

## GBG The Gambling Business Group

**Gambling Business Group Meeting Held on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 11.00am.**

**Venue; Gordon Dadds Offices, Agar Street London.**

In attendance; Nick Harding - Chair Joanne Craig – Blue Print Games Peter Hannibal – GBG Graham Roberts – Inspired Tony Boulton – Project Steve Bierum – Genesis Games Will Hawkley - KPMG Lee Morton – SG Games	Guests; Mike Kenward – Gamcare Paul Carpenter - Gamcare  Apologies; Susanna FitzGerald – OEC Law Nick Arron – Poppleston Allen
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1. Nick welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular today's guests from Gamcare, Mike Kenward and Paul Carpenter. Apologies were noted.
2. Peter introduced the first point on the agenda which was a presentation of the new Gamcare Safer Gambling Standard for Operators. This document started out as a GBG RG Accreditation project in conjunction with Gamcare but has now evolved into this document – distributed to members separately. GBG Members are welcome to contact Gamcare direct with feedback or input as the document will evolve over time. Mike and Paul left the meeting after their presentation which had the following key points;
  - a. Strong focus on customer information and profiling.
  - b. The main purpose is the gambling consumer.
  - c. 30% of weighting is on corporate culture towards social responsibilities.
  - d. Designed to encourage operators to aim for the gold standard.
  - e. Gamcare are looking to acquire an accreditation status.
  - f. Heather Wardle is joining the accreditation panel.
  - g. Part of the audit is to test that what is said is actually being done.
  - h. 30 x operators have the current Gamcare standard.
  - i. MK to circulate the RET criteria for input.
  - j. PH to share Mike's email address - [Mike.Kenward@gamcare.org.uk](mailto:Mike.Kenward@gamcare.org.uk)
3. Last meeting actions and matters brought forwards. There are 4 points that have been included in today's agenda. Otherwise there was nothing else to bring forwards.
4. Gambling Commission;

- a. Tracked Play on Cat B machines. The meeting discussed the current approach to identifying players at risk of gambling related harm. If mandatory player tracking is not the answer, what is? There was a suggestion that new products should be introduced with;
    - i. More flexible stakes
    - ii. Larger prizes
    - iii. Mandatory player tracking.
  - b. This year's GC annual conference is intended to be a smaller affair with far less people and a focus on Licence Holders.
5. Government. Nick gave the meeting an overview of the 2018 Conservative and Labour Party conferences;
  - a. Tory – Lots of talk about FOBTs. Expect B2 £2 implementation in Q3 2019 in conjunction with an increase in Remote Gambling Duty. However, the conference was dominated almost entirely by Brexit.
  - b. Labour. Talked of a 'whistle to whistle' ban on TV advertising for betting products. 1% of GGY for RET. New rules for banks to stop addicts using 7995 (gambling) merchant code with their cards/bank accounts. Ban credit card usage for gambling completely.
6. Responsible Gambling.
  - a. The meeting discussed the GBG letter to the DCMS Minister and her reply to the request for transparency with Voluntary Settlements and the subsequent RET funding. We now need to see her words put into action by the Gambling Commission.
  - b. Peter raised the upcoming rewriting of the National Responsible Gambling Strategy due to be completed by March 2019. This job has now been adopted by the Gambling Commission and may therefore take on a very different complexion.
  - c. There is increasing concern over the direction of travel by Gamble Aware. They now appear to be championing their own independent agenda and the GC has also stated separately that we have become too dependent upon Gamble Aware for research and treatment provision. NH/PH to pick up with Brigid Simmons regarding her trusteeship.
7. The Gambling Expert Group (GEG). PH again asked for new regulatory issues to take to the GEG meetings. It was suggested that a group of operators form a working group to identify where improvements would be beneficial. Action – PH to set up a working group to start things off.
8. AOB;

- a. SB raised increasing concerns that card & cashless payments are predicted to exceed cash by June 2019 and are already doing so in many parts of retail. This will only be accelerated by the planned removal of some ATMs from the high streets. There is little hope that legislation will be changed to remove the prohibition of debit cards with machines any time soon. In the meantime the industry is developing alternative payment methods via ATRs, cash desks and Smartphone apps.
- b. AB suggested that the industry should consider going back to the DCMS (now that the B2 issue is in the process of being resolved) to ask when we should be able to talk about other changes.
- c. Date of next meeting. With this meeting being changed from a conference call it was agreed that the November meeting will not be necessary so the next meeting is January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Gordon Dadds.