

Newcastle Local Joint Pitch Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Newcastle Racecourse on Thursday 16 November 2006

In attendance:-

Chair and secretary Haig Jenkinson, Betting Ring Manager
 Jon Ridley, Northern BPA
 Michael Sowerby, Rails Bookmakers Assoc.
 David Williamson, Executive Director Newcastle Racecourse

1 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

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

2 Northumberland Plate Meeting

DW informed Council that it was his intention to transfer the majority of the individual marquees, which had been positioned on the Members lawn and surrounding areas at previous Northumberland Plate Meetings, to a position in a new development in the Members Car Park. This new facility will accommodate approximately 2,500 people.

Hospitality facilities will still be provided on the Members lawn for the Racecourse Chairman and a couple of major sponsors of the racecourse. By moving the individual corporate marquees to the new area this will allow an overall increase in crowd capacity in the Premier Enclosure. A champagne lawn will be opened in the original position of the individual marquees.

DW invited Council to consider whether bookmakers would like to bet from positions in the area of the new facilities. It was unanimously agreed that DW should seek approval from the Levy Board for this area for betting purposes and the LJPC members sought a maximum of 6 positions for this area. The positions in the new area will be temporary and offered under the established NJPC mechanism of 1:1.

Council were at pains to stress that although they have no control over the manner in which any individual carries out his business they believed any bookmaker taking up the opportunity to bet from this new area should continue to offer “competitive odds” in relation to the overall betting market. Anyone betting from this new area will be reminded of the Council’s wishes to continue to offer customers a competitive service and a dim view will be taken by Council if this is not met.

3 Designated Numbers 2007

HJ had previously furnished members with attendance records and opt-in / opt-out details together with crowd figures for 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 broadly in line with those set for the 2006 fixture list.

However, as normal, Council looked in detail at each and every fixture in order to attain numbers they felt were appropriate to the fixture.

The Lincoln Handicap, on Saturday 31 March, is a new fixture while Doncaster undergoes redevelopment and the numbers were unanimously agreed as 54 Tatts, 10 Rails. A small increase to 48 Tatts was approved for the Bank Holiday meeting on Monday 7 May and Council decreased the Tatts number later in the month on 15 May to 28 – this meeting was increased last year but had proved disappointing and previous figures were reinstated.

A new pop concert evening will take place on Saturday 2 June and the Tatts numbers set for this will be 44. The end of year meeting on Saturday 22 December has been poor in terms of business in previous years and Council felt a small decrease to 36 Tatts was justified.

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

4 AOB

JR thanked DW for allowing bookmakers the opportunity to use the area in front of the former Silver Ring grandstand to park cars on the quieter days. However, he felt that perhaps a demarcation point be painted on the ground as a few bookmakers were straying just a little too close to the main betting ring area and a clear line should solve the problem.

DW agreed this could easily be done.

NEWCASTLE DESIGNATED NUMBERS 2007

FLAT:

Rails:

10 31 Mar, 29 Jun, 30 Jun
8 All other meetings

Tattersalls:

72 30 Jun
66 29 Jun
54 31 Mar
48 7 May
44 2 Jun, 28 Jul, 24 Aug, 27 Aug
34 14 Apr, 24 May, 28 Jun
28 All other meetings

National Hunt:

Rails:

8 24 Feb, 1 Dec
6 All other meetings

Tattersalls:

52 1 Dec
48 24 Feb
40 17 Mar
36 22 Dec
26 All other meetings

Please Note – Tattersalls pitch allocation on Saturday 30 June will be 90 minutes prior to the first race.