



Wednesday 25 September 2013

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

NZTR CHIEF EXECUTIVE GREG PURCELL

The past week's been an important one for the team at NZ Thoroughbred Racing, with the release of our 2013 Performance Report and Five-Year Strategic Plan 2014-18.

This week I've been joined by members of our Board in hosting a series of Regional Meetings throughout the country to present these key reports to stakeholders and participants. I've been impressed by the constructive discussion and debate that has come out of these meetings. While it's clear we continue to face some tough challenges, there's a strong sense of positivity and commitment to working together for the collective good of everyone involved in thoroughbred racing.

We look forward to sharing our Business Plan 2014-16 soon, following approval by the New Zealand Racing Board.

Having conducted meetings in Auckland, Hamilton, Invercargill, Dunedin and Christchurch this week, we wrap up with meetings in Palmerston North (10.30am at Awapuni) and New Plymouth (3.30pm at Pukekura Park) on Friday.

It was a real privilege to attend Hawke's Bay Racing's Windsor Park Plate premier day at the weekend. A great day's racing was a real credit to the club. Well done, in particular, to Ken and Bev Kelso, with three winners – Xanadu in the \$200,000 Group One feature, Bounding in the Hawke's Bay Breeders Gold Trail Stakes and Traveller in the Hastings Heart of Hawke's Bay Premier.

Well done, too, to the hardworking committee at Poverty Bay. I was on-course at Makaraka and the track was turned out in excellent fashion for a terrific day of country racing.

And the plaudits continued across the ditch, with It's A Dundeel taking out the Underwood Stakes. Congratulations to trainers Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman, the owners and jockey James McDonald.

However, there was sad news last week with the passing of Palmerston North owner, trainer and breeder Laurie Christensen.

Laurie had almost 100 winners during his career, his first major success coming with Wellneas in the Whyte Handicap at Trentham in 1976. His last win was with Miss Darley at Trentham in December 2011. Laurie's notable horses were The Blazer (winner of 18 races), Star Vale, Whata Hassle (two

Foxton cups, as well as the Waverley, Masterton and Opunake cups), Auto Air and Aka Bilk (Wanganui Guineas).

SUBMISSIONS TO PATTERN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Following the release of its draft report, the New Zealand Pattern Review Committee has invited further submissions on any aspect of its report.

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

Submissions close with NZTR on Monday, September 30. 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.

NORTHERN PROGRAMMES FOLLOWING MATAMATA RC ABANDONMENT

Following consultation between NZTR and the Northern Region Programming Committee, and as a consequence of the abandonment of the Matamata RC race meeting today, consideration has been given to the upcoming racing programme in the Northern Region.

There are some further opportunities in the Northern Region in the next 7-10 days (at Whangarei RC on Wednesday 2 October and Waikato RC on Friday 4 October) and NZTR will be proactive in its approach to dividing races during this period if nomination numbers render it appropriate.

The decision has also been made to alter the conditions of two races at the Whangarei RC meeting to potentially provide further opportunities. These are:

Benchmark R65 Hcp 1400m \$7000, where the "Apprentice Riders Only" tag has been removed.

Maiden SW 1400m \$7000, where the "Apprentice Riders Only" tag has been removed.

The track at Te Aroha will also be closely monitored following more than 100mm of rain in the area over the past 24 hours.

USE OF ANABOLIC STEROIDS (IN AND OUT OF COMPETITION)

The members of the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) are voting shortly on whether or not to adopt a standard which would ban all anabolic steroids in a horse presented to race and in a horse in training (the prohibition would apply to any horse that comes within the legal jurisdiction of the regulatory authority to conduct out-of-competition testing).

This is in advance of a discussion at the General Assembly of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) on Monday 7 October 2013.

NZTR has consulted with its Veterinary Advisor, the Equine Veterinary Association, Trainers' Association, Breeders' Association, New Zealand Bloodstock, Harness Racing Trainers' and Drivers, and Standardbred Breeders and taken into account that some countries will ban anabolic steroids from birth to retirement.

The Board of NZTR will consider its position on the matter at its meeting tomorrow.

Last week, The Australian Racing Board (ARB) announced last week a total ban on the use of anabolic steroids both in and out of competition.

SOUTH ISLAND RACING AWARDS

The 18th annual CHRISTCHURCH CASINO South Island Racing Awards were presented at a function at Riccarton Park Racecourse on Friday, September 20.

Presentations were made on behalf of the four South Island racing regions of Canterbury, Otago, Southland and West Coast, together with the support of the Canterbury Westland Racing Owners' Association and Canterbury Marlborough Westland Otago Thoroughbred Breeders.

The winners:

Trainer:	Michael Pitman
Jockey:	Chris Johnson
Jumps jockey:	Ross Doherty
Apprentice:	Ashley Frye
Owner:	Karen Parsons
Breeder:	Karen Parsons
Broodmare:	My Lydia (dam of Final Touch)
Two-year-old:	Choice Snitzel
Three-year-old:	Platinum Kingdom
Sprinter:	Final Touch
Miler:	Final Touch
Stayer:	The Glitzy One
Jumper:	Keep It Tight
NZ Bloodstock Southern Filly of the Year:	If I Can I Can
South Island Horse of the Year:	Final Touch

FLAIR AMATEUR RIDER'S SERIES 2013

With only the Ivan, Leo & Roy Robinson Memorial 2100 sAmateur Rider's race to be run this coming Sunday at the National Jumps meeting being held at Te Rapa, Scotty McNab (37 points) has a two-point advantage over closest rival Scott Wenn (35 points). In third place is Jacob McKay on 27 points.

With 10 points for a win, 7 points for second, 5 points for third, 3 points for fourth, 2 points for fifth, and 1 point for sixth, the overall winner(s) will come from this trio.

WAIPUKURAU TRIALS MOVED TO FOXTON

Following consultation between NZTR and the Central Region Programming Committee, the trials programmed for Waipukurau on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 have been transferred to Foxton following inspection of the track at Waipukurau. Nominations for the trials close at midday on Monday, September 30.

TARANAKI TR – DISTANCE CHANGE, SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

The distance of the two 1600m races at the Taranaki TR meeting on Saturday 28 September 2013 has been changed to 1580m.

TURNOVER INFORMATION (FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 15 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
16-Sep	Avondale JC	29,665		473,548		160,609		8		76	
18-Sep	Winton JC	13,714	17,068	339,104	355,165	129,532	105,943	7	7	53	69
19-Sep	Poverty Bay TFC	27,422	39,746	399,281	584,010	194,471	205,246	8	7	54	71
20-Sep	Rotorua-BOP HC	38,212	59,226	549,228	481,259	159,181	141,873	9	9	77	67
21-Sep	Counties RC	59,850	93,277	893,329	1,025,410	220,981	241,865	8	10	78	137
21-Sep	Canterbury Racing	76,937	117,698	835,815	1,043,726	196,955	202,667	9	9	96	90
21-Sep	Hawke's Bay RI	152,897	164,984	1,658,987	2,195,434	533,740	571,534	8	9	103	116
22-Sep	Poverty Bay TFC	55,515	67,460	513,681	553,934	208,043	171,877	8	7	60	66

- Avondale JC; there was no equivalent meeting last year
- Winton JC; raced on a Tuesday last year
- Rotorua BOP HC; raced on a Wednesday last year
- Counties RC; raced on a Friday last year
- Hawke's Bay RI; the meeting was abandoned after Race 8 due to slippery track conditions.

Note: three race meetings were held on Saturday, whereas there were only two meetings on the equivalent Saturday last season.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(-%)
Meetings	48	47	+1	+2.13%
Races	375	385	(10)	(2.60%)
Total Starts	3,702	3,826	(124)	(3.24%)
Avg Field Size	9.87	9.94	(0.07)	(0.66%)
Number of races less than 8 starters	73	72	+1	+1.39%
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	47,558,519	48,691,883	(1,133,364)	(2.33%)
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	3,065,173	3,333,901	(268,728)	(8.06%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	50,623,692	52,025,783	(1,402,091)	(2.69%)
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	39,852,555	41,971,857	(2,119,302)	(5.05%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	10,771,137	10,053,926	+717,211	+7.13%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	134,997	135,132	(135)	(0.10%)
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,675	13,598	+77	+0.56%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	197,295,498	204,969,813	(7,674,315)	(3.74%)
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	37,567,296	41,361,790	(3,794,494)	(9.17%)
Total NZRB Turnover	234,862,794	246,331,603	(11,468,809)	(4.66%)

NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 15 Sep)	34,881,023	44,458,334	(9,577,311)	(21.54%)
Total Races (to 15 Sep)	310	334	(24)	(7.19%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	112,519	133,109	(20,589)	(15.47%)

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is down 2.7% year to date, with 10 less races run than over the same period last season
- As a result, turnover per race is nearly the same, down \$135 (0.1%)
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are also down by 3.2%, and average field size down 0.07 (0.7%)
- With small field sizes at a number of our meetings during the week, the number of races with less than 8 starters is now 1 higher than a season ago
- Decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 5.1%) has been mitigated by some increase in FOB turnover (up 7.1%)
- Export turnover per race to 15 September is down significantly (15.5%), with a major contributor being the variance in the \$NZ/\$A exchange rate

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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