

London 2012



Bookies refuse to pay out after 'UFO sighting'

AN ANGRY punter refused payment on a wild 1,000/1 bet on a UFO flying over the Olympics opening ceremony is demanding answers.

Kevin Coakley is still waiting for his £1,000 winnings after placing the £1 wager on Friday and claims there is video evidence of a UFO above the Olympic Stadium taken from news reports of London 2012's big opening night.

The former chauffeur, who made the bet at his local branch of William Hill, is in despair as bookmakers have told him they are waiting for official confirmation from Prime Minister David Cameron of any Olympic extraterrestrial activity.

After missing the showpiece ceremony on Friday night, Mr Coakley checked online to see if any of the estimated billion people who watched the ceremony around the world had spotted anything unusual.

To his surprise, the 44-year-old clicked into an internet furore about a flying saucer apparently hovering over the Olympic Park - as he had predicted.

Social media site YouTube had pages of clips containing news footage from TV stations such as Sky, BBC and RTE, which all showed a green glowing object flying over East London and internet forums were starting to suggest that something spooky was afoot. But on heading back to the bookies to claim his prize, Mr Coakley, of Ely, Cardiff, was refused payment and told that he had to wait for an official explanation from either Mr Cameron or US President Barack Obama.



He said: "The staff in the shop seemed to have a lot of sympathy for me as they were looking at the footage on their mobile phones.

"But they said their head office would not allow them to pay out. For me it's not about the money, it's about William Hill being fair to me. If they were willing to take the bet, they should be big enough to pay out."

A William Hill spokesman said: "The conditions of all bets that we take are that there has to be an independent adjudicator to confirm the result before we pay out.

"In the event of an extraterrestrial sighting, the confirmation has to come from either the British Prime Minister or the US President, who will confirm that their respective air forces have spotted and recorded this current and intelligent life in the sky.

"So, sadly for Mr Coakley and others who have made the same bet, until Mr Cameron or Mr Obama make such an

■ Kevin Coakley is demanding answers after he placed a bet on a UFO appearing above the Olympic opening ceremony at odds of 1000/1. Right, a screen grab from a video which shows a strange object above the ceremony

PICTURE: Peter Bolter ©



announcement we are unable to pay out.

"But we understand that Mr Cameron is currently on holiday from official business so maybe he is in discussion with his advisers on what to announce about this particular sighting."

Mr Coakley said: "I didn't make the bet with Mr Cameron, Mr Obama, the Air Force or anyone else apart from William Hill. They can see the same footage as me, so I can't understand why they won't pay out. Even if I don't get my £1,000, I want an official

explanation for what everyone can see on those news clips. If David Cameron, or whoever, is not prepared to admit that it is a flying saucer, then at least let's hear what was flying in the sky."

Tyre giant Goodyear says the alleged UFO was a blimp of theirs with the branding removed.

A spokesman said: "We are not official sponsors of the Olympics so we had to remove our branding from the blimp which has been flying around the country for months. It was being used by an NBC camera crew on the night of the opening ceremony, so we assume that the UFO people are talking about was in fact our blimp."

CLICK ON

To take a look at the clip and make up your mind whether or not it is a UFO



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