



**Friday 17 May 2013**

### **From the Horse's Mouth**

A lot of time is spent by the team at NZTR on strategy. Why? Because one thing that everyone in racing agrees on is the old way isn't working. Everyone has agreed we need to see significant change to create a more sustainable industry.

As we have gone around listening to the various stakeholder groups and talking about the changes that we think need to occur, there are several themes that keep coming across.

There is recognition that the sport of racing needs to innovate if it is going to move to a more fashionable and relevant sport in modern New Zealand society.

There is a consistent view from stakeholders that we need to move from a 'racing product' focus to a broader 'business development and innovation' focus if racing is to more deeply engage and appeal to existing and potential customers.

There is acceptance we need one voice and a plan, that we must work together to achieve this and then we might get the legislative changes we need.

We all know that all stakeholders are at risk and the industry is shrinking. Only leadership will help break this cycle.

Over the next few months you will start to hear more about ways NZTR thinks the industry can move forward through new race club partnership agreements, developing our infrastructure at key venues, redefining the brand of thoroughbred racing as a sport, implementing our digital media strategy and specific racing innovations.

I look forward to sharing this with all our stakeholder groups.

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing noted the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Judicial Control Authority, dated 7 May 2013, where a licensed horse trainer, Mr Leo Molloy pleaded guilty to three counts of misconduct under Rule 340 in relation to the publishing of comments which the Judicial Control Authority deemed to be *"abusive...personally insulting and it is hard to escape the conclusion that it was intended to be so."*

While NZTR welcomes open debate and fully respects an individual's right to comment on matters relating to the racing industry in New Zealand, persons who hold strong views on governance and administration of thoroughbred racing are entitled to express the opinions they hold. However, these opinions should be made without abuse or insult. Licensees are reminded of their obligations under Rule 801(1) and Rule 340 in this regard.

### **Pattern Review Committee Calls For Submissions**

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) recently appointed the Pattern Review Committee to carry out a review of the current pattern and performance of black type racing in New Zealand, with a particular emphasis on Group 1 and Group 2 races, at the request of the New Zealand Pattern Committee. The Pattern Review Committee comprises Mark Freeman, who will chair the review, Gary Chittick, John Wheeler (MNZM) and Neville McAlister.

The Pattern Review Committee, which met on 10 May 2013, is calling for submissions from race clubs, industry stakeholders and any other interested parties on any of the issues identified in its terms of reference including, in particular, on any proposed changes that will enhance the current pattern and performance of black type racing in New Zealand.

A copy of the terms of reference for the Pattern Review Committee is attached and can be viewed at <http://www.nzracing.co.nz/>.

The closing date for submissions is Wednesday, 12 June 2013.

The Pattern Review committee intends to make public all submissions received by it.

There will be a further opportunity to comment on the submissions received by the Pattern Review Committee before it releases a draft report for public consultation, which is scheduled to occur in early August 2013.

The Pattern Review Committee intends to provide a final report to NZTR by 30 September 2013. Submissions must be marked 'Pattern Review' and sent to NZTR (to arrive no later than Wednesday 12 June 2013) at [office@nzracing.co.nz](mailto:office@nzracing.co.nz) or by fax to 04 568 8866 or by mail to David Jewell, Racing and Operations Manager, NZTR, PO Box 38-386, Wellington Mail Centre.

### **Thoroughbred Racing News Desk**

Earlier this year NZTR and NZ Thoroughbred Marketing (NZTM) joined together to tackle the declining mainstream newspaper coverage Thoroughbred Racing in New Zealand is receiving. As a consequence of these discussions NZTM, with the assistance of NZTR, have established a thoroughbred racing News Desk to deliver high quality stories on a daily basis about the thoroughbred racing industry to the domestic newspaper market. This initiative was done with the co-operation of the Racing Editors at the NZ Herald and Waikato Times.

Paul Vettise has been contracted to provide this service and after a couple of months there has been strong take up of the stories being generated out of the *News Desk* by domestic newspapers.

Terms have also been agreed with three photographers - Trish Dunell (North), Peter Rubery (Central) and Colin Berry (South) - to supply copyright-free photos for the purpose of supporting the stories. If you have any questions in regard to this initiative please contact Campbell Moncur: M: 027 704 8511 or [campbell.moncur@nzracing.co.nz](mailto:campbell.moncur@nzracing.co.nz)

### **NZ Racing Board Confirms 2013/14 Racing Calendar**

A drive to improve consistency in the provision of New Zealand racing product and to maximise betting opportunities has led to calendar changes for the 2013/14 season.

Following consultation with the three Racing Codes - NZ Thoroughbred Racing, Harness Racing NZ and Greyhound Racing NZ - and clubs throughout the country, the NZ Racing Board has approved the calendar for the upcoming season.

A notable feature of the 2013/14 calendar sees thoroughbred race meetings previously held on Tuesdays shifted to other days. However, Tuesday thoroughbred racing will be held to coincide with feature events - Melbourne Cup Day (November 5, at Ellerslie, Otaki and Wingatui), NZ Trotting Cup Day (November 12, at Palmerston North) and New Year's Eve (December 31, at Stratford).

The 2013/14 calendar, comprising more than 1,050 meetings and 10,800 races, has been devised to best meet the Codes' strategic objectives of optimising domestic and international betting performance.

The majority of traditional race dates for the 2013/14 season remain unchanged from previous seasons.

New Zealand Cup and Show Week in Christchurch will run from November 9 -16.

Next year's Wellington Cup Day meeting will be held on January 25, while the Auckland Cup Week runs from March 1-8.

The Harness Jewels take place at Cambridge on May 31.

A number of domestic racing clubs will again participate in the NZ Racing Board-led Interislander Summer Festival, Christmas at the Races and Mid-Winter Christmas with a record number of events planned in 2013/14.

#### **Riccarton Park Steeplechase - Friday 24 May**

As a result of the drainage work being undertaken at Riccarton Park Racecourse, the section of the steeplechase course comprising the two fences known as 'The Racecourse Hotel' and 'Jumbo' is unable to be used at present.

The Canterbury Jockey Club's Special Condition Open Entry "Homeby" Steeplechase over 3200m on Friday 24 May will now, after consultation with the RIU, NZTR and NZ Jumps, comprise 10 fences not 12.

The second fence of the "Stand Double" will be repositioned for this race on the course proper at the 800m adjacent to 'Jumbo'.

#### **Otago Female Riders Race - Sunday 2 June**

The Benchmark Rating 65 Fillies and Mares Handicap at the Otago Racing Club's Sunday 2 June will now carry a Special condition with the race restricted to female riders only.

This change in condition has been approved by NZTR and the Regional Programming Committee at the request of the Otago RC to support the Club's "Ladies Who Love Racing" promotion on this day.

#### **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 12 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	12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12
6 May	Matamata	20,746		398,445		125,531		9		82	
7 May	Wanganui	21,222		355,829		105,253		8		65	
8 May	Avondale	25,357		602,357		164,947		8		89	
9 May	Woodville	77,664		720,923		160,011		9		110	
10 May	Sth Cant	15,683	7,079	437,503	450,871	148,872	96,180	8	7	69	72
11 May	Rotorua	135,671	186,226	1,511,335	1,640,266	346,937	342,261	9	9	113	123
11 May	Taranaki	109,687	116,424	898,949	946,202	173,235	216,236	9	8	89	89
12 May	Riverton	45,764	50,930	409,716	477,781	106,695	96,080	7	8	64	77

- (1) Matamata RC, last year this was a Counties RC meeting at which there were 9 races.
- (2) Wanganui JC; last year this was a Waverley RC meeting at which there were 7 races.
- (3) Avondale JC; last year this was a Matamata RC meeting at which there were 9 races. There were 11 late scratchings due to the downgrade of track conditions during the day.
- (4) Woodville-Pahiatua RC; last year this was a Wanganui JC meeting at which there were 8 races.
- (5) South Canterbury RC; last year this meeting's turnover was detrimentally affected by vandalism to the TAB Outside Broadcast facilities.

<b>NZ Thoroughbred Summary</b>	<b>This Season, Year to Date</b>	<b>Last Season, Year to Date</b>	<b>Variance /( )</b>	<b>Variance %/(%)</b>
<b>Meetings</b>	286	278	8	2.88%
<b>Races</b>	2,406	2,469	(63)	(2.55%)
<b>Starters</b>	24,842	25,980	(1,138)	(4.38%)
<b>Avg Field Size</b>	10.33	10.52	(0.20)	(1.88%)
<b>Number of races less than 8 starters</b>	356	411	(55)	(13.38%)
<b>Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator &amp; FOB)</b>	324,189,289	314,611,015	9,578,273	3.04%
<b>On-Course Turnover (Totalisator &amp; FOB)</b>	32,679,237	34,688,733	(2,009,495)	(5.79%)
<b>Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover</b>	356,868,526	349,299,748	7,568,778	2.17%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	281,743,410	293,158,769	(11,415,359)	(3.89%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	75,328,782	56,140,980	19,187,803	34.18%
<b>NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race</b>	148,324	141,474	6,850	4.84%
<b>NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter</b>	14,366	13,445	921	6.85%
<b>Total NZRB Racing Turnover</b>	1,182,505,444	1,091,294,793	91,210,651	8.36%
<b>Total NZRB Sports Turnover</b>	191,725,375	187,113,857	4,611,518	2.46%
<b>Total NZRB Turnover</b>	<b>1,374,230,819</b>	<b>1,278,408,650</b>	<b>95,822,169</b>	<b>7.50%</b>
<b>NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover (to 30 April)</b>	295,831,571	286,262,164	9,569,407	3.34%
<b>Total races (to 30 April)</b>	2,288	2,363	(75)	(3.17%)
<b>NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover per race</b>	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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