

# NATIONAL JOINT PITCH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Chester Local Joint Pitch Council on Thursday 20 October 2005 at Chester Racecourse**

Present: John Whelan, NJPC (Chairman) – John W  
Jim Walmsley, NAB – Jim W  
Ed Gretton, Chester Racecourse – EG  
John Christie, RBA - JC  
Mark Ryan, NJPC (observer)

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Richard Thomas, Chester Racecourse.

### **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 on 17/11/2004 were approved as a true record.

### **Matters arising**

Members discussed the result of the improvements to the Members' Rail and the immediate County Stand area made at the start of the 2005 season. Overall the view was that customer service had been improved. JC said that business on the Rails was down on 2004 figures and asked if there was really a need for the second gate. EG said that the Racecourse wished to continue with the second gate, to assist with easy entry and exit to and from the County Stand.

### **New approved betting area**

Five bookmakers bet on the Lawn Area near the Paddock. Members agreed that this arrangement had worked well and provided a much needed service to customers. EG said the Racecourse wished to renew the arrangement for the 2006 season on a temporary basis (positions to be picked meeting by meeting). Members discussed if there was a need for more bookmakers to operate in the area. EG said there was a problem with space at the May meeting and he would confirm the Racecourse view after a meeting with Richard Thomas. *Decision was that no bookmakers would be able to operate on the Paddock side at the May meeting but to continue with five bookmakers operating for the remaining fixtures.*

### **Open Meeting Report**

John W reported on the open meeting held at Haydock Park on 23 September.

- 1) The future of the Dee Stand – EG said that all enclosures would operate as usual next year.
- 2) Plans for the new betting area in 2006 – this question covered by previous agenda item.
- 3) When the No1 Rails Joint was not being used – Members agreed that the space created by this should be free for customer use only. John W said the Betting Ring Managers would check this was the case.

### **Designated Numbers 2006**

A new meeting for 2006 is Saturday 23 September (there is no Thursday August meeting). Members agreed numbers for the 23 September:- Rails 14; Tatts 55; Dee Stand 45; Course 46; Goat Walk 8. For the other fixtures numbers were agreed at 2005 levels.

### **Any other business**

EG confirmed that the dress code for the County Stand Enclosure was jackets and trousers (not jeans or tracksuits) with a collared shirt (not a t-shirt) and tie. Would bookmakers and staff please note.