

Hereford Local Joint Pitch Council

Friday, 26th January, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Mrs K. Stephens – Racecourse
Miss C. Miles – Racecourse
Mr. N. Emery – N.A.B.
Mr. W. Sherwood – N.J.P.C.

Apology

Mr. Sherwood stated that an apology for absence had been received from Mr. John Lovell (R.B.A).

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Sherwood read the minutes of the previous meeting, (held on 20.11.03) and the consultation documents of 03.04, 05.04, amendment to Designated Numbers, following appeal, 29.11.05, & 16.10.06, which were noted.

Matters Arising

None.

Auctioning of Seniority Positions

Mr. Sherwood stated that it was his understanding that the auctioning of Seniority Positions was to continue, but less frequently, the next auction being scheduled for Cheltenham on 27th February. This was noted.

The Future Administration

Mr. Sherwood stated that the details of the method of the future administration were still not known, and that it was well known that various interested parties had been holding meetings. Mrs Stephens concurred with this. This was noted.

Designated Numbers – 2007

Referring to the Consultation Document of 16.10.06, which showed the Designated Numbers for this year, Mr. Sherwood stated that he had received no adverse comments, and, to his knowledge, no appeals had been lodged.

The Designated Numbers were confirmed and approved. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that there were no evening or Public Holiday fixtures this year. This was noted.

Betting Ring Layout.

No member sought any change to the existing arrangements. This was noted.

Crowd Behaviour/Ring Security

Mr. Sherwood stated, that, to his knowledge, there had been no problems experienced. He stated that Mr. Booton and his team could be complimented for the way they carry out their patrols. This was noted.

The Rails Bookmakers

Mr. Sherwood stated that he was aware that some bookmakers, who bet on the Rails at Hereford, were dissatisfied with their 'turnover' following the change of use of what had been the Members' Enclosure last season and were seeking to have the Rails Boards face Tattersalls. Mrs Stephens stated that she was aware of this and that one bookmaker had written to her. Mr. Sherwood stated that any such approach should be made through the appropriate channel, through the appointed Representative, which had been pointed out to the bookmaker concerned. Mrs Stephens stated that she had no personal problem with this issue, but did not subscribe to the fact that 'turnover' would have been drastically reduced, and cited that the Rails Bookmakers had the Restaurant users, and that all racegoers were able to use the steppings, and stand on the lawn, in front of the stand, which was popular in fine weather. Mr. Sherwood stated that he had discussed this matter at length with Mr. Lovell, the previous day. Mr. Sherwood stated to members of Council, as he had to Mr. Lovell, that the direction the Rails Boards face, in these circumstances, is a matter for the N.J.P.C. as detailed in Rule 14.2 (copy supplied). Mr. Lovell had confirmed to Mr. Sherwood that he had not received any approach from any bookmaker on this issue. Mr. Sherwood referred to the Consultation Document of 29.11.05 regarding the Rails area. He pointed out that the Rubbish Bin, as known, had not been moved/removed and stated that, as was known to Mrs Stephens, the bookmakers who use these joints asked for an entrance be made in the hedge below the main entrance, at a point where the 'sweet' van was today, which would give racegoers walking past, the option of entering that enclosure. Mr. Emery stated he had no objection with this. Mrs Stephens undertook to

do this. This was approved. (Mr. Sherwood subsequently suggested a gap of approximately 8' whereby two persons could pass side by side).

Date of Next Meeting

No date was set.

Any Other Business

O.F.T. Enquiry. Mr. Sherwood stated that he understood that the O.F.T. had now closed the case. This was noted.

Satellite Betting Areas. No member sought an additional area. Mrs Stephens observed that a new area may be considered post September, if a suitable site could be found. This was noted.