

SUPPLEMENTARY BLC NOTES - NEWMARKET RACECOURSE 20 March 2025

READ ALONGSIDE SIDE THE AGENDA/PRESENTATION

IN ATTENDANCE:

Racecourse - Sophie Able, Darren Townsend, Ben Dowdeswell, Sarah Woodborne, Steve Clare.

Bookmakers - Arthur Mulgrew, Mike Armes, Simon Barham, Michael Christie.

Apologies – Ed Thompson, Michael Punshon.

The meeting was briefed on a personnel change – Margo Walsh has moved into a JCR Group role and her responsibilities as operations manager have been assumed by Ben Dowdeswell

2023 SEASON – Sophie Able

See 'Review' presentation slide.

Overall 2024 was a successful year for Nemarket racecourses with increased public attendances at key fixtures and an improved customer experience not least assisted by permitting the consumption of drinks in Premier enclosures, but also improved parking, customer service & loos!.

Ranked in the top 15 UK racecourses in the Quality Assured Racecourses Scheme.

Ranked 3rd & 4th out of all British racecourses in the ROA Gold Standard.

Bookmakers recognised the efforts of the Newmarket team, and were in particular delighted by the outcome of the relaxed drinking policy.

2024 SEASON – Sophie Able

See '2025 Season' slides.

Racing commences with the three day Craven meeting over 15th to 17th April, with a total of 36 meetings finishing on Saturday 1st November.

Significant Admission offers, in number and price, as per the presentation slide. It was explained the the AMF paid by bookmakers was supporting these admission initiatives.

A new initiative to encourage USAF personnel & families to attend has been focussed on Saturday 17th May, with a provision of 5,000 admission tickets.

Garden enclosure availability – Rowley Mile 3rd & 4th May; 17th & 18th May;
July Course every date **except** 26th June & 22nd August.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS – Sophie Able/Darren Townsend

This season gate opening times at all meetings including Festivals will continue to be 2hrs before the first race.

There was a discussion about the number of runners per race (ave. 8.1 las year). The meeting was assured that the race planning team at Newmarket were keen to consistently increase this and that they were focussed on doing so.

Bookmakers may have vehicular access to the course to drop off equipment, but vehicles must be off site 2 1/2 hrs before the first race. To gain vehicular access for kit drop-off at least one person in the car must have RBC ID, and all occupants have admission itickets/member's card.

All bookmakers and every member of their staff must be in possession of either a barcoded Annual Members Badge or public admission ticket to access the course. A DBB does not provide access and is not barcoded.

Bookmaker's parking labels will again be available and distributed via Sarah Woodborne, 1 per pitch at the first meeting each bookmaker attends.

A reminder about the bookmaker's responsibility to ensure that potential under 18s are challenged and that under 18's are not allowed to place bets, and the display of Think 25 signage was discussed and supported by bookmakers.

All anchor points have been power washed as part of the pre-season preparations.

NEXT MEETING – Spring 2026