

PRE-FESTIVAL BLC CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE - NOTES 17 February 2025

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bookmakers - Barry Johnson, Richard Johnson, John Hooper, Dale Such, Mark Jeal
Racecourse – Gemma Steve, Guy Lavender, Neil Pateman, Steve Clare.
Apologies – Simon Wallace, Barry Hooper, Andy Collins.

Newly appointed CEO, Guy Lavender, was in attendance. Guy was appointed in January from most recently being CEO of the MCC, and a committee member at Exeter racecourse.

The Festival 2025.

Advance ticket sales across all meetings are at present slightly behind this time last year.

Anticipated daily public attendances - Tuesday 56,000; Wednesday 42,000; Thursday 55,000 and Friday sold out at 68,500.

Hospitality sales are expected to be similar to 2024.

Daily Event Timings: Public Gates Open 10:30. Pitching-in 10:00 (Rails, Tatts & Best Mate), 10:30 elsewhere. First race 13:20. Last race 17:20. Racecourse closes 19:30.

Bookmakers may gain vehicular access for kit drop-off before 09:30 daily (vehicles must be off site by 09:30). Each person in the vehicle must produce either a public admission ticket or annual member's badge to gain access. Alternatively, kit may be dropped off on Monday with RBC I/D and prior arrangement via email to:
cheltenham.bookmakers@thejockeyclub.co.uk

Please note that the North Entrance T11 has been set aside for Owners & Trainers access only. Bookmakers access by foot is now via the adjacent entrance T12.

Public areas drinks trial continues and will be active for the first time at The Festival (see attached plan). Drinking will be allowed in all but the red shaded areas. Please note that in Best Mate all anchor points will be within the drinks allowed area.

Enhanced bar areas for this year include: the Winged Ox Bar and the Betting Hall facility in the main grandstand which have become a large sportsbar; a new Village Champagne Bar and the Orchard for Club ticket holders.

After racing increased entertainment areas will include - Centaur; Tattersalls Sales Arena; Quevega's Bar; The Guinness Village; Best Mate Pavillion.

Public ATM numbers & locations will be similar to last year, with the exception of the little used ATM near to the Head-On box being relocated.

Increased crowd monitoring/stewarding will be in place - 200+ new CCTV cameras installed to monitor crowd safety & behaviour and over 700 stewards will be on duty.

In addition, for the first time front of house 'Racemakers' will be employed throughout the racecourse to help customers make the most of their day.

Daily Betting Badges are available for purchase now on the JCR Bookmaker's portal.

Bookmaker car parking instructions have been sent direct by email inviting applications for Purple (Best Mate bookmakers only), Yellow 2 or Red 3 (see enclosed layout plan). Requested bookmaker car park labels will shortly be posted out. In addition, bookmaker's staff may gain access to free parking within Green Staff Car Parks 3 & 4. Temporary road closure after racing will be in operation as per 2024 to allow for a large exit of pedestrians.

Betting positions which may employ a secondary payout are as previous years: Centaur end positions; Courtyard end positions; 7 positions at the northern end of Lower Tatts; Best Mate 5 positions outside food marquee behind grandstand; Best Mate back row 19-24. Please note that a separate table/fixed position for paying out is not permitted.

The small Festival Restaurant, located above the See You Then Terrace, has been converted into a staff welfare location with hospitality customers being relocated elsewhere.

The two BRM offices remain in the usual locations - Grandstand ground floor & beneath temporary viewing steppings Guinness Grandstand.

Bookmakers were asked to:

- Again maintain a tidy area within a 1.5m square behind their joints.
- Those in Tattersalls & Lower Tattersalls are asked to move their joints each evening after racing to an area at the base of the Grandstand/ temporary Grandstand, as directed by BRMs, to enable daily litter sweeping/power washing.
- Reminded that Nameplates/Wraparounds must remain in place until after the weigh-in of the final race each day.
- Not to overload Rails power sockets with domestic extension cables etc. which will cause power trip outs.