

BLC NOTES – AINTREE RACECOURSE 23 JANUARY 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bookmakers – Paul Dolan, Paul Colley, Chris Kirk, Richard Johnson, Simon Wallis.
Aintree – Dickon White, Carl Pastor, Steve Clare, Mark Ryan, Neil Pateman, Darren Irvine.

2022 AINTREE TRADING UPDATE FROM BOOKMAKERS

Generally, bookmakers reported encouraging levels of business and betting turnover, especially during the Grand National meeting. SW reported that betting turnover for Rails bookmakers at OFF meetings was not as good.

Overall levels of public attendance were very good last year with encouraging signs for 2023.

Bookmakers were thanked by Dickon White for their ongoing support.

2023 GRAND NATIONAL PLANNING & UPDATE

Advance ticket sales are very encouraging with Grand National Day public admissions on track to sell out (although as usual it is predicted that there could be a limited number of Embankment tickets available up to the event).

Grandstands are also selling well, as is much of the hospitality and restaurants.

Admission badges remain available on the racecourse website, and also will be on the dedicated bookmaker purchase portal. Festival Zone admission ticket pricing for 2023 – Thursday £32, Ladies Day £53, Grand National Day £80. Embankment £42.

To cater for increasing demand for seating and a covered bar area, the West Tip Pavilion will be doubled in size for 2023 to a new capacity of 4,500 (increase of 2,250 over 2022).

Daily attendances are expected to be: Thursday - 35,000; Friday - Ladies Day 50,000; Grand National Saturday 70,000, (not including the additional 2,250 in West Tip).

Public facilities and temporary structures will be broadly similar to the 2022 event.

It is hoped that there will be a number of ATM machines available in all enclosures – t.b.c.

Work is being undertaken by the Aintree Ops team to improve both WiFi and mobile phone connectivity.

Bookmakers DBB, AMF, RBC fees and admission tickets must again be purchased online in advance – in common with previous years there will be no Badge Box in operation.

When buying DBBs online (via the link on the RBC website), all bookmakers must pay their Annual Marketing Fee irrespective of whether corresponding list positions are held on the OFF and GN lists..

This year there will be an opportunity for bookmakers to drop off kit on Wednesday 12 April. Anyone wishing to do so must contact Mark Ryan by Monday 4 April. Kit can be dropped off, security checked, and left undercover in the Equestrian Centre between 2.00 p.m. & 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 12 April at bookmaker's own risk.

As usual, Steeplechase parking will be available for bookmakers with shuttle buses to the centre course opposite grandstands. Car park labels will be available for advance purchase online from the Aintree Racecourse website. The first shuttle bus for bookmakers will depart from the steeplechase car park at 09.00 on Thursday and Friday and 08.30 on Saturday.

Bookmaker access will again be via Drive 3 from 09.00 on Thursday & Friday and 08.30 on Saturday. Bookmakers & staff admission tickets (email copy of DBB will not permit entry) will be scanned and equipment security checked at the entrance. Gates open for the public at 11.00 on Thursday, 10.30 on Friday & 10.00 on Saturday.

Pitching In times, will be the same as for 2022 - 10.15 on Thursday & Friday and 10.00 (10.30 Embankment) on Saturday.

At the end of each day, the usual exits for bookmakers will be in operation, along with the opening of the shutters to the rear of the Equestrian Centre.

This year, each of the Temporary Betting Areas (front of Lord Sefton Stand; side of Earl of Derby Stand; Parade Ring; Inside the Equestrian Centre) will be pitched in individually utilising the 1:1 mechanism. Bookmaker numbers in each temporary area are currently under review and will be confirmed, along with the pitching in sequence, in advance of the meeting. A review into possible additional temporary new betting areas after the 2022 GN determined that there was insufficient available space when considering public attendance on GN day.

It is expected that the 5 betting positions by the Silver Birch hospitality (Tattersalls List) will be in a similar location to 2022.

The racecourse will again provide black bags to each bookmaker for general litter.

Bookmakers are asked to keep their joint area clean & tidy and carefully store away kit boxes or extra kit, in order to reduce trip hazards.

Bookmakers are asked to report any instances of forged bank notes or public disorder either via the BRMs or racecourse security personnel.

All anchor points will be cleaned/power washed pre event.

BRMs will issue bookmakers lanyards and transfer labels as required.

OFF MEETINGS

There will be two music nights – 19 May & 16 June each with an anticipated attendance of c.12,000.

Family Day – 29 October. The race meeting on 11 November will incorporate a student's day.

As usual, Becher Chase Day is at the 9 December fixture, and the eagerly anticipated new Boxing Day fixture where attendance is predicted to be c.12,000 completes the exciting 2023 line up.

BRM ROLE

Bookmakers were reminded of the requirement that the trading name displayed on linked pitches was the same.

Best practice is also to display 'no under 18 betting' signs on their joints.

AOB

Bookmaker's Lists were split into Grand National & OFF in 2013. At the time, a concession was made whereby if a bookmaker retained the same number on both lists then they need only pay one AMF. Most betting positions on the OFF lists have been transferred and a minority now hold the corresponding number on both lists. Accordingly, after a period of that concession being in place for what will be 10 years, it was confirmed that with effect from the 2023 season an AMF will be payable of every betting position on each list.

A request was made that Under 18 betting messages included the fact that parents may not place bets on behalf of their children.

Bookmakers were reminded that they, or the associations, could make proposals for activities to support the betting rings.

Next meeting 2023 TBA.