

## **Carlisle Local Joint Pitch Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting held at Carlisle Racecourse on Wednesday 7 December 2005**

In attendance:-

Haig Jenkinson	Chairman, secretary NJPC
Graham Billington	Rails Bookmakers Assoc.
Jon Ridley	National Association of Bookmakers
John Baker	Racecourse Manager, Carlisle Racecourse
James Westoll	Director, Carlisle Racecourse

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

JB told Council that an improved “big screen” would be at every meeting during 2006. This is popular with bookmakers and punters alike and was appreciated by Council members. The minutes were approved and signed.

#### **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 Designated Numbers 2006**

HJ had previously furnished members with bookmaker attendance records and opt-in / opt-out details together with crowd figures for fixtures in 2005.

JB had been disappointed in the crowd attendance for the new fixture on 12 May 2005. The corresponding fixture in 2006 takes place on 18 May and JB anticipates an improved crowd turnout. With this in mind, and the fact the fixture is now in its second season, Council agreed with JR's proposal of 36 Tattersalls.

The new fixture on Saturday 14 January was set at 36. JB told Council that this was a transferred fixture from Kempton Park – featuring the Lanzarote Hurdle -- and this one-off meeting would offer £95,000 in prize money.

Generally Council felt that it was a difficult time in the betting ring, not just at Carlisle but throughout the country. However, it was unanimously agreed that designated numbers for the forthcoming year could be set at a similar level to those in 2005.

### **4 Bookmaker Car Parking**

JW told Council that the Executive had been having problems with both abuse of Members badges and forged badges throughout 2005 by many sections of the racing community. In an effort to combat this it was intended to make entrance to the stadium more vigorous and the new measures included the erection of a new fence separating the trackside parking from the stadium itself. Those using trackside car parking would have to come through a manned gate in the fence to gain access to the racecourse facilities. The new fence will be erected some way down the course from the existing car parking and this will necessitate the abolition of the dedicated bookmaker car park area.

JW told Council that the on-course area for parking would be greatly reduced in size and that much of the parking in this area would no longer be on hardstanding. Bookmakers were welcome to continue to park trackside but they should be aware that the area was less suitable than previously. JW told Council that the cost of trackside car parking was increasing to £10 per meeting. However, for £40 an annual car park badge can be obtained by applying to the racecourse office.

JB indicated that he was also proposing moving the bookmaker badge box to a dedicated turnstile at the front of the main grandstand. To this end, JB felt it would be more convenient for bookmakers to enter the stadium via this new gate.

Both JR and GB were concerned that bookmakers had a great deal of equipment to carry and any assistance from racecourses to ease this burden would be appreciated.

It was agreed that bookmakers be given access to the drop-off / pick-up point opposite the racecourse's main entrance to drop staff and equipment prior to the racemeeting before proceeding to the main car parks. Congestion in this area after racing means it may not be so suitable following racing for a pick-up of equipment. Management will monitor and review proceedings in the first few meetings of 2006 and, if necessary, will endeavour to make any changes which will assist.

## **5 AOB**

JB told Council that annual badges in 2006 were priced at £145. These badges continue to be made available for purchase by staff and bookmakers and used as full or part payment respectively for admission to the stadium. JB told Council that joint membership badges were being phased out. JR commented that he felt there had been a drop off in attendance at other tracks where they did not allow joint membership badges. Admission prices for Tattersalls increases by £1 to £11 in 2006.

GB proposed a vote of thanks, seconded by JR, for the generous hospitality awarded to Council members by the racecourse executive.

### **CARLISLE DESIGNATED NUMBERS 2006**

#### **Tattersalls:**

30 8 Feb, 20 Feb, 9 Mar, 5 June, 19 June, 21 Jul, 3 Aug, 15 Aug,  
6 Oct, 6 Nov, 23 Nov

36 14 Jan, 19 Mar, 15 Apr, 18 May, 28 Jun, 8 Jul, 7 Aug, 15 Oct, 29 Oct, 12 Nov

#### **Rails:**

5 All meetings