

YORK BLC
WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY 2026

Present:

Chris Ward – York racecourse
Richard Waudby – York racecourse
John Carthy - RDT
Richard Liles – Bookmaker
Jayne Robinson – Bookmaker
Paul Dolan – Bookmaker
Neil Pateman – Betting Ring Manager
Mark Ryan – Betting Ring Manager
Bill Colley – Bookmaker
Andy Geraghty – Bookmaker
Keith Johnson – Bookmaker

Off season developments: Chris informed that the main work out of season is the widening of the horse walk in the parade ring.

RBC Technical Committee meeting: John Carty gave an update on the technical sub-committee meeting, in the main on the use of Starlink and the action that Ascot has taken. There was discussion about how last season had gone with regard to bookmaker connectivity and the use of Starlink and RDT 60Gz equipment. For most bookmakers using RDT there was a significant improvement in connectivity regardless of where the pitches were placed. However, it was not so good for those on the rails. There was no evidence of any interference between the 2 systems or the racecourse network.

Tote stand on the grass – at the last BLC meeting the issue of a Tote stand on the corner of the grass was raised in regard to the fact that it was blocking a way to the bookmakers on the grass. The first few meetings of 2025 the Tote booth was not there but was then replaced by an ice cream van with, on some days, a queue across the entrance to the grass. A request was made to not put anything on the grass on this walkway through.

New Stand – The new stand on the Bustardthorpe lawn was a big success last year and racegoers were directed there as the entrance at Gate 9 and 10 was the main way in. This did however have a negative impact on the Knavesmire Stand in that less people were in there. This year there will be a change to the entrance point to the gates behind the Knavesmire to try and encourage people to stay there.

New Areas – A request was made to have a small number of bookmakers in a new area, namely by the parade ring. Keith pointed out that the other major tracks have new areas for bookmakers to offer racegoers a choice. Chris felt that those around the parade ring and the surrounding area had a choice between the Tote and the Betting Shop. He was concerned

that it would take people out of the ring, but it was felt by the bookmakers there that this would not be the case as many people who settle themselves round that area do not go to the betting ring and it would therefore give them another option that they don't currently have.

Music – Chris informed the meeting that Becky Hill had been booked for the Saturday in June. For the July music weekend Tom Grennan has been booked for the Saturday but as yet there is no act confirmed for the Friday night.

Price increase – There will be an increase to the clock tower prices in line with inflation.

Richard Waudby provided those present with the prices for the meetings for the whole of 2026.

Pitching Up Times – The same times as 2025 will apply to 2026 with the exception of the Friday of music weekend when the pitch time will reduce to 90 minutes.