

July 2, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Nelson Wong, and I have worked at the Hong Kong Jockey Club for 2 years now. Today I am writing to express my personal views on the Club's proposal on the 5 additional race days. In my opinion, the additional race days will benefit Hong Kong as a whole. With the current financial situation, where unemployment is so high, the extra race days will create more jobs, helping to lessen burden for many families.

Originally from Canada, I use to spend a lot of time punting both in the casino and on the race track. Based on my previous experience, I believe there is a very distinctive difference between the 2 types of gaming. The casino in my opinion, is real gambling, where fortunes are made or lost, while the race track is a place for entertainment. My reasoning for this is based on my personal experience in both forms of gaming.

Sitting in a casino, you have one of two thoughts: "Don't let the winning streak stop" or "I need to win my money back". As a result, you chase each hand, looking for unreachable finish line. With the high frequency and short waiting time for the results in casino games, your money can often be lost in the matter of minutes.

At a horse race, you would almost never go alone but rather, gather a bunch of friends to have some drinks and fun the track. With the long lapse time between each race, people are more relaxed as their emotions take a break between each race. Not only so, but with only about 10 races per day, you are limited in the opportunities to bet.

In my opinion, as a punter who just cares about the gambling and money making, would choose the casino over the race track any day as results are quick, about 1 minute per hand versus 30 minutes between each race. Payout can be much higher and casinos can be accessed 24 hours a day.

Having worked at the Club for more than 2 years as a People Development Specialist, I see that we provide many useful programmes that can help people control their gaming habits. In particular, one workshop identified the causes and symptoms of a Problem Gambler. I thought this was very useful because as a punter, you would not realise that you were developing into a Problem Gambler. Understanding these stages of development could help people by seeking help at earlier stage before it is too late. Our staff members can also benefit from this as they can identify and offer advice to those with symptoms of problem gambling.

Thank you for taking the time to view my opinions on this issue.

Sincerely,

Nelson Wong

