

NATIONAL JOINT PITCH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the York Local Joint Pitch Council held at York Racecourse on Monday 28 November 2005.

Present: Mr B Mordew, York Racecourse – BM
Mr J Stevenson, NAB (observer) - JS
Mr J Ridley, NAB – JR
Mr J Christie, RBA - JC
Mr J Whelan, NJPC (Chairman) – JW

Approval of minutes

JW said that in future the minutes of all the LJPC meetings would be published on the NJPC website. The minutes of the meeting held on 12/1/05 were approved as a true record.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Open Meeting Report

JW reported that nineteen bookmakers had attended the open meeting on 7 October at the racecourse. Issues raised:-

- 1) Following the decision by other racecourses in the North to allow customers to bring drinks into the Tattersalls betting ring would York consider allowing this practice?

Reference was made to the fact that during this year's Royal Ascot fixture customers had been allowed to carry drinks into the Tatts betting area and there had been no problems. JS and JR said that with the increase in women customers the rowdy element was disappearing. JW said that Haydock had allowed drinks to be carried into Tatts for the September meetings and the exercise was a great success. The overcrowding around the entrances where customers were stopped was a major problem but this had been alleviated. At the same time customers were no longer frustrated by being told they could not bet with the bookmakers whilst carrying a drink. JC said that personally he did not like to see drinks being carried by customers. BM said that drinks would not be allowed into the Members.

JW asked if the racecourse may consider a trial for early fixtures in 2006. BM said that he would advise the Chief Executive of the request, with a view to its possibly being raised for discussion at the next Race Committee meeting.

- 2) Would York consider a new betting area behind the Knavesmire Stand for bookmakers to service the large number of customers that stay in that area?

BM said that the policy of the racecourse was not to increase the number of betting areas but this was always open to review.

- 3) When pitching up was 1 ½ hours could the badge box be opened in good time?

It was agreed that BM and the BRM for the meeting would arrange for the badge box to open early on the busy days.

- 4) Course bookmakers to bet under the canopy on wet days – It was agreed to monitor the situation in 2006. JW would measure out how many bookmakers could be accommodated without causing too much congestion with the food and drink kiosks.

Designated Numbers 2006

Customer attendance figures and opt-out opt-in numbers were distributed. Attendances for the regular York fixtures in 2005 had suffered due to the Royal Ascot meeting. Fixtures were back to normal for 2006 and Members agreed to leave numbers unchanged for a total of 15 days racing.

Members discussed Numbers for possible fixture changes and these would be confirmed if changes materialized.

Any other business

- 1) BM said that following the success of the community singing at Royal Ascot the racecourse would organize similar for the Ebor Festival.
- 2) The Betting Office facility on the Course was agreed for:- 17th June; 15th 29th July; 22nd 23rd 24th August; 3rd September.
- 3) Members agreed to eighteen pitches, on the grass in front of the old Silver Ring Stand, to be included in the Tatts layout for each meeting in 2006. Bookmakers selecting pitches must be aware that they will not be able to return to the main body of the ring, unless under certain circumstances and under the direction of the Betting Ring Manager.
- 4) BM said the City Council was producing a consultative document regarding the traffic systems operating on race days.
- 5) Loud speaker volume – JC said that this was a problem on most race days. BM and JW would highlight the situation with the Broadcast Office and try and reach a comfortable operation level.

