



**GBG Zoom Meeting held on
Thursday 23rd July 2020 at 1.00 pm**

In attendance

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| Peter Hannibal (GBG) | Brian Jamson (Roadchef) |
| Amanda Fry (GBG) | Lee Morton (Scientific Games) |
| Joanne Craig (Blueprint Gaming) | Tez Field (William Hill) |
| Alan Humble (Crane PI) | Byron Evans |
| Mark Edmundson (GeWeTe) | Tony Eyre |
| Howard Gant (IHL) | David Lucas |
| Elizabeth Speed (Luxury Leisure) | |
| Nigel Kelly (Novomatic) | |
| Andrew Ludlow (NRM Group) | |
| Anthony Boulton | |
| Steve Brownlow (Reflex Gaming) | |

		<u>ACTIONS</u>
1	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>PH welcomed everyone to the update meeting. Apologies were noted.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Matters brought forward from the last meeting</u></p> <p>AF circulated the website links for NEXSTART</p> <p>PH advised that regarding the 20% rule guidance it is still in a draft format as there are a couple of points that need clarification with John White before it is complete.</p>	
3.	<p><u>New Issues</u></p> <p><u>Machines in Scotland</u></p> <p>With just 24 hours notice the Scottish Government (SG) has made a ‘U’ turn and notified everyone that machines cannot be operated yet following new advice from their scientist. PH advised that there has been a lot of deliberation about whether the Scottish Government have the powers to stop machines being used.</p> <p>But the main problem for AGCs and FECs is that the amended regulations to allow arcades and other venues to reopen was not actually laid, so all they have done is to defer that amendment.</p>	

	<p>In terms of pubs there is still a question mark over whether the COVID regulations overrides the pubs automatic entitlement to two machines which is currently being debated.</p> <p>Different to AGCs and FECs, Pubs and LBOs were already open so the U turn circumstances are slightly different. We will advise developments as they emerge.</p> <p><u>Devolved powers to LA's to close/restrict businesses</u></p> <p>PH circulated a note over the weekend that was followed by the helpful note from Ewen MacGregor raising awareness of the new devolved powers to Local Authorities to close or restrict businesses. The changes give LA's quite wide ranging powers and there is concern that they can be (mis)interpreted in many different ways. There is much concern about how this new legislation may be used and the implications therein.</p> <p>DL advised that NEXSTART has produced a document which is available on their website. We need to monitor the situation and any examples/experiences/references that people can share with us would be much appreciated</p>	
4.	<p><u>General Updates</u></p> <p><u>NEXSTART</u></p> <p>PH advised that one of the main issues NEXSTART have been dealing with is guidance v regulation and the varying interpretation of them. There has also been some changes to the Use Classes Regulations to give High Streets the flexibility to respond more quickly to changes. A new Class E Commercial and Other Use has been created which incorporates all of Class A and some of Class D. Betting shops and casinos will remain in Sui Generis.</p> <p>DL advised that they have taken the opportunity to move Bingo into Sui Generis and make sure all gambling premises are now covered by the same class use. Sui Generis does not have the flexibility to move from one class to the other. There is a very helpful note on this on the NEXSTART website. Pubs and clubs have also been moved to Sui Generis so their use similarly can't be changed easily.</p> <p>Nick Jackson was on the NEXSTART call and he mentioned that they had an EHO visit at their services in Gloucester under the guise of a Covid Security Audit. They reviewed the whole site and the only comment that came back was questioning how a customer knows if a table has been cleaned.</p> <p><u>Members</u></p> <p>There were no other issues raised by members</p>	

	<p><u>Casinos Reopening</u></p> <p>PH advised that there was a meeting held last week at the Hippodrome with DCMS and the Cabinet Office present where the casino sector demonstrated their Covid precautions which went well leading to casinos reopening on 1st August in England. Casinos are expecting to be operating at about a third capacity. European Casinos who are already open are reporting good recovery at 80% of where they were before Covid.</p> <p><u>Recap on latest reopening dates</u></p> <p>PH advised that pubs in Wales are already open outdoors but can open indoors from 3rd August.</p> <p>There is no date yet for bingo or casinos opening in Scotland</p> <p>GR – the only query he has is around gaming centres in Wales and the assumption is it could be 3rd August but are still waiting confirmation. The holiday parks gaming areas are what we are waiting clarity on. The theme park areas in Wales are all open</p>	
5.	<p><u>Ongoing Matters</u></p> <p><u>Games Design Consultation</u></p> <p>PH advised that we have a current consultation with the Gambling Commission on Games Design. Following the email PH sent out last week on the Games Design Consultation there has been very little reaction from members. PH has concerns about that consultation that need to be discussed. Therefore a Zoom call will be set up so anyone who has an interest please let AF know so she can make the arrangements.</p> <p>DL advised that on a webinar on Monday Neil McArthur outlined the Commission’s current priorities and No. 1 was Responsible Games Design. AB advised that the consultation is for online but there will be an inevitable migration into the land based sector. We do need to be very cautious about the implications. The Commission seem to be treating this as a major priority and it is a question of how far it goes and how much it affects land based designs going forward.</p> <p>PH asked what the other priorities from Neil McArthur. DL advised he had 4 which were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responsible Games Design 2. Incentivisation of VIP’s 3. Use of Ad Tech 4. Affordability of knowing your customer <p>DL advised that Andrew Tate from Ince was on the call who raised ‘collaboration’ and it is important that there was collaboration between the Commission and operators and Brigid Simmonds supported that. Neil McArthur responded with ‘The Commission are very keen to find ways to collaborate and give guidance’ and the example that he gave was ‘taking a team to Malta and organising workshops in Malta’</p>	AF

	<p><u>Further discussions on the removal of debit card prohibition</u></p> <p>PH reminded members of the discussions about the demise of cash in some venues, particularly pubs. The casino sector has been doing quite a lot of work with the Gambling Commission on allowing contactless transactions at tables and on their terminals and they seem to be making good progress. Bacta have also had a conversation internally about removing the prohibition on debit cards from the Gambling Act. Yesterday we had a joint meeting to discuss the potential of working together on this however each group needs to define what they want from this change in regulation, which we are working on now. The red herring is the over use of the words 'debit' and 'cards'. The goal is to modernise payment methods on machines in line with the rest of commerce in the country.</p> <p>There is another meeting next week to regroup and share thoughts again. PH will keep members posted on how things progress</p> <p>AB advised that the purpose of the call was that there is a casino working group, Bacta had a working group, GBG had a working group all trying to achieve the end result, which is a lot of duplication. If we could work together as one group it would give us a greater chance of success.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Any other Business</u></p> <p>AB asked where we are with lobbying in the reduction of MGD. PH advised that last time we drafted that letter for members on the back of AB's letter to the Treasury it was a generic letter. The GBG do not have a consensus among members that the industry should be lobbying for a reduction in MGD.</p> <p>DL advised that the Business and Planning Bill received Royal Assent yesterday so it is now an Act. If a business includes the sale of food and drink there is the ability to apply for a pavement licence. Those gambling premises that have alcohol licences if they are on-licences only, provided they are not disqualified, they have an automatic right now to make off-sales</p>	
6	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>PH advised that there is a clash with diaries next Thursday and Friday so it was agreed we would have the next meeting on Friday 7th August at 12.00 pm. Anything urgent in the meantime will be notified accordingly. AF will send out a calendar invite.</p>	AF

Meeting finished at 1.25 pm