



July 2007

Peter Jones to continue as Chairman of the Tote, and Sir Eric Parker to continue as a Non-executive Director

Gerry Sutcliffe, Minister for Sport, has announced an extension to Peter Jones's term as the Chairman of the Horserace Totalisator Board (known as the Tote). His term of appointment will now run until 31 December 2007. Sir Eric's role has been extended to 31 July 2008.

Peter Jones

Peter Jones was appointed Chairman of the Tote in 1997. Previously he had been President of the Racehorse Owners' Association from 1990-93, a founder member of the British Horseracing Board in 1992 and a member of the Horserace Betting Levy Board from 1993-95 and again since 1997.

Peter has also been a senior figure in advertising. He was Chief Executive of Boase Massimi Pollitt plc (BMP) from 1988-89 having been a non-executive director from 1983-88. He was a director of Omnicom Inc from 1989-97, Chairman of BBDO Ltd from 1989-90, and Chief Executive of Omnicom UK plc from 1989-94. He was Chairman of Dorset Police Authority from 1997-2003.

Sir Eric Parker

Sir Eric was appointed to the Tote Board in 2002. He is a thoroughbred racehorse breeder, with considerable expertise in business finance, and is a valued bridge between the Tote Board and the British Horseracing Board during the run-up to the sale of the Tote. Sir Eric was formerly Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman of Trafalgar House plc, and later Chairman of Caradon plc.

Background

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 race goers 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 more than 8,000 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 £11.3m in 2006-7.

The Government has indicated its desire to sell the Tote to a consortium of racing interests, passing legislation to achieve this, and will announce shortly the next steps in the sale process.

The current Tote Board Directors are:

Peter Jones (Chairman)
Trevor Beaumont (Chief Executive)
Carol Thompson (Executive Director)
Joe Scanlon (Executive Director)

Non-executives:
Leonard Cowburn
Paul Darling
Ian Good
Noel Harwerth
Sir Eric Parker

The Chairman receives £100,727.59 per year in remuneration. Sir Eric Parker receives £11,588.99 per year. Appointments to the Tote are made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity (if any declared) to be made public. Neither Peter Jones nor Sir Eric Parker has declared any political activity. The extensions to their terms have been made with the consent of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Press Enquiries: 0207 211 6269
Public Enquiries: 020 7211 6200

Out of hours telephone pager no: 07699751153
Internet: <http://www.culture.gov.uk>