

BLC NOTES – CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE 11 February 2022

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bookmakers - Barry Johnson, Graham Thorpe, Simon Wallis, Nick Daisley, Robin Grossmith, Dale Such, John Hooper

Racecourse - David Mackinnon, Steve Clare, Neil Pateman BRM

Apologies – Mark Jeal

2022 FESTIVAL

CASH FACILITIES

Further to ICE going into Administration last year, the racecourse is currently in discussion with 'Cash On The Move' to provide ATMs on course, and bookmaker banking services e.g.: Pre-Festival float/change ordering to collect on site on Tuesday.

Daily evening cash deposits by bookmakers – either by sealed bag (retrieve next day) or deposit into own bank account.

Daily cash withdrawal on site.

Paying in cash into own bank accounts on Friday evening.

Actual services and schedule of fees t.b.c.

Cash On The Move will provide the same number of ATMs as were on site in public enclosures in 2020, together with some additional machines in hospitality areas.

COVID MEASURES

It was confirmed by DM that COVID protocols have been relaxed in favour of a range of suggested (but not mandated) measures:

Attendees to be encouraged to be at least double vaccinated; LFT to be done prior to attendance; those working indoors should wear a face mask; hand sanitisers to be available for regular use; regular hand washing.

It is hoped that the Festival will have more of a familiar look and feel this year.

TICKET SALES

Advance ticket sales are very encouraging with public admission for Gold Cup Day already sold out. The current sales trends suggest that Thursday could also sell out prior to the event. Public attendance forecast is – Tuesday 68,000, Wednesday 58,000, Thursday & Friday 72,000.

DAILY BETTING BADGES & STAFF ADMISSION

Bookmakers DBB and staff admission badges are on sale now (follow the link on the AGT website). Gold Cup day charges are based on the sold out prices which are £10 less than the on the day price for both Tattersalls & Best Mate enclosures. Should other days sell out, the sold out prices will be reflected in the charges for 2023. Bookmakers are reminded that if they are not an Annual Member a public admission ticket is required for themselves and every member of staff. Should any bookmaker decide not to attend prior to pitching in, then DBB/ staff tickets will be refunded. To obtain a refund the bookmaker should email

bookmakers@thejockeyclub.co.uk detailing their trading name, betting area, pick number and the online order number.

Charges are, as usual, displayed under 'Bookmakers Fees' when following the purchase link on the AGT website.

RACECOURSE ACCESS

Bookmakers may drop off kit as follows:

on Monday – please email david.mackinnon@thejockeyclub.co.uk in advance. Upon attending the racecourse check in at security hut (email needed so that DM can authorise drop off) on the main drive.

Each morning of raceday prior to 09.30hrs, have either annual members badges or admission ticket ready to produce for each person in the vehicle. Bookmakers leave their kit at their own risk. Vehicles must be off site by 09.30 latest.

PITCHING IN

Pitching in, will be the same times as in 2020:

10.00 Tattersalls, Rails & Best Mate.

10.30 See You Then Terrace, Centaur, Lower Tattersalls & Lower Rails.

SECONDARY PAYOUTS

Secondary payouts are permitted at the following: original 5 at the rear of Best Mate grandstand; 7 Best Mate back row; each end of the front row in Best Mate; each end of Centaur; each end of See You Then Terrace, each of the Mag 7 (Lower Tatts).

OVERNIGHT HOUSEKEEPING

Bookmakers in Tattersalls, Lower Tattersalls & Best Mate are asked to please move joints to the side of the enclosure to allow sweeper machines in each evening.

Please don't leave joints at the racecourse after the Festival, (even temporarily) without the prior approval of DM.

RAILS SIGNAGE

Most rails bookmakers have by now obtained lightweight Foamex, (or similar), display signs to be magnetically affixed to the steel panel on the lower front of their betting positions. A suggestion from the floor was that the old fashioned rolled up plastic/pvc banners (sometimes known as flaps) provided a very poor presentation and their use should be banned. A discussion ensued and that proposal was accepted. Rails bookmakers are reminded that the maximum size for such lower boards is – standard rails joint 1100mm x 700mm; wider rails joints 1600mm x 800mm. Most signmakers can apply magnetic strip fixings.

BETTING RING STANDARDS

Bookmakers were asked to please keep their kit within the 1.5 metre area around the joint. To assist, boundary lines will again be in use;

Rails – please bring necessary equipment (not chain) required to properly lower boards during racing.

Taped over umbrellas, or those with secondary advertising will not be permitted.

Nameplates & boards must be left in position and not removed prior to the weigh in for the last race.

MARGIN MONITORING

As in previous years, on behalf of the racecourse, BRMs will spot check margins.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lower Tatts – has been substantially re-tarmacked at a six figure cost. Mag 7 temporary rail/power supply as in 2020 will be in place, with sufficient space for customer flow. Second BRM office beneath the viewing steppings of the Guinness Grandstand.

Tattersalls – food court in position at southern end has again been equipped with an additional entry/exit position to enable easier public access to & from the betting ring. The head-on stand (free to use) will be positioned at the southernmost end.

Best Mate – 5 + 3 books behind stand in same locations as 2020, as are the various refreshment outlets. A new public facility at the rear towards the end of enclosure, near viewing and top public entrance to the betting ring is being used this year. Impact on customer flow to be monitored.

FUTURE NEW BETTING AREAS

DM explained that at some of the OFF meetings (those with very good public attendances), he would like, if possible, customers to have the same opportunity to bet with bookmakers in locations that they are able to at Festival meetings. Lower Rails were used as an example. He wondered if there was a simple way to achieve this.

There was no unanimity amongst the bookmakers. The point was made that an NBA could have the unintended consequence of a negative impact to permanent betting positions, whilst some bookmakers were in favour. ND suggested that the racecourse should produce a betting area plan. DM to consider.

A discussion ensued, during which SC also notified the meeting that after research, following the racecourse announcement that an NBA in Centaur would operate on NYD, he was reminded that the JCR/FRB Joint Statement - Courtyard Related, (displayed on AGT website in August 2017) specifically prohibited any NBA in Centaur on Off Days. Therefore, such an NBA will not be again offered.

RG proposed a sub-committee to consider and feedback on these limited use NBAs, but DM felt that it was not warranted on the basis of the relatively few occasions such would operate.

Next meeting t.b.a. pre/early 2022/23 season

