



**Minutes of The Gambling Business Group Limited Board Meeting
on Monday, 13th April 2026 at 1.00 pm at
TLT LLP, 20 Gresham Street, London EC21V 7JE**

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

In attendance: Paul Terroni (Novomatic)
Mark Jepp (Game Nation)
Leo Walker (Evoke Plc)
Lee Gregory (Inseinc)
Mark Stebbings (Inseinc)
Andrew Ludlow (Boomerang Digital)
Vicky Spicer (Light & Wonder)
Nick Jackson (Welcome Break)

Via Teams: Simon Reynolds (Buzz Bingo)

By invitation Dame Caroline Dinenage DBE MP (Chair, Culture, Media & Sport Committee
& Conservative MP for Gosport)
Chris Watson (Culture, Media & Sport Committee)
Dan Waugh (Regulus Partners)

		<u>ACTIONS</u>
1	<u>Welcome & Introductions & Apologies for absence</u> The Chair introduced our Guest speakers, Dame Caroline Dinenage DBE MP, Chris Watson and Dan Waugh and advised that this part of the meeting would be under Chatham House Rules.	
2.	<u>Guest Speaker</u> Dan Waugh - A copy of his presentation will be sent to the Board. Dame Caroline Dinenage - Discussion and Q&A session. CD & CW left the meeting at 2.00 pm	

3.	<u>Minutes of Meeting held on 16th February 2026</u> SS opened the meeting and confirmed that this part would be recorded to help produce the minutes, then deleted. There were no declarations of interest. SS noted that there were no outstanding matters arising from the previous meeting that are not covered under the main agenda. Members did not raise any additional points from the previous meeting at this stage. The Board reflected on the session with Dame Caroline: • Useful engagement, but concerns around limited political traction. • Need to improve our ability to influence and be heard. Strong support for developing a more unified industry voice, particularly through shared data and joint submissions with other trade bodies. PH will thank Dame Caroline, maintain engagement, and explore joint data/evidence work with other trade bodies when the CMS Committee next announces a gambling-related inquiry.	Action PH
4.	<u>Finance & Membership Update</u> PH provided a finance and membership update. ○ Financial position remains on budget at mid-year. ○ Small number of late payers; payment is expected shortly. ○ The following new members have joined GBG (a) Boylesports (b) Bookmakers Technology Consortium (c) Genda Playnation [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
5.	<u>Legislation and Regulation Update</u> • Consultation Responses: GBG has submitted two recent consultation responses, summarized as follows; ○ Regulatory settlements: GBG argued that funds derived from gambling-related settlements should remain within the gambling sector, and suggested they should be added to the funds for tackling illegal gambling. ○ Gambling Commission fee increases: GBG strongly challenged all proposed options, highlighting the significant financial pressures already facing the land-based sector.	

	• GMTS & Bingo & CAT D: ○ The industry is still awaiting the Gambling Commission's next steps on GMTS ○ DCMS responses to its bingo licensing and Cat D consultations are expected in due course, but potentially have been delayed by the GIA work. • Gambling Impact Assessments (GIA): The proposed GIA measures represent a substantial shift in regulatory approach and have been introduced without any consultation. PH/CM outlined the extensive engagement undertaken by GBG, including: - ○ Direct discussions with DCMS officials ○ Working with other trade bodies to lobby DCMS and MHCLG, including instructing a KC to redraft the clauses. The drafting of the proposals was described as fundamentally flawed. Key concerns included: ○ A disproportionate evidential burden on both operators and local authorities ○ The risk of local authorities using weak or incomplete evidence to restrict new premises ○ The effective reintroduction of a demand test in another form ○ The likelihood of increased legal challenges, including appeals and judicial reviews. The Board noted that the Institute of Licensing had expressed similar concerns to DCMS. • The issue is currently being debated in Parliament • Supportive peers have been briefed and are raising concerns • Further opportunities to influence remain at later legislative stages It was also noted that, if passed, implementation would be deferred, until after the Bingo licensing proposals were implemented, and after GIA guidance was consulted on. The Board agreed that a coordinated industry response will be essential, both to influence the legislative process and to respond to any future guidance. Dan Waugh left the meeting at 2.40 pm	
6.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	

	• [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
7.	<u>GBG Strategy Update (paper circulated)</u> A paper was circulated with the agenda. The police engagement with the national police lead was highlighted as particularly positive, with potential for improved response frameworks and operational support.	
8.	<u>Emerging Issues</u> The Board discussed emerging issues, focusing on ongoing fraudulent or exploitative claims linked to compliance requirements such as self-exclusion. The Board reported: • Increasing instances of individuals making claims against operators. • Significant legal and administrative costs • Inconsistent awareness across operators A proposed solution was to strengthen self-exclusion terms and conditions to clarify that responsibility lies with the individual. It was also noted that: • Police involvement in welfare cases has sometimes been effective • Government interest in self-exclusion is increasing, with a round table being organised • The Board supported strengthening self-exclusion frameworks.	
8	<u>AREE 2026</u> CM provided an update on AREE 2026. Plans include: • Five seminar sessions across key topics • Engagement with licensing officers via the Institute of Licensing, which includes an exhibition tour and demonstrations Board members were asked to attend and support the event where possible. PH outlined early plans for AREE 2027, including: • A dedicated betting retail area	

10.	<u>Any Other Business</u> The Board raised: • Safer Gambling Week engagement • Opportunities for collaboration with the Institute of Licensing	
10.	<u>Date of next meeting</u> The next meeting is <u>on Monday, 6th July 2026, at 1:00 pm at TLT</u> The remaining Board Meeting for 2026 is on Monday, 12th October	

The meeting finished at 3.25 pm