

5 September 2013

**CIRCULAR NO 1318**

**To:** The Secretary all Totalisator Clubs and Kindred Bodies

**From:** Edward Rennell, Chief Executive

**Subject:** **BOARD NEWS AUGUST 2013**

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Following is a summary of key matters considered at the HRNZ Board meeting on 28 August 2013.

**1. HARNES JEWELS – INVITE TO AUSTRALIAN HORSES**

In a change to the conditions of the Harness Jewels, the Board has agreed to extend an invitation to the leading Australian horse in each age group category. The field size for each race will be extended to 13 should the Australian horse take up this invitation. The Board believe this will grow interest in the Harness Jewels in Australia and further enhance the profile of the event domestically.

Attached as **Appendix 1** is the press release announcing this change and backgrounding further the rationale behind it. Revised conditions for the 2014 Harness Jewels will be available on HRNZ's website in the near future.

**2. BETTING RULES FOR DRIVERS**

With the defeat of the remit at the Annual Conference, the status quo applies to the Betting Rule for harness racing drivers. The Board considered a report on this given the NZRB's request that HRNZ further review and tighten controls in this area.

The Board believe it is important that this matter be worked through in a careful and logical manner. Accordingly a working group comprising Steve Phillips and Garry Lund (Board members), Rob Lawson and Peter Ferguson (Trainers and Drivers Association), Nigel McIntyre (RIU) and Edward Rennell (HRNZ), has been appointed to review this issue and report back to the Board's November meeting. This may include recommended changes to the existing Rules and a timetable to introduce these.

**3. USE OF ANABOLIC STEROIDS ON HORSES IN TRAINING**

Within HRNZ's Prohibited Substance Regulation a series of substances are listed as prohibited for Out of Competition purposes. These are essentially substances for which there are no valid veterinary or therapeutic reasons to administer to a horse. It is an offence if these are found in horses in training or on race day. With respect to other prohibited substances, it is only an offence if they are found in a horse's system from testing on race day, in line with the principle that horses are to race free of prohibited substances. This approach is consistent with that of New Zealand thoroughbreds and Australian harness.

Internationally within the thoroughbred code an issue has arisen with respect to the use of anabolic steroids on horses in training. In European racing administrations this is not permitted in contrast to Asia, North America and Australasia. This has generated considerable debate within thoroughbred circles, particularly with the increased travel of horses to race internationally. As a result there is considerable pressure being brought to bear in international thoroughbred circles for Asia, North America and Australasia to review their positions on this issue. The International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities (thoroughbred) is proposing a complete ban on steroids apart from those administered for therapeutic reasons. This ban will not just apply to race day but to all horses that are in training. It is understood that most Asian countries are likely to agree to this, with the Australian

thoroughbred code currently reviewing its position. It is expected they may follow and introduce the ban given its status internationally. Public perception grounds are likely to add weight and pressure to the Australians in changing their current approach.

HRNZ has been reviewing its position on this issue in conjunction with NZTR and the code's veterinary advisor Dr Andrew Grierson. The preliminary position in New Zealand is that we should be guided by the position adopted by the Australian thoroughbred code. With the level of trans-Tasman competition it is eminently sensible that there be consistent Rules between the countries on this. It is likely that the harness code in Australia will also follow whatever the Australian thoroughbreds decide.

HRNZ's position is that there should be common Rules between the thoroughbreds and harness within New Zealand. This is particularly important so that equine vets have consistency in terms of the Rules between both codes. Accordingly HRNZ will further review its position on this at its meeting on 4 October where Dr Andrew Grierson will attend. By this time it is anticipated that the Australian and New Zealand thoroughbreds will have confirmed their position on the possible ban of anabolic steroids on horses in training.

Whatever is decided in this area, it will be essential that appropriate information and education is provided to licenceholders and vets so that they are clearly aware of any changes in this area.

#### **4. ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AWARDS DEBRIEFS**

The Board reviewed reports on the recently conducted Annual Conference and Annual Awards function. While the Board felt both were reasonably successful, HRNZ is continually looking at ways that both can be enhanced.

Accordingly feedback is sought from clubs and kindred bodies on these events. In particular suggestions are welcome as to areas clubs and kindred bodies believe would be useful to be covered at future Annual Conferences and feedback with respect to the format and content of the Conference.

#### **5. INDUSTRY FUNDING AND INTERNATIONALISATION AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS**

The industry Funding Agreement and Internationalisation Agreement with Tabcorp are due to expire on 31 July 2015. The Board is keen that HRNZ undertakes preliminary planning to determine the code's position over the next 12 months on both items so we are prepared when renegotiation discussions take place at an industry level on both agreements.

Accordingly the Board has established a working group comprising Kerry Hoggard, Colin Hair, Ray O'Connor and Barry Dent to work with Edward Rennell to develop strategies and consider opportunities in relation to industry deliberations on the Industry Funding and Internationalisation Agreements. This will be a priority over the next year, in close consultation with the NZRB.

#### **6. STRATEGIC PLAN – VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

HRNZ's 2013/14 Business Plan that was presented at the Annual Conference has largely an annual focus. The document outlines HRNZ's Mission Statement, KPI's, statistics, industry challenges and HRNZ's proposed actions to address these. Within the challenges and actions section a timespan is given for addressing these which covers a three year period. In addition to this, the Business Plan also outlines HRNZ's Industry Funding Policy for 2013/14.

The nature of the Business Plan is largely operational to outline the key industry issues and priorities for the 2013/14 year. Now that this process is complete, the Board consider it appropriate for HRNZ to undertake a more comprehensive strategic planning exercise where a long term view is taken and a vision is developed for the future. Essentially the Board is looking to review its previous strategic plan and adopt a fresh view on where it sees the industry in five to ten years.

The Board agreed that a scoping paper and timetable for the strategic plan process be prepared and considered at the Board's October meeting.

**7. INTEREST ON STAKE MONEY NOT PAID WITHIN SIX MONTHS**

The Board agreed that HRNZ would introduce a policy whereby stakes not paid within six months of a race being conducted due to a judicial enquiry, HRNZ would pay interest on the stakes when subsequently distributed to any promoted connections once the result is confirmed. The Board considered this an act of "good faith" where interest should be paid to the connections of the promoted horses in situations where the result is not confirmed through the judicial process in a reasonably timely manner.

**8. BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES AND PORTFOLIOS**

Attached **Appendix 2** is a schedule of HRNZ Board Sub-Committees and Portfolio responsibilities for the 2013/14 Board term. Also outlined in the attached document are details of meeting dates for the upcoming year.

**9. IN BRIEF AND MATTERS UNDER ACTION**

The following matters were also considered at the Board meeting. Some items are noted as under action for review at subsequent Board meetings:

- Independent review of the Racing Integrity Unit – review of Executive Summary from this report;
- NZRB Statement of Corporate Intent;
- Various Regulation Changes – Covered in Circular 1319;
- Funding application by Trainers and Drivers Assn – held over pending provision of Business Plan;
- NZTR synthetic training track proposal;
- Approval of two additional amateur driver totalisator races for Central Otago and Roxburgh;
- Update on computer developments with the introduction of the handicapping system changes;
- Review of NZSBA presentation on breeding trends;
- 2012/13 season end statistics;
- Report on 2013 World Trotting Conference – summary to be prepared for website;
- Allocation of Board members' remuneration for 2013/14;
- Update on developments with China – further information and background to be determined (P Ydgren).

**10. NEXT MEETINGS**

The next HRNZ Board meeting is scheduled for Friday 4 October 2013;

The Audit and Finance Sub-Committee, and the Age Group Racing Review Group will meet the day prior on Thursday 3, October.



Edward Rennell  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



# HARNESS RACING

## New Zealand

### Media Release

4 September 2013

#### Top Australian Horses to receive an Invite to Harness Jewels

In a change to the conditions of the Harness Jewels, the Board of HRNZ has agreed to extend an invitation to a leading Australian horse in each age group category. The field size for each race will be extended to thirteen should the Australian horse take up this invitation. It is believed this will grow interest in the Harness Jewels in Australia and further enhance the profile of this event which has become a key event in the racing calendar each year.

The 2014 Harness Jewels are to be hosted by Harness Racing Waikato at Cambridge Raceway on 31 May 2014. Total stakes for the day will be \$1.2m over the nine races, with this continuing to be New Zealand's only race meeting where all stakes are for a minimum of \$100,000.

In announcing this change, HRNZ Chairman Gary Allen said "This is an exciting change that will further enhance the quality of racing at the Jewels and be of great interest to the racing public. Inviting the leading Australian horse in each age group to participate will add an extra dimension and offers the opportunity to attract a larger audience. This has been a fantastic series for New Zealand participants and now is the perfect time to grow the international presence and awareness of the Harness Jewels."

"The change will provide additional depth to the competition for each race and further enhance this as an iconic event on the international stage. It gives HRNZ, the New Zealand Racing Board and Harness Racing Waikato a great opportunity to further promote the event and grow turnover domestically and internationally," Mr Allen said.

The twelve local contenders will continue to be determined based on stakes earned in the season within New Zealand as per the normal approach. The Australian invite will be selected on 1 May 2014 by a panel constituted by Harness Racing Australia (HRA).

HRA Chief Executive Andrew Kelly said "This is an outstanding development that will provide a great opportunity for our leading horses to match their Kiwi counterparts. This will be of significant interest to our industry and will help lift awareness of this great race day within Australia. HRA looks forward to be involved and hopefully we will see for the first time an Australian break the hoodoo and win on Jewels day."

For more information please contact Harness Racing New Zealand - 03 964 1200

Candice Van Dyk  
Marketing & Communication Manager

### 2013/14 BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES

SUB-COMMITTEE	BOARD MEMBER	STAFF RESPONSIBILITY	MEETING DATE/S
Dates and Group Races	K Spicer (Chair), A Smaill, B Wastney, B Rabbitt, K Smith, K Wells, R Freeman, Z Jordan, P Ferguson, K Barron, C Murdoch	E Rennell, D Williams, (A Morris - Group Races)	Sun, 10 November (Dates) Thurs, 29 May (Group Races)
Breeders Liaison	A Smaill (Chair), C Hair, S Phillips, C Murdoch, P Smith, J Mooney	E Rennell, W Reid, K Buttell	Sun, 10 November Thu, 7 August
Audit and Finance	C Hair (Chair), K Hoggard, B Dent, R O'Connor, G Lund, B Wastney	E Rennell, J Fleming	Thu, 3 October Wed, 18 December Wed, 9 April
Handicapping	S Phillips (Chair), J Lischner, D Butcher, H Hunter, J Broad, B Rabbitt, K Smith, K Barron, M Jones	D Williams, A Morris	Wed, 19 February June/July - TBC
Rules and Regulations	B Dent (Chair), S Phillips, J Lischner, K Hoggard, R O'Connor, G Lund, R Lawson	E Rennell	Wed, 9 April Thu, 29 May
Age Group Racing Review Group	K Hoggard (Chair), K Spicer, R O'Connor	E Rennell, D Williams	Thu, 3 October

### PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

Amateur Driving	S Phillips	M Harris
CBHL	C Hair (Chair), K Spicer, P Smith	J Fleming
Equine Research Foundation	E Rennell	E Rennell
Equine Training Organisation	P Ydgren	N Gameson
International Liaison/Inter Dominion Event Committee	G Allen	E Rennell
NZ Racing Board/CRIG	G Allen	E Rennell
Owners	K Spicer	E Rennell
Racing Integrity Unit, Judicial	R O'Connor	E Rennell
Sires Stakes Board	K Spicer	D Williams
Standardbred Breeders	C Hair	W Reid
Strategic/Business Planning	B Dent	E Rennell
Trainers & Drivers	J Lischner	E Rennell

### 2013/14 BOARD MEETING DATES

Wednesday, 28 August 2013	Christchurch
Friday, 4 October 2013	Christchurch
Monday, 11 November 2013	Christchurch
Thursday, 19 December 2013	Christchurch
Thursday, 20 February 2014	Christchurch
Friday, 7 March 2014	Auckland
Thursday, 10 April 2014	Christchurch
Friday, 30 May 2014	Hamilton
Mid-July, to be confirmed	Christchurch
Annual Conference, 8 & 9 August 2014	Christchurch

## BOARD MEMBERS' CLUB LIAISON RESPONSIBILITIES

<b>K Hoggard</b>	Auckland, Franklin, Kumeu, Thames
<b>S Phillips</b>	Manukau, Hawera, Stratford, Northland
<b>R O'Connor</b>	Bay of Plenty, Cambridge/Te Awamutu, Morrinsville
<b>G Allen</b>	Kapiti Coast, Manawatu, Taranaki, Wairarapa, Wanganui
<b>B Wastney</b>	Nelson, Marlborough, Westport, Reefton
<b>K Spicer</b>	Amberley, Rangiora, Cheviot
<b>C Hair</b>	Kaikoura, Methven, Oamaru, Kurow
<b>G Lund</b>	Akaroa, Banks Peninsula, Timaru, Waimate
<b>B Dent</b>	Ashburton, Hororata, Geraldine, NZMTC
<b>J Lischner</b>	Forbury Park, Tuapeka, Central Otago, Roxburgh, Waikouaiti
<b>A Smaill</b>	Gore, Invercargill, Northern Southland, Riverton, Wairio Winton, Wyndham

## REGIONAL LICENSING COMMITTEES

<b>NORTHERN</b>	John Muirhead, Rod Carmichael, David Butcher, Steve Phillips, Sally Waters (Allan Brown to be consulted on CD issues)
<b>CANTERBURY</b>	Erin Crawford, Nick Ydgren, Bruce Hutton, Natalie Gameson, Kylie Williams, Brian Wastney
<b>OTAGO/SOUTHLAND</b>	Ailsa Smaill, Barry Kitto, Chris Allison, Gordon Lee, Aimee Edmonds

\* Chairman ex-officio on all Sub-Committees with full voting rights

\*\* Chair of Sub-Committees to determine if HRNZ staff have voting rights on their respective Sub-Committee

\*\*\* Board members entitled to sit in on all Sub-Committee meetings as observers if not on Sub-Committee