

A man wearing a dark suit, a blue tie, and a black bowler hat is the central figure. He has a cigar in his mouth and is holding a small, dark mobile phone in his hands, looking down at it. The background is a large, brightly lit neon sign for 'WALTHAMSTOWN STADIUM'. The sign features the stadium's name in large, glowing yellow letters with green outlines. Above the name is a logo of a white horse jumping over a red hurdle. The overall scene is set at night, with the stadium's lights creating a vibrant, colorful backdrop.

Fancy a flutter when you're on the move? Overhear a great tip when you're in the boozier? WAP now offers you a chance to dally with Lady Luck via your mobile. DARREN LOCK sees what hand he's been dealt by some key WAP betting sites

# Wanna bet?

The emergence of gambling websites on the internet is a relatively new phenomenon and it was only a matter of time before these sites got with the latest technology and added a WAP portal. But if the idea of gambling fills you with dread or you think an each way Yankee is an American who can't make his mind up – don't be disheartened by this feature. Gambling sites (both WAP and internet) are nothing like their smoky, ill-lit, real-life counterparts.

If you fancy a flutter using your phone, the first thing you must do is set up an account with the Internet gambling site of your choice. You can either do this by going directly to the website and setting up an account there or, if you prefer the sound of the human voice, you can telephone your details through. Once the account is set-up you must deposit monies into it using either a debit or credit card and if you are scared of Internet fraud, these sites all use secure encryption.

The main difference between gambling using an Internet site and its WAP equivalent is that the Internet site usually has a greater number of events to put your money on and a greater variety of bets. But don't let that dissuade you – a lot of fun can be had with a WAP phone and an account with one of these sites. And remember, many of these sites feature tax-free betting – so what are you waiting for?

There is a number of Internet betting sites around (roughly five or six) but only four have WAP dedicated portals. As you can imagine, the big names are represented in the shape of Ladbrokes, William Hill, Eurobet and Bet247. Surprisingly enough, at the time of writing, Victor Chandler and Blue Square didn't support WAP access.

The Genie WAP portal allows access to the William Hill, Bet247 and Ladbrokes sites while Mviva and Vizzavi both promote the Eurobet site.

#### Reviews of the gambling sites

**Ladbrokes (via Genie)** – This WAP site easily earns top marks and features a good range of events, which means you aren't just limited to gambling on the horses or football. The navigation system is a joy to use and it is really easy to set up your bet. Another great feature for all you armchair punters is that you can gamble on an event (such as horse racing) right up to the off.



My featured bets (all singles) were:

14.25 Southwell Santa Jet Win 9/2 £4 stake (horse racing)  
16.30 Southwell Henry Island Win 6/1 £2 stake (horse racing)  
Michael Owen to score first during the England v Germany game 5/1 £4 stake  
Results: £0 (cleaned me out)

**WAP site score: 5/5**

**Eurobet (via Mviva)** – This site featured a complicated betting system, which caught me out on one occasion, leading me to think I'd placed a bet when I hadn't.



The way that the odds are represented on-screen are a little baffling too – rather than using a fractional system, Eurobet uses an unfamiliar decimal system. Didn't feature the variety of events as Ladbrokes. My featured bets, all singles, were:

14.00 Ascot Vicious Dancer Win 10/1 £5 stake  
Race abandoned due to a bomb scare

so money was returned  
Schumacher to win Japanese Grand Prix 2/1 £5 stake  
The website fooled me into thinking I'd placed this bet when I hadn't  
Results: £10 (got this back because both bets were null)

**WAP site score: 2/5**



when using a telephone keypad.

**Bet247 (via Genie)** – This site had much promise with a wide range of events on offer but a bug in the site's programming meant that I kept being asked to log in again, and again, and again – and this is infuriating

Results: £10 (kept my money because I could not place a bet)

**WAP site score: 1/5**



**William Hill (via Genie)** – The grand old man of gambling has an impressive website and I was expecting all the bells and whistles when I logged onto the WAP version. How wrong I was. Disappointment soon set in when the site refused to

acknowledge my log in and I missed the chance to put the money on a horse (good job as the horse in question came in third).

Results: £10 (no gambling with Mr Hill – so the cash remains intact)

**WAP site score: Non runner**

Overall Result: Gambling is a mugs game and should be left to the professionals or those with more filthy lucre than common sense.

#### Other gambling related WAP sites

A top site for gathering all those sports results is Waparesult (<http://www.waparesult.com/index.wml>), which is a really well designed site and features a number of top sports. The site even promises live football updates (so you need never miss a match) and a SMS results service. A really good site for all you punters who embrace the WAP way of gambling is wap.betbrain.com – this site will cut the time you spend hunting for the best football odds. Using a simple A-Z system, it allows the user to hunt down the best prices for all the latest football matches. It has a really easy navigation system and will be indispensable for all you football fans.

And for those of you, who want to try out some WAP gambling but are really worried that you'll lose your shirt, check out Etherbet ([www.etherbet.com/eb.wml](http://www.etherbet.com/eb.wml)) a site that lets you gamble with £1000 of virtual money. A great site that, in some ways, is better than the 'real' gambling sites.



**vodafone**

<http://wap.1999/vodafone.wml>  
[www.vodafone.net](http://www.vodafone.net)  
 News - BBC news, Independent Digital Sport - 365football, F1, cricketline, rugby, race tips, trivia, horoscopes  
 Travel - AA traffic information and planning, DHL parcel tracking, service, Thomas Cook, Lastminute.com  
 Weather - The Met Office  
 Entertainment - Ents24.com (going out information), H2G2.com (Hitchhikers Guide To The Galaxy), Hardens (London and UK restaurant guide)

**one 2 one**

[www.one2one.co.uk](http://www.one2one.co.uk)  
 Access only from One 2 One WAP phones.  
 News - BBC Sport - Eurosport, Sports.com  
 Entertainment - Wireless Games, Time Out, Teletext, wapscallion.net  
 Finance - Teletext, Travel - Lastminute.com, Loot.com, Teletext



[www.orange.net](http://www.orange.net)  
 Access only from

Orange WAP phones.  
 News - ITN, Sky.com  
 Sports - 13 categories inc. Sky.com, Sporting Life  
 Transport - road, rail and tube  
 Entertainment - TV, Scene One going out guide, London restaurants and pubs, business directory, Click Music, Hugh Johnson's wine guide  
 Travel - Lastminute.com, Loot.com, Thomas Cook, Snow reports  
 Money - Abbey National

<http://wap.genie.co.uk/del/genie.html>

[www.genie.co.uk](http://www.genie.co.uk)  
 News - from Genie, BBC, eXcite, Guardian Unlimited, Uprush, PR Newswire, ZDNet  
 Sport - Unwired Sport, Golf World, Sports.com, Football365, Betlink, WAPaResult, William Hill, Bet247, Ladbrokes  
 Entertainment - Genie news and search, Unmissable TV, BBC, eXcite, Popcorn, Dolmusic, MYWAPworld, HMV, Worldpop, Citikey, Ents24.com  
 Money - Genie share

search, eSignal.com, EIC Mobile eXcite, Visa ATM search, TD Waterhouse, firstdirect.com, Teletext, Intelligent Finance, UK-iInvest, E-Loan Travel - Lastminute.com, MapQuest, ebookers, Leisurehunt, Teletext holidays, Thomas Cook, Citikey, fly321, Travel Choice, Shopping - Loot.com, Top10Wines, bluecycle.com, OXL.com  
 Lifestyle - menus.com, LocalMed, Zoom, Voicecare mobile  
 Directories - PhoneNetUK, Yell  
 Search - Weather - Genie, eXcite



<http://http://www.virginia.com/mobile/wap/>  
[www.virginia.com/mobile/wap/](http://www.virginia.com/mobile/wap/)  
 Travel - lastminute.com, traflicmaster, leisurehunt  
 Entertainment - Virgin Radio, 13, Unmissable TV, Ents24, Ludiwap games  
 Sport - Formula 1, WAPaResult  
 Shopping - Xtras shop  
 Finance - iiii.co.uk



Networks are continuously adding WAP partners to their WAP portals. Check websites for the latest details

over 170 images  
 but we're not a picture gallery.

more than 1400 music tracks  
 but this isn't an mp3 download site.

instant delivery  
 but you won't see a courier.

[www.customphones.co.uk](http://www.customphones.co.uk)  
 fancy a change?