



Media Release

Monday 15th July 2013

Harness Jewels Format and Venues Confirmed

At its meeting on 11 July, the Board of Harness Racing New Zealand reviewed the Harness Jewels and the future conditions of this event. The Board was tremendously encouraged by the Ashburton Trotting Club's successful staging of the 2013 Harness Jewels and believe that the event has become a fundamental part of the harness racing calendar each year.

In terms of 2014, the Board has confirmed that that Harness Jewels will be conducted in line with its traditional format - with nine races for 2yo, 3yo and 4yo's. The 2014 Harness Jewels will be conducted by Harness Racing Waikato for the same stakes of \$150,000 for pacers and \$100,000 for trotters. The 2014 Harness Jewels will be held at Cambridge Raceway on 31 May 2014, with all races over a mile as with previous years.

While the 2013 event included races for 5yo's, due to financial constraints the Board was not in a position to provide for 5yo and over events in 2014. This will be reviewed on an annual basis, however the current belief is that horses in these categories are adequately catered for with existing feature open races.

The Board also confirmed a roster for the conduct of the next four Harness Jewels events. This is as follows:

- 2014 Cambridge
- 2015 Ashburton
- 2016 Cambridge
- 2017 Ashburton

The Board considers the current policy of rotating the series between the North and South Islands is the best structure to foster national interest in the event. By confirming the roster for the next four years certainty is given to Harness Racing Waikato and the Ashburton TC so they can further develop their venues with the knowledge they will be hosting the Jewels in these years. The early confirmation of the roster will enable the clubs to better plan for the future and develop their venues conscious of the requirements of staging the Harness Jewels.

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