

MINUTES OF THE EXETER AND NEWTON ABBOT LJPC HELD AT EXETER RACECOURSE 18TH OCTOBER 2005

Present;

V Steadman (chair) G Bilson B Soper (Exeter and Newton Abbot Racecourse)

M Bolitho R Lynn (NAB) R Emery (RBA)

1. Previous Minutes.

VS proposed the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record, seconded MB, carried.

2. Matters Arising.

None.

3. Exeter Ring Layout.

At the appeal hearing in 2004 the Tribunal recommended that the ring layout at Exeter should be reviewed. Whilst the LJPC felt that this was an option it was decided to monitor the situation in 2005 with a view to possible alterations in 2006. VS reported that at that morning's open meeting changes to the ring layout were suggested by a number of bookmakers. It was felt that the ring was very congested and could be altered to take into consideration the new stand and higher crowd numbers. GB supported altering the layout of the betting ring and suggested that all bookmakers be invited to submit their thoughts or proposals for a new layout for consideration by the LJPC. Any alteration would be carried out in the summer break. The racecourse would require a monetary contribution from the NJPC should the changes be of a major nature. After viewing proposals a preliminary costing would be carried out and an application made to the NJPC for a grant towards the cost. This was agreed unanimously.

4. Designated Numbers 2006.

The meetings scheduled for both racecourses in 2006 are broadly the same as those in 2005. The numbers for Newton Abbot are to reflect those of 2005, anticipating no major changes at the track in 2006.

Rails 2 all meetings.

Tattersalls 25 all meetings.

Silver Ring 20 all meetings.

Exeter Racecourse were pleased to announce a steady increase in crowd size over the past year and anticipate increased expenditure on marketing will sustain the trend. This was shown to be reflected in bookmaker attendance with Tattersalls being full on most days in 2005. A discussion took place regarding the possibility of increasing the designated number for some meetings. GB suggested that any additional bookmakers could bet in front of the new stand, establishing this as a viable betting area. MB agreed that if the area was utilised on a permanent basis the pitches would establish themselves and business would improve there. This would go some way to avoiding the congestion in the main ring. It was agreed that at the meeting where the number was currently set at 24 and 26, 2 additional bookmakers would be allowed to bet from in front of the new stand.

Numbers for 2006 to read;
Rails 2 all meetings.
Tattersalls 30 2nd January, 31st October.
26 (+2) 12th February 9th and 17th May.
24 (+2) All other meetings.

5. AOB

BS commented that litter continued to be a problem. Black sacks would be issued to each bookmaker every meeting and requested co-operation from the bookmakers. RL thanked the racecourses for allowing bookmakers to drive into the rings to drop off and collect equipment. VS to produce a flyer for bookmakers reminding them to drive with their hazard lights on and with consideration, also to use the litter bags provided.