



Friday 24 May 2013

From the Horse's Mouth

Last week I talked about the challenges the industry faces.

Yesterday I met with representatives of a number of key stakeholder groups, including the New Zealand Racehorse Owners Federation, the New Zealand Trainers Association, New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders Association and New Zealand Thoroughbred Marketing to engage on the strategy that NZTR is proposing be advanced to reinvigorate thoroughbred racing's future. This engagement builds on a number of other facilitated strategy sessions with race clubs and sector groups that NZTR conducted over the last three months.

There are a lot of stakeholders to get around so the Bulletin provides a forum to begin to introduce some of the concepts to be explored. For example, we need to make thoroughbred racing 'more relevant to kiwis.'

We need to look beyond our core 6% of New Zealanders that are interested in thoroughbred racing and broaden our appeal with the 94% of New Zealanders who currently don't see thoroughbred racing as a sport which is fashionable or relevant to them.

To do this we need to work on being seen as an important part of the entertainment industry. This in turn means that we need to work closely with race clubs and other industry stakeholders to look at how together, we might redefine the brand of thoroughbred racing as a sport. We need to review the state of infrastructure and service standards offered on race days and focus on what the customer might want.

There is a lot to be done but working together with race clubs and other stakeholders we will change the trajectory and appeal of our sport.

The only way to break the current cycle is for an industry focused strategic change plan. By working in partnership with race clubs and all stakeholders we are confident that together we can achieve unity, action and vision. There is a lot of work still to be done, sharing of information and consulting. This is a challenging time but it's also an exciting period as together we create a more sustainable industry.

Craig Grylls Returns to NZ

Matamata-based jockey Craig Grylls has returned to New Zealand from a stint in Macau and resumes riding at Ellerslie on Saturday. Grylls decided to prematurely end his three month contract with the Macau Jockey Club favoring the more regular racing schedule in his homeland.

"It was a good experience and I was getting the rides, but they only race once a week in Macau at the moment and I was getting a bit bored between times, so I decided to come home," he said.

Grylls rides Zvonareva, Jubilate, Brandy Belle, Xalted and Peregrine on Saturday.

All's Well With Rogerson Jumpers

Experienced jumpers Morpheus and Zagata have come through their Te Rapa tumbles virtually unscathed. The Graeme and Debbie Rogerson-trained pair both went out of contention in quick succession in the Porritt Sand Waikato Steeplechase when they came to grief at consecutive fences into the home straight for the first time.

Stablemate and last year's Grand National Steeples winner Cape Kinaveral finished third, albeit a distant one behind Kevin Myers' dashing Rioch on Saturday. "They're all right and Morpheus is just a little bit sore over the top, but he'll be fine," Graeme Rogerson said. "His back legs slipped from under him and Zagata clipped heels. "That winner was beautifully presented and he just jumped too well for them."

Rogerson has yet to make any firm plans for Morpheus, who had won his second steeplechase on the opening day of the Te Rapa meeting, while Zagata has Hastings next on his programme. "He'll go to the Hawke's Bay and Cape Kinaveral will probably run in the McGregor Grant," he said. Rogerson has a big team of jumpers in work with last-start winner Zenocoin and It's A Message, runner-up to his barn mate at Paeroa, both also headed to Ellerslie next weekend.

A-Z Thoroughbred Business Directory

Any trainers wishing to have their e-mail address listed in the A-Z Directory for 2013/14 should forward their confirmation that they are "happy to have their contact details, including their e-mail address listed" to robt@thoroughbredpublications.co.nz

Turnover Information for the Period ending 19 May 2013

Date	Club	On-Course (Tote & FOB combined)		Totalisator (Off & on-course combined)		Fixed Odds (Off & on-course)		Races		Starters	
		12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12	13	12	13	12
13 May	Waikato@Paer	21,194	20,298	391,977	297,163	97,888	67,919	7	7	68	63
14 May	Ashburton	18,592	19,067	362,975	368,229	123,948	106,630	7	7	73	69
15 May	Whangarei	79,347	74,971	690,193	723,508	220,717	194,468	9	9	104	100
16 May	Egmont	40,738	39,133	680,310	638,156	211,990	127,011	9	9	120	99
17 May	Wairio@Wint	23,471	27,682	413,003	401,783	111,305	102,216	8	8	74	71
18 May	Rangitikei	101,548	100,083	1,104,253	1,104,012	233,134	207,653	9	9	116	110
18 May	Waikato	144,375	168,838	1,406,435	1,344,906	341,633	291,565	9	9	108	107

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/-	Variance +%/(-%)
Meetings	293	286	+7	2.45%
Races	2,464	2,535	(71)	(2.80%)
Starters	25,505	26,676	(1,171)	(4.39%)
Avg Field Size	10.35	10.52	(0.17)	(1.63%)
Number of races less than 8 starters	362	424	(62)	(14.62%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	330,521,441	321,209,697	+9,311,744	2.90%
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	33,108,502	35,189,735	(2,081,234)	(5.91%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	363,629,943	356,399,433	+7,230,510	2.03%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	286,960,547	299,064,911	(12,104,364)	(4.05%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	76,669,395	57,334,521	+19,334,874	33.72%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	147,577	140,591	+6,986	4.97%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,257	13,360	+897	6.71%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	1,209,393,516	1,116,840,971	+92,552,544	8.29%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	196,757,728	192,520,779	+4,236,950	2.20%
Total NZRB Turnover	1,406,151,244	1,309,361,750	+96,789,494	7.39%
NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover (to 30 April)	295,831,571	286,262,164	+9,569,407	+3.34%
Total races (to 30 April)	2,288	2,363	(75)	(3.17%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover per race	129,297	121,144	+8,153	+6.73%

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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