



NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

NATIONAL AGM

The National Annual General Meeting for the New Zealand Trainers' Association was held at Ellerslie racecourse on Saturday 24th August 2019. The elections for the National Executive roles resulted in the re-election of Tony Pike as National President, and Nigel Tiley and Michael Pitman as National Vice Presidents.

Following the formalities, guest speakers included Martin Burns, Alan Jackson and Dean McKenzie. This mainly took a Q&A format. There was considerable debate at times with the Trainers' Association Executive voicing their concerns and representing the members' views. The future of racing is critical to the livelihoods of trainers and the current situation is dire. Our views need to be heard and we require assurances that there will be substantial improvement. There has been a lack of communication on the progress to date. Since the meeting, the following has been received:

RITA RACING REFORM PROGRAMME UPDATE #2

To: New Zealand racing organisations
Date 29 August 2019

Good evening,

It's been just sixty days since the establishment of the Racing Industry Transition Agency (RITA) and a timely opportunity to update you on progress against the Reform Programme the Board are advancing on behalf of the Minister for Racing.

Our strategic focus is set out very clearly in the letter of expectation from the Minister for Racing - we must work to secure the long-term success of the New Zealand racing industry. We must reform the industry into a more sustainable structure, and support them as it goes through this change.

You will know that there are 17 recommendations from the Review of the New Zealand Racing Industry by John Messara that we are working through. Many of these need policy, legislation and comprehensive regulations for the proposed changes to take effect. Much of this work is complex and requires significant focus from RITA Board and management, as well as the Department of Internal Affairs.

As we come into the important period of Spring racing we are encouraged by the progress made to give effect to this ambition.

Bill One

The first Racing Reform Bill came into effect on July 1 and addresses the industry's need for additional revenue. This included the totalisator (betting) duty paid to the Crown being phased out and the

introduction of two new charges on overseas betting operators (offshore charges) to help ensure they contribute to the New Zealand racing and sports codes from which they benefit.

The money available as a consequence of the reduction in Betting Duty is being held by RITA while the final details of its distribution between Harm Minimisation Initiatives, and the Racing Codes and Sports NZ is finalised. From mid 2021, we would expect the returns will be in excess of \$14m, with approximately \$4m available this year. The distribution amounts need to be set by a specific regulation and we will update the industry prior to Christmas on the outcome.

The Offshore Charges will be able to be set and collected following the implementation of regulations. It is expected that this process will be completed and collection commenced from the beginning of the 2020 calendar year.

While overseas betting operators will be required to pay product fees in due course, a number of these have already committed to voluntary charges, most recently Sportsbet. This is in addition to the arrangement secured with Betfair earlier this year, and discussions with other operators in the Australian market are ongoing.

The first Bill also permits RITA to offer betting on a wider range of sports where an agreement is reached with Sport NZ. We are hopeful of new sports being made available to TAB customers before the end of the year.

Bill Two

Work is now well advanced on preparing the second Bill which we anticipate being introduced into Parliament at the end of this year. This will include provisions designed to give effect to the establishment of TAB NZ in order to maximise revenue and profit for racing and to the transfer to the individual Codes of a range of racing and industry responsibilities previously undertaken by RITA. We have sought feedback from the Codes on this with a view to policy decisions being taken for inclusion in the draft policy papers for the Bill.

Provisions to facilitate discussion between Codes and Clubs in relation to the future of New Zealand's racing venues, as part of the Future Venue Plan work started last year, are expected to be included in the new Bill.

The Messara recommendations in relation to the racing Integrity bodies and animal welfare have been advanced in an independent review undertaken by Malcolm Burgess. His Report has been circulated for consultation with the various views currently being analysed, including from the JCA and RIU who presented to the Board at our last meeting. The decisions on a new Governance structure for integrity bodies will likely be made by the Board at our next meeting on September 25, and could result in specific legislative considerations in the Bill.

Messara also recommended an independent performance and efficiency audit on the NZRB and we expect a final version in mid September. This has been slightly delayed to ensure the scope of the report brief was fully met. Once complete it will be sent to the Minister. In addition, we've had an independent report on the Distribution Model under section 16 of the Act developed and which will be discussed with the Codes within the next few weeks with regulations developed next year.

Harm Minimisation

As the Board work through the various recommendations we remain acutely aware of our responsibility to minimise the harm that gambling can lead to for some people. RITA management has reviewed its work in this area and developed a comprehensive strategy to add further weight to

activities already underway. This will include utilising technology, improving communications and building stronger partnerships with the sector.

Industry Engagement

Over the past few weeks we have met with the Boards of the three Codes to update them on the process and our progress. We will also keep the industry up to speed on our progress where we can.

Good progress is being made but to meet the timelines required for the legislative process the momentum must be sustained.

We will provide a further RITA operational update in September.

PRESSURE REMAINS ON

The Trainers' Association has had another response from the Minister for Racing, the Right Honourable Winston Peters. A copy follows and please be assured that indeed the Trainers' Association will continue to keep the pressure on to ensure the industry receives the support it deserves with the urgency to ensure stakeholders survive and ultimately thrive.

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control
Minister for State Owned Enterprises
Minister for Racing



Wendy Cooper
Executive Officer
New Zealand Trainers' Association
nztrainersassn@gmail.com

Dear Wendy

Thank you for your appreciative letter of 10 July 2019, written on behalf of the New Zealand Trainers' Association (NZTA).

The contributions of racing industry stakeholders such as NZTA have been vital to progressing the racing reform programme to this point. It has been encouraging to see a high level of engagement from the racing industry throughout the process.

NZTA's ongoing support for the process is appreciated and your offer to consult with the Minister for Racing is noted. It is important that stakeholders continue to actively engage as the Racing Industry Transition Agency implements the initial reforms and while policy work on the second Bill is being developed.

Yours sincerely



Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister for Racing

BARBARA BLACKIE

It is with sadness we report the passing of the incredible Mrs B. What an inspiration to still hold a training licence at the age of 100! Our sincere condolences are passed on to her family and friends.

WINNER DUNSTAN TRAINERS' MAIDEN NZ AWARD FOR AUGUST

The meeting selected for August was the Ashburton Racing Club's held on the 31st. The winner of the Barnsewood Farm Stakes Day 19th October Maiden 3YO 1250m was SORCERESS. The Showcasing filly was paying great odds at \$63.60 and is trained by Andrew Carston from Riccarton. As Andrew is a member of the Trainers' Association he will receive a bag of Dunstan Speedfeed and a bag of Equifibre Lucerne-Pro.

gavelhouse.com NEWCOMER TO TRAINING

The Newcomer to Training, sponsored by gavelhouse.com is underway for the new season. To ensure it is a genuine "NEW"comer, the eligibility is as follows:

- Trainer has held any type of NZTR issued training licence for less than 5 years
- Trainer is not training in partnership in current season
- Trainer has not previously won the award
- The winner of the award is the eligible trainer who has the most number of individual winners in a season

In the first month of the current season, Kenny Moore from Rangiora has already had 2 individual winners – Bluey's Chance and Pure Class has won 2 races. That's a great start to the season.

NEW RECORD PRICE FOR gavelhouse.com

The sale of [Lubaya](#) in gavelhouse.com's most recent thoroughbred auction set a new price highlight for the site.

A regally-bred daughter of Rip Van Winkle, Lubaya's appeal was not lost on bidders with plenty of early interest in the Group placed mare who was offered as a breeding and racing proposition in light work.

This interest led to a record sale price of \$255,000, surpassing the \$211,000 paid for Ampin who was sold in foal to Savabeel in June 2017.

"These types of results reinforce the fact that gavelhouse.com is a brilliant tool for trading bloodstock at all ends of the spectrum and we're grateful for every opportunity we get to demonstrate this," commented gavelhouse.com General Manager Haylie Martin.

"There's no stress on the animal with them able to remain at home and there's every opportunity for buyers to complete their due diligence by inspecting them and completing vet checks to mitigate risk."

Bred by Doug and Robyn Phillips and Windsor Park Stud, Lubaya was a Karaka Premier Sale yearling graduate bought by trainer Roydon Bergerson for \$85,000 with her name a fitting one being Swahili for 'young lioness'. A daughter of the Generous mare Lioness she is a half to dual Group One winner Lion Tamer and a full to Group performer Let Me Roar.

Among the top classic fillies of her generation, the three-time race winner earned herself a place in the Gr.1 Gavelhouse.com 1000 Guineas field and at her last start she added valuable black-type to her page with a third placing in the Gr.3 Manuwatu Breeders Stakes.

Such is the faith in her racing ability and developing maturity, the successful purchasers have decided to continue to race on with the now five-year-old mare rather than retire to the breeding barn immediately.

Martin said she was pleased with the auction and the interest in Gavelhouse.com sales which continues to grow.