



**Auckland Racing Club**

Monday, 5 August 2019

## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **Vodafone New Zealand Derby – amendments to balloting conditions**

After the running of the 2019 Vodafone New Zealand Derby, management and the board of the Auckland Racing Club (ARC) undertook a review of the balloting conditions of that race. The issues of concern were:

- Placed horses in the Waikato Guineas not making the Vodafone New Zealand Derby field due to not earning enough stake money
- Including stake money in the Vodafone New Zealand Derby order of entry for horses placed first to last in the Karaka Million 3yo Classic

At the conclusion of the review, and after consultation with the New Zealand Trainer's Association, the following changes have been made:

- If entered for the Vodafone New Zealand Derby, horses placed first, second and third in the Waikato Guineas will be exempt from the ballot in the Vodafone New Zealand Derby
- Removal of Vodafone New Zealand Derby ballot exemption status for the fourth placed horse in the Avondale Guineas. The first three placed horses remain exempt, if entered
- Only stake money earned for horses placed first to fifth (inclusive) in the Karaka Million 3yo Classic will count towards the Vodafone New Zealand Derby order of entry
- Removing the clause that gave the ARC Board discretion to exclude any horse or horses from the Vodafone New Zealand Derby balloting conditions.

"After an in-depth review, ARC is now comfortable with what has been agreed regarding balloting conditions for New Zealand's most prestigious race – the Vodafone New Zealand Derby" says ARC Executive GM of Racing & Operations, Craig Baker.

"We had an unfortunate case this year when the third placed horse in the Waikato Guineas - a race recognised as a significant lead up event to the Vodafone New Zealand Derby, missed a start in the big race due to not earning enough stake money."

"Giving ballot exemption status to the first three placed horses fixes that anomaly."

"Ultimately, we did not believe it was fair that horses that were well beaten in the Karaka Million 3yo Classic had stake money count towards the order of entry in the Vodafone New Zealand Derby. We believe that including stake money for horses that finished first to fifth is a fair compromise. "

Nominations for the 2020 \$1million, G1 Vodafone New Zealand Derby close in November with the race to be run at Ellerslie Racecourse as part of Auckland Cup Week 2020 on Saturday, 29 February.

For further information, please contact Craig Baker ([craigb@ellerslie.co.nz](mailto:craigb@ellerslie.co.nz)) or 027 441 2920.

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