



**Minutes of The Gambling Business Group Limited Board Meeting
on Monday 17th April 2023 at 1.00 pm at
TLT LLP, 20 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JE**

Present: Steve Sharp (Chair)
Peter Hannibal (Director)
Charlotte Meller (General Manager)
Amanda Fry (Company Secretary)

In attendance: Paul Terroni (Novomatic)
Adam Hodges (Gamenation)
Sasha Blodau (Gauselmann)
Nick Jackson (Welcome Break)
Nick King (Henham - Item 2 only)
James Gordon (Henham – Item 2 only)
Charlie Courtney (Henham – Item 2 on only)

		<u>ACTIONS</u>
1	<p><u>Welcome & Introductions & Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>There were apologies from Simon Johnson & Lee Gregory. There were no declarations of interest. AF will be recording the meeting for admin purposes only - there were no objections.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Kieran Sull</u></p> <p>SS advised that unfortunately Kieran Sull was unable to attend this meeting due to Departmental commitments.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Henham Presentation</u></p> <p>NK introduced himself and his colleagues James and Charlie. The Henham presentation is attached to these minutes</p> <p>As we are looking at a General Election in October 2024, Sunak has been getting his house in order over the past couple of months with his 5 priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to ‘stop the boats’ issue • Breakthrough on the NI Protocol • Focus on five priorities vs events. • Managing expectations around local elections in the next two weeks – Conservatives expected to lose around 1,000 seats, only contesting 3,300 that they hold at the moment 	Action: AF

	<p>Starmer has 5 priorities for a Better Britain. Much more assertive in their approach in: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramping up the rhetoric through attack ads • Purging remnants of Corbynism • Focus on Policy development ahead of October’s Party Conference. <p>Gambling Industry and Westminster</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benton was suspended pending investigation by standards watchdog – no implications for GBG. • Industry groups distancing themselves from allegations of impropriety in hospitality provision to MPs • Gambling lobby under the spotlight • Implications for the Betting and Gaming APPBG which Benton currently chairs <p>Charlie – Engagement activity since the last Board Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with the Minister and key DCMS officials ahead of the White Paper publication – regular meetings in place with Land Based Gambling team • Feeding members views into DCMS Select Committee inquiry into gambling regulation. • Challenging flawed public health cost estimates through engagement with DHSC re National Suicide Prevention strategy – follow up in May with officials to see how they have progressed • Advocating for proportionate regulation through collaboration with the Regulatory Reform Group and Ben Afolami. PH will be attending a reception on 19th April with the new group. <p>DCMS under a Labour Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucy Powell likely to secure Cabinet position if Labour win and future of Shadow Gambling Minister, Alex Davies-Jones less clear • Shadow Cabinet reshuffle expected this summer • New Ministers likely to be drawn from the incoming cohort • Clear need to build broad base of allies within Labour <p>James: Labour Selections: Potential GBG Allies – there is a briefing on this which James will circulate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Grogan (Keighley) – former long serving MP and advocate for responsible gambling • Jo Platt (Leigh) – former Shadow Minister for Cyber security and Digital Identity • Jess Asato (Waveney) – former advisor to Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell who oversaw the 2005 Gambling Act. • Chris Webb (Blackpool South) standing for Scott Benton’s seat and has called for an immediate by-election – constituency with a large number of AGC’s and betting shops 	<p>Action: JG/AF</p>
--	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gareth Snell (Stoke-on-Trent Central) – former MP vocal on gambling issues in the past – large betting constituency – Bet365 employs around 5,000 in the area • Steve Race (Exeter) – Parliamentary Assistant to former Culture Secretary Ben Bradshaw • White Paper – will be in coming out in next few weeks!! It could be post local elections. • PH should start to approach the GBG Allies <p>DCMS Select Committee Call for Evidence which closed a while ago PH asked when we will see come outcomes from that. Due to White Paper delay the Committee would continue to review the evidence. Select Committee is independent to DCMS. They are planning for oral sessions which was due Early June but have now been pushed back</p> <p>NK will circulate a current list of Labour MPs at the moment that might be influential in a Cabinet going forward.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Henham left the meeting</p>	<p>Action: NK</p>
4.	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting held on 9th January 2023</u></p> <p>a) Matters Arising/Outstanding actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. YGAM – some of the evidence they were producing in their training was based on the flawed Public Health England report. CM has challenged this however they will not make any changes until after the White Paper has come out. Members are aware. ii. AF circulated a list of working groups and who is represented on each group from members of the Board 	
5.	<p><u>White Paper/DCMS Select Committee Discussion</u></p> <p>PH advised he has a bi-monthly catch up with Kieran Sull on Wednesday.</p> <p>White Paper has already been discussed</p> <p>PH stated that we submitted our Call for Evidence to the Select Committee which was an updated version of the original Call for Evidence to the DCMS</p>	
6.	<p><u>GBG Financial Update</u></p> <p>AF advised that all members had paid their subscriptions for this year. The projected income for 2022/2023 is £252,717 (Nett) with forecast overheads of £217,764 which will leave a surplus at the end of 2023 of approx. £46K.</p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 20px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>	

	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	
7.	<p><u>ICE 2023 Update and ICE 2024</u></p> <p>PH circulated a report with the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBG’s first venture into an exhibition role • Timings against us as we started conversations late • Good to have a land-based presence at ICE • Too short a notice to attract Local Authorities • DCMS and Don Foster and most of the industry bodies turned up • Hard work but were proud of what we did • Meeting hub was a success for members, especially those without a stand. • Presentations were the area we will look at for next year. • Meeting with Clarion on Wednesday to recap, feedback thoughts and discuss 2024. • Opportunity to showcase what GBG and its members do. <p>Discussed new members and our communications strategy with a broader discussion on attracting new members. AH agreed to do an interview in Coinslot stating what GBG does best.</p> <p>New Members from ICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure Electronics • Flote Works • Intervision Gaming (AGCs & Machine manufacturers) <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Action: AH</p>
8.	<p><u>Gambling Commission Consultation</u></p> <p>Gambling Commission has issued a consultation request with three questions in the consultation document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extending requirement for self-exclusion to all categories of betting licences – there is an exemption for certain types of betting - our proposed response is that consumers should be able to exclude from all forms of gambling. There is a licensing objective to protect the vulnerable (and children) therefore the GC should not be happy until all forms of gambling are included, including National Lottery (where you can exclude online but not offline). 	

	<p>2. The third question relates to a necessary update on technical issues around online payment matters.</p> <p>3. The second question relates to a new mandatory requirement to report suicides of customers to the GC. GBG’s current response has been circulated. SB advised that as an industry we should be aligned with other Trade Associations. PH read through the draft 8 points and there was general agreement.</p> <p>Next stage is that this will be discussed with members at the GBG meeting on Wednesday, and then be circulated for feedback. PH will circulate the updated version (after Weds) to the other trade associations.</p> <p>A Regulus article from last weekend was circulated to the Board critiquing a piece of work written by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny produced in partnership with the GC. The document is advising local authorities what to do when/if they are scrutinising Gambling Related Harm. The document is written by a group of people including Social Market Foundation who are people with their own agendas and is replete with unsubstantiated statements, factual inaccuracies and pejorative language.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Action: PH</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>Strategic Plan Updates</u></p> <p>GBG messaging is not clear enough with our target audiences which we learned from our comms with Government and the invitations to ICE – we need to state what GBG do and how we are different which is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leading on Technology and data 2. Relentless focus on the consumer and responsible gambling 3. Building and evolving a strong working relationship with LA’s 4. Representing the whole of off-line/ land-based gambling <p>All strategic aims fit into these so need to make sure we deliver for our members. Data development is the hardest element of the strategic aims to deliver.</p>	

	<p>GBG are in the throes of refining a communications strategy that will be relevant and adaptable when speaking with government, with members, with regulators or any other stakeholder group.</p>	
10.	<p><u>GBG Responsible Gambling Charter</u></p> <p>This was launched at ICE – CM stated that we have streamlined some of working groups and have merged the Land Based working group with the GBG Responsible Gambling Group and the first combined meeting is tomorrow. CM has drafted up an audit of where everyone stands against the RG principles in the Charter which will go out to members for completing. This will be discussed tomorrow.</p> <p>The last Newsletter set out the engagement we have with local authorities and police. CM asked if anyone would be prepared to volunteer (themselves or employees) to shadow LA and/or Police Officers during the ‘Licensing week of action’?</p>	
11.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>PT is not available for the next meeting and will ask Elizabeth Speed if she can attend.</p>	
12.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting has been agreed for <u>Monday 3rd July 2023 at 1.00 pm</u> AF will send out has sent out a calendar invite.</p> <p>If the White Paper is published there will be a meeting prior to 3rd July</p> <p>Remainder of dates for 2023 Mon 16th October</p>	

Meeting finished at 15.00