

BLC NOTES – SOUTHWELL & UTTOXETER RACECOURSES Monday 17 July 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bookmakers – Jason Newberry, Paul Johnson, Steve Pratt, David Halford
Mark Clayton Executive Director Southwell, Brian Barrass Executive Director Uttoxeter David
Williamson Regional Director North.
Neil Pateman & Steve Clare.
Apologies – Colin Mangan & Sam Brown

TRADING FEEDBACK FROM BOOKMAKERS

UTTOXETER

Bigger days with larger crowds were excellent and bookmakers valued the efforts made by the racecourse management to continue to drive increased admissions. In particular this year's feature meetings have had very good public attendances.

An improvement in trading was reported as a result of the Premier enclosure drinking ban being rescinded.

It was recognised that with the large number of regular racegoers, annual members and hospitality clients each meeting starts with a minimum of c.1,000 attendees before any other tickets are sold,

PJ reported that the stake per bet was one of the lowest of all his betting positions but that the volume tended to be good.

It was also reported that the PA system in G&P was very poor during racing and had been for some years.

Worries were expressed concerning the potential impact of the proposed reduction in Saturday fixtures, and the reduction of the number of races per day from 7 to 6. Ongoing monitoring when the fixture changes are known.

Smith & Fox attends every race meeting that the centre course is open for. but SP was disappointed at the gradual increase in fixtures for which the enclosure was closed. However, business levels were good when operating.

SOUTHWELL

Bookmakers enjoyed attending Southwell and with the exception of the twilight AW fixtures business levels were satisfactory at most meetings and good on the bigger days in particular Easter Sunday, the April Gents evening and Family Fun Day.

An attendance of c. 8,000 is expected on Ladies Day with August BH forecast at around 4,000.

It was reported that the improved & relocated O&T facility had impacted Rails turnover to the benefit of Tattersalls.

Bookmakers emphasised the importance to them of having cash machines on site, but recognised the difficulties of racecourses in obtaining them from third party operators.

The racecourse was thanked by bookmakers for the complimentary hot drinks in winter and the easy vehicular access to drop off kit.

2023 REMAINING HIGHLIGHTS

UTTOXETER

Ladies Day 28 July; Summer Family Funday 30 July; Gents Day (+ c.2,500 students) 8 October; Winter Ladies Day 20 October; Staffordshire Beer Festival 10 November; Christmas Party Raceday 22 December; New Year's Eve Raceday 31 December;

SOUTHWELL

Ladies Day 20 August; BH Family Funday 28 August; Racing League 2023 13 September; 21 & 22 December Festive Fixtures; Christmas Race night 29 December.
There are more September fixtures overall this year than the norm.

AOB

A question was asked about the ARC policy of allowing bookmakers to buy an annual member's badge. It was confirmed, that although bookmakers may purchase annual member's badges to receive a 1x multiple discount on the DBB in order to do so they must have purchased the badge for each course they attend. The offer that applies to members of the public who may buy annual membership at any ARC racecourse and get free entry at any ARC racecourse does not apply to bookmakers or their staff.

Early warning was given of a Sunday afternoon raceday trial (3.45 first race) at Southwell in January.

Bookmakers expressed disappointment at the loss of Rewards for racing points from online DBB and ticket purchases. This coincided with the introduction of early bird discounts for online bookmaker purchases.