McConnell for staging an excellent summer meeting on January 4.

NZTR's Racing Club Partnership Programme has been established to help clubs through a process of self-development and improvement and it's heartening to see such a strong and positive response to this initiative.

And based on what we're seeing nationwide, it's paying dividends.

On that note, it's timely to compare key metrics from the first week of the year with the same period last year.

WEEK ONE	FY14	FY13	VARIANCE
Meetings	13	12	8.3%
Races	108	103	4.9%
Races with less than eight starters	26	27	-3.7%
Average starters	9.6	9.4	2.1%
Totalisator turnover	\$14.8m	\$14.3m	4.0%
FOB turnover	\$4.1m	\$3.6m	14.6%

Across the board things have gotten off to a strong start and our job now is to make sure this continues on throughout the season.

WEIGHTS AND CONDITIONS EARLY ENTRY HANDICAPS

NZTR in consultation with the Regional Programming chairmen and the New Zealand Trainers' Association has determined that should weights for any of the following six early entry races need to be increased at withdrawal time, the handicapper will not re weight these early entry races as is now

provided under Standard Regulation 8.3(a) because the nominations for these races closed prior to the new Standard Regulation being introduced on 13 December.

Weights for the six early entry races will be issued as was provided under the Standard Regulations at the time of entry, with a 59kg minimum topweight.

Should the weights need to be raised at withdrawal time, they will be increased to provide for a 58kg minimum topweight, as was previously required under the Standard regulations, with the weights allocated to the horses comprising the remainder of the field adjusted accordingly at that time. For example, all weights may be raised by 1kg.

This departure from the new Standard Regulation 8.3(a) will apply to the following races:

- the **Barfoot and Thompson Auckland Cup** (Ellerslie, March 5, 2014)
- **J & R Berkett Telegraph Handicap** (Trentham, 18 January 2014)
- **Platinum Homes Wellington Cup** and **Harcourts Thorndon Mile Handicap** (Trentham, 25 January)

TERMINATING THOROUGHBRED PICK6 THIS SATURDAY

The Thoroughbred Pick6 is **Guaranteed to \$100,000 and Terminating** on the last six races of the **Marton Cup Day** meeting at Awapuni Racecourse, Palmerston North.

The reason for the Terminating Pool is that the following week the **\$1 Million Guaranteed Triple Trio** kicks off on the last three races at the Saturday Thoroughbred Premier meeting, which starts with **Telegraph Handicap Day** at Trentham on January 18, followed by **Wellington Cup Day** at Trentham on January 25.

AVONDALE JC STAKE INCREASE: MONDAY, JANUARY 13

The following race at the Avondale JC meeting on Monday, January 13 has incurred a stake increase provided by the connections of Belial.

The new stake and race details are:

- Mdn SW 1200 - \$8,000 (previously \$7000) new breakdown being \$5000, \$1600, \$800, \$400, \$200

All other conditions pertaining to this race remain the same.

CLUB/VENUE CHANGE - WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2014: WAS RIVERTON RC NOW GORE RC

The race meeting on Wednesday 5 February 2014, previously programmed for Riverton RC, has been changed to a Gore RC meeting at Gore. The programme will now be as follows:

- Benchmark Rating 85 Hcp 2000m: \$8000
- Benchmark Rating 85 Hcp 1200m: \$8000
- Benchmark Rating 75 Hcp 1335m: \$8000
- Benchmark Rating 65 Hcp 2000m: \$7000
- Benchmark Rating 65 Hcp 1335m: \$7000
- Maiden SW 2000m: \$7000

- Maiden SW 1335m: \$7000
- Maiden 2YO SW 1200m: \$7000

CANTERBURY JC VENUE CHANGES IN EARLY 2014

With work on the second stage of the Riccarton Park drainage project commencing immediately following the club's Christmas at the Races meeting on December 6, the Canterbury Jockey Club will not be racing at Riccarton in the first part of next year.

NZTR, in consultation with the Canterbury Jockey Club and the NZ Racing Board, has confirmed the following licence/venue changes:

1. Saturday 25 January 2014: Canterbury JC at Riccarton becomes a Canterbury JC licence at Ashburton
2. Wednesday 29 January 2014: Transfer Canterbury JC licence to an Ashburton RC licence at Ashburton
3. Monday 10 February 2014: Transfer Canterbury JC licence to an Ashburton RC licence at Ashburton
4. Friday 21 February 2014: Transfer Canterbury JC licence to a South Canterbury RC licence at Timaru on Sunday 23 February (note: this will become a dual code race day in conjunction with the Timaru HRC)
5. Thursday 6 March 2014: Canterbury JC proposed venue change to be confirmed

CENTRAL REGION TRIALS: CHANGE OF VENUE, FOXTON TO WAVERLEY

As a result of the unavailability of the Foxton venue due to the start of the demolition of the grandstand, the following trials meeting has been moved from Foxton to Waverley:

- Tuesday 14 January 2014

TURNOVER INFORMATION (FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 5 JANUARY 2014)

Date	Club	On-Course (Tote & FOB combined)		Totalisator (Off & on-course combined)		Fixed Odds (Off & on-course)		Races		Starters	
		13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13	13-14	12-13
23-Dec	Taranaki	100,892		637,470		247,535		7		65	
26-Dec	Otago	45,686	104,570	739,234	1,169,026	288,168	280,372	9	9	76	100
26-Dec	Manawatu	202,515	214,680	1,404,808	1,314,574	399,247	304,853	9	8	83	78
26-Dec	Auckland	1,062,862	907,686	3,728,735	3,362,697	1,107,656	801,581	10	10	116	104
27-Dec	Taranaki	179,851	197,069	728,755	930,576	234,166	303,296	7	8	55	70
27-Dec	Rotorua	160,998	134,097	1,113,507	850,871	339,369	191,078	8	8	89	73
28-Dec	Auckland	132,230	144,755	1,786,150	1,903,626	624,967	630,306	9	9	97	97
28-Dec	South Canty	82,691	83,313	1,008,874	1,076,612	258,891	280,882	9	9	86	96
30-Dec	Kurow	-	123,852	-	900,638	-	218,720	-	9	-	86
30-Dec	Taupo	145,846	139,244	946,605	878,685	372,813	264,842	8	8	73	61
31-Dec	Stratford	164,411	145,671	928,481	781,567	261,901	167,235	8	8	79	69
1-Jan	Auckland	604,407	731,887	3,643,957	3,717,617	1,049,009	993,598	10	10	142	128
1-Jan	Hawke's	251,882	206,023	1,081,385	909,305	243,608	198,794	7	7	62	59

	Bay										
1-Jan	Waikouaiti	136,026	153,829	958,764	946,546	209,826	232,926	8	10	77	79
2-Jan	Tauranga	266,114	286,157	1,251,254	1,311,926	278,014	321,185	8	9	86	93
2-Jan	Wairarapa	358,589	282,100	1,037,868	897,547	232,846	216,215	8	8	74	59
3-Jan	Whangarei	176,034	212,319	832,950	923,197	259,069	246,173	8	8	68	78
3-Jan	Central Otago	148,708	99,822	995,806	628,615	250,321	140,712	12	9	130	83
4-Jan	Thames	195,732	247,226	1,152,290	1,415,592	386,374	380,192	9	9	69	86
4-Jan	Woodville	116,105	126,256	862,153	952,064	208,198	271,600	7	7	68	71
4-Jan	Greymouth	80,824	115,098	658,082	814,735	211,286	198,185	8	10	62	82
5-Jan	Otaki-Maori	35,279	179,843	453,509	965,603	178,318	247,610	7	8	48	• 81

Note: Comprises two weeks of meetings.

- Taranaki TRI Monday 23rd December meeting no equivalent last season.
- Manawatu RC Boxing Day meeting 9 races this season, 8 last season.
- Taranaki TRI 27th December meeting 7 races this year, 8 last year.
- Kurow JC 30 December meeting was abandoned due to surface water, ran 9 races in FY13.
- Waikouaiti RC New Year's Day meeting ran 8 races this season, 10 last season.
- Racing Tauranga 2nd January meeting held 8 races, 9 in FY13.
- Central Otago RC 3rd January meeting ran 12 races in FY14, 9 races in FY13.
- Greymouth Saturday 4th January meeting ran 8 races this season, 10 last season.
- Otaki-Maori RC Sunday 5th January meeting held 7 races, 8 the previous year.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance /()	Variance %/(%)
Meetings	159	163	(4)	(2.45%)
Races	1,321	1,381	(60)	(4.34%)
Total Starts	13,973	14,513	(540)	(3.72%)
Avg Field Size	10.58	10.51	0.07	0.65%
Number of races less than 8 starters	197	182	15	8.24%
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	188,462,343	193,512,467	(5,050,124)	(2.61%)
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	18,885,240	19,896,356	(1,011,116)	(5.08%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	207,347,583	213,408,823	(6,061,240)	(2.84%)
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	159,829,103	169,421,354	(9,592,251)	(5.66%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	47,518,465	43,987,469	3,530,996	8.03%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	156,963	154,532	2,430	1.57%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,839	14,705	134	0.91%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	695,585,363	693,454,603	2,130,760	0.31%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	116,372,444	104,470,305	11,902,139	11.39%
Total NZRB Turnover	811,957,807	797,924,908	14,032,899	1.76%

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is down 2.8% year to date.
- With 60 less races than run over the same period last season, turnover per race has actually increased, up 1.6%.

- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are down 540, 3.7% less.
- Average field size is up from 10.51 in FY13 to 10.58 in FY14, 0.07 starters per race (0.7%) more.
- The number of races with less than 8 starters is 15 higher than a season ago.
- Decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 5.7%) has been partly offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 8.0%).
- \$NZ export turnover per race to 31 December is down (14.5%). The variance in the \$NZ/\$A exchange rate is responsible for 10.7% of this decline. The remainder of this decline (3.9%), as well as the absence of any growth, appears to have resulted from the loss of coverage on Sky 1 in Australia for midweek races run after 2pm.

Note: Meetings, races, starters and turnovers are totals of NZRB supplied meeting by meeting turnovers. Off-course turnover is totalisator and FOB combined. On-course turnover is totalisator and FOB racing combined, placed on-course at NZ thoroughbred meetings. Total NZRB racing turnover is NZ thoroughbred, harness, greyhound and all imported racing turnover; total NZRB turnover also includes sport. NZ thoroughbred export turnovers are now included, up to the most recently available meetings. All turnover figures are supplied by the NZRB, derived from various sources.

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