

Carlisle Local Joint Pitch Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Carlisle Racecourse on Monday 27 November 2006

In attendance:-

Haig Jenkinson	Chairman, secretary NJPC
Jon Ridley	National Association of Bookmakers
John Baker	Managing Director, Carlisle Racecourse
James Westoll	Director, Carlisle Racecourse

Apologies: Graham Billington

1 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

There were no matters arising and the minutes were approved and signed.

2 Trackside Car Parking / Annual Members Badges

JB told Council that annual car park passes could no longer be purchased for parking trackside and that the daily rate of parking trackside from January 2007 would be £10 for everyone who wished to use this area.

JR told JB that he thought this was an extortionate amount to charge compared with the previous annual member fee of £40 which many bookmakers had purchased. JR told both JB and JW that bookmakers had a large amount of equipment to carry onto the track in order to operate and he wondered whether a concessionary amount of £5 per day for bookmakers would be acceptable.

HJ told Council the fees at both Musselburgh and Ayr for bookmaker parking in sought after areas was charged out at £5.

Following further discussion, JB and JW indicated that only bookmakers or their representatives working at Carlisle on that day would be afforded the concessionary rate of £5 and this would be issued strictly on production of their NJPC authorised 2007 badge at the car park entrance. If bookmakers could not produce their badge on the day then they could only park trackside on payment of the full £10 fee. There is no concession for workers.

Having regard to Annual Members Badges, JB indicated that they could continue to be purchased by bookmakers in 2007. However, he asked Council to note that a current review of Annual Membership and its benefits was ongoing and may change in 2008.

3 Designated Numbers 2007

HJ had previously furnished members with bookmaker attendance records and opt-in / opt-out details together with crowd figures for fixtures in 2006.

A short discussion on the recent OFT report regarding their investigation into the setting of designated numbers followed.

Council were of the opinion that numbers set for 2007 should be again broadly in line with those set for the 2006 fixture list.

JR proposed that the number on the Rails continue to be set at 5 all days. This was accepted unanimously.

JR commented that the Bank Holiday fixture on 28 May – although a new fixture – was deserving of a Tatts number of 36 and similarly, he felt that although business in the ring at the Bell and Plate Day in 2006 was disappointing this should remain at 36 Tatts. The new Sunday fixture on 29 July is also set at 36. The flat fixture on Wednesday 22 August takes a number of 30. Again, the new fixture on Thursday 25 October is set at 30.

A full set of the unanimously agreed Designated Numbers for 2007 is attached.

4 AOB

JB told Council that from January 2007 bookmaker technical support staff would no longer receive free admission to the racecourse and, if they chose to park trackside, would be charged the usual rate to do so.

JR commented that he felt the support staff -- of which RDT is currently the sole provider -- gave a good service to the bookmakers by ensuring their computers were working and by doing so this made for good customer service, in the shape of detailed receipts, to racegoers. JR asked if some concession could be made to these staff who were usually single manned and occasionally double manned.

JB indicated that as a commercial organization RDT must build in the cost of staff admittance into the service they provided. However, as a concession, he agreed that due to the large volume of equipment they brought to the track if they used the trackside car park then, if they reported to the racecourse office, a refund of £5 towards the cost of their £10 parking fee would be made.

Admission prices for Tattersalls increases by £1 to £12 in 2007.

JB told Council that the big screen would be at every meeting in 2007. This was applauded by JR.

JW told JR that in line with tightening up on all aspects of admission to the racecourse his staff would from time to time throughout the season be asked to do spot checks to make sure persons on the racecourse had proof of admission and could provide evidence by showing the appropriate badge.

It was agreed that, following representations made previously by bookmakers, a maximum of 2 bookmakers positions would be made available and offered, under the established NJPC mechanism of the 1:1, in the centre of the course on Music Night -- Saturday 7 July. Anyone choosing to bet from these positions would be reminded that Carlisle LJPC would like to see “competitive odds” offered in relation to the overall betting market. A dim view will be taken by Council if this request is not met and it would cast serious doubt as to whether the Racecourse Executive would consider this an appropriate area to place bookmakers in the future.

JW told Council that consideration was currently taking place regarding the creation of a wider racing circuit which would allow for separate Flat and Jumps tracks. This would allow for more racemeetings to be staged at Carlisle but would also result in the track encroaching on the current betting ring and would inevitably require the repositioning of the ring.

JW does not currently have a timescale but will update Council as and when proposals become more concrete.

HJ suggested to JW that if bookmakers had to move from their current position at a future date then, rather than move them en-mass further away from the majority of the public, serious consideration should be given at that time to the relocation of some pitches to various areas around the racecourse where the bookmaker service to punters would benefit both punter and bookmaker alike.

CARLISLE DESIGNATED NUMBERS 2007

Tattersalls:

30 7 Feb, 19 Feb, 8 Mar, 4 June, 18 June, 22 Aug,
12 Oct, 25 Oct, 12 Nov, 29 Nov

36 14 Jan, 18 Mar, 7 Apr, 28 May, 27 Jun, 7 Jul, 29 Jul, 6 Aug, 4 Nov, 18 Nov

Rails:

5 All meetings