



For Immediate Release – 24 November 2005

**BINGO ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT TO TAKE DOCTORS  
ADVICE – Give up smoking!**

Ahead of the second reading of the Health Bill The Bingo Association is calling for Government to take the advice of the British Medical Association and implement a total ban on smoking on public places.

Chairman Sir Peter Fry said;

“I find it incredible that Government should even consider implementing a partial ban – it goes against scientific evidence and experience from around the world, and directly contradicts majority public and business opinion.

Other countries have fully embraced the issue of ‘the nation’s health’ and have implemented complete bans. This Government appears only to like the notion. There is a clear opportunity for Government to steer a decisive path and implement legislation that is well supported and workable.

The nature of the Bill as it currently stands is set to see legislation implemented that is overall only 40% as effective as it might otherwise have been and still leaves many people, including minors, exposed to second hand smoke. Such legislation would also do little to increase the number of those giving up, as it merely displaces smokers to alternative locations where smoking will continue to be allowed.

**- Ends -**

For further press information or an interview with the Chairman of the Bingo Association, please contact Amanda Fry on 020 7053 6005/07950 286538.

**Notes to Editors:**

- The Bingo Association is the trade association of the licensed bingo industry in Great Britain, representing the proprietors of bingo clubs licensed under the Gaming Act 1968.
- There are 110 proprietors in membership and between them they operate 553 bingo clubs. Membership profile ranges from the very large operators, including Mecca (124 clubs) and Gala (168 clubs), to smaller operators like Castle (10 clubs) and many single unit businesses.
- Around 70% of all Bingo players are women and overall, 10% of all women in the UK play bingo
- There are 3.1 million regular bingo players in the UK
  
- 700 people a year die from second hand smoke in the work place (Imperial College Research)
- A total ban will significantly increase the number of smokers giving up (Mintel)
- The majority of the general public are in favour of a total ban (BBC Online)
- Despite business losses The Bingo Association fully supports a TOTAL ban on smoking in all public places

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