

## BLC NOTES – AINTREE RACECOURSE 3 FEBRUARY 2022

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Bookmakers – Terry Coan, Paul Dolan, Paul Colley, Anthony Hardy, Chris Kirk, Richard Johnson.

Aintree – Dickon White, Stephen Mansfield, Carl Pastor, Steve Clare, Mark Ryan, Malcolm Hart.

### 2021 AINTREE TRADING UPDATE FROM BOOKMAKERS

Post Covid restrictions, encouraging levels of business and betting turnover were reported by bookmakers, although it was unfortunate that Becher Chase day was beset with extremely bad weather.

Overall levels of public attendance were good with encouraging signs for 2022.

Bookmakers were thanked by Dickon White for their support during the past two years.

### 2022 GRAND NATIONAL PLANNING & UPDATE

Advance ticket sales are very encouraging with Grand National Day public admissions already sold out (with the exception of a number of Embankment tickets). Grandstands are also sold out, as is much of the hospitality and restaurants.

Admission badges for Thursday & Friday remain available on the racecourse website.

A total of 10,000 complimentary tickets have been distributed locally for Thursday's NHS Raceday.

Daily attendances are expected to be: Thursday - NHS Raceday 35,000; Friday - Ladies Day 50,000; Grand National Saturday 70,000.

Public facilities and temporary structures will be broadly similar to the 2019 event, with some new features for 2022.

There will be ATM machines available in all public enclosures.

### BOOKMAKERS OPERATIONAL ASPECTS

Daily betting badges and admission tickets for bookmakers and their staff members (including for Grand National Saturday) will shortly be available online via the direct link on the AGT website. As previously, all bookmaker badges & tickets must be bought online, there will be no Badge Box in operation on course.

When buying DBBs online, all bookmakers must pay their Annual Marketing Fee.

Any bookmakers who opted to roll-over their admission badges from the 2020 Festival will either have received tickets for this year or will do so shortly.

This year there will be an opportunity for bookmakers to drop off kit on Wednesday 6 April. Anyone wishing to do so must contact Mark Ryan by Monday 4 April. Kit can be dropped off,

security checked, and left undercover in the Equestrian Centre between 2.00 p.m. & 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 6 April at bookmaker's own risk.

As usual, steeplechase parking will be available for bookmakers with shuttle buses to the centre course opposite grandstands. First bus will depart at 09.00 on Thursday and Friday and 08.30 on Saturday.

Bookmaker access will again be at Drive 3 from 09.00 on Thursday & Friday and 08.30 on Saturday. Bookmakers & staff admission tickets (email copy of DBB will not permit entry) will be scanned and equipment security checked at the entrance. Gates open for the public at 11.00 on Thursday, 10.30 on Friday & 10.00 on Saturday.

It has been necessary to review Pitching In times, for security and H&S reasons. This year Pitching In will take place at 10.15 on Thursday & Friday and 10.00 (10.30 Embankment) on Saturday.

At the end of each day, the usual exits for bookmakers will be in operation, along with the shutters to the rear of the Equestrian Centre.

A proposal to this year adopt the sequential 1:1 pitching in of each temporary betting area separately, as at other racecourses with multiple new betting areas, rather than treating them as, in effect, one betting area by pitching in collectively was discussed.

This would mean that Lord Sefton 4 would be offered first, followed by Parade Ring 4, Earl of Derby 3 and lastly Equestrian Centre 5. Some bookmakers were supportive, whilst others expressed concerns that rails bookmakers could be disadvantaged. It was agreed that should they wish to bookmakers could provide further comments prior to a final decision being made. Any such comments to be emailed to Mark Ryan by the end of February.

Following the demise of ICE, overnight cash banking facility for bookmakers might be available. An alternative to ICE is being sought. Confirmation will be notified in advance of the event.

There might be insufficient space to fit in all 5 betting positions at the Grand National Start betting area (Tattersalls List). The racecourse will do its best to do so. MR/CP/DW.

The racecourse will again provide black bags to each bookmaker for general litter.

Bookmakers are asked to keep their joint area clean & tidy and carefully store away kit boxes or extra kit, in order to reduce trip hazards.

Bookmakers are asked to report any instances of forged bank notes or public disorder either via the BRMs or racecourse security personnel.

All anchor points will be cleaned/power washed pre event.

A point was raised regarding WiFi availability for Elite users. Subsequently Iain Harrison confirmed that Elite requirements were being met by the racecourse network.

## BRM ROLE

On behalf of Aintree Racecourse, Mark Ryan will be the senior AGT BRM at the Grand National Festival and be joined by three others each day with a further two for The Embankment on Saturday.

There will be the usual BRM portacabin near to The Chair fence, with another in a fixed position at the rear of the grandstand.

The BRM will issue Aintree bookmaker ID badges as well as transfer tickets to the relevant bookmakers.

R4 deduction messages will be shown on the big screens after any announcement.

Mark Ryan will post his usual operational instructions to bookmakers on the AGT website nearer to the event.

## AOB

Bookmaker's Lists were split into Grand National & OFF in 2013. At the time, a concession was made whereby if a bookmaker retained the same number on both lists then they need only pay one AMF. Most betting positions on the OFF lists have been transferred and a minority now hold the corresponding number on both lists. Accordingly, after a period of that concession being in place for what will be 10 years, early warning was given that with effect from the 2023/24 season an AMF will be payable of every betting position on each list irrespective.

Bookmakers requested that all racecourse marketing material (print, website, large screen TVs etc.) emphasised that cash was accepted for betting purposes.

A request was made that Under 18 betting messages included the fact that parents may not place bets on behalf of their children.

Bookmakers were reminded that they, or the associations, could make proposals for activities to support the betting rings.

Next meeting 2023 TBA.

