

Minutes of The Gambling Business Group Limited Board Meeting on Monday 15th April 2024 at 1.00 pm at TLT LLP, 20 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JE

Present Peter Hannibal (Chair designate)

Charlotte Meller (General Manager) Amanda Fry (Company Secretary)

In attendance: Paul Terroni (Novomatic)

Adam Hodges (Game Nation) Simon Reynolds (Buzz Bingo)

Virtual attendance Steve Sharp (Chair)

Lee Gregory (Inseinc)

By invitation Simon Thomas (Hippodrome)

		<u>ACTIONS</u>
1	Welcome & Introductions & Apologies for absence	
	PH welcomed everyone to the meeting. SS is joining virtually so PH will take over as Chair for the meeting. Apologies were received from Nick Jackson. Wayne Ellard and Sascha Blodau intended joining but was diverted.	
	PH welcomed Simon Reynolds who will be representing Bingo at Board Meetings going forward.	
	PH welcomed Simon Thomas as a guest for the meeting. He is Chair of the BGC Casino Group and owner of the Hippodrome Casino.	
	The meeting will be recorded for the purposes of helping with the minutes only (and then deleted). There we are no declarations of interest.	
2.	Minutes of Meeting held on 8th January 2024	
	The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. a) Matters Arising/Outstanding actions i. AF has chased outstanding invoices	
	iii. We will be inviting other GBG members as guests to future Board meetings	

	iv. Industry Forum - a few submitted applications to be part of that group but trade bodies were not to be included. We have Tony Boulton (Merkur) and Kirsty Caldwell (Betsmart), both GBG members on the Forum with Nick Rust as Chair. Nick will also be speaking to the GBG Members' Meeting on Wednesday 17 April	
3.	GBG Financial Update	
	 CLMS (Simon Barff) have joined as new members Appointed a new Accountant (Alexander James) for 2024 The fiscal year from 1st August 2023 will be extended to fall in line with the membership year (up to 31st October 2024 -14 months) Purchased the Xero digital accounting package which AF will be working with 	Action AF
		Action: PH/SS
4.	GBG Strategy Update (paper circulated)	
	 (a) Aim 2 -To lead on holding government to account in developing robust evidence-based gambling regulation Written to the Minister about the Triennial Responded to Dept for Business and Trade's Growth Duty consultation Active & founder member of the cross-industry scrutiny group – with the current fact checking work focusing on the GC's Gambling Study for Great Britain (GSGB). In July the Commission will publish the official prevalence study GBG started working on this 18 months ago with Dan Waugh who identified a number of areas where it is overstating the 	
	 prevalence/participation of gambling in the UK GC have not responded to the issues raised about the GSGB An independent review was carried out by Professor Sturgess who identified 7 different recommendations, 4 of which were regarded as high priority. GC won't be dealing with any of these until after July when the official statistics are out. GC say they are pushing these through in the timelines so they can inform the changes in the White Paper Dan Waugh is working with the Bingo Association and the BGC in identifying what the actual prevalence/participation is in each of 	
	 the sectors. Initial findings suggest that the GSGB overstates participation rates. Once this work is completed we will probably go to the Office of National Statistics to raise the serious flaws with them GBG has flagged concerns about over stating the data to Local Government 	

- GBG asked DCMS which dataset they will use when undertaking the evaluation of the White Paper changes – DCMS suggested it would have to be the current Health Survey dataset (not the GSGB)
- GBG is currently looking at GC's latest change from annual regulatory returns to quarterly. A number of respondents, including ourselves, rejected the proposals due to the amount (x4) of workload for no real gain. The Commission will proceed with the change despite only 49% of respondents supporting the change
- GBG has asked GC for the list of respondents (as this was not published with the consultation response)
- If still not happy with level of transparency GBG will consider making a Freedom of Information request

Aim 1 – To lead on raising Corporate Social Responsibility across the landbased sector and demonstrate how gambling premises can contribute to the wellbeing of communities and society

- Good session at ICE with Local Authorities
- Updated GBG Responsible Gambling Charter has been shared with members and is posted on our website
- Created (with Dan Waugh) a 'Mental Health (in gambling) Awareness Group'
- Members have asked for more F2F meetings to share views and opinions so GBG is considering a summit focusing on about raising our game on the High Streets and Motorways which could coincide with the October Board Meeting
- Need help from the Board and members with venues, sponsorship, providing speakers etc. GBG will provide more info in due course

Action PH

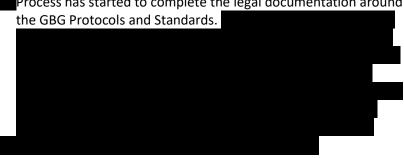
Aim 3 – To be the industry point of contact for local regulators

- Continuing growing our relationship with IOL through presentations and articles and in discussions about webinars
- Engaging with Local Government Association and the Welsh LGA regarding the GSGB
- On the RET front, ST is de-funding anything that is going to GambleAware (which is just funding 'problem' gambling research) and has given entire levy contribution for last year and this year to fund the University of Liverpool wider gambling research. ST asked if we could let our members know this as they may want follow suit.
- Kate Nicholls is new chair of IOL & our own David Lucas is now Vice Chair. We may consider inviting Kate to a future GBG Board Meeting
- It appears that GC have asked Local Authorities to do some test purchasing on machines in pubs which is something to be aware of

Action PH

Aim 4 – To be the innovative lead on technology to meet industry's challenges

- Testing strategy proposal for GC is part of the review of GMTS
- GBG Technical Standards and Protocols information is now on the GBG website about
- Process has started to complete the legal documentation around the GBG Protocols and Standards.



Action PH

GBG needs support with managing and curating those protocols and PH will set up a Governance Board accordingly

Action PH

An observation; ST suggested changing the narrative of the GBG Strategy to include the fact that we are in the entertainment business and that customers go to gambling premises to have fun. We also need supporting research about the positives. ST to share copy of his forthcoming speech at a conference in Amsterdam.

(b) GBG Cashless Solutions Awayday

- GBG Is proposing a Technical Conference to be set when we know what the DCMS have said about cashless
- Expect legislation to be implemented April 2025, with GC having updated their technical standards before then
- Suggested the event is open to non-members (including payment providers) as well as members
- NMI are keen to be involved in the process and if it is in Bristol they will provide a venue
- Other speakers suggested were UKH or BBPA
- GBG looking at options for raising funding to cover the event
- ST also offered Lolas at the Hippodrome (capacity 200) as a venue (with the option to use the smaller meeting rooms – capacity of @30 for other GBG events including Board Meetings)

(c) Gambling Responsible Gambling Charter

Discussed earlier in the agenda

5. Sector update

a) Casino update (Simon Thomas)

- Increased engagement with regulators & politicians and expect the consultation responses and Statutory Instruments to be published soon with the SIs laid before recess (23 July) and to come into force from 1 October
- Casino sector requests include more gaming machines, more versions of electronic games, credit facility for overseas customers – some of which require primary legislation

- Need to support tax free shopping to help encourage overseas player to come back
- CM has a list of where all casinos have a licence which has gone to DCMS and will send a copy to Simon

b) Bingo update (Simon Reynolds)

- Reduction in buildings because of increase in costs and/or leases up, so moving some premises to smaller venues in the High Street
- 1700 seats was normal in a bingo hall but now are moving to venues for @100 people
- High Street bingo clubs doing well
- The 80/20 B3 to C ratio rule will impact on what bingo clubs do next

6. White Paper

• The latest draft Ombudsman Code addressed many of the issues that Members raised. The draft is with DCMS for consideration

7. **Any Other Business**

a) ICE 2025 Barcelona

 Met with Clarion who are keen to have us at Barcelona and even offered to pay for key speakers if needed, however we are struggling taking our concept to Spain

- Therefore, the decision agreed at the Board is that GBG will not attend ICE 2025 and we will focus on the two conferences mentioned earlier and tackle key issues for members
- Noted that EAG 2025 is a week before ICE in 2025 and wants to become a more domestic show
- Clarion looking to develop more shows in London

b) Gaming Machine Feature Issues

- This first dated back to 2014 when there was a dispute about a pre-2005 Gaming Act game feature
- At a meeting in Birmingham in 2016 with all manufacturers a
 three-step process was agreed to be enacted when there is an
 issue with another's machines feature. i) both manufacturer's
 CEOs have a conversation to see if they can sort it out ii) if not
 resolved the GBG will get involved and bring in a lawyer or
 technical expert then iii) if still not settled we all go to the
 regulator
- A problem arose recently and GBG was asked to trigger the process, which we did. However, after 8 years we need to update

	the process to ensure it is relevant and issue it again for agreement	Action PH
	c) ST will send the University of Liverpool contact to PH to send to our members and maybe ask to speak at a F2F meeting	Action ST
8.	Date of next meeting The next meeting is Monday 1st July 2024 at 1.00 pm. Please send a substitute if you are not able to attend	
	Future dates for 2024 Mon 14th October	

Meeting finished at 1445