

PRE-FESTIVAL BLC CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE - NOTES 30 September 2025

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bookmakers - Simon Wallis, Barry Pinnington (Teams), Paul Gold, John Hooper, Dale Such, Mark Jeal.

Racecourse – Gemma Steve, Harry Vickery, Andy Collins, Neil Pateman, Steve Clare.

Forthcoming Season

October - The Showcase Fri 24 & Sat 25. Invade Students Day (Saturday) c.5 -6k exclusive to Best Mate (BM bookmakers reduced price DBB - see portal)

The November Meeting - Fri 14 Countryside Day, Sat 15 Super Saturday featuring the Paddy Power Gold Cup, Sun 16 Carnival Sunday & Family Day Sunday with the Unibet Greatwood Handicap Hurdle.

December - Christmas Meeting Fri 12 & Sat 13.

New Years Day - Thurs c.28,000 – 30,000 attendance expected.

Festival Trials Day - Sat 24 January

The Festival - Tue 10 until Fri 13 March (separate Festival BLC meeting in the New Year).

April Meeting - Wed 15 & Thu 16

May - Fri 1 Hunter Chase Evening – Race Night – Night in Nashville.

Best Mate enclosure will be open to the public for all meetings except - Showcase Saturday (5,000 students exclusively) note also reduced online DBB that day; both April racedays & Hunter Chase evening in May. In addition, should the advance bookings be less than 500, the enclosure will not operate. Please note that this could mean a closure at short notice.

New Season Initiatives.

Relaxed drinks areas trial in 2024/25 was a great success. For 2025/26 drinks restrictions will be relaxed throughout the racecourse for all meetings. Drinking will be allowed in all public areas.

Discounted multi-day admission tickets for The Festival are now available - buy one ticket for a 20% reduction on further tickets for Tuesday to Thursday.

New multi million pound public address system project has commenced with phase 1 completed - control equipment & front of grandstands state of the art speakers. Further phases Village and Parade Ring/Weighing Room over the next few years.

Overall public capacity has been slightly reduced to 66,000 in order to improve the racegoer experience in particular on Gold Cup Day.

Festival Tented Village & Guinness Village - a large temporary Igloo structure, 3,000 person capacity will be positioned directly behind the Guinness Village with direct access into/from it – Festival only. The Guinness Village remains in the usual location, but the stage will be re-sited centrally directly behind the Lower Tattersalls seating stand. This means that the

tunnel beneath the stand will not be operating this year. Guinness Village will be open Nov Fri/Sat, NYD and Festival.

Ongoing Refurbishment Progress

In the last two years 7 bars/bar areas have been refurbished within the main Grandstand. This work will continue across other public areas.

Ongoing refurbishment investment plans are focussed on providing benefits to general admission customers.

Operational Aspects

Under 18/Think 25 - bookmakers responsibilities discussed.

Bookmaker's Car Parking – Please see separate notice on RBC website & letter.

Rails power overloading - bookmakers were asked not to use extension cables or additional power sockets as it is likely to cause a power breaker to cut in and disrupt operation.

Signage reminders - Rails bookmakers and those at Courtyard were reminded that the lower signage should be affixed by use of magnetic tape rather than any other method.

Bookmaker upper & lower name boards may not be removed after the last race until all winning bets have been paid. Wraparounds are a mandatory requirement.

Bookmakers were reminded to use only ticket rolls with the correct RBC late pay details on the reverse.

Equipment drop off - can be done but bookmakers must provide sight of their RBC i/d, together with a public admission ticket or annual members badge for each person in the vehicle. Vehicles must be off site a minimum of 30 mins before gates open.

There will be cash machines on site to the same extent as last season.

Bookmakers are reminded not to use admission tickets bought by them for customer giveaways or promotions as these might find their way to touts. Should any bookmaker wish to do a customer ticket promotion they should contact Gemma Steve to purchase tickets.