

big day out

“I used to wonder why people got involved in owning horses, but now I can see how much fun and excitement it can bring to your life – it’s a great social event and a good way to meet lots of people at the one venue – the racetrack”

The horse’s preparation has been finalised. You’ve talked through your horse’s race targets with the trainer. Your party is all set for an exhilarating day!

Your trainer will usually enter the horse into a race 3-6 days or so in advance, via NZTR. Races such as the Derby or Kelt Capital Stakes require entries to be made months in advance.

Final declarations to run are made 48 hours before the race. At the declaration stage the trainer will assess the race and the conditions and if all has gone according to plan the horse will be declared to run!

Once you have arrived at the races, owners badges can be collected – you will receive an email from the club before the event telling you where these can be collected from – usually the Secretary’s Office. The email will also detail the privileges the club is offering the owner on the day.

Privileges vary depending on the type of day, but below is a table of the minimum standards:



MINIMUM STANDARDS	
PREMIER DAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">free entryfree racebook for each named owner (or syndicate member)free drink (provided either as part of pre-race activity or in voucher form) for each named owner or syndicate membersubsidised refreshments for owners in either a special owners room or a lounge within the facility (not a public area)owners of all runners to be entertained by club after the race and winners presented with video of race, trophies etc.
OTHER WEEKEND DAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">free entryfree racebook for each named owner (or syndicate member)free drink (provided either as part of pre-race activity or in voucher form) for each named owner or syndicate membersubsidised refreshments for owners in either a special owners room or a lounge within the facility (not a public area)owners of first three home to be entertained by club and winners presented with video of race
MIDWEEK DAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">free entryfree racebook for each named owner (or syndicate member)free drink (either as part of pre-race activity or in voucher form) for each named owner or syndicate memberwinning owners to be entertained by club and presented with video of race

Racing Club committee members are appointed to look after owners on race day, so if there is something you are not sure about, ask one of them – they usually wear badges identifying themselves and are happy to help.

Your horse is likely to arrive at the races before you, organised by the trainer.

Prior to the race, the horses will come into the parade ring where they will walk around for around 10 minutes before being mounted by the jockey and heading out onto the track.

Whether the race ends in a photo finish in the winner's enclosure or a quiet drink after the race, you will have experienced the thrill of ownership!

Remember, racing a horse is all about having fun – so go to the races to have a good day and get involved in the atmosphere!

RACING CLUB MEMBERSHIP

All racing clubs offer membership on an annual basis.

Price of membership depends upon the location of the course and the number of meetings held there. Benefits vary from club to club, but include season admission, usually to exclusive 'Members Only' areas with prime viewing positions.

Membership is a great way to meet other racing people and become involved with your local club.

PRIZE MONEY

It's fun owning your own horse, but it's even more fulfilling when your horse is performing well and winning prize money.

The amount of prize money depends upon the class (or grade) of race, and whether it's a premier or general meeting.

In addition to the normal prize money, horses can be registered for the New Zealand Thoroughbred Bonus Scheme (TBS), which provides two bonus levels and covers horses over their 2 year old, 3 year old and 4 year old seasons. Bonuses are paid to the first three in each race.

Of course, feature races such as the Auckland Cup carry substantially higher prize money and the Kelt Capital Stakes is New Zealand's richest race with total prize money of \$2,000,000!

