

NATIONAL JOINT PITCH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Aintree Local Joint Pitch Council held on Thursday 17 November 2005 at Aintree Racecourse.

Present: John Whelan, NJPC (Chairman) – John W
Zoë Greenall, Aintree Racecourse – ZG
Charles Barnett, Aintree Racecourse - CB
Graham Billington, RBA - GB
Jim Walmsley, NAB – Jim W

Approval of minutes

John W said that in future the minutes of all LJPC meetings would be published on the NJPC website. The minutes of the meeting held on 28/02/05 were approved as a true record.

Matters arising

Appeal – John W reported that the appeal against an increase in the Designated Number for the County Stand had been overruled.

Steeplechase Enclosure – CB reported that the Steeplechase Enclosure including the expansion across the National Course had been a success and would be in place again for the 2006 meeting. This area (including the Embankment) is now the No nonsense Enclosure. ZG said that improvements would be made to the access for the area inside the National Course and also for customers crossing over to the Embankment.

County Stand steps – CB said the steps up to the County Stand Enclosure had been renewed.

Redevelopment Plans Update

CB reported that work on the first phase of the developments was on schedule. This included the new weighing room, parade ring and pre-parade ring and these would be in operation for the 2006 Grand National meeting. The two new grandstands which would be in operation by 2007 would increase the attendance by 3000. Members agreed to discuss bookmakers betting in areas around the new grandstands at a future meeting. GB said in light of the developments emphasizing the movement of patrons towards the Queen Mother Stand it would be appropriate to move some Rail positions; this would result in an improved service for customers. Members agreed to discuss this situation at the next LJPC meeting.

Canal Turn

CB confirmed that the Canal Turn Enclosure would not be open in 2006. An announcement regarding 2007 would be made later next year.

Open Meeting Report

John W said that thirteen bookmakers had attended an Open Meeting at Haydock Park on 23 September. Issues discussed were:-

- a) Bookmakers' Entrance – CB said that it may be possible to establish an entrance for bookmakers away from the main gates. Members agreed to look at the preferred site in February.
- b) Embankment Pitches – At the Grand National meeting this year a catering unit was placed over the number one pitch. ZG noted this problem and John W would monitor the situation.

Designated Numbers 2006

The June Evening fixture was missing in 2006. Members discussed improving the betting service for the hospitality area by the Grand National start and agreed an increase of one pitch in that area for each day of the meeting. Also John W said that due to the spreading out of the crowd would it be a more effective service for customers if there was a small increase in numbers for the main body of Tatts on the Friday and Saturday. Members agreed Designated Numbers for the Grand National meeting:

Tatts 111 + 5	7 th & 8 th April;	77 + 5	6 th April
Rails 18	6 th , 7 th & 8 th April		
County Stand 7	6 th , 7 th & 8 th April		
Embankment 46	8 th April only		

All other meetings, numbers were agreed at 2005 levels.

Any other business

CB asked if bookmakers could be reminded that tickets for the Grand National meeting were selling ahead of this year's numbers and it would be advisable for tickets to be bought in advance. John W said he would advertise the booking details.