

**Wednesday 18 September 2013**

## **FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH**

### **NZTR CHIEF EXECUTIVE GREG PURCELL**

There's a busy and important week ahead for NZTR when members of the Board and management of NZ Thoroughbred Racing host a series of Regional Meetings to present our draft Strategic Plan 2014-18 and draft Business Plan 2014-16.

Taken together, these plans clearly outline both the challenges and opportunities facing thoroughbred racing in New Zealand and NZTR's approach to addressing them, so that we can ensure everything we're doing in the immediate, medium and longer term passes one simple test: What is best for New Zealand thoroughbred racing.

I would urge all interested stakeholders to attend one of the following Regional Meetings, where copies of the Strategic Plan and Business Plan will be made available. There will also be opportunity for attendees to ask questions and provide feedback.

### **NZTR Regional Meetings: 23-27 September 2013**

- Auckland: Monday, September 23, midday at Ellerslie Racecourse

Attending: NZTR Chairman Matthew Goodson, Greg McCarthy, Greg Purcell

- Hamilton: Monday, September 23, 5.30pm at Te Rapa Racecourse

Attending: Matthew Goodson, Greg McCarthy, Greg Purcell

- Invercargill: Tuesday, September 24, 11.30am at Ascot Park Hotel

Attending: NZTR Deputy Chairman Joe Walls, Ben Nettleton, Greg Purcell

- Dunedin: Tuesday, September 24, 5.30pm at Wingatui Racecourse

Attending: Joe Walls, Ben Nettleton, Greg Purcell

- Christchurch, Wednesday, September 25, midday at Riccarton Racecourse

Attending: Joe Walls, Ben Nettleton, Greg Purcell

- Palmerston North: Friday, September 27, 10.30am at Awapuni Racecourse

Attending: Matthew Goodson, Des Friedrich, Greg Purcell

- New Plymouth: Friday, September 27, 3.30pm at Pukekura Park

Attending: Matthew Goodson, Des Friedrich, Greg Purcell

We look forward to seeing you at one of these meetings.

## **PATTERN REVIEW COMMITTEE DELIVERS RECOMMENDATIONS**

The New Zealand Pattern Review Committee has recommended a number of significant changes to the Group and Listed race Pattern in its draft report.

The Board of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) established the Committee earlier this year to review the current Pattern and performance of black type racing in New Zealand in response to the potential downgrading of a number of Group races as a result of implementation of the Asian Racing Federation Ground Rules in 2012, when strict criteria around the future upgrade or downgrade of Group One and Two races was introduced.

NZTR's terms of reference asked the Committee to not only consider changes to improve the quality and performance of New Zealand's Group race system, but also to consider the current structure of carnivals and identify any races or opportunities NZTR and race clubs should target for development to improve the performance of the pattern in New Zealand.

The draft report of is available on the NZTR website by clicking [HERE](#).

The Committee has invited further submissions on any aspect of its report. Submissions close with NZTR on Monday, 30 September 2013. The Committee's final report is expected to be considered by the NZTR Board meeting at its meeting on 25 October 2013. It is intended any recommendations adopted would be introduced as part of the development of the 2014/15 season dates schedule.

Submissions should be sent to David Jewell, Secretary, NZPC c/- New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, P O Box 38 386, Wellington Mail Centre, or by email to [david.jewell@nzracing.co.nz](mailto:david.jewell@nzracing.co.nz).

In advance of its final report being tabled with the NZTR Board, the Committee has supported a submission from the Levin Racing Club to have the Group One Levin Classic moved to Trentham and run on the first day of the Wellington Racing Club's 2014 Cup carnival.

Recommendations in the draft report include:

- that the Group Two Wellington Guineas (1500m) be moved from late October, where it is competing with the recently promoted Group Three James and Annie Sarten Memorial Stakes (1400m), to New Zealand Oaks Day at Trentham over 1400m to create an alternative Group Two \$100,000 three-year-old option
- the Auckland Racing Club's Group Two 3YO Championship Stakes (2000m) is moved from New Year's Day, where it has struggled, to be run in April on Easter Handicap day at Ellerslie to provide another late autumn 3YO target
- the Wellington Racing Club's Group Two Wakefield Stakes 2YO be moved from January to Captain Cook Stakes Day at Trentham in early December to avoid a clash with the Auckland Racing Club's Karaka Million 2YO the following week
- the Auckland Racing Club's Group One Easter Handicap date be moved a week later to be run two weeks after the Group One Te Aroha Breeders' Stakes
- the Auckland Racing Club consider moving the 3200m Auckland Cup, Group One, back to New Year's Day to re-establish a Summer Cups pattern

The Committee reviewed the timing and make-up of the major racing carnivals, but did not recommend any changes to the overall structure.

The Committee has called on clubs and NZTR to look to programme more set weight and penalty-type races in the future and has suggested that the conditions for both the Wellington Racing Club's Group One Thorndon Mile Handicap and Telegraph Handicap should revert to set weight and penalties, given general concerns that both these races and the status of a number of other major handicap races are at risk.

The Committee would also like to see clubs programme additional three-year-old and fillies and mares races at the new Iconic and Premier One meetings to better support the pattern, with some of these races likely to achieve black type status in the future.

### **SURVIVED LEADS WINDSOR PARK PLATE ODDS**

Survived is the fixed odds favourite for the Group One Windsor Park Plate at Hastings on Saturday.

The John Bary-trained three-year-old, to be ridden by Opie Bosson, is at \$3.20 with the TAB, followed by Final Touch at \$3.80, Nashville at \$5.50 and Xanadu at \$7.50.

Should Survived win, the TAB will take the hit, having taking a \$3000 bet at \$4.50, a \$2000 bet at \$3.50 and a \$1000 bet at \$18 when the futures book first opened.

### **TRAINERS' BONUS AT POVERTY BAY**

The Poverty Bay Turf Club Committee has added a \$10,000 trainers' bonus for its meeting at Makaraka on Sunday.

The bonus will go to the first trainer to win three races on the day. The rules:

- a minimum of three dividends must be paid for the race to be eligible for the bonus
- the bonus is paid to the first trainer who has three winners on the raceday, with one single bonus to be paid
- in the event of a tie (ie. multiple trainers achieving three winners at the same time via a dead heat) the prize will be shared.

The club has also put in place travel allowances for horses racing where stakes earnings of \$1400 or less are won over the two days of the meeting (Thursday and Sunday).

- from Auckland district (excluding Te Aroha) - \$150
- from Waikato district and Te Aroha - \$120
- from Hawke's Bay - \$80
- from Wairoa - \$50
- from Manawatu - \$120
- other districts by arrangement

### **THE PUMPER PUMPED UP FOR A CENTURY**

Jim Cassidy may become just the third member of an elite club at Randwick this weekend.

He recorded his 99<sup>th</sup> Group One riding success aboard Zoustar in the Golden Rose and only George Moore (119) and Roy Higgins (106) have hit the three-figure mark.

Cassidy, 51, will ride Hawkspur in the Group One George Main Stakes to start the major cups' hope in the metric mile.

Still across the ditch, James McDonald will ride It's a Dundee in the Underwood Stakes at Caulfield on Saturday. The race has drawn a stellar field, including Atlantic Jewel, Puissance De Lune, Green Moon, Sea Moon and Silent Achiever.

### **LEVIN RACING CLUB, ADDITIONAL RACE PROGRAMMED**

Following consultation between NZTR and the Central Region Programming Committee, an additional race has been added to the programme for the Levin Racing Club's meeting at Otaki on Thursday 26 September.

The additional race is a Rating 75 1400m event to be run for a stake of \$8000.

## TURNOVER INFORMATION (FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 8 SEPTEMBER 2013)

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
9-Sep	Taupo, Racing	41,303	31,073	527,716	510,056	262,388	176,541	8	9	86	84
11-Sep	Waikato RC	61,784	38,096	718,339	819,979	235,876	269,858	8	8	93	96
12-Sep	Taranaki TRI	25,206	21,333	501,320	422,913	174,809	104,261	7	6	61	52
13-Sep	Ashburton RC	16,980		484,606		164,270		7		67	
14-Sep	Maraton JC	132,737	123,316	1,624,717	1,552,450	413,756	372,728	10	10	121	90
14-Sep	Whangarei RC	77,122	91,791	960,352	1,192,522	361,609	326,971	9	9	71	81

- Woodville-Pahiatua RC: Last year on the Tuesday there was a Woodville-Pahiatua RC meeting at which there were seven races.
- Ashburton RC: Last year this was a Canterbury Racing meeting at which there were nine races.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season YTD	Last Season YTD	Variance /()	Variance %/(%)
Meetings	40	41	(1)	(2.44%)
Races	310	334	(24)	(7.19%)
Total Starts	3,105	3,276	(171)	(5.22%)
Avg Field Size	10.02	9.81	0.21	2.12%
Number of races less than 8 starters	52	63	(11)	(17.46%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	40,268,134	41,835,596	(1,567,463)	(3.75%)
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	2,610,961	2,841,902	(230,942)	(8.13%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	42,879,094	44,677,499	(1,798,404)	(4.03%)
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	33,911,470	36,092,702	(2,181,232)	(6.04%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	8,967,624	8,584,797	382,827	4.46%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	138,320	133,765	4,555	3.40%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,810	13,638	172	1.26%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	170,753,950	176,493,390	(5,739,440)	(3.25%)
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	32,927,722	36,579,993	(3,652,271)	(9.98%)
Total NZRB Turnover	203,681,672	213,073,383	(9,391,711)	(4.41%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 1 Sep)	23,377,257	28,787,358	(5,410,101)	(18.79%)
Total Races (to 1 Sep)	203	220	(17)	(7.73%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	115,159	130,852	(15,693)	(11.99%)

- While total NZ thoroughbred turnover is down 4% year to date, the decline is on the back of one less meeting and 24 less races run in the same period.
- As a result, turnover per race is up year-to-date by more than 3%.
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are also down by 5%, but across 7% less races average field size has improved by 0.21.
- Continuing last season's trend, the number of races with less than eight starters has improved, with 11 less run in the first month-and-a-half of the season.

- Decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 6%) has been mitigated by an increase in FOB turnover (up 4.5%)
- Export turnover per race is down significantly (12%). However, the main contributor to this is the variance in the \$NZ/\$A exchange rate variance of over 10 cents from a year ago.

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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