

Ayr Local Joint Pitch Council

Minutes of the 18th Meeting held at Ayr Racecourse on Tuesday 26 September 2006

In attendance:-

Chair and secretary Haig Jenkinson, Betting Ring Manager NJPC
Richard Johnstone, Ayr Racecourse
William Gorol, Ayr Racecourse
James Cameron, Rails Bookmakers Assoc.
John Fox, Scottish BPA.

1 Minutes of last meeting and matter arising

Council discussed the bookmaker car parking area and RJ agreed that procedures and charges would be the same in 2007 as had been in place during the current year. There were no other matters arising and the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2 Update on Development Plans

RJ told Council that having finally received permission from the Scottish Executive to continue with the "Master plan" for the racecourse he was now ready to implement the first phase of planned improvements.

The development, costing £3.5 million, involving total refurbishment of the ground floor area of the Princess Royal Stand and expansion into the tunnel / void at the back of this area would create a new facility for Tattersalls racegoers incorporating SP betting shop facilities, food and beverage outlets and would in many respects be a larger version of the highly successful project which had been carried out on the first floor of the Princess Royal Stand.

RJ indicated that, with the exception of a small Club Members area in the Princess Royal Stand all of the ground floor areas of the racecourse would become open to Tattersalls racegoers. Club badges would continue to operate on the first floor level of this grandstand.

JC asked if the development work would result in RJ seeking a relocation of any bookmakers. RJ told Council that he did not wish to resite either the Tattersalls or Rails bookmakers from the current positions which they bet from. He did however intend that all fences and gates would be removed from both the area separating the current Members area and the paddock and all blank fence panels and gates separating Rails and Tattersalls would no longer be necessary and would be removed. The current underpass running along the back of the Members area would be infilled and grassed areas would be laid in front of this building.

At the same time the ground between the paddock and the grandstands would be leveled off and the paddock repositioned closer to the Craigie stand. The new space between the Weighing Room and the Paddock would host hospitality areas.

JF commented that improved facilities for Tattersalls should see an increase in numbers of patrons in this area.

RJ told Council members that he wanted SP betting facilities in the development to be split with a counter at both the front and back of the new area.

A discussion surrounding how many windows would be made available in the new development followed. JC indicated he would support six windows at each counter with a maximum of ten in total operation at any one time.

JF indicated he would support a split facility if the SP counter areas were no larger than the area recently agreed upon on the first floor level SP facility and, subject to the constraints as indicated by JC.

RJ told Council that, if anything, he expected the counters to be smaller than on the first floor level and he agreed with the constraints of a maximum of 10 operating windows at any one time. With this in mind the Council gave their full support to the Racecourse Executive making an application to the HBLB for approval for SP betting facilities in the new development.

RJ told Council that the completion of this phase of the development would be in place for the Scottish Grand National Meeting in April 2007.

RJ told Council that phase 2 of his proposed development would involve upgrading the Eglinton Grandstand and incorporated in this would be the creation of a smart courtyard area (currently the ground immediately located inside the main entrance). The existing bars in this area would be comprehensively refurbished into bistro style units.

It is expected that this phase of the development will be in place by April 2008.

3 AOB

HJ asked WG if the Rails joints storage could continue to be in the Cree Lodge bar area. WG confirmed this was acceptable.