



28th January 2008.

ARREST AT DONCASTER SATURDAY JANUARY 26th

Statement from the Northern Bookmakers' Protection Association.

It is a sad fact that in every walk of life there are those who break the law for their own gain. But the news that a bookmaker attempted to deceive a punter out of his rightful winnings at Doncaster last Saturday has been greeted with total shock and disgust by every other layer.

Britain's racecourse bookmakers are rightly proud of their hard-won reputation for total integrity. The fact that millions of bets are struck on track each year without problem is a testament to their good faith and honesty. They will not easily allow this to be put in jeopardy.

The most important questions now are what action is taken in response to this one man's outrageous behaviour and what measures are needed to protect the race-going public.

As the bookmaker in question is a member of the Northern BPA, we have asked him to face a meeting of the Association's Directors in Harrogate on Wednesday when his trading future can be considered. In addition, the matter has been referred to the Gambling Commission who are the ultimate regulators. The Association and all bookmakers offer the Commission 100 per cent support in taking appropriate action.

Our President, Keith Johnson, will also be raising the matter at a regular meeting of the National Association of Bookmakers tomorrow (Tuesday).

The reassuring news for all race-goers is that this incident was dealt with on the spot, without loss to the punter concerned, with the help of a National Joint Pitch Council ring official and NBPA representatives present at the track. The punter was paid in full, the police informed and the bookmaker arrested, all within two hours. It shows that the policing of the ring has never been better, fully supported by the bookmakers themselves and their associations. It will be welcome to everyone that this system will continue very much in its present form when the NJPC's functions are taken over by new ring administrators.

Finally, as a small token of our concern at this incident, the NBPA have invited the race-goers affected to be our guests at a future fixture, so that our President can express his regret to them on behalf of all bookmakers.

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