

Chester And Bangor on Dee Racecourse

Bookmaker Liaison Meeting

Chester Racecourse

Friday 27th February 2026 11:00am

Attending

Chester and Bangor Racecourse - Paddy Chester, Neil Farmer, Andrea Wilkinson

Racecourse Betting Compliance - Neil Pateman

Bookmakers - Richard Liles, Paul Garritty, Chris Kirk, Ian Bown, Colin Mangon

Apologies – Simon Wallis

Trading Update for 2025

Bookmakers reported strong trade at Chester during the 2025 season, with all bookmaker representatives confirming that business levels held up well.

2026 Season

The course enclosure will be closed for the May festival and the Friday afternoon fixture (the toilets will remain open).

The Goat Walk will be open for all fixtures.

The Roodee Enclosure will be in operation for the 2026 season.

Betting Operations

New areas for 2026.

- May Festival - 6 pitches at the White Horse. NP to meet with PC Two weeks before the May Festival. There may be an opportunity (if there is enough available space) for some pitches in the Pavillion Lawn. An update to follow.
- Fridays and Sundays - 5 pitches at the White Horse and 3 on the Pavilion Lawn
- All Saturdays - 6 at the White Horse and 4 at the Pavilion.
- 2 pitches will be available under the Tatts Grandstand for all fixtures.
- 5 pitches will be available in the Course Enclosure (3 furlong pole) for the Sunday Fixture.
- Bangor will have the 4 pitches in operation for all fixtures.
- The Overton side of the Silver Ring will be closed on quieter days during the season. Advance notice will be published on the RBC website.

Britbet will operate in place of Chester Bet. The number of Britbet terminals in operation will remain like-for like.

Pitching Up Times

Chester May Festival and Saturdays - Tatts/Rails 2 hours - Dee/Goat/Course - 90 mins

Chester Fridays - Tatts/Rails/Dee/Goat/Course - 90 mins

Chester Sunday - Course/Goat 2 ½ hours - Tatts/Rails/Dee 90 mins

Bangor on Dee Saturdays - Tatts/Rails 90 mins - Silver 1 hour

All other fixtures - Tatts/Rails 1 hour - Silver 45 mins

There will not be any early morning first race starts for Bangor or late afternoon starts for Chester this season.

May Festival

The May Festival will be run between 6th - 8th May.

Chester Cup will be run on Friday as part of an 8 race Card.

Bookmakers will be charged at 5x the entrance fee for the May Festival (reduced from 6x)
All Bookmaker workers must pay for an entrance badge.

Car Park labels to be posted out in advance.

Music and Key Events

Friday 10th July – Ibiza Classics

11th July – TBC

2nd August – Family Fun Day

22nd August – Marvin Humes

The music stage will be in the course for all fixtures. Tatts and Rais bookmakers will be charged at 4x the entrance fee for the family fun day fixture. Tatts and Rails bookmakers thanks PC for reimbursing the pitch fees last year. The control fencing will not be in the same position in 2026.

Ticketing and Payments

A new ticketing system will be introduced shortly for both Chester and Bangor.

Bookmakers are reminded that they must pay online before 12:00pm on the race day. The Box Office or racecourse office cannot accept payment. Refunds will be sent across to any bookmaker that cannot attend.

Please be reminded to purchase your annual marketing fee before attending at Chester and Bangor.

Hospitality Development

Building work will commence at the end of the 2026 season to construct a new hospitality area.

Construction is expected to take approximately one year

Bookmaker Numbers in new areas will be reviewed after the building work has been completed.

AOB

Bookmakers were reminded of dress code requirements at Chester and Bangor. No trainers or shorts are permitted.

Chester is exploring the introduction of a student day in 2026 – TBC.

The Exit strategy for bookmakers exiting the racecourse through the underpass will remain the same as last year with security sectioning half of it off.

Date of Next Meeting - TBC