

May 2006

New Board Members for the Tote

Richard Caborn, Minister for Sport, has appointed Leonard Cowburn and Paul Darling as Non-Executive Members of the Horserace Totalisator Board (known as the Tote), and Carol Thompson as an Executive Member. Terms of appointment will run from 1 July 2006 for Mr Cowburn and Mr Darling, and 11 May 2006 for Ms Thompson, and will last up to two years. None has participated in any significant political activity in the past five years.

Leonard Cowburn

Now retired, Mr Cowburn has held Deputy Chairman roles at both William Hill and Stanley Leisure. He was a founder Director of Satellite Information Services (SIS), has been a member of the Levy Board and is a past Chairman of the Bookmakers Committee. He was Chairman of 'Go Racing in Yorkshire' until 2005.

Paul Darling

A barrister at Keating Chambers since 1985, and a Queen's Counsel since 1999, his practice ranges across construction and engineering law. He is the Chairman of the Technology and Construction Bar Association. He lectures regularly to the Society of Construction Law, and has led numerous seminars on a range of legal issues for major firms of solicitors. He is also a director of a family-owned pharmaceutical company. His sporting passions are horseracing, as an owner and racegoer, and Newcastle United Football Club.

Carol Thompson

Carol joined the Tote as Group Financial Director in November 2005 having previously worked for Stanley Leisure as Director of finance and IT in the casino division. She has also held executive management roles with Royal and Sun Alliance, United Utilities, Littlewoods Pools and Glaxo Smith Kline PLC.

Notes for editors

The Tote is a statutory authority, which was first established as the Racecourse Betting Control Board by the Racecourse Betting Act 1928. It was founded to enable racegoers to bet by means of a totalisator (i.e. horserace pool betting) for which it has the exclusive licence; and to raise money for racing. It was given its present official name (the Horserace Totalisator Board) in 1961, but has always been known as the Tote. Since 1972, the Tote has also had the authority to conduct a fixed odds betting business and now competes widely in the bookmaking market.

In recognition of the British Horseracing Board's role as the sport's governing body, the Tote and BHB have reached an agreement whereby a place is reserved on the Tote Board for a BHB member. Sir Eric Parker was first appointed to the Board as the BHB's representative in May 2002.

A diverse and modern betting business with racecourse, retail, telephone and internet divisions, the Tote's exclusive horserace pool betting operation is available in 5,100 of the county's 9,000 betting shops and at each of Britain's 59 racecourses. This contributes to a turnover of more than £2 billion a year allowing British horseracing to benefit from direct payments of £11.6m in 2004-5.

The Government has indicated its desire to sell the Tote to a consortium of racing interests, recently passing legislation to achieve this, although a sale date has not been set. It is anticipated that the pre-sale board members will compose the initial privatised body's board, although no guarantees can be given in this respect.

Appointments to the Tote are made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Non-Executive Members of the board receive an annual remuneration of £10,402 (award pending). The current Tote Board members are:

Peter Jones (Chairman)

Noel Harwerth

Fiona Driscoll (retiring June 2006)

Gerald Grimstone (retiring June 2006)

Sir Eric Parker (British Horseracing Board nominated member)

Ian Good CBE

Trevor Beaumont (Executive Director)

Joe Scanlon (Executive Director)

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