



Thursday 7 March 2013

### From the horse's mouth

I'm pleased to report that we have completed the consultation on the [NZTR Handicapping Policy](#) and some high level details are below. We know this is a touch point for owners and trainers. We have received a number of complaints from the Trainers' Association over their concerns about the perceived inconsistency in some instances. As a result we have conducted some rigorous reviews, had some good discussion and a document was put out for consultation with trainers and the Club Regional Programming and Handicapping representatives others before now being released.

The revised policy has a new national scale of weights guidelines for all categories of races. There is also a new complaint's process (see next story) whereby an independent arbitrator will be able to conduct a review and if they deem fit make a recommendation to NZTR.

The other significant news item is the changes to jumps racing which have also been out for consultation, following a detailed review of the 2012 season by NZ Jumps Inc and NZTR. NZTR is introducing, on a trial basis for 2013, the requirement for some Clubs to provide four jumping races at all mid-week industry meetings. NZTR, with the support of NZ Jumps Inc and the Clubs, will now programme open entry jumping races on a number of days so all horses have the opportunity to nominate for a hurdle or steeplechase. Where there are sufficient entries NZTR, in discussion with the Club, will look to split one or both Open Entry jumping races into two fields. Preference will be given to providing a race restricted to Maiden jumps horses. Where an Open Entry race is not split, Maidens will race with the experienced horses. The first maiden horse home in those races will receive \$1,000 Maiden bonus.

NZTR is also increasing the prize money across a number of the prestige hurdles and steeplechase races to minimum stakes of \$40,000 across 10 races. The Wellington Hurdles and Steeples go from \$50,000 to \$70,000, while the Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase, run at Riccarton Park, will also rise to \$70,000.

Finally, following on from the policy to prevent jockeys remounting a horse they had come off, it has been decided that in those jumping races where any prizemoney is not paid out as a result of a horse or horses falling in that race, the balance of the prizemoney on offer will be divided among the horses that started but did not finish.

Greg Purcell  
Chief Executive

### Expressions of Interest for NZTR Handicapping Liaison Officer Role

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) is creating a new role of Handicapping Liaison Officer, which will be independent of NZTR. The Handicapping Liaison Officer will deal with handicapping complaints where the owner or trainer remains unsatisfied following discussions with the Handicapper.

The Handicapping Liaison Officer will be empowered to consider handicapping complaints and make a recommendation to the NZTR Chief Executive on an expedited basis as to whether a re-rating and/or the weighting of a horse should be amended.

Persons applying for this role will need to have a good understanding of the handicapping principles, policies and procedures that operate in New Zealand and a sound knowledge of the Rules of Racing pertaining to handicapping and be able to apply this knowledge and understanding when considering any complaint.

The role will require excellent written and verbal communication and dispute resolution skills and have excellent attention to detail, along with the ability to work to tight deadlines. The role is part-time on an as need basis. Remuneration will be commensurate with the importance and responsibility of the position and will be structured to include an annual retainer and an hourly fee basis. For further information contact David Jewell: 04 5766 262 / 027 511 3152 / [David.Jewell@nzracing.co.nz](mailto:David.Jewell@nzracing.co.nz)

### Waipa Abandonment

The Waipa Racing Club meeting at Te Awamutu on Thursday 14 March has been abandoned following an inspection by NZTR

due to the track conditions. There is no irrigation available at Waipa and as result of the drought like conditions being experienced in the region following the inspection by NZTR it was agreed that the Waipa track was not able to provide a consistent surface conducive to safe racing.

In consultation with the Northern Regional Programming committee and the New Zealand Trainers Association, NZTR has advised the New Zealand Racing Board that given industry concerns as to the number of horses currently available that a replacement licence for Waipa was not a viable option at this time. To ensure that there are other options for horses that may have been looking to start at Waipa the following changes to the South Waikato Racing Club programme have been made to open up three Maiden races to all eligible starters:

- \$8,000 Maiden C&G 1600m will now be run as a straight \$8,000 Maiden 1600m
- \$7,000 Maiden F&M 1400m will now be run as a straight \$7,000 Maiden 1400m
- \$8,000 Maiden C&G 1200m will now be run as a straight \$8,000 Maiden 1200m

NZTR in consultation with the South Waikato RC will look to divide race/s next Wednesday at Matamata should there be sufficient nominations received as a result of the abandonment of the Waipa meeting. NZTR will also monitor nominations for the Waikato RC meeting on Saturday 16 March and Rotorua RC meeting on Monday 18 March and will look to ensure all horses nominated have an opportunity to start.

### **Hosting of Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour**

The VRC invites racing clubs to apply to host the 2013 Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour. As part of the tendering process, host destinations are invited to organise visits to schools, nursing homes, hospitals, community fun days, charity events, cocktail parties and street parades to honour the Tour's visit to their town. To host the 2013 EMCT please submit an application online by Monday, 8 April, 2013 at <http://www.melbournecuptour.com.au/>

In your tender application, we encourage you to outline a schedule of community events and explain how the Tour could raise community spirit in your town or celebrate local icons. For further information on the 2013 EMCT, please contact the EMCT team at Wrights PR 61 (0) 3 9690 9911.

### **Waikato RC - General Manager Vacancy**

The General Manager of the Waikato Racing Club is retiring after more than 30 years and the club is now searching for his replacement.

The racing industry in New Zealand is highly competitive and fast paced, and this is a great opportunity to become involved in an organisation that prides itself on remaining at the forefront of the racing and entertainment industries.

To be successful in this position, you will bring well developed management skills, strong marketing and financial experience and the ability to create new business opportunities. You may have previous industry experience or just be passionate about the industry.

To register your interest in confidence or to request a position description, please contact Judy Davison at [judy@assetrec.co.nz](mailto:judy@assetrec.co.nz) Applications close on Friday 15 March 2013.

### **2 PhD Scholarship Opportunities**

#### **Caring for Thoroughbreds: addressing social, economic and welfare issues in international horse racing**

Two fully funded PhD scholarships, one at the University of Sydney and one at the University of Tasmania, are available as part of an Australian Research Council Discovery Project. Applications for these two scholarships will be considered simultaneously to ensure the best skills fit for the overall research project. The two successful applicants will be enrolled in a PhD in Human Geography at either the University of Tasmania (Hobart campus) or the University of Sydney. The successful applicants will be required to enrol as soon as possible in 2013, preferably before March 31st 2013.

The project investigates social, economic and animal welfare dimensions of challenges currently being faced by the international thoroughbred racing industry with the aim of helping the industry to meet these challenges. The project involves qualitative research to examine issues related to thoroughbred breeding and racing, particularly the use of whips in races, the activity of jumps racing and the life-course of individual thoroughbreds. The successful candidates will be responsible for research including use of contemporary qualitative fieldwork methods such as participant observation, interviews, and constructing equine biographies. Funds are available to support research and field expenses as well as conference attendance. The successful candidates must be prepared to travel to undertake fieldwork.

Closing date: 11 March 2013

More information at: <http://agile2.ucc.usyd.edu.au/ro/opportunities/scholarships/1250>

### Turnover Information for the Period ending 3 March 2013

Date	Club	On-Course		Off-Course		Fixed Odds		Starters	
								12-13	11-12
25/2	Avondale (1)	16,540		265,767		178,874		44	
27/2	Waikato	31,280	10.4%	493,588	13.9%	226,340	42.4%	63	21.3%
28/2	Marton	23,313	16.0%	523,235	12.2%	179,996	15.9%	73	3.9%
1/3	Central Otago	50,200	2.5%	627,083	5.3%	173,114	65.6%	81	19.8%
2/3	Auckland (2)	578,753	0.5%	2,234,403	8.9%	782,327	5.1%	110	13.4%
2/3	Hawke's Bay (2)	72,938	91.6%	1,083,456	94.4%	291,023	50.9%	81	62.0%
3/3	Otago@Cromwell	115,882	30.2%	664,012	17.4%	194,028	29.2%	81	28.3%

- (1) Avondale JC; there was no equivalent meeting on this day last year; this year there were 7 races.  
(2) Both Auckland and Hawkes Bay last year were affected by rain, downgrades in track rating and late scratchings.

NZ Thoroughbred Summary	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance /()	Variance %/(% )
Races	1,850	1,857	(7)	(0.38%)
Starters	19,186	19,484	(298)	(1.53%)
Avg Field Size	10.37	10.49	(0.12)	(1.16%)
Off-Course Turnover	199,934,974	202,962,905	(3,027,931)	(1.49%)
On-Course Turnover	23,842,173	24,729,002	(886,829)	(3.59%)
Total Totalisator Turnover	223,777,147	227,691,907	(3,914,760)	(1.72%)
Fixed Odds	59,509,923	41,453,397	18,056,526	43.56%
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	283,287,070	269,145,304	14,141,766	5.25%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	153,128	144,936	8,193	5.65%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,765	13,814	952	6.89%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	916,764,296	829,722,513	87,041,783	10.49%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	137,728,471	139,817,461	(2,088,990)	(1.49%)
Total NZRB Turnover	<b>1,054,492,768</b>	<b>969,539,974</b>	<b>84,952,794</b>	<b>8.76%</b>

Note: NZRB supplied On-course Turnover total represents On-course turnover placed on NZ thoroughbred meetings from all on-course venues. 'Total' NZ Thoroughbred turnover figure includes Off-course (including Pick 6), On-course (NZRB figure as commented above) and all Fixed Odds Turnover. All Turnover figures are supplied by the NZRB.

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