

Sport

'Conflict of interest' in £30m Tote deal

Racing

Mark Souster Racing Writer

The chairman of racing's governing body has been accused of a potential conflict of interest over his relationship with a businessman who is set to invest in the Tote just as a rival betting pools operation is established.

Steve Harman, who has been at the helm of the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) since 2013, entertained Alex Frost, the chief executive of the Alizeti consortium, on the opening day of the Cheltenham Festival.

In his capacity as BHA chairman, Harman had Frost as a lunch guest in a hospitality suite, on a table of ten. Frost is a multimillionaire former city trader who has his own stud operation.

He announced last month that he was negotiating to buy a 25 per cent stake in the Tote, which is owned by Betfred. Estimates suggest that this would initially cost about £30million, with the potential for the consortium to increase its stake. Frost has raised more

than £200 million from investors for his Alizeti consortium.

Harman insists that Frost was at Cheltenham only as an old friend, an owner and breeder, and a high-profile figure in the sport. He said that he did not discuss the Tote with Frost.

Two individuals have said that Harman introduced Frost to them in the suite as a man ready to invest "incredible amounts of money" into racing.

"Integrity is at the core of racing and this does not look good," said one individual who met Frost. "I am sure he [Harman] had the best of intentions for racing but he should not be seen to be associating himself with any commercial entity at such a sensitive time. It has the potential to be a huge conflict of interest."

The revelation seems cer-

Harman has denied any wrongdoing



tain to lead to questions at the next board meeting of the BHA in April. Harman is due to leave the organisation in July of next year. There is no suggestion that he stands to gain professionally from the new venture.

The intention of the Frost/Betfred organisation is to launch in July at the same time as its competitor, Britbet. This is the association of 55 of the 60 racecourses in Britain who have formed a rival pool betting operation, which will go live on July 13. It has promised to raise millions of pounds for the sport with the slogan "by racing, for racing".

The chairman of the Alizeti consortium is Eamonn Wilmott. He was one of five non-executive directors appointed by Harman to the BHA board in 2014. When Wilmott resigned in November of last year, Harman paid tribute to him. "I want to thank him for his contribution and wish him every success in racing in the future," he said. Within three

months he was named chairman of Alizeti.

During his time on the board Wilmott ran a racing syndicate, of which several BHA board directors were members. Horses First Racing Ltd had horses in training with Jeremy Gask at his yard in Hampshire. Last July Gask left Britain to return to Australia. The syndicate has now disbanded.

In 2011 Betfred paid £265 million for the Tote, including its high street betting shops and an exclusive seven-year licence to offer pool betting in Britain. That monopoly ends in July. Fred Done, the Betfred owner, would retain outright control of the Tote under its arrangement with Alizeti.

Harman, a former Shell executive, said: "Alex Frost is someone I have known for years. I did not sit next to him and I did not introduce him to anyone. I was with him for an hour on Tuesday and left before the first race. I have always been very clear with my board about who and where the lines are. There is no conflict of interest."

Jockey's quick fix

Paddy Brennan had his teeth knocked out, below, by his own mount before the 4.30 at Chepstow on Wednesday. The jockey still rode in the race – and finished second – before having temporary replacements fitted, bottom.



Newbury

Rob Wright

2.00 Euxton Lane (nb) 3.40 Ice Cool Champs
2.30 Kincora Fort 4.10 Early Du Lemo (nap)
3.05 Fizzlestix 4.45 Jimmy The Jetplane
Thunderer: 2.30 Kap Jazz, 3.05 Fizzlestix (nap).
Going: soft Racing UK

2.00 Novices' Hurdle

(£6,238: 2m 4f 118y) (7)

1 521F0 DE RASHER COUNTER 34 Miss E Lavelle 6-11-7 N Scholfield
2 35021 EUXTON LANE 16 O Sherwood 6-11-7 L Aspell
3 23212 MOLINEAUX 28 (BF) C Tizzard 7-11-7 T Scudamore
4 1-043 HUNT POLITICS 16 W Greatrex 6-11-1 R Johnson
5 4442 OSCARS LEADER 29 Jo Davis 5-11-1 J Sherwood (3)
6 40 PANDINUS IMPERATOR 151F M Smith 5-11-1 T Cannon
7 0P0 WALLACE SPIRIT 42 (P) N Henderson 5-11-1 J McGrath
5-2 De Rasher Counter, 3-1 Molineaux, 4-1 Hunt Politics, 11-2 Euxton Lane, 15-2 Wallace Spirit, 10-1 Oscars Leader, 25-1 Pandinus Imperator.

2.30 Handicap Chase

(£7,153: 2m 6f 93y) (11)

1 -43PP BALLY LONGFORD 35 C Tizzard 10-12-0 H Cobden
2 1/032 HALO MOON 30 (P) N Mulholland 10-11-12 N Fahily
3 52542 PRIVATE MALONE 47 (V) Miss E Lavelle 9-11-11 G Sheehan
4 P-416 DR ROBIN 203 (V,D,BF) P Bowen 8-11-10 J Bowen (3)
5 3-020 KAP JAZZ 15 (B) Miss V Williams 8-11-9 C Deutsch
6 6-3PP MYSTICAL KNIGHT 33 (T,D) Miss R Curtis 9-11-9 A Coleman
7 46211 KINCORA FORT 29 (T) N Williams 9-11-9 W Hutchinson
8 46216 HIGHBURY HIGH 174 (T,P) N Mulholland 11-11-4 T Scudamore
9 /4-1U CHURCH HALL 83 (T) Miss E Bishop 10-11-4 J Bargary (3)
10 -2634 SPEEDALONG 31 (T) J Scott 7-11-4 N Scholfield
11 0-6P4 MORNING REGGIE 13 (B) O Sherwood 9-11-1 L Aspell
3-1 Kincora Fort, 5-1 Halo Moon, 6-1 Private Malone, 8-1 Morning Reggie, Speedalong, 9-1 Kap Jazz, 10-1 Church Hall, 12-1 Bally Longford, Dr Robin, Highbury High, 20-1 Mystical Knight.

3.05 Handicap Hurdle

(£4,549: 3m 52y) (11)

1 -04F5 LATE SHIPMENT 13 (P) Mrs N Evans 7-12-0 K Edgar (3)
2 20223 PUPPET WARRIOR 26 N Gifford 6-11-12 M Bastyan (5)
3 U05P0 HIT THE HIGHWAY 26 (T,BF) C Gordon 9-11-12 T Cannon
4 5-500 DARIUS DES BOIS 64 (W) N Henderson 5-11-12 N Fahily
5 35-34 CHRISTMAS IN APRIL 90 (H) N Henderson 6-11-10 N De Boynville
6 13PU4 CHAMPAGNE CHASER 49 T Vaughan 8-11-9 R Johnson
7 3-454 BOHER LAD 18 (D) A Phillips 11-11-2 S Sheppard (3)
8 6-0P2 TUDORS TREASURE 33 (P) R Stephens 7-11-2 T O'Brien
9 33113 CHEQUE EN BLANC 39 (D) G L Moore 6-10-13 J E Moore
10 32-21 FIZZLESTIX 6 C Gordon 6-10-11 J Bowen (3)
11 U0333 BURGESS DREAM 18 Miss A Newton-Smith 9-10-3 P Brennan
4-1 Christmas In April, 5-1 Darius Des Bois, 13-2 Cheque En Blanc, 7-1 Champagne Chaser, Fizzlestix, 9-1 Tudors Treasure, 11-1 others.

3.40 Handicap Chase

(£7,343: 2m 7f 86y) (6)

1 -3152 ICE COOL CHAMPS 28 (D) P Hobbs 7-11-8 R Johnson
2 /3214 LE BOIZELO 50 R Walford 7-11-4 J Best
3 -4243 JOE FARRELL 93 Miss R Curtis 9-11-1 A Wedge
4 04F5F BOBO MAC 28 T Symonds 7-11-0 J Davies
5 04161 SOMEWHERE TO BE 58 (V) M Keighley 6-10-11 A Coleman
6 -5P01 ANOTHER FRONTIER 43 (P) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-8 J Bargary (3)
100-30 Another Frontier, 7-2 Ice Cool Champs, Somewhere To Be, 9-2 others.

4.10 Handicap Hurdle

(£9,747: 2m 69y) (7)

1 12F24 CURIOUS CARLOS 198 (D) P Bowen 9-11-12 J Bowen (3)
2 23411 MOABIT 15 (T,D) P Nicholls 6-11-12 Bryony Frost (3)
3 51-PP SIZING GRANITE 118 (T,W,D) C Tizzard 10-11-9 H Cobden
4 22100 RAVEN'S TOWER 76 (D) B Pauling 8-11-8 D Jacob
5 21106 MCGROARTY 18 (T,D) Dr R Newland 7-11-3 S Twiston-Davies
6 24566 SOLSTICE STAR 34 (T,D) M Keighley 8-11-2 T Bellamy
7 133- EARLY DU LEMO 392 G L Moore 5-10-11 Josh Moore
11-4 Moabit, 5-1 Raven's Tower, Solstice Star, 11-2 McGroarty, Sizing Granite, 6-1 Curious Carlos, 10-1 Early Du Lemo.

4.45 Hunters' Chase

(£2,184: 2m 7f 86y) (8)

1 3-321 JIMMY THE JETPLANE 15 (B,D) F Nimmo 10-12-6 Mr J Jackson-Stops (7)
2 PPP-P VIVALDI COLLONGES 68 (T,P,D) P Nicholls 9-12-6 Mr D Maxwell (3)
3 1P-3P ALFSTAR 42 Miss J Priest 10-11-12 Mr Jonathan Bailey (3)
4 40534 BAMBUI DU NOYER 15 S Conway 7-11-12 Mr L Stones (5)
5 BU/1- BILLY MERRIOTT 355P Mrs C Fry 12-11-12 Mr B Godfrey (7)
6 -0P43 MONETAIRE 33P (P,O) W Wanless 12-11-12 Miss G Andrews
7 3P-25 UNCLE JIMMY 62P Miss B Childs 11-11-12 Mr N Lawton (7)
8 4062U VINCITORE 7 (T,D) Miss S Rippon 12-11-12 Miss S Rippon (7)
2-1 Jimmy The Jetplane, 5-2 Monetaire, 7-2 Vivaldi Collonges, 10-1 others.

Lingfield Park

Rob Wright

1.35 Settle Petal 3.50 Fire Fighting
2.10 Pulsating 4.20 Whispering Sands
2.40 Mighty Zip 4.55 Carp Kid
3.15 Equally Fast
Going: standard At The Races
Draw: no advantage

1.35 Handicap (£3,105: 1m 1y) (12)

1 (5) -6164 FIRST EXPERIENCE 7 (P,CD) L Carter 7-9-7 Joshua Bryan (5)
2 (3) 304-2 VIOLET'S LADS 72 B Johnson 4-9-7 C Shepherd (3)
3 (9) 06-00 SHIFTING STAR 16 (T,V,CD) J Bridger 13-9-7 W A Carson
4 (8) -5530 NO APPROVAL 23 (D) D Bridgwater 5-9-7 P Bridgwater (7)
5 (11) -5000 SPIRITUAL STAR 16 (CD) L Carter 9-9-7 C Bennett (3)
6 (12) 00-01 RAMBLOW 7 (P) M Appleby 5-9-7 Nicola Currie (5)
7 (7) 006-5 SETTLE PETAL 7 P Phelan 4-9-6 Paddy Bradley (5)
8 (1) 000-6 MIME DANCE 70 (D) J Butler 7-9-5 A Kirby
9 (10) -6402 SHOWDANCE KID 4 (P) K Frost 4-9-5 C Lee (3)
10 (2) 5-054 LICENSE TO THRILL 16 (P) S Dow 4-9-3 L Morris
11 (6) 05026 DE LITTLE ENGINE 8 (P,BF) J Osborne 4-9-0 D C Costello

12 (4) 50-06 MR FRANKIE 17 R Brotherton 7-8-13 E J Walsh (3)
4-1 De Little Engine, 11-2 First Experience, 6-1 Mime Dance, Ramblow, 7-1 Violet's Lads, 8-1 License To Thrill, 10-1 others.

2.10 Handicap (£3,752: 6f 1y) (9)

1 (3) 0-002 ALKASHAAF 16 (T,B,D) D M Loughnane 4-9-8 E J Walsh (3)
2 (5) 6-300 PIAZON 34 (H,E,B,D) J Butler 7-9-7 Joshua Bryan (5)
3 (8) 16263 PULSATING 8 (B,D,BF) A Watson 4-9-7 O Murphy
4 (2) 33351 STRATEGIC HEIGHTS 16 (V,D) J Osborne 9-9-5 D C Costello
5 (9) 20-55 DREAM FARR 9 (T,D) E Walker 5-9-5 A McNamara (3)
6 (4) 0-632 MADRINHO 18 (D) A Carroll 5-9-4 Hollie Doyle
7 (1) 405-0 FATHER MCKENZIE 13 (D) J Eustace 4-9-4 R Tate
8 (6) 30-00 RED TYCOON 34 (D) K Cunningham-Brown 6-9-3 H Crouch
9 (7) 0-053 KINGLAMI 24 (P,CD) John O'Shea 9-9-2 L Morris
7-2 Pulsating, 9-2 Madrinho, Strategic Heights, 6-1 Kinglami, 7-1 Alkashaaf, 8-1 Dream Farr, Father McKenzie, 16-1 Piazon, Red Tycoon.

2.40 Handicap (£3,105: 5f 6y) (10)

1 (6) 4-501 IT MUST BE FAITH 8 (P,D) M Appleby 8-9-13 L Morris
2 (4) 005-0 MOSSGO 62 (T,CD) John Best 8-9-7 Dayverson De Barros
3 (2) 0-632 PORTO FERRO 16 (C) A Carroll 5-9-4 W A Carson
4 (3) 000-0 RED INVADER 78 (P,CD) J Butler 8-9-5 L Keniry
5 (10) 50-05 SANDFRANKSKIPSGO 24 (CD) P Cate 9-9-4 S W Kelly
6 (7) 0300- NUZHA 132 (D) A G Newcombe 4-9-2 Nicola Currie (5)
7 (9) 24-00 GORGEIOUS 28 (D) A Carroll 5-8-11 D Probert
8 (1) 00002 MIGHTY ZIP 8 (P,D) Mrs L Williamson 6-8-7 R Da Silva
9 (8) 3306- MOSTASHREQAH 246 (P) J M Bradley 5-8-7 W Cox (5)
10 (5) 00-00 LOUIS VEE 25 (B,D) John O'Shea 10-8-7 Kate Leahy (7)
4-1 It Must Be Faith, Mighty Zip, 9-2 Mossgo, Porto Ferro, 5-1 Red Invader, 10-1 Gorgeous, Sandfrankskipsgo, 16-1 Nuzha, 33-1 others.

3.15 Handicap (£3,105: 5f 6y) (9)

1 (5) 000-5 EQUALLY FAST 16 (H,CD) R Harris 6-9-10 L Keniry
2 (9) 0413- EVENING STARLIGHT 178 (C) R Hodges 5-9-7 D Probert
3 (2) 0-516 ASK THE GURU 24 (V,CD) M Attwater 8-9-6 K Fox
4 (6) 42141 ROY'S LEGACY 20 (CD) Shaun Harris 9-9-5 C Bennett (3)

5 (8) -2045 KYLLUKEY 29 (C) J M Bradley 5-9-3 L Morris
6 (1) 000-0 SECRET ASSET 11 (P,CD) Mrs L Williamson 13-9-0 R Hornby

7 (4) 66-30 PHAROH JAKE 24 (CD) J Bridger 10-8-11 W A Carson
8 (3) -0000 CHIP OR PELLET 20 (P,D) M Pattinson 5-8-9 E J Walsh (3)
9 (7) 0-440 DRAMATIC VOICE 24 (H) K Cunningham-Brown 5-8-7 Hollie Doyle
7-2 Equally Fast, 4-1 Kyllukey, Roy's Legacy, 11-2 Evening Starlight, 6-1 Pharaoh Jake, 7-1 Ask The Guru, 16-1 others.

3.50 Handicap (£11,972: 1m 4f) (7)

1 (6) 5043- NOBLE GIFT 144 (CD) W Knight 8-9-10 J Crowley
2 (7) -5005 FIRE FIGHTING 16 (D) M Johnston 7-9-9 A Kirby
3 (3) -0322 ROYAL RESERVE 27 (P,CD) D O'Meara 5-9-6 K Shoemark
4 (1) 111- GOLDEN BIRTHDAY 147 (T,D) H Fry 7-9-5 Fran Berry
5 (5) 6-124 AY AY 27 (C,BF) D Elsworth 4-9-2 Hollie Doyle
6 (4) -3233 LAWLLESS SECRET 34 (H) S Crisford 4-9-0 O Murphy
7 (2) -1154 FEARSOME 7 (CD) M Littmoden 4-8-10 L Morris
11-4 Golden Birthday, 3-1 Royal Reserve, 9-2 Fire Fighting, 7-1 others.

4.20 Novice Stakes

(3-Y-O: £3,752: 1m 4f) (6)

1 (5) 1 MERCER'S TROOP 55 (D) A Watson 9-9 O Murphy
2 (6) AFRICAN JAZZ C Appleby 9-2 G Wood (3)
3 (2) 03- ARTARMON 142 Michael Bell 9-2 J P Spencer
4 (3) 4-223 NATCH 14 (P,BF) J Gosden 9-2 R Havlin
5 (1) TOORMAKEADY J Portman 8-11 R Hornby
6 (4) 3 WHISPERING SANDS 25 H Dunlop 8-11 H Crouch
5-2 African Jazz, 3-1 Whispering Sands, 7-2 Artarmon, Natch, 6-1 others.

4.55 Apprentice Handicap

(3-Y-O: £3,752: 1m 1y) (6)

1 (5) 1440- HOLY TIBER 167 G Scott 9-13 T Saunders
2 (1) 36-01 ILLUSIONAL 9 (D) M Johnston 9-13 Oliver Stammers (5)
3 (6) 432- HARMONICA 205 Sir M Prescott 9-9 Gavin Ashton (7)
4 (4) -2323 CARP KID 27 (P,CD) J Flint 9-7 J Uys
5 (2) 33-43 POLLY'S GOLD 53 K George 8-13 Rhaiian Ingram
6 (3) 00-0 ICONIC BOY 63 D Elsworth 8-13 Jason Watson
11-4 Harmonica, Illusional, 3-1 Holy Tiber, 9-2 Carp Kid, 7-1 others.

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