

## **Ayr Local Joint Pitch Council**

### **Minutes of the 19th Meeting held at Ayr Racecourse on Wednesday 22 November 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.  
Billy King, Scottish BPA.

#### **1 Minutes of last meeting and matter arising**

JC told Council that the RBA wished to distance themselves from the actions of certain Tattersalls bookmakers when recently confronting RJ in the betting ring regarding future development plans for the stadium. Furthermore, JC indicated that the RBA would never support any suggestions of bookmakers not working in protest at decisions taken regarding developments which they did not agree with.

BK told Council that approaches made to RJ in the ring had been made by individual bookmakers acting on their own volition and these had neither been instructed nor supported by the SBPA.

#### **2 Update on Development Plans**

RJ told Council that a lot of time and money had been spent in developing plans for the stadium. RJ believed the development proposed would have been beneficial to the wider community in Ayr in a sizeable way through improved facilities offered. The Ayr Executive believed they had secured the agreement of the Council regarding the purchase of a parcel of land adjacent to the racecourse which subsequently proved not to be the case and therefore without this agreement Ayr Executive had decided to scale back the plans for the development.

At this time RJ indicated the plans for the development of the grandstand continued to be “work in progress”. However, he envisaged a similar development to the initial concept but at a slightly lesser specification.

RJ told Council that at this time it was more than likely that he would proceed on the basis that Members and Tattersalls areas would continue to be separate and thoughts regarding a one enclosure policy had somewhat diminished since the last meeting of the LJPC.

RJ indicated he was still looking to develop the void at the back of the Princess Royal Stand into a Tattersalls bar but that, with the exception of Fire Doors, Tattersalls punters in this area would not have direct access to the ground area at the front of the Princess Royal Stand and therefore to view races they would have to come out of the bar area and proceed to either the paddock area or the Eglinton Stand.

Some discussion surrounded what might happen on quieter days when the Executive may decide on a one price policy purely in terms of economic grounds.

Although WG could not rule this out on the odd day or so he sought to assure BK that it was not the intention of the racecourse executive to consider going for a one enclosure policy as standard. However, WG indicated that fundamental to the racecourse plans was the relocation of the betting shop into this new Tattersalls bar development as discussed and supported by the LJPC Members at the meeting on 26 September 2006.

BK indicated that moving the betting shop was proving a stumbling block amongst his members because they felt that to do so would take away one of the few assets that the Tattersalls bookmakers currently had close to the betting ring that attracted punters. To move the shop BK considered would take potential betting ring customers further way.

WG and RJ indicated to BK that they had understood that the initial adverse reaction of Tattersalls bookmakers on hearing of the possible development plans had been more towards going for a one enclosure policy than relocation of the betting shop. BK told them that in recent discussions at the SBPA it was the moving of the betting shop that was proving contentious.

WG questioned where we currently stood regarding the decisions taken on 26 September and supported at the time by John Fox, Chairman of the SBPA.

BK indicated that, in his opinion, Mr Fox had been wrong to have supported the agreement to move the betting shop without first consulting the SBPA committee and having a mandate from them to do so. BK indicated he had been under the impression that the meeting on 26 September was to be an informal discussion and not a full LJPC meeting. HJ told BK that WG had asked him to convene a full LJPC meeting in September and that all members were aware in advance that this meeting would be conducted in the usual manner. HJ told BK that had Mr Fox had any reservations regarding supporting the proposals put forward by the Racecourse Executive that day he could have sought an adjournment to consult with SBPA members. Mr Fox had been asked at the meeting on 26 September if he wished such an adjournment and had indicated he did not require such. Therefore, in good faith, the LJPC decision was taken.

WG questioned where this left the decisions of the September meeting and the proposal he wished to put to the HBLB regarding moving the betting shop.

BK told Council that on behalf of the SBPA he could not at this time support moving the betting shop but was supportive of all other aspects of the proposed development.

JC told Council that the RBA stood by the decisions of 26 September but indicated to RJ that they would have preferred entrances from the new Tattersalls bar development opening onto the front of the Princess Royal ground.

RJ told BK that he was disappointed that he felt unable to support the proposals in their entirety which he felt would bring benefits to Tattersalls bookmakers. RJ reiterated that he felt he had met many concerns of the Tattersalls bookmakers by keeping a two enclosure policy. RJ questioned whether having a further betting shop area would appease the SBPA. BK indicated he could not give that commitment without further consultation with the SBPA Committee.

RJ told Council that he intended to proceed with the application to the HBLB for relocating the betting shop, as described in the minutes of the meeting of 26 September, with the support of the RBA.

BK indicated he would seek an early meeting of the SBPA Committee to update them on today's meeting and would report back to HJ in order to let him know whether they were prepared to reconsider their position regarding the betting shop location following this meeting.

RJ told Council that he expected the redevelopment of the area to get underway after the Gold Cup meeting September 2007 and would be completed by April 2008.

### **3 Designated Numbers 2007**

HJ had previously furnished members with opt-in/ out figures together with attendance data for 2006.

JC indicated he was mandated to leave numbers in 2007 at the levels set in 2006.

BK also indicated that he too was mandated to leave numbers unchanged at the current levels.

RJ and WG accepted the bookmakers' suggestions and were happy to continue with designated numbers at current levels.

The number set for the new fixture on Friday 2 March is Tatts 36, Rails 10.

### **4 AOB**

There were no other matters

### **AYR DESIGNATED NUMBERS 2007**

Tattersalls:

90	21 Apr, 22 Sep
80	21 Sep
60	20 Apr, 20 Sep
50	23 Jun, 16 Jul, 11 Aug
40	2 Jan, 10 Feb, 10 Mar, 31 May, 8 Jul, 23 Jul, 4 Oct, 26 Oct, 3 Nov
36	2 Mar, 9 Mar, 22 Mar, 23 May, 22 Jun, 29 Aug, 26 Nov, 17 Dec
25	22 Jan, 5 Dec

Rails:

10	All meetings
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Please note that Tattersalls pitch allocation time for the meetings on 21 April and 22 September will be 90 minutes prior to the first race.