

BLC NOTES – NEWCASTLE/SEDGEFIELD RACECOURSES Tuesday 24 October 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bookmakers – John Ridley, Neville Porter, Paul Garritty, Sam Black.
General Managers – Colin Smith (Sedge), Paul Rankin (Newc) .
Executive Director Newcastle – Paul Elliott
Regional Director – David Williamson.
Darren Irving RBC BRM.
Steve Clare.

RACECOURSE YTD & OPS

SEDGEFIELD

Mixed feedback from bookmakers, with cautious optimism based on recommenced trading since track work, with some disappointment also expressed.

In 2024 there will be 18 fixtures. Highlights include: Cheltenham Raceday Tuesday 12 March; Gents Aintree Raceday on Friday 12 April; Ladies evening on Friday 10 May; New season Opener Monday 23 September, Durham National Sunday 20 October; Festive Jumper Raceday Friday 6 December and finally the Boxing Day Fixture.

There will be two specific Students racedays – Friday 26 January and Friday 6 December.

Racecourse management is targeting an increase in public attendance with social media marketing and other activities throughout the year. A suggestion was made to have another local residents race meeting. CS agreed to consider.

Advance online public admission will start at £13. The online booking fee has been discontinued.

Bookmakers asked that the unsightly bank of redundant TV screens which face into the betting ring are covered/decorated over - CS.

NEWCASTLE

Similar feedback from bookmakers as to that for Sedgefield, with Feature Meetings being in the main very good. All agreed the standard AW meetings were a challenge.

For 2024 there will be 78 meetings, 65 being AW.

There will be 10 Feature Meetings : New Year's Day; 24 Feb Eider Chase; 16 March St Patrick's Day/Cheltenham Raceday; 29 March AW Final; 13 April GN Raceday; 27 June Sefton Trophy Day; 28 June Gosforth Park Cup Night; 29 June Northumberland Plate; 27 July

Ladies Day; 1 November Fireworks & Funfair; 30 November Fighting Fifth; 14 December Christmas Jumper.

Three Student Racedays are planned. The local Postcode race meeting will take place on a Sunday.

For most meetings the advance price will be £14.50 but for New Year's Day it has been pitched at £10. The very popular Day at the Races package will continue to be promoted at both tracks.

Suggestions were made:

To offer betting inside during November – February AW meetings – DW/PE to consider.

Consider a further New Betting Area on Plate Day – DW/PE to consider

Offer a discounted Annual Betting Badge or a reduced DBB charge in the winter months– DW to consider