

# RACING POST

62	York	2.20-5.40	Flat	7 races	£355k	ITV4/RUK
44	Newmarket	1.40-5.30	Flat	8 races	£104k	RUK
52	Newbury	1.30-5.20	Flat	8 races	£100k	ITV4/RUK
34	Aintree	5.35-8.50	Jumps	7 races	£102k	RUK
74	Hamilton	5.55-9.05	Flat	7 races	£81k	RUK
82	Cork	4.50-8.40	Flat	8 races	£93k	ATR
92	Downpatrick	5.45-8.55	Jumps	7 races	£69k	ATR

Tote Jackpot: All six races at York

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### TODAY'S WEATHER

Downpatrick (eve) Cloudy 15°C  
 Hamilton (eve) Sunny intervals 16°C  
 Cork (eve) Sunny intervals 16°C  
 York Sunny intervals 15°C  
 Aintree (eve) Sunny intervals 15°C  
 Newbury Sunny 15°C  
 Newmarket Sunny intervals 14°C

Go to [RACINGPOST.com](http://RACINGPOST.com) for our daily dedicated racing weather videos

**Tomorrow**  
**Bangor-On-Dee** GOOD (GoingStick 7.2) Mostly sunny  
**Doncaster** GOOD TO FIRM (7.8) Mostly sunny  
**Newbury** GOOD TO FIRM (Str 7.2, Rnd 7.6) Sunny  
**Newmarket** GOOD (Good to Firm in places; 7.5) Sunny  
**Thirsk** GOOD TO FIRM (Good in places; 8.5) Mostly sunny  
**Uttoxeter** GOOD TO FIRM (Good in places) Mostly sunny  
**Navan** GOOD Partly cloudy  
**Sunday**  
**Market Rasen** GOOD Partly cloudy  
**Ripon** GOOD TO FIRM (8.4) Partly cloudy  
**Stratford** GOOD (Good to Firm in places; 8.1) Cloudy  
**Naas** GOOD TO FIRM Showers

**Limerick** GOOD TO YIELDING (Good in places) Showers  
**Monday**  
**Carlisle** GOOD Partly cloudy  
**Leicester** GOOD TO FIRM (Good in places) Scattered Showers  
**Redcar** GOOD TO FIRM Sunny  
**Towcester** GOOD TO FIRM (Good in places) Showers  
**Windsor** GOOD TO FIRM (7.4) Scattered thunderstorms  
**Thursday**  
**Catterick** GOOD TO FIRM (Good in places)  
**Chelmsford** STANDARD  
**Goodwood** GOOD (Good to Firm in places; 8.2)  
**Lingfield**  
**Sandown** GOOD TO FIRM (Good in places on the Round course)  
**Tipperary** YIELDING (Good in places)

## TV RACE-BY-RACE GUIDE

1.30 Newbury RUK P52	4.45 Newbury RUK P55	6.50 Downpatrick ATRP92	8.55 Downpatrick ATRP95
1.40 Newmarket RUKP44	4.50 Cork ATR P82	7.00 Hamilton RUK P74	9.05 Hamilton RUK P77
2.00 Newbury RUK P52	4.55 Newmarket RUKP47	7.05 Cork ATR P83	<b>What's on</b>
2.10 Newmarket RUKP44	5.05 York RUK P66	7.10 Aintree RUK P35	ITV4 2.00pm York & Newbury
2.20 York ITV4 P62	5.20 Newbury RUK P55	7.20 Downpatrick ATRP93	At The Races Sky 415, Virgin 535
2.35 Newbury ITV4 P53	5.25 Cork ATR P82	7.30 Hamilton RUK P75	6.00 Australian 9.00 News & Update 9.15 Review 10.00 News 10.15 Review 11.00 News 11.30 Review 12.00 News 12.15 The Friday Focus 1.00 RaceDay Live: Chantilly, Cork & Downpatrick 9.00 Stateside 2.00 Australian
2.45 Newmarket RUKP44	5.30 Newmarket RUKP47	7.35 Cork ATR P84	Racing UK Sky 426, Virgin 536
2.55 York ITV4 P64	5.35 Aintree RUK P34	7.45 Aintree RUK P35	00.00 Replay 1.30 York, Newmarket & Newbury 5.00 Aintree & Hamilton 9.30 Replay
3.05 Newbury RUK P53	5.40 York RUK P67	7.55 Downpatrick ATRP93	Racing Post Greyhound TV 6.00-10.00pm Sky 431, Freesat 250 Nottingham & Towcester
3.20 Newmarket RUKP45	5.45 Downpatrick ATRP92	8.05 Hamilton RUK P75	
3.30 York ITV4 P64	5.55 Hamilton RUK P74	8.10 Cork ATR P85	
3.40 Newbury RUK P54	6.00 Cork ATR P82	8.20 Aintree RUK P35	
3.55 Newmarket RUKP45	6.05 Aintree RUK P34	8.25 Downpatrick ATRP95	
4.05 York ITV4 P65	6.15 Downpatrick ATRP92	8.35 Hamilton RUK P75	
4.15 Newbury RUK P54	6.25 Hamilton RUK P74	8.40 Cork ATR P85	
4.25 Newmarket RUKP45	6.30 Cork ATR P83	8.50 Aintree RUK P37	
4.35 York RUK P65	6.40 Aintree RUK P34		

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## NEWS

# Hancock brings axe down on FOBTs with maximum stake of £2

By Bill Barber

THE government will slash the maximum stakes on the “social blight” of FOBTs to £2 from £100, culture secretary Matt Hancock said yesterday, although one leading bookmaker is understood to have not ruled out a legal challenge.

After months of wrangling, ministers finally delivered their verdict following a gambling review launched in the autumn of 2016, an announcement met with praise from campaigners but dismay from betting operators who have warned thousands of shops will close after becoming unprofitable.

British racing could lose £40-£60 million as a result of reduced media rights income and levy if the bookmakers are right, although the government has said it will try to ameliorate that by extending the levy to bets made on overseas racing.

However in a letter to BHA chairman Steve Harman, Hancock said: “It cannot be right for our magnificent sport to rely on these machines for its income.”

Along with the stake change, the government has announced a number of measures including stronger age verification rules, proposals to require operators to set limits on spending until affordability checks have been conducted and heightened responsible gambling messages around advertising.

Remote Gaming Duty, paid by online gaming operators, will be increased “at the relevant Budget” to cover for any impact on tax revenue, a move criticised by online operator Sky Bet.

Both William Hill and Ladbrokes Coral owner GVC Holdings said they were not considering a legal challenge to the government’s decision.

However, a Betfred insider told the Racing Post that if they believed the government had made an error in law they would

consider bringing a judicial review.

Bookmaker share prices fell initially before recovering strongly. William Hill shares ended yesterday up 13.3p at 330.8p, GVC Holdings shares rose by 45.5p to 961p and Paddy Power Betfair shares were up 155p to 8,405p.

Hancock said: “When faced with the choice of halfway measures or doing everything we can to protect vulnerable people, we have chosen to take a stand. These machines are a social blight and prey on some of the most vulnerable in society, and we are determined to put a stop to it and build a fairer society for all.”

The changes to the stake will be made through secondary legislation, while the government said it would ensure operators were given sufficient time to implement and complete the technological changes required.

Sports minister Tracey Crouch, who had been a prime mover in the effort to reduce FOBT stakes, added: “While we want a healthy gambling industry that contributes to the economy, we also need one that does all it can to protect players.”

“We will work with the industry on the impact of these changes and are confident that this innovative sector will step up and help achieve this balance.”

The news was welcomed by campaigners and politicians who have long called for the stakes on the controversial machines to be cut, claiming they cause problem gambling and other social ills.

Shadow culture secretary Tom Watson said: “This announcement signals the end of the reign of destruction and misery that FOBTs have brought on the lives of gambling addicts and their families and communities for too many years.”

However, the Association of British Bookmakers said in a statement the decision would have “far-reaching implications”. They added: “The independent

## FOBTs Q&A

### What happens next and when will the changes be implemented?

A £2 stake will not come in until 2019 at the earliest and possibly not until 2020. The changes will be made after going through parliament in the form of an “affirmative statutory instrument”. However, before that can happen the changes have to be submitted to the EU technical standards and regulations directive due to the effect on machine manufacturers. That process will take three months. Once the changes have been accepted by parliament, bookmakers will also have to be given a period to implement them. The only impediment could be a legal challenge.

### What will the effect be on racing?

Racing has warned that the decision to cut FOBT stakes to £2 would result in the sport losing up to £60 million as media rights and levy income drops. That would wipe out the expected increased income from the government’s recent reforms which is thought to amount to more than £40m for the last levy year.

### How will the shortfall be made up?

The government has said that

expert advice warned that this would simply shift people, the majority of whom gamble responsibly, to alternative forms of gambling where there is less chance of human interaction and its impact on problem gambling levels is far from certain.

Racing figures have said they are working on the basis of the sport losing between £40 million and £60 million a year in income from media rights and lost levy if large numbers of shops close.

Leading trainer John Gosden said he had concern for those who might lose their jobs but there had been a sense of inevitability about the decision.

He added: “We’ve got to work together, the government to help racing and tune in with the betting industry, certainly with the levy replacement coming. There’s a lot of work to be done and we’ve just got to look out for the people whose jobs might be gone. I’m sure if we get our heads together and stay united we can achieve a lot.”

However, the government was blasted by Christopher Snowden, head of lifestyle economics at the Institute of Economic Affairs.

He said: “There has never been any evidence to support this campaign. The government is weak and cowardly to have given in to it.”

►►Foreign levy lifeline for racing? Page 4

<p><b>totejackpot</b></p> <p><b>£11,325</b></p> <p>ROLLOVER</p>	<p><b>YORK</b></p> <p><b>RACES 1-6</b></p> <p>FIRST RACE 2:20PM</p> <p>Multi race pool. totals are displayed net of deduction.</p>	<p><b>totescoop6</b> FRIDAY</p> <p><b>£19,844</b> WIN FUND ROLLOVER</p> <p><b>£82,003</b> BONUS FUND ROLLOVER</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>AINTREE</td> <td>6:40PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HAMILTON</td> <td>7:00PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HAMILTON</td> <td>7:30PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AINTREE</td> <td>7:45PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HAMILTON</td> <td>8:05PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HAMILTON</td> <td>8:35PM</td> </tr> </table>	AINTREE	6:40PM	HAMILTON	7:00PM	HAMILTON	7:30PM	AINTREE	7:45PM	HAMILTON	8:05PM	HAMILTON	8:35PM	<p><b>TOTEPOOL</b></p> <p>Totepool &amp; Betfred rules apply. Over 18s only. Please gamble responsibly – <a href="http://begambleaware.org">begambleaware.org</a></p> <p><b>KEEP IT FUN</b></p> <p>GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY</p>
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