

FROM THE CHAIR

Industry Update from John Coulam, HRNZ Chair

Dates Calendar

Last week the TAB approved the racing calendar for the 2021/2022 season. Through Racing New Zealand the codes have agreed to release the calendar simultaneously, therefore, the calendar will be public this Friday 30 April. The Board of HRNZ recognizes the consultation process and leadership of our Racing Manager, Catherine McDonald, and her team, in the reshaping of our calendar.

Special General Meeting – Proposal to Change Horses' Birthdate and Breeding Rules

On **27 May**, a **Special General Meeting** of HRNZ clubs and kindred bodies is to be held at **11.00 am**, with attendance by either Zoom or in person, to consider changing the birthdate of the Standardbred to 1 January. Early indications are that there is overwhelming support and compelling reasons why we should be doing this and, in particular, aligning the birthdate with Australia and other overseas harness associations. Documentation has been sent to clubs and kindred bodies to consider the reasons for the proposed change. Also out for consultation and approval at the same time will be the updated breeding rules.

Now that the calendar is finalised, a working party is focused on re mapping all group, feature and series races across our season. This work will not be completed until the outcome of the Special General Meeting is known regarding the birthdate of the horse.



Regional Racing Reviews

Following on from the review of racing venues in the Otago/Southland area, Racing New Zealand has agreed to two more venue and racing reviews. The first of these reviews will focus on the greater Canterbury area and the second review, while focused on the Waikato, from a harness perspective will look at the whole of the North Island. Subject to funding being available, work will commence on the reviews this year.

TAB NZ Board Code Nominations

It's no secret that the Minister for Racing has asked each of the codes to submit a second name for consideration for the TAB NZ Board. The HRNZ Board once again considered the criteria outlined by the DIA for the position and as a result has nominated Doug Freeman, who has a wealth of wagering experience in his former role with Tabcorp in Australia. Nominations closed last week.

Racing Industry Act – Obligations on Clubs

All clubs need to be aware that under the Racing Act 2020, no club can enter into a land sale or purchase agreement, nor take out a mortgage against their land without the approval of the HRNZ Board. Seek approvals early so that the Board has time to obtain and consider all the information it needs to make an objective and considered decision before you commit your funds.

Key Performance Indicators

We are seeing some positive trends in the key performance indicators for the season to date, and some areas where we continue to look for improvement.

HRNZ KEY STATISTICS - 2020/21 SEASON					
as at 11 April 2021					
KPI	2019/20 YTD	2020/21 YTD	% Change from LY	2019/20 Actual	Status
Total totalisator races	1,657	1,805	8.93%	2,049	●
Total number of starts	17,935	20,028	-11.67%	22,182	●
Average field size	10.82	11.10	2.51%	10.83	●
Total number of individual starters	2,457	2,482	1.02%	2,711	●
Average starts per horse	7.30	8.07	10.55%	8.18	●
# Races < 8 starters	137	153	11.68%	164	●
Average winning dividend	\$7.89	\$8.19	3.80%	\$7.92	●
# Races favourite < \$2.00	387	339	-12.40%	488	●
# Races favourite < \$1.50	109	89	-18.35%	133	●
Fixed Odds Yield (%)	12.9	14.2	10.08%	13.8	●
Off and On-course turnover (\$000)	76,646	86,023	12.23%	92,650	●
Fixed odds turnover (\$000)	60,258	78,534	30.33%	75,015	●
Total domestic turnover (\$000)	136,904	164,557	20.20%	167,665	●
Exported turnover (\$m)	58.77	58.79	0.03%	81.03	●
Domestic market share T/O (%)	26.4	27.0	2.27%	27.2	●
Domestic market share GBR (%)	26.9	26.5	-1.49%	28.4	●
Combined market share GBR (%)	16.9	17.2	1.78%	16.7	●
Total stakes (\$000)	22,941	23,947	4.39%	26,258	●
Average net stakes per race (\$)	13,845	13,267	-4.17%	12,815	●
Races starting on time % (within 60 seconds of scheduled time)	70.1	75.5	7.70%	71.3	●

● Ahead of Last Year ● Consistent with Budget/Last Year ● Down on Last Year

* Export as at 31 March 2021
** Stakes figures do not include non-tote races and are programmed stakes

New Initiatives

As an industry we need to be open to reviewing our processes and practices, always looking for improvement and daring to try new things. If we keep operating in the same way without being open to change then we will lose our relevance as a sport. Following input from sector groups, the HRNZ Board has approved for industry consultation a number of exciting possibilities to stimulate racing numbers and opportunities for horses and our junior drivers. The Board will consider feedback at its June meeting, with the intent that any agreed changes will be implemented on 1 August. Keep an eye out for detail of this on our website.

Industry Day Feedback

In case anyone is wondering, feedback received from the Industry Day last year has been collated and is being used to inform both the strategic plan and business plan of HRNZ.

Tentative Date for Annual Conference and AGM

Club secretaries note that this year's Conference and Annual General Meeting are *tentatively* booked for **15/16 October in Christchurch**.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John Coulam". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey horizontal line.

John Coulam

Chair

Harness Racing New Zealand Inc

April 2021