

GBG The Gambling Business Group

**Gambling Business Group Meeting Held
on Wednesday 23rd January 2019 at 11.00am.**

Venue: Gordon Dadds, 6 Agar Street, London WC2N 4HN.

In attendance:-

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| Nick Harding | - | Chair |
| Peter Hannibal | - | CEO |
| Amanda Fry | - | GBG |
| Steve Brownlow | - | Blueprint Machines |
| Mike Douglas | - | Buzz Bingo |
| Steve Bierrum | - | Genesis Games |
| Andrew Cotton | - | Gordon Dadds |
| Graham Roberts | - | Inspired |
| Chris Grunert | - | John Gaunt |
| Simon Reynolds | - | Ladbrokes |
| Wayne Forster | - | Moto |
| Elizabeth Speed | - | Novomatic |
| Tony Boulton | - | Project |
| Simon Levingston | - | RCPA |
| Lee Morton | - | SG Games |
| Susanna Fitzgerald | | |

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Nick welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Amanda Fry who will be taking the notes at all meetings from now. Apologies were noted.

2. **Previous Meeting Notes and Actions**

PH advised that he has put together a Gambling Expert Group and will be holding a meeting on Monday 25th February 2019 at 11.00 am at TLT.

SL advised that there is a glimmer of hope in relation to employing U18's at race tracks. DCMS are looking to resurrect this. In the 2008 statement made to LACORS this was not an issue, but the document was not widely circulated. The LGA can get access to LACORS website to resurrect the statement that ratify that operators would not be pursued if they employed U18's in non-gambling roles. SF asked if it could be found in the BISL archives. NH advised that we do need to resolve this.

3. **National Responsible Gambling Strategy rewrite**

PH advised that there is a discussion document out there and 3 webinars have been diarised, one today, one tomorrow and one on the 29th January which are interactive.

There is also a short introductory video on You Tube. The industry element is the last part of the strategy.

NH advised that it appears to be the intention to pension off RSGB and have something controlled more directly by the Gambling Commission

4. **The Changing Landscape with Responsible Gambling**

PH advised that this has been previously discussed.

5. **Should Pub operators be upping their SR game**

AC advised that the worst offenders can be hotel operators where the bar is closed at breakfast but machines are still in use and unsupervised.

PH advised that test purchases were done last week in Marstons and M&B pubs and they all failed. The BBPA and UK Hospitality have been written to by the GC suggesting that if things don't improve quickly, regulations will be changed so that pub operators will need a gaming licence, which would presumably be reviewed on a site by site basis

AC advised that the training material used by everyone is no longer relevant as it is based on the 68 Act – ideally, it needs to be part of the personal licence with ongoing staff training.

PH advised he had a discussion on this at EAG last week and the pub machine managers are very aware of this but cannot agree on how to fix it.

SF left the meeting at 1202

AC advised that the location of machines should be near to the bar area where they can be effectively supervised. The LA can of course remove the automatic entitlement by site and the Secretary of State is keeping a close eye on this problem

6. **Industry response to mandatory tracked play suggestions and rumoured research**

PH advised that this has been covered off earlier in the meeting but the concern is that we have not got anywhere regarding alternative proposals in the last 12 months, there are 6 upcoming consultations listed on the GC website, one of which is expected to be about tracked play.

7. **Reactions to emerging B3 roulette products**

PH advised that he received an email from a GBG member regarding new B3 roulette games as follows:-

An urgent issue is the emerging B3 roulette games that are appearing in arcades and are at risk of appearing in Bingo and LBOs from April. The nature of the structures of these games could be an absolute disaster for the whole industry:

- causing further damage to an already poor reputation that the industry has with Government, Regulators and other stakeholders.

- bringing further attention on to the Cat B3 products that are the life blood for most retail businesses

BACTA and ABB have been spoken to and also conversations directly with most operators. His strong view is that we should urgently seek an industry wide agreement that any cat B roulette game should have a max stake of £2. Also, any pre-gamble or gamble feature should not use roulette imagery. Without this we risk a Regulatory backlash should these emerging products appear in the high street.

NH is pressing for a moratorium in the industry in about 12 months to let the B2 demise settle first.

TB advised that these products are legal and under review with a paper coming out at the end of February which DCMS have to sign off. The danger is that formal legal interpretation is once the winner is able to collect the game is over, which would kill most machine products if enforced. This is still very live with the Commission. The GC looked at Spin Roulette and do not have a problem with this.

PH advised that the GBG did seek a legal opinion last year which confirmed that gamble features were carried across from the 68 Act to the 2005 Act. But this issue is not so much about game compliance as they all appear to conform, this is about the industries reputation, particularly in the wake of the anti B2 campaigns.

PH advised that BACTA have a meeting tomorrow about B3 roulette.

TB advised that the Commission are going to write to anyone interested in B3 roulette but will hold the letter for a couple of weeks so we could discuss it, they have given us until ICE to see if we can come up with a sensible solution, if not there will be a formal letter going out. ES advised they are simply reissuing a letter from 2014 that has already been sent and are just updating it.

AC advised that there has been a press release about GC not attending ICE which he produced at the meeting, which everyone is bewildered by

AC advised there have been ongoing meetings with Clarion and the GC. NH asked if we need to have a meeting with Neil McCarthy and should we write a letter of concern about the GC not attending ICE. NH advised that the machines department at GC is under resourced, with only Nigel Owen in situ.

8. **Any Other Business**

AC advised that he met with an age verification company who are meeting with the GC the first week in February. Before anyone gambles they will need to provide their full name, date of birth and email address. The 72 days grace will disappear. They are removing the entitlement to rely on a credit card so every person has to be age verified.

SR advised he was at the GC last week and they are starting to focus on terrorism AML which should be on everyone's risk assessment. A slide will be coming out from the GC which came out of the FATIF inspection.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

Conference call on **Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 11.00 am**

AC advised that Gordon Dadds are moving offices and he will check the facilities there to see if they can still host our meetings

Meeting finished at 1230.