

January 2006

New Board Members for the Tote

Richard Caborn, Minister for Sport, has appointed Mrs Noel Harwerth and Ian Good CBE as Non-Executive Members of the Horserace Totalisator Board (known as the Tote). Their terms of appointment will run from 16 January 2006 until 15 January 2008.

Noel Harwerth

Mrs Harwerth is Non-Executive Partnership Director of London Underground, serving on the boards of private sector companies such as Tubelines and Metronet. She is also Deputy Chairman of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (Europe), and a Non-Executive Director of Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Group plc and Corus Group plc. She has a lifelong interest in horses and racing.

Ian Good CBE

Mr Good is Chairman of the Edrington Group, a premier league distiller with numerous brands including Famous Grouse. He is a chartered accountant who began his career with Price Waterhouse. He is also Chairman of Hamilton Park Racecourse, of the Robertson Trust, and of Scottish Racing Marketing Ltd. He is a member of the Scottish Cabinet Sub-committee on Sustainable Scotland.

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.

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 country'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.

The current Tote Board members are:

Peter Jones (Chairman)
Fiona Driscoll
Gerald Grimstone
Sir Eric Parker
Trevor Beaumont (Executive Director)
Tom Phillips (Executive Director)
Joe Scanlon (Executive Director)

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