

## Wincanton Local Joint Pitch Council

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2006

### Meeting Minutes

#### Present:

Mr. S. Clarke – Racecourse  
Mr. J. Best – R. B.A.  
Mr. J. Clarke – N.A.B.  
Mr. W. Sherwood – N.J.P.C.

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Sherwood read the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2005, which were noted.

#### Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

#### The Future Administration

Mr. Sherwood stated that the future of the N.J.P.C., beyond August, 2007, was in doubt and it was not known how, or by whom, matters would be administered. Members were aware that there are various meetings taking place 'behind the scenes' with regard to this issue. This was noted.

#### Designated Numbers – 2007

Mr. Clarke (N.A.B.) stated he was not seeking any change for the year ahead. This was supported by Mr. Best and unanimously agreed. Members noted that there are 2 'new' fixtures this year – Mr. Clarke (N.A.B.) pointed out that the meeting on 01<sup>st</sup> May, clashes with a meeting at Bath, which is bound to have an impact on bookmaker attendance. This was agreed and noted.

#### Betting Ring Layout

No member sought any change to the Layout. This was approved. However, Mr. Clarke (Racecourse) stated that the Racecourse may improve the actual ground surface by re tarmacing and additional tarmacing of what at present is a grassed area. He further stated that at this time, should the work be carried out, the Racecourse might like to provide a row of pitches

behind the present back line, which could be brought into use as the 2<sup>nd</sup> line, thereby providing more room between the bottom of the steppings and the bookmakers. Mr. Clarke undertook to inform members, so that they would be given the opportunity to have an input, should this be forwarded. This was noted.

#### Future of the Silver Ring

Mr. Clarke (Racecourse) informed Council that the Silver Ring will continue for the next year, as it is now. This was noted.

#### Ring Improvement Grants/Maintenance

Referring to the above, Mr. Sherwood reminded members that a letter was sent to all racecourses in August last, explaining that there would be no funding from the N.J.P.C., and that any changes, or maintenance would have to be funded by the Racecourse. This was noted.

#### Satellite Betting Area

Members were aware that this issue had been discussed in recent years. With the advent of the new Gambling Act, Mr. Clarke (N.A.B.) urged Mr. Clarke (Racecourse) to use bookmakers from the existing list should a new area come to fruition in the future. This was noted.

#### Crowd Behaviour/Ring Security

Mr. Sherwood reported, that to his knowledge there had been no incidents 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

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

Rails Joints/Power. Mr. Best stated that, despite Wincanton being one of the first Racecourses to have the new Joints fitted – much needed power has not been connected. Mr. Clarke (Racecourse) and Mr. Best observed that there was a ‘Power Box’ and underground work had been completed. Item for furtherance.

Bookmakers Security. Mr. Sherwood explained that there had been 3 major crimes committed against bookmakers during the past year and

reminded bookmakers and Racecourse staff to remain vigilant. Mr. Clarke (N.A.B.) gave bookmakers appreciation for the facilities provided at Wincanton.

Extra Fixtures. Mr. Clarke (Racecourse) stated that, following the widening of the track, the Racecourse will, in 2008, be seeking to increase the fixture list by 2, bringing the total to 18 days in the year. These items were noted as appropriate.