



**WCCSA**  
Warwickshire County Cricket Supporters Association

Rt. Hon. John Spellar  
House of Commons  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

January 2004

I am writing to you to voice my concerns about the new Gambling Bill. The draft Bill is currently before the joint committee, chaired by John Greenway, and has commenced the pre-legislative scrutiny procedure. We are most concerned that in its present form it will affect the **Warwickshire County Cricket Supporters' Association** lottery, **SUPER SIX**, which we operate locally to raise funds for the development of Local Youth Sport.

**Warwickshire County Cricket Supporters' Association** has to operate under the strict regime of the 1976 Lotteries and Amusements Act that imposes harsh penalties for minor infringements in lottery management. The paperwork is onerous but it demonstrates the integrity of our lottery and also affords us protection from unlawful lotteries. We work extremely hard to recruit new people into our lottery and we consider it unfair that commercial organisations will be able to operate schemes similar to ours even more freely than they are able to at present.

The Government proposes, in the new Bill, to ignore the recommendations of the Gambling Review Body, the Gaming Board and the Lotteries Council and permit commercial organisations to operate pseudo-lotteries (prize draws). Participants will have to go through a simple question and answer process where the vast majority get the answer right. The winner is then chosen by a lottery. The organisers will not have to be registered. There will be no public protection, no good cause and no public accountability.

We consider this proposal to be unfair and a threat to our fundraising. If the Government stands by its statement that "*A scheme in which a degree of skill or knowledge is needed in order to secure a prize will not, therefore, be capable of being a lottery*", we fear a proliferation of minimal skill schemes operated by shops, supermarkets, bookmakers and direct mail promoters et al, all taking custom away from our fundraising lotteries. Would you please speak up on behalf of all those who operate registered lotteries, when the proposed Gambling Bill goes through its various stages? We would be pleased to meet you should you require a more detailed explanation of the issues.

Yours sincerely,

*NIGEL WEBSTER.*

N C Webster  
General Manager