

## **Ayr Local Joint Pitch Council**

### **Minutes of the 17th Meeting held at Ayr Racecourse on Tuesday 29 November 2005**

#### **In attendance:-**

Chair and secretary            Haig Jenkinson, Betting Ring Manager NJPC  
   Richard Johnstone, Ayr Racecourse  
   James Cameron, Rails Bookmakers Assoc.  
   John Fox, Scottish BPA.

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

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

#### **2 Future LJPC Minutes**

HJ told Council that it had been decided by NJPC Council Members, who included representatives of the RCA, RBA and NAB, that, with immediate effect, future minutes from all LJPC meetings would be posted on the NJPC website and thus available to all to view in their entirety.

HJ indicated that as approval of minutes was not actually official until convening the following meeting of the LJPC he would furnish the minutes to LJPC members at the earliest opportunity in order that he could seek "approval" of the minutes from members prior to posting on the website.

### **3 Scottish Executive Enquiry (Update)**

RJ told Council that the public enquiry was due to finish taking evidence on Tuesday 6 December. Thereafter, he expected the Reporter to submit their findings to the Scottish Minister in January. RJ would then be hopeful of receiving a final decision on the outcome sometime between February and May 2006. If RJ receives a positive result to the enquiry then he will be looking to begin the second phase of improvements planned for the stadium immediately after the September Gold Cup meeting 2006.

This phase of the development will involve a complete refurbishment of the lower level of the Princess Royal stand. On completion it is the intention that the lower level of this stand becomes the main Tattersalls Grandstand. There will be no Members Area on the ground but there will be facilities for Members on upper levels. It is the intention to have bookmakers operating from the area in front of this new grandstand by the Grand National meeting of April 2007.

Naturally, approval would require to be sought from the Levy Board to make the area in front of the Princess Royal Grandstand a designated betting area.

RJ told Council his initial thoughts were that he would like a betting ring that was one line of bookmakers and not multiple lines.

JC commented that in accordance with NJPC rules a Rails list could not be closed and that the Rails bookmakers would require to be accommodated in this new area.

RJ did not wish to see any barriers or fences to stop members of the public having free access throughout this new area.

HJ furnished members with NJPC documentation relating to relocation of betting rings.

Council felt it was imperative that at the earliest opportunity following a successful outcome to the public enquiry that senior members of the NAB, RBA and NJPC Council be invited to visit the racecourse and meet in order that initial discussions could take place between all parties regarding the positioning of bookmakers in the new format.

### **4 Bookmaker Car Parking**

RJ told Council that, unlike many other racecourses, there would be no increase to the grandstand admission price in 2006. However, that said, Ayr Executive were continuing to spend vast amounts on their capital expenditure budget and RJ believed that in a small way bookmakers could contribute more by paying for the use of the dedicated bookmaker car parking area which is in a prime location at the front of the Eglinton Stand and has many other groups competing for this space. To this end, RJ indicated it was his intention to levy a charge for use of this car park. The cost will be £10 per car on the 4 big days – Friday 21 April, Saturday 22 April, Friday 15 September and Saturday 16 September. On all other days the charge will be £5 per car. This will continue to be a dedicated bookmaker car park area only and car park badges will be issued in the usual way. Parking fees will be collected by stewards on entrance to the car park. Any bookmaker who does not wish to use this area can of course use the main public car park at no charge.

RJ will provide HJ with 150 bookmaker car park stickers which will be issued to bookmakers on the Ayr list and required for display purposes when accessing the bookmakers car park area.

## **5 Designated Numbers 2006**

HJ had previously furnished members with opt-in/ out figures together with attendance data. JF commented that bookmakers had told him there were too many bookmakers being allowed the opportunity to work due to excessive and unrealistic designated numbers and in many ways this was proving detrimental to filling numbers on all days because bookmakers were deciding to opt-out in the knowledge that it would be uneconomic to work if the numbers did fill up. Effectively, JF argued that bookmakers told him that setting a more realistic number may actually result in more bookmakers working. That said, JF felt that there was little point at this time in making major changes to numbers while ongoing development plans remained uncertain. On this basis it was unanimously agreed by Council not to change numbers in 2006. Council felt better to leave them as they are and, when development plans begin to firm up and the impact on bookmakers and their positions within the new plan is clearer, then this would seem a more appropriate time to discuss feasibility of bookmakers numbers ongoing.

There were eleven new fixtures to set numbers for and Council felt that they could be a little more realistic in the setting of numbers for these meetings without having to consider historical precedent.

## **4 AOB**

JC asked RJ if he would reconsider opening up a senior citizen gate. RJ told JC that concessions could still be purchased, albeit in advance, and that there was a very favourably priced Grandstand Season Ticket which senior citizens could purchase for either the whole year or the NH or Flat seasons only.

## **AYR DESIGNATED NUMBERS 2006**

Tattersalls:

90	22 Apr, 16 Sep
80	15 Sep
60	21 Apr, 14 Sep
50	24 Jun, 17 Jul, 12 Aug
40	2 Jan, 3 Jan, 29 Jan, 10 Feb, 11 Feb, 11 Mar, 1 Jun, 9 Jul, 24 Jul, 28 Sep, 9 Oct, 28 Oct
36	10 Mar, 23 Mar, 8 May, 25 May, 23 Jun, 25 Jul, 21 Aug, 29 Nov, 19 Dec
25	23 Jan, 27 Feb, 11 Dec

Rails:

10	All meetings
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Please note that Tattersalls pitch allocation time for the meetings on 22 April and 16 September will be 90 minutes prior to the first race.