



# HORSERACING BETTORS FORUM

## **A guide to the Horseracing Bettors Forum**

### ***Supporting British Racing Bettors***

#### **WHAT IS THE HORSERACING BETTORS FORUM?**

The Horseracing Bettors Forum (HBF) was created with the assistance of the British Horseracing Authority in August 2015 to represent the perceived interests of those who bet on British horseracing.

HBF has a good working relationship with the BHA but operates independently of that body.

The Forum is made up of nine members, including a Chair, who meet roughly four times a year but who correspond extensively between meetings in order to achieve the Forum's aims.

All Forum members are voluntary, unpaid, and have a commitment to represent the British horseracing betting public in an independent manner.

### **WHAT HAS THE HBF ACHIEVED?**

In its first year, HBF has surveyed the betting public to ensure it represents that public's views accurately.

It has lobbied important bodies and individuals within betting and horseracing, including the Gambling Commission, Starting Price Regulatory Commission, Independent Betting Adjudication Service and MPs.

It created a website – [ukhbf.org](http://ukhbf.org) – to increase accessibility for the public and to act as a platform for making its views known on important topical issues.

Its members have appeared on national television, radio, and frequently in print, explaining HBF's positions on a variety of subjects.

It has engaged with major bookmakers in an attempt to improve the situation regarding betting account restrictions and closures, which it sees as having harmful consequences to betting on the sport and therefore to the sport itself.



## WHAT IS THE HBF'S REMIT?

As an advisory and consultative body, HBF focuses on ensuring that the interests of bettors are considered when policy decisions are made or may be made.

Examples of its input include: advising BHA that there are too many non-runners, with suggestions of how to improve matters; encouraging BHA to enhance the accuracy, timeliness and scope of data provided for punters, with specific recommendations to this end; and informing the Racecourse Association of its concerns regarding accurate race distances, going descriptions and other raceday data.

The HBF does not have the resources, nor the remit, to take up individual betting disputes.

This should be done through IBAS ([www.ibas-uk.com](http://www.ibas-uk.com)). More general concerns, including about fairness and openness in betting, can be raised with the UK Gambling Commission ([www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk)). If you see or hear of any wrongdoing in racing, please contact Racestraight (<http://www.britishhorseracing.com/racestraight/>).

## HOW MAY I CONTACT THE HBF?

The HBF would be delighted to hear your thoughts on betting on horseracing in Britain, and especially on how the experience could be improved to the benefit of the participants and the sport itself.



By e-mail: [comments@ukhbf.org](mailto:comments@ukhbf.org)

By Twitter: [@HbfBritain](https://twitter.com/HbfBritain)

HBF website address is: [ukhbf.org](http://ukhbf.org)

The HBF will attempt to respond in as timely a manner as possible given its voluntary and unpaid situation.



## **WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BEING ON THE FORUM IN THE FUTURE?**

The membership of the HBF will change over time, and committed and independent members of the public with a good appreciation of the betting landscape will be sought.

If you would be interested in being on the Forum in the future please use the contacts given above.

The HBF would like to thank the following bodies in particular for their assistance in the past year and in the production of this leaflet:

The British Horseracing Authority

Racingfotos.com

Arena Racing Company

The Racecourse Association

Doncaster Racecourse