



Wednesday 20 November 2013

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

It's been a fantastic time for racing and there's more to come as summer rolls around.

More than 18,000 people packed Riccarton Park on New Zealand Cup Day for the showpiece event, which capped a three-day carnival of great racing and entertainment.

Congratulations to all the connections of the winning horses and, of course, Tim Mills and his team at the Canterbury Jockey Club for putting on a tremendous event.

Clearly the ride's going to continue throughout the festive season and into the New Year, with almost every club nationwide reporting record pre-sales for festive racing events.

As Southland Racing Club president Sean Bellew told the *Southland Times* in a story about record ticket sales for their Christmas meeting at Ascot Park on December 14: "At the moment, racing is very sexy."

It's the job of all of us involved in thoroughbred racing to make sure our sport retains that appeal and that we take this opportunity to get punters on-course to show them how special, exciting and entertaining our sport is.

The team behind the hugely successful Christmas at the Races and Interislander Summer Festival events, led by the New Zealand Racing Board's Janice Hill, deserves a huge pat on the back for its role in drawing what are set to be record crowds to our meetings nationwide.

Janice is also playing a major role in our Racing Club Partnership Programme, which, among a range of things, will assist all clubs to provide the best events possible through a process of supported self-improvement.

This is racing's time in the sun and our time to shine.

On a sad note, the New Zealand racing family lost a special member last week with the passing of Jonny Pitman.

The condolences of everyone involved in racing goes to Michael, Diane and family on the loss of a much-loved son and brother, a young man who was an outstanding sportsman and member of one of our country's greatest ever racing families.

I was honoured to attend Jonny's funeral in Christchurch on Tuesday and was greatly heartened by the strong and supportive turnout of racing industry participants throughout New Zealand to celebrate Jonny's life and pass on their condolences to the Pitman family on what is a tragic loss.

His is a loss we all feel deeply.

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

READY TO RUN SALE REVVED UP

Ready to Run Sale supremo Lyndhurst Farm again provided the star turn on the opening day of New Zealand Bloodstock's two-year-old sale at Karaka on Tuesday.

Mark and Shelley Treweek's Cambridge operation has topped the vendors' list for the last six years and they look all but certain to successfully defend their crown.

Lyndhurst sold four of the leading six lots on the first day, including the top-priced Holy Roman Emperor colt out of the winning King's Best mare Rule The Waves for \$320,000 to Anton Koolman's Fraternity Thoroughbreds.

Sydney-based Koolman and his wife Margaret were back buying at Karaka for the first time in several years and signed for three horses for a total of \$750,000. Among them was also the fourth top price of the day, an Exceed and Excel colt bought for \$240,000 from Mana Park.

"I'm not a committed breeze up sale guy and I haven't bought here for a while, but we have found a few we like," Koolman said.

"Holy Roman Emperor is going well in Hong Kong and Singapore so, although he was a lot of money, we wanted him and were prepared for that. He'll go to Australia and then on to Hong Kong to be trained by Paul O'Sullivan."

Lyndhurst also enjoyed a royal result with their Bernardini gelding out of a Danehill mare, who was knocked down to the final \$300,000 bid of Willie Leung's Magus Equine.

"I love Bernardini and paid a bit more than I expected to for this horse, but Bernardini is doing very well in Australia and America at the moment," Leung said. "This horse is a big, strong mover and I know he'll take a little bit more time to strengthen up so I will leave him in New Zealand for more education before sending him up to Hong Kong."

The two-year-old is from the international family of the Group 1 Royal Ascot Coronation Stakes winner Rebecca Sharp.

"We are very pleased with the strong and diverse international buying bench we've got here at Karaka, as strong as we've ever seen," NZB Co-Managing Director Petrea Vela said.

"There's very good completion on a number of the horses on offer which has been reflected in the average and median far exceeding last year's records.

"This is the second biggest Ready to Run catalogue we've had here in over 10 years and, with the increased numbers, matching last year's clearance rate was always going to be a challenge and that has proven the case.

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS AT CROMWELL

The countdown has begun to one of the most eagerly anticipated racedays in New Zealand.

The Otago Racing Club's Christmas at the Races Cromwell meeting, in association with Crombie Lockwood, takes place on Sunday, December 1.

This hugely popular event is one of the most colourful on the calendar and attracts big crowds.

All marquees have already sold out but general admission passes are available. Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.wingatui.co.nz or at the gate on raceday from 10.30am.

Feature Races: The \$25,000 AWS Legal Queenstown Cup and the \$25,000 1791Diamonds.Com Wanaka Cup. The meeting is now a registered feature meeting and prizemoney is at record levels.

With the club expecting to draw a record crowd on-course, the fixture has been upgraded to a feature meeting and NZTR has instigated date changes to help ensure that the meeting is viable.

The club appreciates it is an expensive trip for trainers to travel through to Central Otago, so trainers will be provided with a BP Fuel card, loaded with credit, the value of which will be determined by the number of horses each trainers has starting at the meeting.

The Cromwell travel incentive:

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| If trainers start: "1" horse | They receive a | \$50 Fuel Credit |
| "2" horses | " " " | \$75 Fuel Credit |
| "3" or "4" horses | " " " | \$150 Fuel Credit |
| "5" horses or more | " " " | \$200 Fuel Credit |

The track at Cromwell is in top order and has just under gone its pre-meeting inspection by NZTR, which it passed with flying colours.

Highlights at the meeting this year include Fashions on the Field, the second annual **New Zealand Sheep Derby**, **live music from** Kirsten MacDonald and the Punters' Club.

All children under the age of 18 are admitted free to the course and all activities and rides are also free. And be sure to watch out for Santa on the day!

For more information go to www.wingatui.co.nz or by call the Otago Racing Club on (03) 489 6233.

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

HUFFER GOES BACK TO THE FUTURE AS SEQUIN

Huffer - the pride of the 1002 members of the Huffer Racing Club - is going back to the future in her racing career.

One of the original horses secured and raced by the successful Social Racing programme last season, Huffer returns to racing this weekend under her original race name, Sequin, for her owners Waikato Stud.

"Huffer's name being changed back to her original name Sequin marks the completion of the arrangement put

in place by Social Racing's Pat MacFie," says Waikato Stud's Mark Chittick.

"It was a successful campaign which Waikato Stud was very pleased to have been a part of. While she may still have one or two races ahead, Sequin is now preparing for the next stage of her career and has already tested in-foal to our stallion Rock 'n' Pop."

The mare will be listed in race information as Sequin (ex-Huffer) for an interim period before reverting exclusively to Sequin.

With more than 1000 Social Racing members sharing in Huffer's success, having scored two wins and a place from eight starts, many will be looking to keep the excitement going by staying involved in the ownership of thoroughbreds.

NEW ZEALAND BLOODSTOCK AIRFREIGHT OPERATIONS ROLE

A rare opportunity has arisen to join New Zealand Bloodstock's small Airfreight team based in the Mascot office, near Sydney.

This role requires an efficient administrative operator looking to combine these abilities with their sound thoroughbred horse knowledge and horse handling skills.

This exciting, yet challenging role is semi-autonomous, primarily involving the coordination of all aspects of both the documentation and practical aspects of the air transport of thoroughbred breeding and/or racing stock.

The successful applicant will be a responsible and highly organised individual, with an ability to work to a strict schedule, sometimes under pressure, whilst maintaining excellent working relations with a variety of supporting contractors including airlines, floating companies, vets, government departments, and country partners to ensure smooth processes.

Previous practical thoroughbred industry experience is preferred, as is a good level of computer literacy.

For a more detailed description of the role please contact reception@nzb.co.nz.

To apply to be part of this great team, please email your cover letter and CV in confidence to Greg Northcott, Airfreight Manager, at greg.northcott@nzb.co.nz by Wednesday 20 November 2013.

NOTICE OF NZ RACING BOARD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REGIONAL MEETINGS

28 November 2013

10.30am-1.30pm

NZ Racing Board

Petone

Wellington

The Meeting will feature the release of the 2012/13 Annual Report by NZRB Chair Glenda Hughes and an address by the Honourable Nathan Guy, Minister for Racing.

The Meeting is scheduled to finish around 1.30pm.

Presentations from the Meeting will be filmed for subsequent broadcast on Trackside. Those unable to attend the Meeting will be able to view, or record for later viewing, these special broadcasts on the Trackside television channel at 3am on Saturday, 7 December and again at 1am on Sunday, 8 December 2013.

Regional Meetings will be held in your area to report a summary of the 2012/13 Annual Report highlights.

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

Those wishing to attend one of these meetings should email regionalsvp@nzracingboard.co.nz by November 25.

TURNOVER INFORMATION (FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 17 NOVEMBER 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 |
| 11-Nov | Avondale | 55,741 | 45,013 | 760,996 | 494,771 | 373,323 | 166,050 | 11 | 7 | 119 | 78 |
| 12-Nov | Manawatu | 34,800 | 39,846 | 815,157 | 940,766 | 304,787 | 278,186 | 9 | 9 | 98 | 110 |
| 13-Nov | Canterbury | 501,970 | 540,611 | 2,025,364 | 2,176,129 | 745,053 | 712,002 | 10 | 10 | 141 | 142 |
| 14-Nov | Otaki-Maori | 38,856 | 26,861 | 713,529 | 682,311 | 266,311 | 231,790 | 8 | 7 | 86 | 77 |
| 15-Nov | Dargaville | 120,769 | 135,320 | 621,521 | 751,059 | 278,876 | 216,685 | 7 | 9 | 62 | 79 |
| 16-Nov | Canterbury | 1,054,751 | 942,198 | 3,914,528 | 3,750,924 | 817,938 | 844,862 | 10 | 9 | 138 | 132 |
| 16-Nov | Tauranga | 211,283 | 212,352 | 1,372,548 | 1,447,252 | 470,689 | 370,362 | 9 | 10 | 95 | 99 |

- Avondale JC Monday meeting ran 11 races this season, 7 last season (extra races added after Paeroa abandonment 13 November).
- Manawatu RC Tuesday (NZ Trotting Cup) meeting equivalent was Rangitikei RC last season, both at Awapuni.
- Otaki-Maori RC Thursday ran 8 races in FY14, was 7 races in FY13.
- Dargaville RC Friday meeting ran 7 races this season, 9 races last season.
- Canterbury Saturday (NZ Cup) meeting was 10 races in FY14, 9 races (after last race abandoned) in FY13.
- Racing Tauranga Saturday meeting ran 9 races this season, 10 races last season.

| NZ Thoroughbred Summary | This Season, Year to Date | Last Season, Year to Date | Variance /() | Variance %/(%) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Meetings | 103 | 104 | (1) | (0.96%) |
| Races | 856 | 891 | (35) | (3.93%) |
| Total Starts | 9,028 | 9,425 | (397) | (4.21%) |
| Avg Field Size | 10.55 | 10.58 | (0.03) | (0.30%) |
| Number of races less than 8 starters | 128 | 109 | 19 | 17.43% |
| Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB) | 116,407,135 | 121,487,995 | (5,080,860) | (4.18%) |
| On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB) | 9,826,372 | 10,427,935 | (601,563) | (5.77%) |
| Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover | 126,233,507 | 131,915,930 | (5,682,423) | (4.31%) |
| Subtotal Totalisator Turnover | 98,088,937 | 105,539,524 | (7,450,587) | (7.06%) |
| Subtotal FOB Turnover | 28,144,556 | 26,376,406 | 1,768,150 | 6.70% |
| NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race | 147,469 | 148,054 | (585) | (0.39%) |
| NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter | 13,982 | 13,996 | (14) | (0.10%) |
| Total NZRB Racing Turnover | 465,181,271 | 468,750,640 | (3,569,369) | (0.76%) |
| Total NZRB Sports Turnover | 82,977,923 | 76,051,968 | 6,925,955 | 9.11% |
| Total NZRB Turnover | 548,159,194 | 544,802,608 | 3,356,586 | 0.62% |
| NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 31 Oct) | 79,369,250 | 98,923,195 | (19,553,945) | (19.77%) |
| Total Races (to 31 Oct) | 694 | 714 | (20) | (2.80%) |
| NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race | 114,365 | 138,548 | (24,183) | (17.45%) |

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is down 4.3% year to date.

- With 35 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 397, 4.2% less.
- Average field size is down marginally from 10.58 in FY13 to 10.55 in FY14, 0.03 (0.3%) less.
- The number of races with less than 8 starters is 19 higher than a season ago.
- Decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 7.1%) has been partly offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 6.7%).
- Export turnover per race to 31 October is down (17.5%). The main contributors to this are the variance in the \$NZ/\$A exchange rate and a 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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