



25th March 2008.

Statement from the Scottish Bookmakers Associations.

AYR RACECOURSE

The Scottish Bookmakers Associations along with the Northern and Rials Associations have been in negotiations with Ayr Racecourse over the proposed creation of 18 new pitches, 10 in the paddock and 8 in the newly refurbished grandstand. The negotiations have now broken down as we could not agree the value of each pitch. We contend the Ayr Executive is asking far in excess of what we believe to be a sustainable amount that bookmakers could afford to pay. We also wanted the pitches to be allocated from existing lists. - **This point is fundamental if we are to maintain any value in our current investments.**

An advert in the Racing Post (Thursday 20th March) asks for tenders for the 10 positions by the paddock and a further 8 positions in the grandstands.

The bookmaking industry in general supports the creation of new betting areas provided they will not impact adversely on the integrity of the SP, are filled from existing lists and that the value is set at a sensible and sustainable level. The proposed tender method Ayr intend to adopt sets a dangerous precedent and could prove extremely costly to all bookmakers if adopted by other racecourses.

We intend to continue negotiations and are seeking a meeting with the RCA to try and set the ground rules for all courses as to the method to be used when new betting areas are proposed. Many bookmakers have concluded that the possibility of a short term gain is not worth the long term damage that would be caused to themselves and their colleagues. Consequently, they have stated they will not be bidding for any of these pitches.

It is up to individual bookmakers to decide what is best for them but we would only advise you not to get involved in the bidding process. We believe this is a very important issue and that in this matter all bookmakers **should unite and show solidarity.**

We will have to consider if it is appropriate for us to continue to represent any bookmaker who acts in a manner detrimental to the interest of the membership as a whole.

Please note, for anyone thinking of bidding for a pitch in the new areas at Ayr. RDT will not be providing any support for these pitches. Therefore bookmakers will have to make their own provision for 'runners', Betdaq and technical assistance. It has also been confirmed that even in the event that some of the pitches in the new areas are used by bookmakers, then the Scottish joint hire firm will not make available any joints for use in the new areas.

END.