

Towcester Local Joint Pitch Council

Thursday, 02nd November, 2006

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Mr. K. Ackerman – Racecourse

Mr. J. Harrison – N.A.B.

Mr. W. Sherwood – N.J.P.C.

Apology

Mr. Sherwood stated that an apology had been received from Mr. J. Lovell (R.B.A), on behalf of himself and Mr. John Willoughby.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Sherwood read the minutes of the previous meeting on 24.08.05, and the consultation documents of February and March of this year, which were approved.

The Future Administration

Mr. Sherwood stated that the future of the N.J.P.C., beyond September, 2007 was in doubt and it was not known how, or by whom matters would be administered from that date. Mr. Ackerman added that at this time he had no knowledge regarding future administration. This was noted.

Designated Numbers – 2007

After a brief discussion it was agreed, subject to the above minute, that numbers should be set for the whole year. Mr. Harrison proposed that the numbers should remain unchanged, that is Rails – 6, Tattersalls 20 – all meetings. Mr. Harrison asked that the Silver Ring Number should remain 4. Mr. Sherwood emphasised the busy meetings of the year ahead when the Silver Ring would be open. Mr. Ackerman asked that the last two evening meetings be added. This item was approved – as shown on the attached schedule.

Betting Ring Layout

No member sought any change to the layout. Mr. Ackerman reminded members that Pitch No. 1 was not available on Boxing Day (see consultation

document) and stated that a similar arrangement was necessary on Easter Sunday. This was approved.

The Silver Ring

Mr. Sherwood stated that he had been approached by a Silver Ring bookmaker to explore the possibility of the Ring being re located above the horsewalk. Mr. Harrison stated that this was not an option. Mr. Ackerman added that there simply is not enough room and that the Racecourse is so small.

Mr. Sherwood added that there is no tannoy system below the stand and that the bookmakers had resultant difficulties. Mr. Ackerman agreed that this was the case and stated that he would have a tannoy suitably placed to cover this area. Mr. Sherwood stated that despite our earlier opinions, anchorage points must now be installed for these bookmakers (4 provided) This was noted.

Ring Improvement Grants/Maintenance

Mr. Sherwood stated that there would be no funding from the N.J.P.C., and that any maintenance or changes would have to be funded by the Racecourse. This was noted.

Crowd Behaviour/Ring Security

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

Date of Next Meeting

Due to the uncertain future, no date was set. This was noted.

Any other Business

Rails Joints. Mr. Sherwood stated that it became 'common knowledge' that earlier in the year a set of Rails Joints became available. Mr. Ackerman emphasised that this was not an option, because the cost of installation would have been prohibitive and it would 'tie up the ground' which was much needed when the Racecourse was used as a Conference Centre or for Weddings.

Use of Rails Pitches. Mr. Ackerman stated that the Racecourse does receive criticism as the result of congestion at this location and added that the bookmakers will need to be against the wall at the busy meetings. This was approved.

O.F.T. Mr. Sherwood stated that the investigation into the N.J.P.C. had not been concluded due to the uncertain future. This was noted.

Bookmakers Security. Mr. Sherwood stated that during the past year there had been 3 major crimes committed against bookmakers, and whilst Towcester is not a high profile racecourse, bookmakers and racecourse staff need to remain vigilant. This was noted.

Admission Charges. Mr. Harrison invited Mr. Ackerman to comment on the policy of charging racegoers a £10.00 admission on Boxing Day and at Easter. Mr. Ackerman explained that this was in an effort to keep the crowd to a manageable level. He added that with crowds of in excess of 10,000, the whole Racecourse was at saturation point, not least drains, toilets, and catering facilities. This brings the Racecourse within the scope of being a Designated Sports Ground which means other consequences. This was noted.

Race Sponsorship. Mr. Harrison stated that bookmakers are well satisfied at Towcester and he was considering that the on course bookmakers sponsor a race. This was well received by Mr. Ackerman who stated that should this come to fruition, suitable publicity would be given on 'the big screen', racecards and the course televisions. For furtherance between Mr. Harrison and Mr. Ackerman.