

## BLC NOTES – ROYAL WINDSOR RACECOURSE 27 March 2024

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Pasis-Oakwell Executive Director; Charlotte Platt Financial Controller; Bookmakers - Russell White; Joe O’Gorman; Jason Newberry; Robert Speechley. Steve Clare.

Part - Safety Officer Nick Meeks

Apologies – Vicki Moore

### NEW ACCESS PROCEDURES

The background to the new access procedures, as well as the procedures themselves were explained by CM.

Due to perceived increased levels of risk the following will be in place w.e.f. the first fixture and then ongoing -

Security checks will take place upon entry at the ‘Rusty Gate’. Schedule X & Ys will be checked against the RBC badge box list. A staff list for that race meeting must be provided by the X or Y upon entry. All occupants of vehicles must also be either in possession of an annual member’s badge, or a standard admission ticket. Security staff will exercise discretion when carrying out checks of equipment upon entry.

Bookmakers may then have vehicular access to the betting ring to decant equipment. Vehicles must be off site 30 minutes before gates open and removed to the bookmaker’s car park. A bookmaker’s season car park label will be provided at the first race meeting. **Please can bookmakers email to Charlotte Platt the registration plate of the car they will be bringing on site by the midnight prior to the raceday.** [cplatt@windsor-racecourse.co.uk](mailto:cplatt@windsor-racecourse.co.uk)

After racing, bookmakers will be permitted to drive up to the grassed area at the front of the racecourse (not onto tarmac) to load equipment.

### TRADING FEEDBACK FROM BOOKMAKERS

Overall, bookmakers reported that betting turnover and tickets held up well at the bigger meetings but was poorer at the fixtures towards the start and year end.

The Rails and Tattersalls betting area also held up well compared to the Lawn area at most meetings.

The future of the defunct Silver Ring bookmaker’s lists was again discussed. Three options exist, either to retain the list in case a Silver Ring is re-introduced; merge with the Tattersalls list (bookmaker number 28 therefore the 20 in the number on the Silver list would be added commencing at 29), or a Lower Tattersalls betting area could be introduced. The opinion of the bookmaker’s associations would be sought prior to any decision.

## NEW SEASON RACECOURSE PLANS

There will again be 26 race meetings.

The promotional strategy will be aimed at increasing public attendance and primarily focussed on further growing the bigger race meetings. The Day at the Races offer of admission, pie & pint, remains in place (£19 online) alongside very competitive advance online ticket pricing.

The season opens with a Monday afternoon fixture on 15 April.

Traditional Royal Windsor Monday evenings – APRIL 22 & 29; MAY 13 & 20; JUNE 3 (80's Retro Music), 10 (Irish Night), 17 (Summer Garden Party), 24; JULY 1 (Gin & Fizz Racenight), 15 (Rum & Reggae Racenight) 22 (Soul & Motown); 29(an evening with Queen); AUGUST 12 (Vegas Night), 19 (Final Fiesta); SEPTEMBER 2.

Sat 25 MAY (E) Summer Opening Party; Sat 29 JUNE (Ladies Day); Sat 3 AUGUST (Gents Day), Thu 15 (Racing League), Sat 24 (Summer Closing Party).

2024 fixture highlights – one Family Day (MAY 6) rather than the four in 2023; new Saturday meeting (MAY 25E); only one Sunday meeting (DEC 15).

SEPTEMBER 16 & 30; OCTOBER 14.

DECEMBER - Sun 15 Return of the Jumps!

The trial by ARC of switching a race with higher number of runners to the last on the card was discussed, and this trial might well be extended. Bookmakers supported this initiative.

Discussions are taking place with Invade regarding a Student's Day in September - tbc.

AOB

Pitch Fees near Winners Enclosure, will be standard from April to 20<sup>th</sup> May. From 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 through to 24<sup>th</sup> August 2024, the enhanced pitch of £100 will be charged.

It was proposed that bookmakers could be offered an annual betting badge season ticket which would be paid for at the start of the season and offered at a discounted price CP to consider. Please do not call the racecourse to enquire, details will follow in a separate message in due course.

Please note due to ongoing renovations around site, for the first 3 fixtures the open areas will be mainly Sprint Bar, Fish and Chips, Coffee unit, which means the area by the club turnstiles and lawn (where stage is) will be quieter than usual.

April Fixture forecasted retail attendance

- 15<sup>th</sup> April - 573
- 22<sup>nd</sup> April - 508
- 29<sup>th</sup> April – 548

NEXT MEETING T.B.A.