

## **Perth Local Joint Pitch Council**

### **Minutes of the 14th Meeting held at Perth Racecourse on Wednesday 8 March 2006**

#### **In attendance:**

Chair and secretary	Haig Jenkinson	Betting Ring Manager
	Morag Reid, Sam Morshead	Perth Racecourse Executive
	Cumbie Bowers	Fife & District Bookmakers
	James Cameron	Rails Bookmakers Association

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

HJ told Council that following the setting of the 2006 designated numbers by the Perth LJPC there had been appeals by bookmakers against the numbers set for the two Sunday fixtures both in Tattersalls and the Silver Ring. Written judgment of the appeals had previously been copied to LJPC members. The decision of the LJPC to increase the number in the Silver Ring from 9 to 12 on the two Sunday meetings was upheld by the appeals committee. However, the committee overturned the decision of the LJPC to reduce by 3 the designated number on the same days in the Tattersalls ring and this number was reinstated at 39.

CB expressed his deep concerns that there was no representation from the NAB on the Appeals Committee and indicated that Fife and District Bookmakers Association were seeking an explanation from the NAB Chairman as to the reasons behind this.

SM asked HJ to note the dissatisfaction felt by the Racecourse Executive regarding the decision of the Appeals Committee to overturn the LJPC judgment regarding Tattersalls numbers.

HJ told Council that, as requested by the Perth LJPC, the NJPC had at their auction on 21 February 2006 offered for sale the "waiting list" positions 13, 14 and 15 on the Silver Ring list. The positions were sold for £800, £500 and £350 respectively and this had raised a total sum of £1,650 (before commission). This sum was available for the LJPC to spend on improvements for racecourse bookmakers.

SM told Council that he was still of an open mind as to whether he would allow bookmakers / staff to purchase annual members badges.

CB told SM that abandoned fixtures and bookmakers not betting at all available fixtures meant that the purchase of an annual badge often meant there was little financially between bookmakers buying a daily badge or an annual badge. However, he indicated many bookmakers liked the convenience of an annual badge and suggested SM should allow this. SM indicated he will make a decision on the issue within a week and inform members accordingly.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **2 Relocation of the Rails Bookmakers Positions**

SM told Council that following the introduction, at the beginning of 2005, of a one enclosure policy at Perth he felt the Rails Bookmakers current position was no longer suitable. On racedays SM felt the position of the Rails inhibited the free flow of members of the public and, as the racecourse continued to expand non-raceday events, he felt the siting was hindering the development of these activities.

HJ told SM that should any decision be made to relocate the Rails any associated costs would require to be borne by the racecourse alone and further, any decision taken by Perth LJPC regarding betting ring layout, was subject to the usual appeals procedures as set out in the NJPC rules.

SM invited Council members to join him to view a site he had under consideration. SM proposed that the Rails positions be relocated along the end wall of the recently constructed Tattersalls Grandstand. The positions would be outward facing towards the main entrances of the racecourse and be positioned along the wall between the entrance to the "Nelson" stand and the corner of the building nearest the Tattersalls betting ring area.

JC disliked the area suggested and indicated that the Rails bookmakers wished to remain in their current position and had expressed their satisfaction to him of this position. JC asked for, and received, SM's agreement to visit the site and take photographs of the suggested area in order that he could furnish them to the RBA.

JC asked how many persons currently held Annual Members Badges. SM indicated the figure was currently around 300 members.

CB asked JC if there was any area in Perth racecourse which, in his opinion, the RBA may consider for relocation of the Rails. JC indicated he did not think there would be any area that the RBA would find acceptable.

SM told Council he was pleased to go through due process regarding his proposal for relocation of the Rails positions and looked forward to the debate.

It was agreed that all present would take instruction from their respective organisations and that the LJPC will meet again to consider the proposal, and probable vote, at a date to be arranged in May. This extended timeframe will also allow soundings of those working at the Perth Festival in April to be canvassed as to the proposal.

### **3 AOB**

SM asked if the LJPC would support, via the monies received at the recent auction of Silver Ring pitches, the erection of hardstanding in the centre of the course which would enable the large screen to be moved into a more favourable position for punters in the main grandstand to view the action. The LJPC noted that bookmakers are particularly keen to have the screen at as many meetings as possible and that it is a benefit to all. With that in mind, the LJPC felt they could unanimously support SM's proposal that the LJPC monies could be used in this way. SM will provide HJ with estimates regarding the work required.