

**MINUTES OF CHELTENHAM LJPC HELD AT
CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE 11.00AM
TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2006**

PRESENT: **Edward Gillespie** - Managing Director Cheltenham Racecourse
Kerry Grace: - NJPC Senior Betting Ring Manager
Robin Grossmith - ARB
George Moir - NAB

MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting 24th November 2005 were approved

2. Matters Arising

In the minutes of the previous meeting RG had said the Lower Tatts Rails Bookmakers had been using an unauthorised payout area. KG had ensured that the correct area had been used at the 2006 Festival, RG agreed that the authorised area was now being used correctly.

There were no other matters arising.

3. Bookmaker Security at the Cheltenham Festival

KG stated that one Bookmaker had asked for security at the Festival. EG said that the Racecourse was not insured to keep monies on the premises overnight, however any Bookmaker who wished to use the services of Securicor each day was welcome to do so. The last Securicor van left the Racecourse approximately one hour after the last race. EG said any Bookmaker wishing to take up this option should contact the Finance Director by email at sheila.handley@rht.net . EG said he thought that Securicor would make a charge of around £200 per day, over the four days.

4. Racecourse Licensing.

EG said that the Gambling Commission was due to takeover the licensing of Bookmakers and other areas in relation to Racecourses in September 2007. He wanted to stress the importance of keeping abreast the changing circumstances and taking the necessary action as and when required. It was also important that the industry was aware of how changes may impact on the Racecourse and Bookmakers.

5. Betting Ring Layout Lower Tattersalls

KG said that he had received three letters asking for the number of pitches near to the hospitality area to be increased from 6 to 10. EG then produced aerial pictures of the crowd movement and location when betting was taking place. Each photograph showed far fewer punters gathered around the Bookmakers near the hospitality area than in the main part of the ring. The Council therefore agreed to keep the number at 6, but agreed to review that particular situation each year.

EG then informed the Council that in the future he intended to move the Guinness Stand forward by 3 metres. He then again produced aerial photographs which showed heavy congestion in the Guinness Village and a lot of empty space between the Tatts Bookmakers and the Racecourse itself. EG then said it obviously made sense to utilise some of that space.

GM pointed out that moving the Tattersalls Bookmakers backwards would give further advantage to the six Rails Bookmakers in that ring. Several options were discussed however EG said that he was unlikely to implement the change prior to the 2007 Festival. The Council agreed to meet again prior to any change to the Lower Tatts Betting Ring, with a view to ensuring that any change to that ring would have the least disadvantage to the Tattersalls Bookmakers as possible. EG said that the toilets situated in the entrance to that Ring were a major disadvantage to the Bookmakers. EG said he would try to relocate them in a different area.

6. Bookmakers Designated Numbers for 2007.

The Council agreed to keep the numbers unchanged for 2007.

7. Any Other Business

RG asked if the Greyhound Racing held prior to Racing on the Tuesday and the Thursday of the Festival Meeting could be held after Racing rather than prior to racing. EG agreed that it would be better for betting purposes, however it was impossible to ensure that the ground would be suitable for Greyhound Racing after the Horse Racing. He also said that the light would be fading and it may not be possible to race that late, therefore the Greyhound Racing would continue to take place prior to racing.

EG said that the next building plans at the Racecourse would take place after the 2008 Festival. It was intended to replace the current lightweight roof over the hurdles hall with a weight bearing roof, with extended terracing and viewing areas. This would affect the courtyard betting area and may need positional changes for the Bookmakers, it could also increase the number of pitches in that area.

EG said that if anyone saw cameras positioned around the Racecourse it was purely to monitor the flow of punters and visitors to the Racecourse with a view to analysing where punters place their bets and where people watch the racing from.

8. Date of Next Meeting

To be arranged.