



Thursday 5 December 2013

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH: NZTR CHIEF EXECUTIVE GREG PURCELL

It never rains but it pours...

If ever we needed reminding of how much our sport can be at the mercy of the weather we received it again in the past couple of days with heavy rain disrupting some meetings.

Today's meeting at New Plymouth was abandoned due to surface water on the track, while the trials scheduled at Counties tomorrow have also been called off.

While we will occasionally have to deal with 'extreme' weather conditions – either too wet or too dry – the situation highlights why NZTR is making such a significant investment in major drainage and irrigation projects at key race tracks.

There's a lot of work going on at venues around the country. The end result will be key venues that are better able to deal with variable weather conditions, thereby allowing more surety and consistency in the racing delivered.

Here's hoping the weather's good for big meetings coming up. Tomorrow's Christmas at the Races meeting at Riccarton promises a bumper crowd on-course, while Ellerslie and Trentham also have big days planned at the weekend.

Saturday's meeting at Trentham features the Group 1 \$200,000 Rydges Wellington Captain Cook Stakes. The big race has again drawn a class field and the day should be a terrific occasion.

Good luck to the connections of all the runners involved.

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:

- Saturday 25 January 2014: Canterbury JC at Riccarton becomes a Canterbury JC licence at Ashburton
- Wednesday 29 January 2014: Transfer Canterbury JC licence to an Ashburton RC licence at Ashburton

- Monday 10 February 2014: Transfer Canterbury JC licence to an Ashburton RC licence at Ashburton
- 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)
- Thursday 6 March 2014: Canterbury JC proposed venue change to be confirmed

VACANCY: NZTR RACING ASSISTANT

Fulltime – 40 hours per week

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) is the governing body for thoroughbred racing, and is currently seeking a Racing Assistant in the National Racing Bureau.

The Racing Assistant will be required to co-ordinate all functions relating to the entry of horses into races, race fields and associated activities.

They will also be required to liaise with Club personnel in the collection and distribution of race information, process entries for overseas races and other administrative duties.

The successful candidate will:

- Possess a drive to continually address and exceed expectations of customers
- Demonstrate excellent communication skills, coupled with a high level of attention to detail
- Be motivated and comfortable working actively and successfully in a team environment and developing productive relationships
- Thrive on the challenge of working in a high-pressure environment with strict deadlines to be achieved

Ideally candidates will have had experience in customer service and be prepared to work on a roster basis covering 10 days per fortnight, with a requirement for some weekend work.

A keen interest and/or knowledge of thoroughbred racing would be an advantage.

If you would like to apply for this role please send your covering letter and CV to natasha.freeman@nzh racing.co.nz or post your CV and covering letter to Natasha Freeman, New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, P.O Box 38 386 Wellington Mail Centre 5045.

For a full copy of the job description please email natasha.freeman@nzh racing.co.nz or phone 04 576 6263. Applications close Wednesday 18th December 2013.

REMINDER: NOMINATION/ACCEPTANCE DATES FOR UPCOMING FEATURE RACES

Auckland RC

Thursday 5 December: First withdrawals for Scot Thrust City of Auckland Cup, Dunstan Feeds Championship and Sistema Railway Stakes.

Wellington RC

Tuesday 10 December: First nominations for Harcourts Thorndon Mile and Wellfield NZ Oaks.

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 meetings have been moved from Foxton to Waverley:

- Tuesday 10 December 2013
- Tuesday 14 January 2014

NZ RACING BOARD REGIONAL MEETINGS

The NZ Racing Board will be holding regional meetings in your area to report a summary of the 2012/13 Annual Report highlights following its AGM on November 29.

The following meetings are scheduled:

- **Monday, December 9 at 11am:** Hobson Room, Alexandra Park Racecourse, Auckland
- **Tuesday, December 10 at 11am:** Kentucky Lounge, Te Rapa Racecourse, Hamilton
- **Wednesday, December 11 at 11am:** Silks Lounge, Awapuni Racecourse, Palmerston North
- **Thursday, December 12 at 11am:** Blossom Lady Lounge, Addington Racecourse, Christchurch
- **Friday, December 13 at 8am:** Takitimu Room, Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill

TURNOVER INFORMATION (FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 1 DECEMBER 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
25-Nov	South Canty	13,908	24,013	357,108	640,866	150,128	187,266	7	9	69	85
27-Nov	Thames	45,981	67,687	454,561	668,648	207,541	214,166	7	8	55	78
28-Nov	Waipa	23,158	25,585	579,830	445,170	210,022	152,913	8	8	76	81
29-Nov	Levin@OTAK	169,629	202,630	1,215,699	1,336,487	413,565	441,590	9	9	112	100
30-Nov	Auckland	187,826	174,074	1,858,977	1,914,582	624,004	641,268	10	10	127	123
30-Nov	Wanganui	147,356	147,464	1,394,580	1,233,232	353,877	300,668	9	10	122	108
1-Dec	Otago@CROM	227,058	167,490	1,014,317	638,272	270,358	168,845	9	8	106	64

- South Canterbury RC Monday meeting was a Thursday last season, 7 races this season, 9 last season.
- Racing Thames Wednesday meeting ran 7 races in FY14, 8 races in FY13.
- Waipa RC Thursday meeting was a Monday in FY13.
- Levin RC Friday meeting included G3 Wellington Stakes this season, in place of the G1 Levin Classic last season.
- Wanganui JC Saturday meeting ran 9 races in FY14, 10 in FY13.
- Otago RC meeting at Cromwell held 9 races this season, 8 last season.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(-%)
Meetings	117	117	0	0.00%
Races	975	1,008	(33)	(3.27%)
Total Starts	10,370	10,713	(343)	(3.20%)
Avg Field Size	10.64	10.63	+0.01	+0.07%
Number of races less than 8 starters	143	123	+20	+16.26%
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	133,093,746	138,083,210	(4,989,464)	(3.61%)
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	11,298,106	11,806,457	(508,351)	(4.31%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	144,391,852	149,889,667	(5,497,815)	(3.67%)
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	111,709,253	119,437,744	(7,728,491)	(6.47%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	32,682,584	30,451,923	+2,230,661	+7.33%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	148,094	148,700	(606)	(0.41%)
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	13,924	13,991	(67)	(0.48%)
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	521,746,738	524,123,888	(2,377,150)	(0.45%)
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	93,958,104	83,832,584	+10,125,520	+12.08%
Total NZRB Turnover	615,704,842	607,956,472	+7,748,370	+1.27%

NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 24 Nov)	109,354,396	135,468,848	(26,114,452)	(19.28%)
Total Races (to 24 Nov)	916	946	(30)	(3.17%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	119,383	143,202	(23,819)	(16.63%)

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is down 3.7% year to date.
- With 33 less races than run over the same period last season, turnover per race has declined by a smaller 0.4%.
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are down 343, 3.2% less.
- Average field size is now up marginally from 10.63 in FY13 to 10.64 in FY14, 0.01 starters per race (0.1%) more.
- The number of races with less than 8 starters is 20 higher than a season ago.
- Decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 6.5%) has been partly offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 7.3%).
- \$NZ export turnover per race to 24 November is down (16.6%). The variance in the \$NZ/\$A exchange rate is responsible for 9.7% of this decline. The remainder (6.9%), as well as the absence of any growth has 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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