

BLC NOTES - EPSOM DOWNS RACECOURSE 23 April 2025

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bookmakers - Joe O’Gorman, Ian Govey, Dave Peckham, Iain Harrison.

Apologies - Barry Bass

Racecourse - Jim Allen, Steve Clare & Andrew Boardley.

FEEDBACK ON 2024 TRADING FROM BOOKMAKERS

Derby – Tatts & Rails generally satisfactory levels of business but with a lower stake per transaction reported on Oaks Day.

Upper Tattenham & Lonsdale were reported as good, but Car Park 28 disappointing perhaps due to it being closed in 2023, and with minibuses re-directed to The Hill in '24.

Apart from a few highlights, many of the OFF meetings produced disappointing trading experiences for bookmakers.

2025 FIXTURES

BETFRED DERBY FESTIVAL

There will be seven races on Oaks Day commencing at 1.30 p.m. with the Oaks being run at 4.00 p.m.

On Derby Day the first race on the eight-race card will be at 1.00 p.m. The Derby off time will be 3.30 p.m. and the last race at 5.25 p.m.

Gates open to the public at 11.00 a.m. each day. Rails & Tattersalls bookmakers can gain access from 09.00 a.m. daily via the bookmaker’s entrance. Pitching in for Rails & Tattersalls will be at 10.30 a.m. on Ladies Day and 10.00 a.m. on Derby Day. Pitching in for Upper Tattenham and Lonsdale will be at 10.00 a.m. on Ladies Day and 9.00 a.m. on Derby Day.

Operationally, the Derby Festival will be similar to last year, specific details tbc via a message on the RBC website nearer the time.

Advance ticket sales for Derby Day & Oaks Day are encouraging.

Bookmakers asked that the DJ adjacent to Tatts does not conflict with the event itself and that volumes are not excessively high during the afternoons. In addition it was requested that the roving drummers were kept away from the betting areas during racing, and that mobile drinks vendors did not operate near to or within the betting areas.

The pedestrian access tunnel onto The Hill will again be closed and temporarily covered over. Pedestrian access to The Hill will be either via the Tattenham Corner or Rubbing House crossings. The usual vehicular entry points will be available.

The Upper Tattenham hospitality marquee will house in excess of 400 people each day, with a further place available in the Picnic Area directly in front of the marquee. Hospitality and Picnic area ticket holders will enter Upper Tattenham via the usual hospitality entrance at the rear of the marquee.

Within the Lonsdale Enclosure, Cedric's hospitality will again be in operation. It was requested that the Pimms tent adjacent to it was moved into a more unobtrusive location.

2025 OFF MEETINGS

The Off fixtures total 9 race meetings, the first on 22 April, and will run through until 28 September.

Highlights:

Evening racing Weds 2 July; Queen Tribute Music Night Thurs 10 July; Abba Tribute Music Night Thurs 17 July; Michael Jackson Tribute Music Night Thurs 31 July; Toby Anstis Rewind Raceday Fri 15 August; Family Bank Holiday Monday 31 August; 11 & 28 September afternoon racing.

THE HILL 2024

SC explained at the betting position bidding process finished and resulted in 60 successful bids, which when the existing betting positions at Rubbing House & Car Park 28 are included provides 66 bookmakers operating over the Derby Festival.

NEXT MEETING – SPRING 2026