

Towcester Local Joint Pitch Council

Wednesday, 24th August, 2005

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Mr. C. Palmer – Racecourse
Mr. K. Ackerman – Racecourse
Mr. J. Lovell – R.B.A.
Mr. J. Harrison – N.A.B.
Mr. W. Sherwood – N.J.P.C.

Introduction

Prior to this meeting, some 20 bookmakers and associated persons attended 'an open meeting' which was addressed by Mr. Palmer. Persons present asked questions, regarding the future of Towcester, of all the above named. All persons present enjoyed a site visit of the complex, and visited the area between the Weighing Room and Unsaddling Enclosure, the area between and adjacent to the to grandstands, and the lower floor of the new grandstand.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Mr. Sherwood read the minutes of the previous meeting on 23rd September, 2004 which were acknowledged. He further read the minutes of the meeting on 07th December, 2004 which were approved.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from these minutes. Items would be dealt with at this meeting.

Progress Report on Re Development

Mr. Palmer informed members that the building work was on schedule and the new stand will be taken into use at the start of the season. Bookmakers were to be sited near Weighing Room and in the area between the two grandstands, where at this moment in time groundwork was taking place. This was noted.

Future of the Silver/Centre Ring

Mr. Palmer stated that the centre of the Course would no longer be open to the public. This was noted.

New Betting Areas

Rails

Mr. Palmer stated he wished the Rails Bookmakers to be sited between the Weighing Room and the Unsaddling Enclosure with their backs to the wall, facing the unsaddling enclosure. Mr. Lovell stated the area would be satisfactory but opined that a better option would be in a line at this location, at a right angle to the wall, and facing the rear of the stand. Mr. Palmer acknowledged this, and suggested anchorage points could be put in to cover both eventualities, citing that crowd flow was his concern. He stated that the marquees below the stables were to remain in use. Mr. Palmer suggested that the two options could be used on the busy and less busy days as appropriate. Mr. Lovell countered that he would like to use the line from the wall as a trial and revert along the wall if need be. This was approved.

Tattersalls

Mr. Palmer stated that the Racecourse wished the Tattersalls Bookmakers to be sited near the front of the two stands, not at the edge of the tarmac and grass but near the front of the stands but not so that view from either stand would be impeded. Mr. Sherwood stated that there are approximately 150 paces from stand to stand, and it may be just possible to fit bookmakers here. Mr. Sherwood further observed that bookmakers would have a view of the racing from here and the issue of umbrellas would be obviated. This was approved.

Silver Ring

Mr. Palmer stated that he was prepared to have four Silver Ring bookmakers on the 'best days' in a new Silver Ring situated below the horsewalk on the hardstanding in front of the Running Rail. Mr. Harrison agreed that this was a good idea which was acknowledged by the other members. Mr. Sherwood noted that this would preserve the Silver Ring list. Mr. Palmer added that there would continue to be a good crowd in this area as the public would be permitted to view from the last fence. This was approved.

Designated Numbers 2005 & 2006

Mr. Sherwood stated that he had identified the busy days from past experience as the Sundays, Bank Holidays and Friday evening. Mr. Harrison suggested that in view of the Silver Ring position, the Designated

Numbers should remain unchanged for both Tattersalls and the Rails. This was agreed by Mr. Lovell. Mr. Harrison proposed that the number for the Silver Ring be four, pointing out that it must be viable. This number was unanimously agreed. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that all bookmakers on the Silver Ring list are able to 'opt in' whereby we should get the four. This item was unanimously approved.

Installation of Rails Joints and Anchorage Points

Mr. Ackerman confirmed that the form Rails Joints had been disposed of. Mr. Sherwood stated that 'Securit' could be tasked to install a set. Mr. Palmer asked who would finance this. Mr. Sherwood stated that it would be down to the Racecourse as the changes were brought about by the Racecourse. Mr. Palmer emphasised that the Racecourse wanted to 'do the best' for the bookmakers but have spent several £million pounds on the various improvements and projects, and simply could not meet extra expense. Mr. Palmer asked how much the anchorage points cost. Mr. Sherwood stated that they cost some £20.00 + V.A.T. Mr. Palmer stated that he preferred the better plate model. Mr. Sherwood stated that these could no longer be supplied. Mr. Palmer stated that it may be possible to drop a pipe in with a bar across, and that this needed to be done before final tarmac to reduce cost and digging up tarmac. Mr. Sherwood undertook to visit the course to assist with the marking and installation of the points. This was noted.

Cost of Betting Badge

After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Rails and Tattersalls should be £61.00 (the extra £1.00 because of the £11.00 pitch administration fee). The Silver Ring shall be £28.00P. (It is proposed that racegoers shall pay a £5.00 admission charge).

Car Parking Facilities

Following a representation from Mr. Harrison and Mr. Lovell, Mr. Palmer agreed that one space will be available for the bookmaker, carrying the joint etc., on the lower car park, near the workshop. Mr. Palmer stressed that parking in this area is limited and must not be abused. Clerks, computer operators and assistants must not park here.

Office for B.R.M.

Mr. Palmer stated that the B.R.M. shall use the former Tote credit Office next to the Raceday Office. Mr. Lovell pointed out there was little need for a N.J.P.C. Notice Board. This was agreed.

Sale of Seniority Positions

Mr. Sherwood stated that Auctions would continue, but there are now very many more private sales than in previous years. This was noted.

Crowd Behaviour/Ring Security

Mr. Sherwood stated that he was not aware of any instances of unruly behaviour in the Ring. This was noted.

Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Palmer suggested that the next meeting be next Autumn. This was approved.

A.O.B.

Mr. Sherwood stated that negotiations with the O.F.T. had not been concluded and it may be that Designated Numbers for 2006 will be set as we have in recent years.

Mr. Sherwood stated it was most important that in the interests of customer service, betting receipts carry a contact address, and that there had been recent instances where this was not so.

Mr. Palmer requested that a Tattersalls bookmaker be allowed to stand in the new stand to service the corporate boxes on a profit sharing basis, to give customers an alternative to the Tote & Betting Shop. Mr. Lovell countered that this is simply not allowed. Mr. Sherwood pointed out the 5 times rule and stated that various alternatives were not permitted at this time. Mr. Sherwood advised Mr. Palmer to contact the Chief Executive should he wish. This was noted.

New Betting Areas

Mr. Sherwood pointed out that it would be necessary to obtain approval from the Levy Board in respect of the new betting areas. Mr. Ackerman undertook to do this. Further to the above, Mr. Ackerman contacted Mr. Sherwood on 23.9.05 and sought to confirm that there would be no L.J.P.C. objection to the provision of Ladbrokes Betting shop on the ground floor of the new stand, or a Tote Credit Office within this same area. Mr. Sherwood

consulted with both Mr. Harrison and Mr. Lovell regarding this; neither raised any objection.

Mr. Sherwood re assured Mr. Ackerman that there would be no L.J.P.C. objection.