

Notes from Bookmaker Liaison Committee Meeting – 4th February 2019

Aintree Racecourse

Attendees:

Carl Pastor – Operations Manager, Aintree
Dickon White – Group Betting Director – The Jockey Club
Mark Ryan – Betting Ring Manager, AGT
Andy Melia – Bookmaker
Paul Dolan – Bookmaker
Bill Colley – Bookmaker
Anthony Hardy – Bookmaker
Bob Kirk - Bookmaker

Welcome & Introductions

Current Trading Update – Aintree only

Positive feedback from all bookmakers, a few comments raised;

- Sound levels need monitoring in all areas. CP to speak with Racetech and David Groom.
- Pool pitches would once again be removed from near to the Parade Ring bookmakers.
- Bookmakers' signage for Grand National, prior to race itself, to be continually monitored by Mark Ryan and BRM team.
- Non-RHGN Festival – Aintree to continue to look at improved offers for all fixtures in Autumn/Winter.
- Aintree to review siting of mobile bars/catering units near to bookmakers.
- West Tip food offerings being reviewed, no impact at present on betting positions but should be continually monitored.

2019 Grand National Festival Planning & Update

CP and DW gave a general update on planning for the 2019 RHGN. All going to plan, ticket sales positive on all three days – Saturday would sell out shortly, bookmakers encouraged to purchase all badges.

Bookmaker Access/Car Parking

Aintree to offer access to bookmakers from 9am every morning and allow access to site on the Wednesday to drop off any joints once searched – these are left at the owners' own risk, access to site on the Wednesday will be via Seeds Lane, off Melling Road.

Aintree to look at how we assist bookmakers in the County ring and satellite rings getting to and from their pitches when coming to the access control points, last year Accreditation issued a special pass, Aintree will once again provide these to the BRM's to distribute.

Aintree confirmed that for the bookmakers parking in the Steeplechase Car Park will have a bus service this year operating until 10.30am every morning, more details around this service to be confirmed with regards to post racing.

Aintree also proposed that bookmakers leaving the Tattersalls betting ring on Saturday should exit via the Aintree Pavilion (Equestrian Centre) as it would provide a more direct route on to Drive 3 and therefore quicker access onto Ormskirk Road.

Bookmaker Numbers & Rings

Bookmakers Numbers – There will be no changes at Aintree this year post the meetings held at Cheltenham but Dickon will continue to monitor this closely

Pitching Up Times – These would be the same as 2018, MR would post on to the AGT website at the appropriate time.

Daily Betting Badges

As in 2018, all bookmaker badges would need to be purchased online. This facility is now operating, no badges would be sold on the day and there would be no badge box in operation.

Paul Gold asked via BK whether Aintree would look at Annual Members' badge in the future and also look at a special 5 fixtures season ticket, May - December.

Role of the BRM's

BRM's – Mark advised there would 6 staff again but then informed that this could increase to 7 at the RHGN Festival.

DW also advised that Aintree were fully supportive of the BRM's and no abuse would be tolerated.

Think 21/under 18 Gambling

Dickon advised the Group about underage betting and stressed the importance of monitoring this and also that licencing from Sefton Council might conduct test purchasing during the event

Health & Safety in the Betting Rings

Aintree to look at the drains in front of the Princess Royal and also Daresbury to prevent the issues of ladies getting their shoes trapped – Maintenance to look at options.

Aintree to look in the future regarding power to every pitch but until then the bookmakers are still advised to arrange additional battery packs for the National meeting.

Aintree asked that any H/S issues on the day are to be flagged to the BRM and then for the BRM to bring these to Aintree's attention ASAP via radio to the control

Betting %'s

As in 2018, the BRM's would be monitoring the betting prices and percentages in all betting rings at the RHGN.

Satellite Ring Bookmakers

Aintree to look at the 3 x pitches by the Silver Birch facility, as space is tight, and also the pitches next to the horse walk near Hedgehunter and Red Rum Bars – Aintree to review these with Mark.

Steeplechase/Embankment

Aintree confirmed changes to the Steeplechase Enclosure and more details around these changes will be circulated ASAP to the group.

AOB

Aintree confirmed the on course betting operations will be via William Hill for the betting shops and Britbet for all Pool betting.