



'Newsletter'

July Update.

12th July 2007.

Campaign against the declared intention of the RCA to confiscate picks from 1st September 2012.

This campaign is now becoming more intensive. You may be aware that there was a debate in Westminster Hall on 4th July concerning the action of the RCA. This was very successful in that every MP who took part in the debate strongly supported the bookmakers and castigated the RCA. The new Minister of Sport's response was not so positive but it has to be realised that he had only been in office for a few days and was reading from a DCMS brief. Many thanks for all those who contacted their MP's but it must be realised that we must continue to exert such pressure. An early day motion No. 1791 has been tabled in the House of Commons and it would be helpful if members could get their MP's to support this initiative.

A second initiative has been the appointment of a firm of parliamentary lobbyists called Ranelagh International. The function of such firms is to mould opinion in parliament. This firm will be contacting all bookmakers in the near future with advice on how to approach their MP's and what points to make. It is hoped that all our members will follow the advice.

A third approach is the appointment of leading counsel to examine the legal options open to the FRB. A meeting with our barrister has been arranged for next week and you will be informed of his opinion at an appropriate moment.

Pitch Administration from 1st September 2007.

The Working Group considering this issue has prepared a draft set of pitch rules and budget which have yet to be ratified. This has to be submitted to the DCMS for approval after which it will be made available to all members for a six week consultation period. It has not been decided what form this consultation process will take but one suggestion is that this should take the form of regional meetings at which members can express their views. Details of this process will be made available at the earliest opportunity.

One problem which remains to be resolved is that the consultation process will take us beyond 31st August 2007 and at the moment no solution has been found as to how pitch administration will be undertaken from 1st September 2007. All that is certain is that the NJPC's authority will cease on 31st August and that the new administration will not have the authority until the completion of the consultation period.



The Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers Limited

Association of
Racecourse Bookmakers

National Association
of Bookmakers

Rails Bookmakers
Association



Continued.

Marker Sheets.

The free sheets supplied by the BHB will cease to be available after 30th September 2007. Bookmakers will have to make arrangements to produce their own lists. It is possible that some local associations or even individuals may decide to produce lists to meet any demand. Any association or individual who feel that they could provide a reliable, albeit limited service, should contact the FRB. However, with the increasing use of LED boards and the fact that individual bookmakers are already producing their own lists, such a service may be difficult to organise.

Northern BPA 'web-site'.

It is hoped that in the near future the Northern BPA will have it's own web-site to deal with local issues.

*Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers Ltd.
12th July 2007.*