

INTERIM REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2025 FROM: HRNZ RATINGS, HANDICAPPING AND PROGRAMMING MONITORING GROUP

This Sub Committee comprises three persons namely Rob Lawson (Chair), Brett Gray, and Mike Johnson. We have met via Video conferencing on four occasions thus far.

We have been given access to extensive statistical data produced by HRNZ.

Our primary focus has been to monitor the system since its introduction considering perceived issues being created, and fear that the new system may identify unfair treatment of a numbers of racehorses with regards to Handicapping.

--Our overriding consensus is that the system is working and that there have been no overarching negative outcomes to date.

1. The most positive feature of the “New” rating system is the treatment of maidens once they enter the rating system (i.e. gain their first win). They are much better placed than previously.
2. The Re- Rating of the one-win horses has benefitted retrospectively these horses as well.
3. The Re-Rating of two-to-three-win horses whilst initially creating some negative reaction has not been reflected in an unfair balance in field evenness. It is acknowledged that this has benefitted some horses with extra wins, however.
4. Rating System Trend. There was some trepidation that the Mean or Median horses rating amongst the horse pool would drop significantly- That has not happened.

Our stats guru (Mike Johnson) as advised the following : “Since 30Jun up to and including 22Sep with some generalisation:-

1000 horses have raced under the improved rating system

The total ratings points for all horses has risen by 32 points that is
0.032 points per horse

*** 100 horses (10% of the rated horses) are R35 and cannot drop any points

*** 300 horses (30%) are below R40, (R35-R39), the entry point of maiden winners

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The median rating is R43 that is half the horses are rated R43 or under

The average rating is around R46 with only 34% of the horses (340) rated higher than the average

So that leaves the remaining 36% (360 horses) between R40-R46

5. Maidens (Non Winners) – The main beneficiary of the “New” system : there are 321 maidens currently in the system

the average number of races for a maiden to progress is around 6 starts

38% of those that have progress took longer than the average number of starts.

6. Turnovers appear very strong. Note it is hard to compare year on year as the number of race meetings and number of races have increased and we have also had Cambridge change from Tuesday to Thursday (with a natural increase in turnover) - The good news overwhelmingly is that Turnovers have certainly NOT dropped.
7. Race Field sizes are particularly good (especially Canterbury) this could be attributed to the time of the year however again the good news is this measure has not receded.
8. Junior Drivers / Penalty Free races. We expected a potential reduction in starters due to no loss of points for also rans. To date we have not noticed a drop off in field size/nominations due to this.
9. Programming. We note that this is still a work in progress, and more effort needs to be put into programming subject to input from the regions. We are heavy advocates of an “Open Nomination Policy “that means you create conditions once you have the nominations and use the conditions to create the fairest most even fields.” Conditions can also be used to split maiden fields into the more advanced horse's vs those taking some time to become competitive.
10. Communication: We have mentioned in our previous meetings that we would like to see from HRNZ some publicity/information/snippets around explanations of the system, how more conditions can be applicable based on nominations- the benefits of Open Nominations, how Junior Concessions apply and also most importantly the ability to now put a “sale” price on any horse to go in the racebook – with a view to the potential for claimer only races in the future.

Our committee will continue to meet fortnightly and will report to HRNZ Management as required in our role as a monitoring and review group. We will also look to suggest potential enhancements to the system.

Regards HRNZ Ratings, Handicapping and Programming Monitoring Group