

WHO CAN HELP?

www.gambleaware.co.uk

This site will provide advice and information about responsible gambling as well as links to both national and local problem gambling services, such as Gamcare and Gordon House.

GAMCARE

2 & 3 Baden Place, Crosby Row, London SE1 1YW

HELPLINE: 0845 6000 133

Provides information, advice and counselling to individuals, their family and friends who have concerns about problem gambling.

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS (GA)

PO Box 5382, London W1A 6SA

HELPLINE: 020 7384 3040

A self-help fellowship of compulsive gamblers wanting to address their gambling problems. The sister organisation GamAnon, runs groups for partners/families of compulsive gamblers. Groups are held weekly throughout the country.

GORDON HOUSE ASSOCIATION

Central Office, 114 Wellington Road,
Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1UB

TEL: 01384 241292

A hostel providing accommodation, therapy and rehabilitation for compulsive gamblers.

NATIONAL DEBTLINE

Tricorn House, 51-53 Hagley Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham B16 8TP

TEL: 0808 808 4000

Offers advice and support to enable callers to deal with their debts in a pro-active and informed way. Self help information packs are sent free to individuals with debt problems.

BE OPTIMISTIC
USE THE HELPLINE

www.gambleaware.co.uk

GAMCARE

0845 6000 133

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS (GA)

020 7384 3040

www.circus-casinos.co.uk

HAVE FUN,
BUT PLAY
IT SAFE

SELF HELP GUIDE



PLEASE GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY

IS GAMBLING CAUSING YOU A PROBLEM?

We all have, at times, to take risks. Some of us enjoy risk taking and seek it out: that is quite normal. Gambling offers a particular style of risk taking that is exciting and should be fun. For most of us who enjoy gambling in a casino, the risks are part of the entertainment experience. We can control them and usually know when we should stop.

For a few of us the temptation to push our luck or re-experience the elation of an early win can be extremely compelling and sometimes irresistible. You may feel that each time you win you have to spend your winnings on more gambling, and if you lose you may feel forced, even desperate to continue, believing that a 'big win' is just around the corner. Once you begin to gamble in this intense way you may become absorbed in the activity of gambling without considering its consequences. This is why, for some people who lose control, gambling can be habit forming.

Losing control of your gambling means that it takes over your life and dominates your thoughts. You cannot stop until you have run out of money. Your gambling affects your relationships, causes you to lose friends, even perhaps your job, as well as putting your home and your possessions at risk.

Some people find it impossible ever to gamble without losing control, whilst others, with help and advice, can return to controlled, enjoyable gambling.

If you feel that you are in danger of losing or have lost control of your gambling, then read on, this leaflet may help you.

DO YOU HAVE A GAMBLING PROBLEM?

1. Have you put at risk important or significant relationships, educational studies, or job or your career because of gambling?
2. Do you chase losses by continuing or quickly returning to gamble when on a losing streak?
3. When you win do you have a strong desire to return and win more?
4. Do you ever gamble until you have completely run out of money?
5. Have you lied, stolen or borrowed to get money for gambling?
6. Are you reluctant to spend gambling money on anything else?
7. Do you ever gamble for longer than you had planned?
8. Do you ever gamble to escape worry, trouble, disappointment or frustration?
9. Do you feel depressed or suicidal because of your gambling?
10. Are you in debt because of gambling?
11. Have you ever sold your own or your family's possessions to get money to gamble or to pay gambling debts?

If you have answered yes to one or more of these questions, you may have a problem. Help is at hand.

STRATEGIES FOR HELP

Talk about it

- Firstly, take responsibility for yourself, don't run away from your problems, that never solves anything.
- Be honest, firstly with yourself and then with others.
- Talk about it with someone you trust: your family, a friend, a counsellor or call the GamCare Helpline.
- Talk to your Casino General Manager, they do understand. Their experience in the industry gives them an awareness of the issues involved. There are also things the casino can do to help you. It can:
 1. Organise for a period of self-suspension. This will be confirmed to you in writing and can always be reviewed with your General Manager.
 2. Allow you to play only with cash or limit the amount of money that can be withdrawn using cheque and debit card facilities.
 3. Accept your resignation from the casino in writing, with the reason stated.

Practical Steps:

- Stop all gambling while breaking the habit.
- Look for patterns in your behaviour: Do you gamble when you're bored, stressed or under a lot of pressure?
- Use a calendar and mark each day you do not gamble, so you can see the progress you make.
- Ask someone you trust to handle your money for an agreed amount of time (e.g. 3 months)
- Don't use your cash point cards.
- Reward yourself after a period free from gambling by spending some of the money you have saved on yourself.
- Remember - take one day at a time.