

Proposal for Replacing the Hack Sand Ride

The Conservators regularly raised the concerns of the hack riders about the state of the Hack Sand Ride at the bottom of Six Mile Hill, which has fallen into disrepair, and which is uneconomic to repair given that the natural flow of rainfall would render the surface unusable again after a relatively short period of time.

The Jockey Club approached The British Horse Society, the Epsom Riders Protection Society , and the TGMB with a potential solution whereby a sixteen metre wide strip at the bottom of the area on Six Mile Hill grass gallops reserved for the training of racehorses would be made available to leisure riders each day after the Training Hours, and which would be maintained by the TGMB's gallops team. The proposed strip would become primarily for the use of hack riders, but trainers would still be able to access it during the training hours in certain circumstances. The existing hack sand ride would be permanently closed, and allowed to return to its natural state.

The proposed strip that is to be made available to hack riders, and which will be known as the Hack Canter, is shown on the attached plan. This plan has been shared and agreed with a representative of the BHS.

Representatives of the BHS, the ERPA, and the TGMB have all agreed in principle to the proposal, and a legal framework is being drawn up so that the agreement has long term application. Such an agreement will need approval of both the Horse Race Betting Levy Board, and, importantly , the DCMS. The Act allows under Section 15 (3) for the Conservators to allow temporary closure of rides provided a replacement is provided. What all parties are seeking by the proposed agreement is a permanent change.

The HBLB and The Jockey Club are in the process of seeking a Counsel's brief on whether such a permanent change is allowable before the HBLB approach the DCMS. The HBLB have advised that having all parties agreed to the principle of the change may make its passage through the DCMS easier.

Whilst the legal agreement may only be in draft format at present, and whilst the legal view from barristers is awaited, the Conservators are nonetheless asked to agree to the principle of this solution subject to the legal view so that the approach to the DCMS can be on behalf of all interested parties.

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