

Peter Jones reappointed as Chairman of the Tote

Richard Caborn, Minister for Sport, has announced the reappointment of Peter Jones as the Chairman of the Horserace Totalisator Board (known as the Tote). His term of appointment will run from 1 December 2005 until 31 July 2007.

Peter Jones

A senior figure in British advertising, Peter Jones was a non-executive director 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 became President of the Racehorse Owners' Association in 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 since 1997. He was appointed Chairman of the Tote in 1997, and was Chairman of Dorset Police Authority from 1997-2003.

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 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. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.

The current Tote Board members are:

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

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