

BLC NOTES – NEWCASTLE & SEDGEFIELD RACECOURSES Thursday 27 March 2025

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bookmakers – Neville Porter, John Ridley, Scott Kirk, Sam Bown, Martin Barras, Mark Harrop, Chris Hudson, Paul Dolan.

Racecourses - David Williamson, Paul Elliot, Neil Peters, Chris Patten, Darren Irvine, Steve Clare.

TRADING FEEDBACK FROM BOOKMAKERS

SEDFIELD

Unsurprisingly, best fixture was Boxing Day which was reported as 'very good', with remaining fixtures satisfactory in betting terms.

It was reported that trade had held up to consistent levels over the last ten or so years.

Bookmakers expressed their gratitude that they were able to access the betting ring to drop off and collect kit (and at Newcastle).

NEWCASTLE

AW by nature of its type is inconsistent in attendance and betting turnover terms, but bookmakers reported regular customers who attended most meetings and usually provided sufficient trade.

Premium 'feature' meetings naturally remain popular.

NH betting turnover much easier to predict, and these fixtures are the mainstay of betting turnover, especially the well supported feature days which are holding up well.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

SEDFIELD

17 Fixtures, of which feature days: Aintree Thursday 3 April, Spring Ladies Evening 11 April, Country & Western Night 4 September, Durham National 19 October, Boxing Day.

NEWCASTLE

Overall public attendance was up 10% in 2024.

Plentiful AW race meetings again this year.

Feature Racedays; Grand National Raceday 5 April, AW Finals Family Funday 18 April, Student Night 2 May, Sunday Funday 11 May; Seaton Deleval Handicap Stakes 26 June;

Gosforth Pk. Cup Night 27 June, Northumberland Plate 28 June, Ladies Day 26 July, Firworks & Funfair 1 November, Fighting Fifth 29 November.

OPERATIONAL ITEMS

A bookmaker proposed inside New Betting Area was suggested, whereby up to 8 bookmakers could elect to bet inside the betting hall when winter bad weather was experienced. A debate ensued.

The racecourse management agreed to the following: The management & BRM would determine if the fixture had been classified as a Bad Weather fixture, and bookmakers notified at pitching-in. In such a case, 8 betting positions in a line would be available inside the betting hall. Bookmakers could elect to bet either inside using the 1:1 mechanism, or alternatively use existing betting areas outside. This policy will take effect in winter 2025.

The DBB charge was queried. It is confirmed that at both tracks weekday DBB are charged at a 5x public admission multiple (1x can be reduced if the bookmaker is an annual member), Friday eves, Sats, Suns & BH's are charged at 6x (1x reduction for annual members). The DBB rate includes entry for the bookmaker, members of staff require a public admission ticket.

It was confirmed that every member of bookmakers must have either a public admission ticket or hold an annual member's badge. Racecourse checks on entry will continue

Bookmakers were reminded that to qualify for the 1x annual member DBB reduction, the annual membership must be for the course that the DBB has been purchased for. Annual memberships held at other courses do not entitle a 1x reduction.

It was confirmed that when there are multiple Temporary or New Betting Areas each will be populated by bookmakers separately using the 1:1 (Tatts/Rails) mechanism (except Col. Porters which is a Tatts only betting area).