

5<sup>TH</sup> June 2023

## **Program Notes – August to November 2023**

The program will feature a mixture of grass and synthetic racing into late Winter before Devonport hosts three consecutive meetings in September to allow the grass surfaces to be prepared for Night Racing and the Tasmanian Summer Racing Festival.

Hobart will host back-to-back meetings in late August and early September prior to a short track renovation before a return to racing on Melbourne Cup Day in early November. This break will allow the track to rehabilitate in a period of the year that is suitable for growth and recovery ahead of a busy Spring and Summer period.

The Night Racing season begins at Launceston on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October with the first of many Fridays during the season. Whilst Wednesday will still predominately be the slot for Tasmanian Night Racing, seven Friday night meetings have been secured for the 2023/2024 season. This is an increase from three last season and gives Tasmanian racing an opportunity to showcase our product in a primetime slot on Sky Channel.

As well as an alteration to some race dates, the August to November program grid has also changed with the grid built around data and statistics accumulated from the past 12 months.

The grid will see the inclusion of Class 2 races and a continuation of BM60 races to give trainers additional options to progress their horse through the grades.

Data confirms that on average a significant number of Class 2 horses are racing weekly whilst Class 3 horse numbers drop significantly. A combination of factors could affect this but the opportunity to give an additional step for these horses may bring these numbers back into line and help trainers place their horse suitably before progressing through the Benchmark System.

Higher rated races have also continued to be programmed and will remain an option for our better horses moving forward. The days of a prolonged spell for a higher rated horse seems to be minimal these days and maintaining a possibility of a campaign during the Winter/Spring period will be there for any horse currently in Tasmania. BM76 races in combination with Open Handicaps will give a large percentage of the population an opportunity.

2YO Racing has been slightly pushed back during this period with a possible alteration to feature races over the Tasmanian Summer Racing Carnival.

The first 2YO Race will be run at Hobart over 1000m on Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Staying races have been addressed with a greater variety of distances to assist progressive stayers and those embarking on a Cups campaign.

Multiple races over 2200m and 2400m have been placed throughout the grid and raised to a minimum of a BM76 to ensure all horses have a chance to test themselves over the Cups trips.

The basis for programming a higher rated Benchmark race for staying races is to ensure all horses can plan to contest these races. Data shows that the longer the trip, the less a horses class or rating comes into it. -Theoretically, if your horse can stay, they will stay.

The Tasmanian Derby is a race that has been challenging for Tasmanian horses to contest and win for a period of time. There hasn't been a locally trained horse win the race since Jerilderie Letter in 2016.

Whilst there may be an alternative going forward, the inclusion of two races through November may help these horses not having to contest the Derby all in one preparation like previous years.

3YO Handicaps over 1400m and then 1600m have been added to the grid to give an earlier option for horses looking to test themselves over some distance earlier in their preparation. The placement then gives them an opportunity to have a freshen up before continuing to progress. An option which hasn't been available through an Age handicap before.

The 3YO Cup and Tasmanian Newmarket have been combined this year to highlight the states best sprinters on the same night on November 29. The decision to align both races on the same night shortens the 3YOs next run into the 3YO Trophy on December 13 to 14 days instead of 21 as it has been in recent years.

Across the grid I am confident the program gives all horses an option and a race to target.

Several Tasbred Races have been added over the next 4 months with 31 \$20,000 bonuses offered across all tracks for all Tasbred nominated horses.

If you have any queries regarding the August to November program grid please contact Blayne Hudson on 0406 179 281.

***Thoroughbred Code Lead  
Blayne Hudson***