

Poker in pubs gets green light

Pubs will be able to host games of poker for stakes of GBP 5 and a maximum prize of GBP 100 from 1 September.

The Gambling Act regulations also remove the requirement for pubs to seek permission from local authorities, provided children and young people are not allowed to play.

Daily and weekly limits on stakes and prizes for games of chance played in individual premises have been set at GBP 100 and GBP 700 respectively. Operators will not be allowed to take a "cut" for money won or staked nor will they be able to charge a participation fee. There is no limit on the amount that can be staked on cribbage and dominoes.

The news comes as poker in pubs – currently played for points – is enjoying a great boon.

Almost one in eight Greene King managed houses currently participate in poker leagues.

"It is now possible to see the sociable poker night becoming like the quiz or music night," said British Beer and Pub Association director of communications Mark Hastings.