

June 2006

Tote Board reappointments

Richard Caborn, Minister for Sport, has reappointed Sir Eric Parker as the British Horseracing Board's nominated Non-Executive Member, and Joe Scanlon as an Executive Member, of the Horserace Totalisator Board. Their new terms of appointment will run until 31 July 2007 for Sir Eric, and until 30 April 2008 for Mr Scanlon. Neither has participated in any significant political activity in the past five years.

Sir Eric Parker

Sir Eric was formerly Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman of Trafalgar House plc, and later Chairman of Caradon plc. Currently, Sir Eric is a member of the Racehorse Owners Association (ROA) Council and formerly President of the ROA. He is also a Non-Executive Director of the National Stud. He is a thoroughbred racehorse breeder, with considerable expertise in business finance, and a valued bridge between the Tote Board and the BHB during the run-up to the sale of the Tote. He has not participated in any significant political activity in the past five years.

Joe Scanlon

Joe is the Managing Director of the Tote's retail division and was first appointed to the Board in 2002. He joined the Tote in 1978. His other directorships include the British Greyhound Racing Fund, Bookmakers Afternoon Greyhound Services Limited, Satellite Information Services (Holdings) Limited and the Wigan Borough Partnership.

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 receive an annual remuneration of £10,402 (award pending). Executive Members do not receive a board fee. The current Tote Board members are:

Peter Jones (Chairman)

Ian Good CBE

Paul Darling

Trevor Beaumont (Executive Director)

Sir Eric Parker (British Horseracing Board nominated member)

Noel Harwerth

Leonard Cowburn

Carol Thompson (Executive Director)

Joe Scanlon (Executive Director)

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