

Martisius, Geraldine

From: pmair
To: gambling@pc.gov.au
Subject: GAMBLING INQUIRY: PETER MAIR: NSW HORSE RACING
Date: Monday, 1 February 1999 5:03PM

Further to my submission and subsequent discussion at the public hearings in Sydney, I would like the Commission to take an interest in an article in the SMH for today, 1 February. It is on page 32 at the top of the right hand side.

The article is self explanatory and a further illustration of the apparent power of a small group of racing insiders to skew the odds in their favour - at the expense of the wider betting public. In short a group of "high rollers" has demanded the cessation of the broadcast of any "on course" betting information so as to assist their exploitation of the TAB betting pool, largely contributed by ill-informed, small, "off course" punters.

Nothing new perhaps, you may say. The point however is the confusion of responsibility for the reasonable protection of small punters contributing to the TAB pool. All the major racing administrators presumably have some responsibility to ensure the "off course" punters get a fair go -- but their diligence in this regard seems to be suborned by the money they make if they do not look after the little guys.

My suggestion is that you refer this article, and the issue more generally, to both the Premier and Minister for Racing in NSW for comment on the reasonable fairness of the situation, and their plans to bring a proper sense of concern for the ordinary punter into the policy making processes of the racing industry.

I would be pleased if you would do this -- and get the ball rolling.

Thank you

Peter Mair