

Thursday 9 May 2013

From the Horse's Mouth

Last week was a great reminder to me of just how exhilarating racing can be, when Banna Strand a horse I part-own, trained by John Wheeler, won Australia's most celebrated steeplechase, the Warrnambool Grand Annual Steeple Chase over 5500 metres and 34 fences.

It had to be the most adrenaline charged, nerve racking and exhilarating 6-48.27 minutes of my life, with Banna Strand coming from last, to claim a last stride victory in front of 14,500 cheering fans.

The win was a credit to John Wheeler and his unswerving confidence in the horse, a 9YO maiden on the flat and steeple, who had recorded just two hurdle wins from his 67 starts.

It was redemption for Banna Strand, who prior to the race was best known as the infamous horse that jumped the outside fence of the Warrnambool racecourse and into the crowd.

For the last week I've been walking around with a smile on my face with the racecallers words ring in my ears, "*and it's Banna Strand from villain to hero!*"

There's no better feeling than your horse winning, no matter how big or small a share you own. No wonder people are so passionate about racing, the most exhilarating and exciting of all sports.

A little over a year ago, a new structure of racing and prizemoney was introduced by NZTR as part of a new Inter-Code Funding Agreement with Racing Board (NZRB), Harness Racing (HRNZ) and Greyhound Racing (NZGRA) which saw NZTR distributions increase by \$5.3 million from \$64.1 million in FY11 to \$69.5 million in FY12.

The agreement included a commitment for Thoroughbred Racing to provide a continuity of Monday racing and a number of Tuesday racing fixtures, while maintaining the existing number of races.

As summarised below, turnover performance from Monday and Tuesday fixtures is in most cases consistent with, or slightly exceeding NZTR budget expectation.

Mondays 1-Mar-12 to 28-Feb-13

	Actual	Budget	Average Per Race	Budget Per Race	Actual to Budget
Starters	2,978	3,262	9.9	10.8	91.3%
Offcourse Tote	15,509,923	15,954,660	51,357	52,830	97.2%
Oncourse tote	1,053,002	906,000	3,487	3,000	116.2%
Fixed Odds	5,202,006	1,510,000	17,225	5,000	344.5%
Total Domestic	21,764,931	18,370,660	72,069	60,830	118.5%
Export	29,644,449	24,160,000	98,160	80,000	122.7%
Total NZRB	51,409,380	42,530,660	170,230	140,830	120.9%

Tuesday 1-Mar-12 to 28-Feb-13

	Actual	Budget	Average Per Race	Budget Per Race	Actual to Budget
Starters	1,207	1,285	10.1	10.8	93.9%
Offcourse Tote	6,948,819	7,913,500	58,393	66,500	87.8%
Oncourse tote	317,667	357,000	2,669	3,000	89.0%
Fixed Odds	2,226,625	595,000	18,711	5,000	374.2%
Total Domestic	9,494,318	8,865,500	79,784	74,500	107.1%
Export	12,305,120	11,900,000	103,404	100,000	103.4%
Total NZRB	21,799,438	20,765,500	183,189	174,500	105.0%

NZTR analysis indicates:

- \$17.8 million of additional turnover consisting of a -\$3.3 million reduction in domestic sales and a \$21.2 million increase in export sales as a result of transferring races from other days of the week;
- \$100,105 of additional TAB earnings consisting of a -\$471,931 reduction in domestic earnings and a \$572,035 increase in export earnings;
- The changes supported NZRB's current 8.1% increase in domestic and imported thoroughbred sales.

The \$100,105 of additional TAB earnings does not take into account the cost of additional meetings conducted (approximately -\$1.6 million), which was fully funded from the \$5.3 million of additional revenue under the Inter-code Agreement, the balance of which was used to fund increased minimum prizemoney levels introduced on 1 March 2012 and recent infrastructure initiatives.

In the upcoming 2013-14 racing season NZTR proposes to schedule 363 thoroughbred meetings, three less than the current year, including:

- -14 Tuesday meetings
- 7 Saturday meetings
- 2 Sunday meetings
- 7 Twilight meetings

NZTR intends to maintain a continuity of Monday racing in the upcoming 2013-2014 season. Growing international revenue is seen by NZTR as critical to our industry's sustainability. A consistency of racing through the week will help grow revenue for New Zealand thoroughbred racing in international markets.

NZ Thoroughbred Clifton Promise Wins World's leading Three Day Event

In a nail-biting show-jumping finale, New Zealander Jonathan ('Jock') Paget turned in the performance of his career so far to lift the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials trophy on NZ Thoroughbred Clifton Promise, registered as Bachelor Boy by Engagement out of Darn Style. The 14 year old bay gelding was bred by Kathryn Joy Abernethy from Mosgiel and was foaled on 11 November 1998. He trialed five times but never raced under Cambridge Trainer Graeme Forbes.

Lying second after the cross-country section, Francis Stead's Clifton Promise went clear in the show-jumping, which required leader Michael Jung with La Biosthetique Sam to do the same to win the event. Jung, the reigning Olympic, World and European Champion looked to have victory in the bag, but a late-falling rail at the final fence saw Clifton Promise and Paget take the Badminton trophy.

"I used to watch videos of Badminton, thinking it would be cool to be there one day - and now I am!" said Jock. "Clifton Promise is quite tricky - it's like riding two different horses. But I've asked him a lot of questions over the past week and he's answered every one."

Paget's other NZ Thoroughbred Clifton Lush, registered as Plato by Half Iced, out of All For Love finished in 14th placing.

NZ Licence Holders - Interaction with Australian Authorities

It is essential that any transaction required to be carried out by New Zealand's National Racing Bureau (NRB) on Australian races must be notified to the NRB at least ONE HOUR prior to advertised closing times in Australia. Alternatively, New Zealand based trainers always have the option of contacting RISA direct by calling on 00613 8354 2500.

Canterbury Racing Autumn Carnival

The winner of the NRM Trainers' Prize over the Canterbury Racing Autumn Carnival was Michel Pitman, whose 44 runners accumulated 116 points. In second place John & Karen Parsons' 25 runners accumulated 59 points. The leading horse at the Carnival was Confederate on 21 points, followed by Big Energy on 18 points and The Solitaire on 17 points.

May Thoroughbred Racing Monthly – Amendments

Waverley RC Racemeeting - Thursday 23 May

Please note that the meeting on 23 May is inadvertently listed as being an Otaki-Maori RC meeting to be held at Otaki. Track renovations are taking place at Otaki, which gave rise to the meeting now being a Waverley RC meeting being held at Waverley.

There is a consequential distance change with the 2100m distance races now to be run over 2200m.

South Island Meetings from 7 June Onwards - Nomination Fees

The Benchmark Rating 65 and Maiden Races, and a number of 2YO and 3YO races, inadvertently are published with Nomination fees payable, which is NOT correct. These will be DELETED in the June issue.

Turnover Information for the Period ending 5 May 2013

Date	Club	On-Course (Tote & FOB combined)		Totalisator (Off & on-course combined)		Fixed Odds (Off & on-course)		Races		Starters	
		Dec-13	11-Dec	Dec-13	11-Dec	Dec-13	11-Dec	Dec-13	11-Dec	Dec-13	11-Dec
29-Apr	Waipa	22,659	16,362	383,757	404,104	127,070	108,669	9	7	86	72
30-Apr	Otaki	24,236	23,186	416,747	416,707	117,011	108,149	7	7	82	80
1-May	Counties(1)	60,081		621,400		201,944		8		101	
2-May	Riverton	18,174	34,679	411,329	494,840	115,574	126,159	8	9	72	99
3-May	Hawke's Bay	43,461	40,160	691,673	653,070	214,940	201,371	8	8	95	76
4-May	Waikato	80,584	50,504	1,125,034	773,078	271,533	184,185	10	8	110	68
4-May	Canterbury	91,513	79,601	1,247,508	1,365,233	324,577	303,980	9	9	105	119
5-May	Beaumont(2)	15,901		350,575		102,141		8		61	

- (1) Counties RC, last year this was a Whangarei RC meeting at which there were 8 races.
- (2) Beaumont RC; there was no equivalent meeting last year.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance /()	Variance %/(%)
Meetings	279	271	8	2.95%
Races	2,343	2,412	(69)	(2.86%)
Starters	24,214	25,352	(1,138)	(4.49%)
Avg Field Size	10.33	10.51	(0.18)	(1.68%)
Number of races less than 8 starters	347	405	(58)	(14.32%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	318,018,899	308,201,519	9,817,380	3.19%
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	32,227,444	34,245,553	(2,018,109)	(5.89%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	350,246,342	342,447,072	7,799,270	2.28%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	276,249,039	287,632,954	(11,383,914)	(3.96%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	73,997,303	54,814,118	19,183,185	35.00%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	149,486	141,976	7,510	5.29%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,465	13,508	957	7.08%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	1,156,154,483	1,065,008,482	91,146,000	8.56%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	186,703,905	181,863,835	4,840,071	2.66%
Total NZRB Turnover	1,342,858,388	1,246,872,317	95,986,071	7.70%
NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover (to 14 April)	282,600,427	272,126,499	10,473,928	3.85%
Total races (to 14 April)	2,148	2,226	(78)	(3.50%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover per race	131,564	122,249	9,315	7.62%

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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