

## GBG The Gambling Business Group

**Gambling Business Group Conference Call Held on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 11.00am.**

On the Call;		
Patrick	Hassett	Coral Racing
Peter	Hannibal	GBG
Jim	O'Halleran	INGG
Nick	Harding	Praesepe
Simon	Levingston	RCPA
Rob	Wheeler	Agile Gaming
Tim	Shield	John Gaunt Partners
Rob	Bennett	Astra Gaming
Andy	Dinning	Astra Gaming
Nigel	Kelly	Astra Gaming
David	Webb	INGG
Chris	Robinson	Innoprint
Paul	Rowe	KPMG
Susanna	Fitzgerald	OEC
Barry	Knowles	Playnation
Ashleigh	Lewis	MOTO
Tony	Boulton	Project
Martin	Lagar	Park Dean Resorts

Apologies;		
Nick	Arron	Poppleston Allen
Ewen	MacGregor	Bond Dickinson
Andrew	Cotton	Gordon Dadds
Stephen	McGowan	TLT
Mark	Edmundson	GeWeTe
Simon	Reynolds	Gala Coral Group

1. Welcome & Introduction. Nick Harding opened up the call and welcomed everyone.
2. Outstanding points from previous meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> ;
  - a. Point 2.a. Rank & Greene King are still engaged with the GBG but not yet agreed to join as members.
  - b. Point 2.c. Whilst there is still no target date for the next Triennial Review, September has been floated as a possibility. Tracy Crouch is due back from maternity leave later in the summer which may make a difference.
  - c. Now that the Website is up and running members are invited to write blogs on issues that they feel strongly about.

- d. The only other point that is not on today's agenda is the letter that we received from Sarah Harrison in response to ours regarding over-regulation and their failure to produce any evidence to support their proposals. It was agreed that any further exchange of letters would be counter-productive. Whilst we may not have received the exact response that we would have liked, our message does appear to be being heard and the Commission's next actions will indicate whether we have had any influence. It was then agreed that we would continue the dialogue verbally through meetings and relationships. This can be reviewed again at a later date.
3. Membership Review. PH reminded the call that whilst consolidation continued to happen in the UK it continues to have a direct impact on the number of individual members. The GBG, as is its brief, is balancing the income to expenditure but that is coming under increasing pressure. There is the possibility of new members joining the group and everyone is asked to identify potential members accordingly. Also being considered is a 'group' rate for those with more than one entity. The alternative and last resort is to increase subscriptions across the whole structure. PH to advise and keep everyone informed.
  4. MSG Updates;
    - a. TiTO & Cashless Strategy. Next pieces to set out are the AML functions and a data transport encryption layer to improve the security of comms. The next stages of the development roadmap have been discussed by operators. There are cost implications to move things forward from here and it was unanimously agreed that the GBG should continue developing the protocols to keep pace with industry requirements.
    - b. Games Developer forum. This forum is to agree an aligned interpretation of machine regulations and standards with the objective of preventing any unnecessary additional regulations being imposed – effectively a form of self-regulation. The desire to have this forum in place has been met with unanimous approval across the Industry and the first meeting is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup>.
  5. Government;
    - a. PH explained the background to the GBG's pending request to remove the credit-transfer requirements for UK gaming machines, principally to allow effective AML functions. Initial discussions with the GC have proved constructive and on their part, not unexpected.
    - b. Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) have asked that the GBG consider forming a panel of Industry Experts from all stakeholder groups, in partnership with the BRDO, to look at ways of making improvements to gambling regulation. It is early days but the request is very positive and a result of the work we have been doing with BIS, BRDO and the DCMS.
    - c. 4th AMLD. There is no progress to report with this as HMT have yet to start their consultation process, now running 7 months behind the original plan. Andrew Cotton is concerned that as the 'go-live' date is unlikely to change, the delay puts more pressure on the preparation and implementation periods.

- d. CMS Select Committee. In the light of Sarah Harrison's response, the increasing volume of changes to gambling regulations and the inability to innovate, the GBG have requested a meeting with the Chair of the DCMS Select Committee to bring these issues to their attention.
6. The Gambling Commission;
    - a. Following up on Sarah Harrison attending the last GBG meeting, PH & JOH have now met with Sharon McNair. The meeting was both positive and constructive but is just the beginning of the new GBG/GC relationship. PH has also taken part in the GC research reviewing their relationship effectiveness with stakeholders. It is clear that SH is taking a look at all aspects of the GCs work and we await the outcomes with interest. Further meetings have been arranged with Sharon McNair and with Sarah Harrison.
    - b. There is no news on the Commission's response to the consultation on where gaming machines may be played. PH to chase SMcN.
    - c. PH alerted the call to another change indicator from the commission in that there is more encouragement from the GC for the Industry to self-regulate. This is in the light of the items in Point 4 above and other areas of regulations and laws that are less than clear. The GC have offered to add industry agreed best practices and guidelines to their website where appropriate.
  7. Responsible Gambling.
    - a. The RGSB has now released the new Responsible Gambling Strategy for the next three years. PH met with the RGSB team yesterday and confirmed that the GBG will be supporting IGRG where appropriate. Further details about the cost to deliver the strategy and then its funding have still to be resolved.
    - b. CSR work stream. PH updated the meeting on progress and that the next stage is to check/confirm that our direction of travel at least satisfies the criticisms made of the Industry by Philip Graf. It is also intended that the accreditation be included as support for annual assurance statements.
    - c. RGT. The meeting acknowledged that the Charities Commission has given RGT a clean bill of health following complaints by Think Gambling. Nick Harding confirmed the appointment of Kate Lampard as the new Chair and that Neil Goulden has now left.
    - d. IGRG. PH has met with John Hagan the new Chair of IGRG and agreed that GBG will support their endeavours where we can. It is likely that the deliverables identified as 'for the industry' in the RG Strategy will all be channelled via IGRG.
  8. Other business;
    - a. PH gave a brief overview of the recent 'Future of Gambling Series of Seminars' organised by the All Party Parliamentary Betting and Gambling Group. The last of the seminars is entitled 'The Future of RET into Problem Gambling' being held on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

- b. There was a brief discussion around recent negative media coverage and the new APPG for FOBTs. The meeting also recognised that there is a BBC Panorama program along similar lines expected to be aired in September.
- c. Next meetings;
  - i. July 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am. Nick Harding requested that this be another conference call and brought forward to 10.30am due to the busy holiday period.
  - ii. September 16<sup>th</sup> to then be a meeting. Venue tbc.
- d. Andy Dinning referred the meeting back to the Point 4 and suggested that we should consider having a “GBG Endorsed” logo to support documents that had been through the approval process. AD to provide some examples (attached).