

NATIONAL JOINT PITCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Aintree Local Joint Pitch Council held on Sunday
11th March 2007 at Aintree Racecourse.

PRESENT:

Mr M Ryan	Chairman NJPC (MR)
Mr C Barnett	Aintree Racecourse (CB)
Miss Z Greenall	Aintree Racecourse (ZG)
Mr J Walmsley	National Association of Bookmakers (JW)
Mr G Billington	Rails Bookmakers Association (GB)

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2006 were read and approved by members as a true record.

2 OPEN MEETING/ BETTING AREAS

The open meeting was attended by 40 Bookmakers. CB and ZG proceeded to show the Bookmakers and the other members of the LJPC the new betting areas designated for this years Festival Meeting;

A AINTREE PAVILION

8 Bookmakers were originally designated for this area. CB and ZG would confirm with MR if there was sufficient space to accommodate 8 Bookmakers. There was a possibility that only 7 could be accommodated. This area is to be known as The Collecting Area. There will be catering and bar facilities available in this area. MR asked CB and ZG if power could be made available for Bookmakers to enable them to use their computers. CB and ZG to confirm. Members agreed that the use of a rail/platform and rails positioned in front of the Bookmakers would highlight their position further. ZG to report back to MR. Members agreed that additional signage in the pavilion would be beneficial.

B CHAIR STATUE

Members agreed to 2 x 3 sets of Bookmaker, to be set back off the pathway and grass, with their backs to the trees and the parade ring. MR asked if it was possible to put matting down in this area as these positions would be on grass. ZG stated that it would be possible to tarmac the area being used and install 6 anchorage points.

C NEW GRANDSTANDS

6 Bookmakers positions were identified. 4 Bookmakers situated between the Lord Sefton and the Earl of Derby stands either side of the horse walkway outside the Red Rum bars. 2 or 3 Bookmakers to be situated between the Earl of Derby and the Queen Mother stand. Being dependant upon the numbers of Bookmakers agreed in the Aintree Pavilion.

Questions were raised by the County Stand Bookmakers, of which there are 7, as to why they should not be considered for the new Grandstand areas. Members discussed the NJPC guidelines on the allocation of positions in new approved betting areas. The NJPC mechanism states a 50% allocation of positions within the maximum designated number to both current Tattersalls and Rails positions, an arrangement that all Members agreed to use for the new areas. Members also stated that the number of Bookmakers in the County Stand had in recent years been increased from 5 to 7 to facilitate the increase in crowd numbers in that area and that taking Bookmakers from the original 7 to new areas would leave a diluted service to the County Stand customers. CB reinforced the need for 7 Bookmakers to service the County Stand area. However, Members did sympathise with the Bookmakers in this area as there is no approved mechanism for their integration into these new areas. But, the situation will be reviewed in 12 months time, and this will include the position of the Rails Bookmakers.

3 MATTERS ARISING

A Members agreed that a minimum of 9 Rails Bookmakers would be required to facilitate the Members' area on each day of the Festival Meeting.

B Due to the work on the return horse walkway, members agreed that Bookmakers in the County Stand would need to move forward to allow enough space for Bookmakers to work from. ZG to arrange the installation of 7 new anchorage points.

C Members viewed the Tattersalls areas affected by the work on the return horse walkway Picks 1 to 22. Although space was limited there would be enough room for Bookmakers and their staff to work from, and Members agreed to leave the anchorage points in their present positions. MR to monitor during the Festival Meeting.

D MR asked ZG about the Embankment layout. ZG stated the facilities would be extended this year, with a 2nd marquee erected beyond where the first 20 Bookmakers bet. The Steeple Chase/No Nonsense Enclosure will have mobile food and drinking units. A covered area would also be provided ZG stated there would be no marquee this year. Members therefore agreed to leave numbers unchanged with 36 Bookmakers on the Embankment and 10 in the Steeple Chase Enclosure.

4 GRAND NATIONAL MEETING 2007

A THE BADGE BOX AND BETTING RING MANAGERS' ARRANGEMENTS

ZG confirmed that the arrangements would be the same as 2006. MR asked that six chairs be provided and that the list of runners from Weatherbys would be delivered to the BRM's office at the earliest convenience. Agreed by ZG.

B BOOKMAKERS ENTRANCE AND SEARCH AREA

ZG stated that the same arrangements as last year with Bookmakers using No 3 entrance behind the Aintree Mound.

C OVERNIGHT STORAGE OF BOOKMAKERS JOINTS

As last year the joints would be removed to the Aintree Mound after racing on Thursday and Friday. Bookmakers betting in the Pavilion and Chair Statue areas will be able to leave their joints in situ. Bookmakers in the new Grandstand areas will need to move their joints onto the steppings.

D TRANSFER BADGES

MR said that due to the increasing number of Bookmakers in the new betting areas additional transfer badges would be required for up to 18 Bookmakers and staff on each day of the meeting. CB and ZG agreed on 60 County Stand and 20 for the Earl of Derby and Lord Sefton stands. MR to ensure a Tattersalls badge is exchanged for each transfer badge. MR to write to ZG regarding the above, and also the car parking and Official badges required by the NJPC staff.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A CB and ZG agreed to look at bringing the anchorage points forward where 5 Bookmakers bet under the hospitality tent at the National start.

B Members agreed signage for the Bookmakers in the new areas and that these areas will be marked on the maps in the race card.

C ZG stated that the 30th March would be the last day for booking tickets for the Steeple Chase car park.

D MR asked CB if tickets would be available to be purchased by Bookmakers on the Friday and Saturday of the Festival Meeting. CB stated that these days would be close to selling out. However, tickets would be made available at No 3 Drive sales kiosk (near Fitness First). MR to advise Bookmakers to purchase tickets in advance or on the Thursday of the Festival Meeting. MR to provide list of Bookmakers to the sales kiosk.