

BLC NOTES – CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE 5 October 2022

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bookmakers - Barry Johnson, Graham Thorpe, Simon Wallis, Nick Daisley, John Hooper
Racecourse - David Mackinnon, Steve Clare, Neil Pateman BRM
Apologies – Mark Jeal, Robin Grossmith & Dale Such

Cash on the Move will again provide ATMs at Cheltenham for each race meeting – same service levels as in 2021/22.

It was asked that in the racecourse marketing, the racecourse emphasise that cash was accepted by bookmakers for betting purposes – DM

DM confirmed that having accepted a role in racing overseas, he would be leaving the racecourse after the forthcoming October race meeting. All expressed their congratulations but expressed regret that he was leaving Cheltenham. A replacement will be announced in due course but there is likely to be a gap between DM's departure and the appointee being in post.

The 2022/23 raceday pattern remains as per last season. Since NYD next year falls on a Sunday with the BH on the following Monday, c.30,000 public attendance is expected.

Generally, advance sales to date for the season are encouraging especially for The Festival. At this stage there appears to be a slight ticket sales trend of moving from Tattersalls towards Best Mate, but it is early days.

On Showcase Saturday 5,000 students will be attending in the Best Mate enclosure.

As had been reported in the press, there will be a 5,000 reduction of the daily spectator capacity over The Festival to a maximum of 68,000.

Extensive market research into the feasibility of extending The Festival to 5 days in future (not 2023) has been carried out. An announcement on the outcome will follow in due course.

Following the proposal to alter the layout of betting positions, and bookmaker number, in Tattersalls a review had been carried out by the racecourse. The changes would ease congestion within that enclosure, make access and egress easier and aid access to bookmakers. Further work will be done by the racecourse prior to making and announcing a decision. Bookmakers in attendance understood the rationale of the racecourse.

It was confirmed that there would be no change to the policy of preventing spectators to bring alcoholic drinks into the racing viewing areas (e.g. Pre-Parade Ring, Parade Ring, Racing Viewing).

New Betting Areas were discussed but there was no unanimity amongst bookmakers as to the desirability of such. There is no immediate appetite from the racecourse to introduce New Betting Areas.

It was proposed that a discounted Annual DBB should be offered – DM to discuss within the racecourse.

It was suggested that ITV should be reminded to exercise discretion when interviewing bookmakers with regard to the amount of cash on display (and how it is displayed) – DM

It was confirmed that Neil Pateman had been appointed as National Betting Ring Manager as part of the move from AGT to RBC. NP was congratulated and he confirmed that Andy Collins would remain as senior BRM at Cheltenham.