

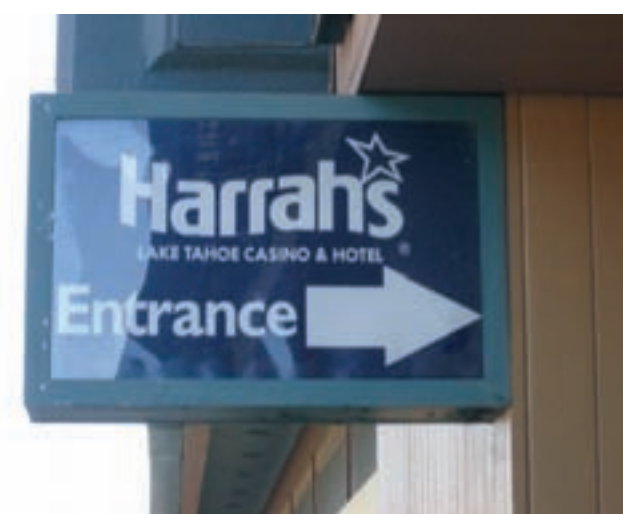


Lake Tahoe

# 13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GAMBLING & RISK-TAKING



The conference took place at Harrah's Casino



It's a long trip. From Montreal where we visited GIGSE (focusing on internet gambling), we flew to San Francisco and rented a car to Nevada. Our international delegation (2 Swedish, 1 Spanish and 1 Dutch) crossed the Golden Gate Bridge first and was in such a hurry to get to Lake Tahoe that a speeding ticket was inevitable. However we made it just in time for the last part of the welcome reception on Monday 22 May. Harrah's Casino, the conference venue and hotel for most of the delegates is just over the border in Nevada.

Judy Cornelius and Bill Eadington, Director of the Institute for the Study of Gambling & Commercial Gaming, and their team put together a programme that attracted participants from 28 countries, representing all the continents. In total almost 400 delegates. Europe, especially the Nordic countries, was well represented, and many of the presentations were also given by Europeans. The topics varied but the quality was uniformly high.



Opening Session

Peter Collins, in the opening session, gave his personal view on UK Gaming Law Reform from 1999 to date. In this excellent speech, he emphasised his independent position, even though he is Director of the University of Salford Centre for the Study of Gambling, funded by the gambling industry. In his conclusions, he urged the EC not to make the same mistakes as the UK in its decision taking and law making processes.

Peter Collins



Tatiana van Lier and Sytze Kingma

Tatiana van Lier (with co-author Sytze Kingma), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, spoke on lotteries in the European Union, explaining the findings of their comparative research on the liberalisation of gaming in the European Union. The project focussed on Europeanization and jurisprudence on gaming from the European Court of Justice. They found that liberalisation exists, but to different extents and at different speeds. There is also a very strong negative integration mechanism, leaving the future uncertain.



David Miers

David Miers, a professor at Cardiff University Law School, gave details on developments in the UK National Lottery over the past 10 years. He concluded that the impact of the changes taking place has yet to be evaluated, while there is continuing ambivalence surrounding the National Lottery.



Per Binde

Per Binde of Göteborg University in Sweden spoke on "*The Good, the Bad and the Unhappy: Myth Structures of Tales of Jackpot Winners*". Winning money damages or at least affects social relationships. The unemployed person who wins €200,000; the old man who wins €300,000 - and gets robbed three times; the undeserving winner. However, winners cannot be chosen: they are randomly picked. Trick or fate?

Petra Förström, Christiana Boucher and Thomas Nilsson



Unfortunately Göran Wessberg of World Lottery Association (WLA) was unable to come to Lake Tahoe for personal reasons. However Per Binde did another excellent job of presenting Göran's article on gaming and gambling in 19<sup>th</sup> century Russian literature. All present enjoyed the tales of famous Russian writers.

Petra Förström, Svenska Spel, and Thomas Nilsson, Spel Institutet, travelled all the way from Sweden to be at Lake Tahoe and explain the interactive web-based training programme developed by the Spelinstitutet together with Svenska Spel (the Swedish lottery) and ATG (the Swedish horse betting company). Three important issues were raised: underage gambling, gambling on credit and how to make information on the national helpline more widely available. The construction of the program and its level of interactivity are truly impressive and will set the benchmark on responsible gaming in Europe.

The UK was represented by many other speakers, including Mark Griffiths and his colleagues from Nottingham Trent University, speakers from other universities, and Robin Burgess from the Responsibility in Gambling Trust, an organization set up by the industry to fund treatment and prevention services.



Mark Griffiths



Robin Burgess

Iceland was represented by Daniel Thor Olsson, University of Iceland, and conference veterans such as David Miers from the University of Cardiff, Paul Bellringer, Responsible Gambling Solutions Ltd., United Kingdom, and Pieter Remmers from Assissa Consultancy Europe also put in an appearance. All in all, we were lucky to be at one of the better conferences in the world on the subject of gambling and risk taking, in addition with the triennial Conference on Gambling Studies and Policy Issues of the European Association



Daniel Thor Olsson



Paul Bellringer



Pieter Remmers

We took it easy on the way back to San Francisco, and managed to avoid getting another ticket.

Text: Pieter Remmers  
Photos: Assissa Consultancy