

## York BLC Meeting Notes 2024

Attendees -

For York racecourse - Chris Ward, Head of Finance, and Richard Wauby, Assistant Accountant.

For RBC - Mark Ryan

Bookmakers - Chris Hudson and Keith Johnson, UCORB directors, Colin Bagley, Paul Colley, Paul Dolan and Andrew Gerraghty.

Chris Ward told the meeting that he valued the attendance of bookmakers and their added value to the Raceday experience, and following enquires from bookmakers he confirmed York welcomes cash and York intend to continue to provide ATM's for racegoers, although the number of providers is now very much reduced.

The review of the season and the main discussions were around the lost Saturday fixture and whether it would be replaced at some point in the future. York would like to purchase an appropriate race day but it is not straightforward.

The Racecourse thought the cost of living crisis could well affect 2024 attendances.

The Music nights would be the Kaiser Chiefs and the Saturday tbc with no Bookmaker's on the lawn.

On the Bank Holiday fixture bookmakers would be allowed on the lawn behind the stage for the ABBA tribute group

The reduced multiple fee , previously negotiated would remain with no increase in AMF.

The previous request for advance payments for the season was declined as the previous uptake had been negligible, if it was to be proved that there was an appetite for such a scheme then York would consider revisiting it.

A deadline would be set for the advance booking discount. tbc.

The bookmakers entrance would revert to the previous entrance opposite the bookmakers car park, which from memory was on completion of the south end developments.

A permanent bar facility in the Roberto Area twixt the Knavesmire & Bustardthorpe stands.

Discussions then moved onto the reduction in the number of coach trips to the races and we discussed the possibility of the Associations working with Go Racing in Yorkshire in an effort to get them back.

CGH reported back the decision of the RBC TG that old ticket roles with the old AGT details should not be used.

The existing arrangement in the Clock Tower would continue on quieter days when there are fewer than 26 bookmaker badges had been purchased, with those attending being split 50:50 either side of the Clock Tower, with no gaps.

My ongoing request for a new area at the paddock was looked at as it was agreed that it wouldn't affect either the ring or rails. After the meeting KJ & CGH identified a potential area north of the paddock but we were told that if any such decision could only be William Derby. Chris Ward confirmed that in the event of a new area being sanctioned that York would not replenish. **Chris Ward advised that, while pitches in new areas were not currently under consideration, were this to change there was currently no intention by the racecourse to increase the total number of bookmakers by replenishing those that might move.**

KJ asked if the alcohol ban on the Lawn could be lifted even if only on a trial basis for 2024. Several racecourses, including Cheltenham, Newmarket and Uttoxeter have recently relaxed drinking bans. Members are reluctant to leave drinks unattended whilst having a bet on the rails or watching the race from the Lawn and this has a negative effect on the atmosphere. All the members drinking areas at the rear of the stand have Tote betting facilities which is unfair to the Rails bookmakers many of whom have paid very considerable sums for their picks and have seen their level of business decline much more rapidly than any other betting areas.