

Government Circular No. 1,343.

G.O. Reference No. 21665/1.

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The Gaming and Betting Amendment Act, 1929.

Appended is the Report of the Betting Control Board, established under the Gaming and Betting Amendment Act, 1929, for the racing season just ended.

On the 12th August, 1931, the Town Council of Douglas passed a Resolution, "That, in the opinion of the Council, it is desirable that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor should introduce legislation to permit the continuance of horse racing at Belle Vue Race-course."

A Police report, dated 21st August, 1931, received by the Chief Constable, and communicated to Government Office on the 22nd August, 1931, stated that:—

"Racing has been good up to the present this year. Favourites have been winning, and therefore the book-makers have had a bad time, several having ceased to bet as they cannot make it pay. This itself suggests good racing. There are no grounds for complaint regarding the honesty of the book-maker. The totalisator is undoubtedly becoming very popular, and the general feeling among the visitors is that the totalisator should be used at Belle Vue. The totalisator would undoubtedly reduce the number of book-makers. I beg to suggest that in the event of a totalisator being allowed to operate, book-makers should be allowed to bet also, so as to allow the book-maker, his clerk and others to drift into some other occupation. The totalisator has reduced the numbers of book-makers on the mainland, and the same effect must naturally take place here."

By Order,

B. E. SARGEAUNT,

Government Secretary.

Government Office,

Isle of Man,

1st October, 1931.

Printed (by authority) by Lucas & Fargher, Ridgeway Street, Douglas.

Wt. P. 2927—200/10/31.

[P.T.O.]

To His Excellency Sir Claude Hamilton Archer Hill, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Lieutenant Governor, and the Honourable the Council, Deemsters and
Keys in Tynwald assembled.

The Betting Control Board constituted under the provisions of the
Gaming and Betting Amendment Act, 1929, have the honour to report as
follows:—

During the Summer of 1931—June to September—the Board were
in attendance at all the Race Meetings, twenty in number, which took place
at Belle Vue, Douglas.

On July 7th, we called the attention of the Stewards to the running
of a horse in the 4.40 race. They at once held an enquiry, and the explana-
tion was satisfactory.

On August 6th, we drew the attention of the Stewards to the run-
ning of a horse in the 4.40 race. The Stewards again took action, and
cautioned the jockey, whose riding gave no cause for complaint on any
occasion after that date.

We noted with satisfaction that on two other occasions the Isle
of Man Racing Association took action on their own initiative, one jockey
being fined the sum of £5, the other being warned off the course, and
considering one hundred races were run during the season, and that there
were only these four cases, we are of opinion that there is no reason for
complaint.

No complaint was made to us of any misdemeanour or malpractice
alleged to have been committed by the Managers, Book-makers or Jockeys;
nor was there at any time a demonstration on the part of the public indica-
ting disapproval or dissatisfaction with any occurrence in the conduct of
the races. One complaint was made to us by an owner about the Starter,
which on consideration we found was not justified.

The proceedings at every meeting were orderly—from no incidents
could it be inferred that deception or dishonesty was being practised by
any of those concerned in the conduct of the racing or of the betting.

The betting which took place was not on a big scale.

We agreed that the races were very popular with the visitors, and
proved a great attraction, which was shown by the large crowds that attended
each meeting in spite of the moderate season. Owing to the position of
Belle Vue the races prove a very great benefit to all vehicles which convey
patrons to the Course.

We have considered the advisability of the introduction of the
Totalisator and are of the opinion that seeing it has increased the attend-
ances on the Mainland, it would make the races on the Island more popular
still, and thus allow the promoters to give larger stakes which may intro-
duce these races to other owners from England, Ireland and Scotland.

The general conduct of the race-course and the running of horses
compared favourably with that of meetings held in England under Jockey
Club Rules.

A. M. SPITTALL,
Chairman appointed by His Excellency.

W. F. COWELL,
Nominee of the Board of Agriculture.

WILLIAM F. MORTON,
Nominee of the owners of Belle Vue Race-
course.

WM. JAMES CORKILL,
Nominee of the Corporation of Douglas.

C. MOORE,
Nominee of the Parish Commissioners of
Braddan.

September, 1931.