

## 2010 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION

### REVIEW OF THE HANDICAPPING SYSTEM - by the NZ Trotting Owners Association

#### Recommendation

That the Executive gives consideration to reviewing the present handicapping system.

#### Reasons

1. The present system is markedly biased in favour of the good 2yo and 3 yo.
2. Our handicapping system should be seen to be treating all horses fairly, so as not to disadvantage their ability to be competitive. At present the average horse is at a disadvantage by being continually pitted against good horses which have been granted dispensations and are allowed to race below their true grade.
3. This season the Australian handicapping system has been amended to incorporate a "drop back" system. This has been done to try to extend the racing life of the average horse and thus encourage more contented and increased ownership.
4. A handicapping system that leads to more equitable and more competitive racing will invariably lead to bigger turnovers. Turnovers always suffer when there is a "stand out" horse in the field.
5. The NZTOA also feels that a review of the present handicapping system should be carried out by representatives from the North Island, Canterbury and Southland. It would be preferable if these reviewers were independent of the present Handicapping Sub-Committee. It would also be preferable if they had had no input in formulating the present system.
6. The NZTOA also advocates that a "rating system" be investigated. At present this type of system is operating successfully in other sports and especially in other parts of the racing world.