

Hamilton Local Joint Pitch Council

Minutes of the 15th Meeting held at Hamilton Park Racecourse on Tuesday 29 November 2005

In attendance:-

Haig Jenkinson
Alastair Warwick
Cathy Shields
James Cameron
John Fox

Chair, Secretary, Betting Ring Manager NJPC
Hamilton Park Racecourse Executive
Hamilton Park Racecourse Executive
Rails Bookmakers Assoc.
Scottish BPA

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

There were no matters arising and 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

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

The Council had an opportunity to discuss a letter submitted to them by bookmaker Neville Porter and further the Council reviewed the decision of the NJPC Appeal Tribunal of January 2005 prior to discussing Rails designated numbers.

JC told Council that he felt there were no reasonable grounds for rejecting 5 on the Rails at all days in 2006. JC told AW that bookmaker attendance throughout the racecourse had held up well in 2005, when the racecourse had moved to a one-enclosure policy on certain days, compared to 2004.

AW told JC that he saw the argument slightly differently. While he accepted numbers were holding up well on the bigger days he felt there was a general weakening of the Tattersalls numbers on the quieter one-enclosure days.

JF too was concerned at the fact that on the smaller days there had been a decline in Tattersalls bookmaker numbers. When asked by AW his opinion as to the reasoning behind the weakening, JF felt there was no single factor responsible for the decline. JF indicated he would not oppose an increase to 5 if the Council decided to vote for this.

CS felt that with no clear objection to 5 on all days she could see no reason why JC's proposal could not be accepted. AW indicated he would ideally have preferred to see the status quo remain on the Rails but agreed to support the proposal.

Turning to Tattersalls, AW indicated the need for stabilisation of bookmaker numbers in the ring. Furthermore, AW was concerned that designated numbers were set unrealistically high and cited the fact that opt-outs in double figures had occurred regularly. AW indicated he would be more comfortable with numbers being set closer to the actual numbers turning out.

AW proposed a reduction in designated numbers on quieter days.

JF indicated he could not support a reduction in Tattersalls numbers. JC indicated he would also vote against any such proposal and HJ told AW that in a split vote he, as Chairman, would vote for status quo.

AW discussed with HJ what appeal route was open to racecourses should they wish to challenge designated numbers set at LJPC.

By a majority vote the Tattersalls designated numbers for 2006 will remain unchanged from 2005.

Council decided that in an effort to stabilise and stimulate Tattersalls bookmaker numbers on quieter days they would introduce a new ring layout on the six days with the lowest designated numbers. Council agreed that the third line positions will not be available on these days and the two pitches in the middle of the second line, normally unused to allow crowd flow, would be reinstated at these meetings.

4 AOB

AW told Council that the racecourse had secured the running of the prestigious “Glasgow Stakes” from York racecourse and this event would take place on the traditional “Braveheart” night. There would be no concert on this evening in 2006. However, the concerts had proved extremely popular in 2005, and plans were being put in place to stage three events in the forthcoming season.

AW told Council that admission prices were increasing by £1 in the Tattersalls Enclosure and Club prices would remain the same.

AW was asked whether there was any change to the policy of not allowing bookmakers and their staff the opportunity to purchase Hamilton’s Members badges which could then be used towards their betting badge or entrance fee as a worker. AW indicated the policy remained unchanged from previous years.

HAMILTON PARK DESIGNATED NUMBERS 2006

Tattersalls

35	11 May, 8 Jun, 21 Jun, 20 Jul, 23 Aug
40	4 Jul
45	16 Aug
50	12 May, 19 May, 5 Aug, 17 Sep
55	7 May, 14 Jun, 29 Jun, 14 Jul, 15 Jul, 25 Sep

Rails

5	All meetings
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