

Wincanton Racecourse
Thursday, 17th November, 2005
Meeting Minutes

Present

Mr. S. Higgins - Racecourse
Mr. R. Lynn - R.B.A.
Mr. J. Clarke - N.A.B.
Mr. W. Sherwood - N.J.P.C.

Introduction

Mr. Sherwood informed members that L.J.P.C. minutes will be displayed on the N.J.P.C. website. This was noted.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Sherwood read the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 02nd December, 2004, which were approved.

Matters Arising

Mr. Higgins pointed out the groundwork which had been carried out during the Summer at the approach to, and in front of the Rails Bookmakers which was now much improved. Mr. Lynn thanked Mr. Higgins for this work, and stated that the area was now 'working well' and much appreciated.

Mr. Higgins stated that, on behalf of his Safety Officers, on Boxing Day, it was necessary not to use the four pitches at the entrance to Tattersalls, to avoid crowd congestion, and requested that this procedure on Boxing Day, should be ongoing. This was approved. Mr. Sherwood stated that this procedure had been understood and well received by the bookmakers. Mr. Sherwood stated that the four 'substitute' extra pitches/anchorage points had been made available at short notice, and are now available at all meetings. This was approved.

Designated Numbers - 2006

Mr. Clarke stated that he was not seeking any change or reduction to the numbers. This was echoed by Mr. Lynn. Members unanimously agreed that these numbers will cater for the needs of each and every fixture. The numbers were transferred from 2005 on a like meeting to like meeting basis - as shown on the attached schedule. The Designated Numbers for 2006 were unanimously approved.

Betting Ring Layout

No member sought any change to the Betting Ring Layout. However, in the front row of Tattersalls, pitches 14, 15, 16 & 17 will not be used on Boxing Day, as indicated above. Mr. Higgins stated that in the future, but not at this time, the Racecourse may like to move the two lines of bookmakers back towards the

Course, to provide more space at the front of the stand where there is not much room. These points were approved and noted.

Future of the Silver Ring

Mr. Higgins stated that there will be no change for 2006. He added that there needs to be a hardcore of 150 patrons, and acknowledged that some regulars liked to park their cars to the Running Rail and they would continue to be catered for. This was noted.

Satellite Betting Area

Mr. Sherwood pointed out that, despite the earlier discussions, the proposal had not been implemented. Mr. Clarke asked if another suitable area could be found - pointing out that the area behind Tattersalls stand would affect the main Betting Ring. Mr. Clarke suggested it would be much better near the Parade Ring. Mr. Clarke opined that many racegoers go to the Parade Ring and then the stand and do not have the option of betting with a bookmaker. Mr. Clarke asked if an area near the large tent could be made available. Mr. Clarke asked Mr. Higgins to further this request and added that he found it difficult to accept that one individual was able to have such influence. Mr. Higgins acknowledged this request and stated that the request would be considered by the Racecourse and that he would report back to Mr. Sherwood in due course. This was noted.

Crowd Behaviour/Ring Security

Mr. Sherwood reported that, to his knowledge there had been no problems during the past year. This was noted.

Date of Next Meeting

To be arranged later, as Mr. Higgins will be leaving to take up a new post at Newbury. This was noted.

Any Other Business

Mr. Sherwood stated that matters between the O.F.T. & N.J.P.C. had still not been resolved.

Mr. Sherwood stressed to the bookmakers that it was imperative that bookmakers make use of the anchorage points which were available at all pitches at Wincanton.

Mr. Sherwood stated that the Notice Board was no longer available and stated that most bookmakers had use of the internet where he could post notices.

Finally, Mr. Sherwood, on behalf of the Council, thanked Mr. Higgins for his contribution over the past four years which had seen many improvements at Wincanton.

These points were noted.