



NOTICE TO ALL ON-COURSE BOOKMAKERS

Lingfield bookmaker robbed at knife point

Following an armed robbery at Lingfield Park on Friday 23rd January, all bookmakers and staff are advised to give extra consideration to their personal security procedures.

Police in Surrey issued an urgent appeal for witnesses on Friday, after a bookmaker was robbed at knifepoint as he prepared to work at Lingfield.

The victim was in his vehicle in the golf course car park, waiting for colleagues to arrive before the meeting, when a man got into the passenger side and ordered him to drive away.

The bookmaker, who is in his 50s, drove towards Edenbridge and was then told to pull into a track off Moor Lane, Lingfield. He was then ordered to “hand over the money”.

The suspect left on foot, taking the victim’s car keys, and headed back towards Moor Lane with a significant sum. Kate Hills, spokeswoman for Lingfield’s owner Arena Leisure, said: “We are very concerned about what happened. We were already reviewing car parking and security because of our redevelopment. The safety of bookmakers and, of course, all racegoers, will be a priority.”

Police describe the suspect as a white man, in his early 20s, 6ft 4ins-6ft 6ins, and of solid build.

He wore dark sunglasses, a dark scarf wrapped around the lower half of his face, a dark bomber style jacket with jumper material arms, light blue heavy duty industrial gloves, dark combat trousers and boots. He spoke with a London accent.

Investigating officer, detective constable Kerry Akehurst, said: “This was a frightening experience for the employee. We need to find this robber. Although the victim was not injured, the suspect showed him a knife and claimed to know the victim and his family, which further distressed and alarmed him.

“Information from the community is vital in order to find this man and bring him to justice. He was wearing very distinctive clothing – so perhaps someone saw a man matching this description in Moor Lane, Lingfield, at around 11.20am? Maybe someone saw him hanging around the golf course car park and didn’t think anything was suspicious at the time?

“I’m appealing to anyone who recognises the description of this suspect to come forward. If you were in Moor Lane this morning between 11am and 11.30am you may have crucial information.”

Anyone with information is urged to phone detectives at Reigate CID on **0845 125 2222** quoting reference **TD/09/382**, or Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555111**.

Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers Ltd.
26th January 2009.