

Thank you for both your support and patience as a County Stand Annual Badgholder at York Racecourse over this unprecedented year.

With much regret, following today's decisions by Government with regards to slowing the pace of any easing in the national response to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is now clear that the Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival (Wednesday 19th August - Saturday 22nd August) will operate strictly "behind closed doors". This is to comply with the Government's Elite Sport Stage 3 protocols, so the venue will have to continue to operate as it did for the recent July racedays. Consequently, we will not be able to host even our closest supporters.

Whilst this is clearly a disappointing decision for us and all who love their racing on the Knavesmire and many in our home city; it is right that the public health is kept as a priority.

As you may be aware, racing had been in detailed discussions with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in the hope that the next round of pilot events could include the Ebor Festival. This morning, the Government cancelled the Goodwood pilot tomorrow and are not considering any further pilots in the immediate weeks ahead. Given the statutory requirements of Public Health England and our local authority, I regret we have simply run out of time, given today's announcements.

The many highlights of the four days will be available to view from the comfort of home with ITV1 showing five races each day and Racing TV all twenty-eight contests.

Just as for July, Annual Badgholders will also be supplied with a code to watch all the action on Racing TV, with our compliments.

The free digital racecard will also be available once again from our website and social media platforms.

It seems most likely that our September meeting will also operate "behind closed doors", so the same conditions and opportunities would apply. A final decision will be made in the coming days.

As the final meeting of the York Racecourse season, on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th October falls after the current Government target date for re-opening sporting stadia of 1st October, then we remain hopeful that we will at long last be able to welcome you back to that occasion. Scant consolation for us all I know, but we can but hope and will, of course, keep you posted.

Thank you once again for your continuing support and patience. I am so sorry that we are not able to welcome you to our flagship festival but do hope you are able to follow the action from afar.

James Brennan

Head of Sponsorship and Marketing