

## **Notes of the Meeting of the RBC Technical Sub Committee Held at Chester Racecourse on the 28<sup>th</sup> February.**

### **Present:**

John Carthy (RBC) (JC)  
Shaun Blackett (RBC) (SB)  
Neil Pateman (RBC) (NP)  
Paddy Chester (Chester Racecourse) (PC)  
Chris Hudson (BRBA) (CH)  
David Hughes (ARB) (DH)  
Graham Thorpe (NAB) (GT)  
Simon Wallis (RBA) (SW)

### **1. INTRODUCTIONS**

NP thanked all for attending the meeting and thanked PC for the use of the hospitality box for the meeting.

### **2. THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE TSC**

It was agreed by all that the TSC should continue but now be called the Technician Advisory Group (TAG). It was agreed that the TAG is a useful way of reviewing the current guidelines/operations.

It was also understood by the TAG the limits of the group. We cannot supersede Special Conditions E or Racecourse/bookmaker licences. Any issues with these are directly between the bookmakers' associations and the racecourses.

### **3. REVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES**

The TAG reviewed the current Guidance for Betting Ring Managers and potential new guidelines.

We discussed if it was possible for bookmakers to use a second LED board at the joint. Due to health and safety issues, it was agreed that the current guideline was sufficient, Bookmakers are NOT permitted to attach a second LED board to the joint. We also discussed the lowering of Rails LED boards and agreed that this must happen on racecourses that insist on it. Also, it was agreed that it is the responsibility of the bookmakers to bring the correct kit to lower the LED boards horizontally.

The TAG discussed if bookmakers should display +18 signs on their joints. Many bookmakers do this without fail but for best practice it was agreed that all bookmakers should. This will need changing in Special Conditions E. PC said he will propose this to the RCA. Euro rates on boards was also discussed. It was agreed that in an ideal scenario if you take a bet in Euros you pay in Euros but you must have an exchange rate up on your board if you can't do this.

Retention of Betting Tickets: After a discussion it was agreed that the current guideline was sufficient.

Do we need a Guideline for Debit cards and Debit card machines: The TAG agreed that it is the Bookmakers responsibility to understand the terms and conditions regarding the use of debit cards, so no guideline is needed. However, the TAG did think that a message on the RBC website to remind bookmakers of this would be useful.

Do we need a bookmakers networking guideline: The TAG highlighted that this is in the bookmakers Licence with the racecourse, so no further guidelines are required. We did discuss if workers (not schedule X or Y persons) should be registered and have a name badge. No final decision was agreed at this meeting.

Do we need to update the way rule 4 was administered on course. NP explained, currently when a horse is withdrawn and this before the Press Association has sent a show, we use 3 bookmakers (chosen before racing) to collate the price from the betting ring. JC stated that because of the technology on course we could use many more bookmakers and would look to implementing this. Also, it would be able to collate a price if only 2 bookmakers were attending a race meeting.

JC is going to liaise with RaceTech to try and get them to put Rule 4 messages on the racecourse big screens more consistently.

Dress codes: It was agreed that the minimum standard was for the bookmaker to dress to the dress code of the of the enclosure that they are betting in and a guideline should be drawn up for this.

#### 4. AOB

Pitching up times. PC and the associations agreed that some of the pitching up times at Chester should be extended. The May Festival and All Saturdays Tatts, rails and the new areas will now be 2 hours. NP will amend Racecourse ring number and pitch time document on the RBC website PC said he would make sure that bookmakers will be able to entre the racecourse at this time through the normal entry gate.

GT asked if there was a way of exiting the racecourse so that the tunnel under the racetrack could be split in half, the left side for customers and bookmakers walking towards the parade ring and the right side for customers walking back into tatts. GT stated that bookmakers had concerns about wheeling their equipment through the busy crowd. PC said this was very difficult to manage but said he would investigate making a crossing available over the racetrack for bookmakers to exit more safely. This would not be implemented for the May Festival due to the hospitality marquees.

The TAG had a discussion regarding bookmakers taking their boards down too soon after the last race or even during the last race. This makes it difficult for customers to find them to pick up winnings. It was recommended that a name plate is kept up as minimum and

must be left up until at least the weighed in announcement. NP will write a guideline for this.

#### 5. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the TAG would meet annually, or sooner when there is an issue to be discussed.