

GBG Zoom Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd June 2020 at 11.00 pm

In attendance

Peter Hannibal (GBG)
Amanda Fry (GBG)
Joanne Craig (Blueprint Gaming)
Stuart Green (Game Nation)
Mark Edmundson (GeWeTe)
Simon Reynolds (GVC Group)
Sophie Dean (GVC Group)
Howard Gant (IHL)
Andy Bullock (Innovative Technology)
Lee Jefferson (Inseinc)
Graham Roberts (Inseinc)
Elizabeth Speed (Novomatic)

Andrew Ludlow (NRM Group)

David Lucas

Ian Fuller (Playsafe)
Steve Brownlow (Reflex Gaming)
Rob Wheeler (Rimini Systems)
Tracy Baitup (Roadchef)
Brian Jamson (Roadchef)
Lee Morton (Scientific Games)
Wayne Ellard (SG Gaming)
Ewen MacGregor (TLT)
Nick Jackson (Welcome Break)
Dave Newman (Welcome Break)
Tez Field (William Hill)
Graham Glanfield
Tony Eyre

		<u>ACTIONS</u>
1	Welcome and Introduction	
	PH welcomed everyone to the update meeting.	
2.	Update from last meeting	
	20% Cat B Entitlement	
	PH advised that he circulated the note sent to Edward Mellors. In the event we do have any form of pragmatism around the 20% rule during social distancing it will be a golden opportunity for us to evidence that a change in the ratios of B3 machines does or doesn't causing additional problems, effectively a live test. We don't yet know what those measurements need to be or what we need to record but asked members to give it some thought and feedback comments Byron Evans (who sent his apologies for this meeting) made the following comments.	
	The only way we can currently measure any changes is to compare the numbers of self-exclusions, customer interactions and gambling related incidents during the period. If we do it everyone should partake in it because the Gambling Commission are likely to only accept the findings if every operator takes part.	

PH asked members to give this some thought and feedback to him. PH will also have a chat with Ray Stone who collates all the information for bingo and LBO's.

Graham Roberts – utilisation of B3 terminals, perhaps if we can demonstrate increasing sessions in parallel with flat or declining self-exclusions.

Arcades and the Government interpretation

Arcades and LBO's were listed as non-essential retail and can operate from 15th June, however there was some confusion about FEC's being included in arcades. A further document has come out 'Staying Alert and Social Distancing' and within it there is a reference to other businesses and venues which states:-

For the time being certain other businesses and venues are required by law to stay closed to the public subject to the limited exceptions, these include; restaurants and cafes etc.. and indoor and outdoor leisure facilities such as bowling alleys, gyms, arcades and soft play facilities.

PH has asked DCMS to clarify that point and the non-essential retail one as well. They have verbally said that one is about FEC's and the other is about AGC's but we have asked for this in writing.

Action PH

Scotland & Wales

PH advised that nothing has come from either devolved Government about re-opening AGC's or LBO's yet. Scotland is running 3 weeks behind England on everything however there might be an announcement from the First Minister later on today.

Wales look to be running 4-6 weeks behind England and have not very empathetic about gambling to date.

Peter concluded the update and asked if there are any questions.

Elizabeth Speed – you asked for clarification on FEC's but have you asked for clarification on High Street Bingos? PH advised that he has not asked for this however, Andrew Ludlow understands from the Bingo Association that they are trying to seek the clarification required in relation to AGC's with bingo licences.

Howard Gant advised he spoke to Miles yesterday and he was under the impression that they have had it agreed that Bingo licences with AGC's will be opening. Elizabeth spoke to Miles this morning and advised that he had no confirmation from anyone. PH thought the confusion may have come from a verbal dialogue say H St bingo is included but it has not yet been confirmed in writing.

Graham Roberts asked if there is any progress on comments around the 2 metre rule. PH advised that we have not seen anything on this and UK Hospitality are campaigning hard to get that 2 metres reduced to 1m.

David Lucas advised that he spoke to Edward Mellors last Friday and he confirmed that he had put forward the views expressed in the note, which did not get any response at the meeting but they took it on board.

David Lucas also advised that it is the definition of Bingo Halls where the difficulty lies

Andrew Ludlow – Miles is trying to create some level of distinction between Bingo Halls and bingo extra's which are on the High Street. Ewen Macgregor advised that there was a distinction between large supermarkets and the Express stores which was done on square footage and maybe a similar approach maybe adopted here

3. Feedback from NEXSTART Meeting

PH advised that we have a NEXSTART Meeting on Thursday where we will raise the clarification about Arcades and the potential implications on site visits/inspections.

David Lucas emphasised how useful and important NEXSTART can be for dealing with practical issues. At an earlier meeting a scenario was discussed where take-aways from pubs were prompting some police officers to wrongly take action against those pubs. NEXSTART then engaged with a number of Associations and have put together a guidance note to explain a practical way of interpreting the regulations. If we get the same issues in relation to gambling premises when they open then NEXSTART will be a very useful platform to get appropriate advice out there quickly.

PH advised that if the DCMS don't supply that clarification in writing about Arcades and FEC's we might have to take it up via NEXSTART.

PH advised that we circulated a slide presentation which was Inspired's first draft of a 'Back to Work for Staff' protocol. The UK Hospitality and BBPA document was all about getting venues back open again, but the gambling machines and pool tables side of it was very light. John White has this morning confirmed that BACTA have put together a protocol for machines which we will hopefully see in the next couple of days.

Simon Reynolds asked if there has been any information on the age verification test purchase programmes as to whether they have to carry on or if they be stopped for a while. PH advised that we are waiting for the Gambling Commission to come back at our meeting on Thursday.

The next update meeting is on Friday 5th June at 11.00 am.