Media Release

25 September 2015

AUSTRALIAN PATTERN COMMITTEE

The Australian Pattern Committee has recently held its bi-annual meeting and considered a total of 16 races which were eligible for upgrade.

The Pattern Committee recommended 4 races to the Racing Australia Board for an upgrade.

Those races being:

- Guy Walter Stakes be upgraded to Group 2 from Group 3
- Alexandra Stakes be upgraded to Group 3 from Listed
- Blue Sapphire be upgraded to Group 3 from Listed
- Festival Stakes be upgraded to Group 3 from Listed

The Racing Australia Board has subsequently endorsed the Committee's recommendations with the upgrades taking effect from January 1, 2016.

The Committee also considered the clash between the Australian Guineas and Randwick Guineas. The Committee was informed that the situation could not be resolved within current programming restraints despite the concerted efforts of Racing NSW and Racing Victoria to avoid a clash. Alternate race dates and conditions were considered in the process.

The Pattern Committee believes that whilst the clash of the two Guineas is not ideal, there is no practical alternative at the present time. Furthermore, the fact is that both races are feature events which easily met the designated benchmarks for Group 1 races in 2015 when they were run on the same day.

The Committee noted that whilst the two Guineas have historically been run a week apart, very few horses contested both races. The facts are:

- Prior to 2015, the two Guineas were mostly staged one week apart except in 2010 when they clashed. Yet only 6 horses competed in both races out of a combined 133 starters when they were a week apart.

- Only one horse (Mosheen) has placed in both Guineas, when the two races were run fourteen days apart in 2012.

The Pattern Committee was also informed that even though this issue was not resolved, it remains under consideration by Racing Victoria and Racing NSW.

For further information:
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