



**GBG Zoom Meeting held on
Friday 5th June 2020 at 11.00 pm**

In attendance

Peter Hannibal (GBG)	Brian Jamson (Roadchef)
Amanda Fry (GBG)	Lee Morton (Scientific Games)
David Purvis (Blueprint Gaming)	Wayne Ellard (SG Gaming)
Stuart Green (Game Nation)	Ewen MacGregor (TLT)
Mark Edmundson (GeWeTe)	Dave Newman (Welcome Break)
Sophie Dean (GVC Group)	Nick Jackson (Welcome Break)
Andy Bullock (Innovative Technology)	Tez Field (William Hill)
Gary Pearson (ITL)	Graham Glanfield
Andrew Ludlow (NRM Group)	Tony Eyre
Steve Brownlow (Reflex Gaming)	Byron Evans
Tracy Baitup (Roadchef)	David Lucas

		<u>ACTIONS</u>
1	<p><u>Welcome and Introduction</u></p> <p>PH welcomed everyone to the update meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Update from last meeting</u></p> <p>Everyone is aware about what is happening with regard to reopening betting shops and high street arcades on June 15th. We have had some clarification from DCMS that FEC's are not included. Casinos, Bingo Halls and Seaside Arcades are all planned for opening on 4th July.</p> <p>The casino sector has the protocols in place to open on 4th July – the high roller casinos are going to struggle with the quarantine restrictions for foreign visitors so may not open on 4th July.</p> <p>There is still some ambiguity over the High Street bingo status. The intention is for them to be included with the AGC's but as some parts of the industry have asked for written confirmation the DCMS are now struggling to conclude the wording. We should hear something very soon.</p> <p>Scotland are expected to publish guidance on 18th June for the tourism and hospitality businesses laying out the steps they will be required to take in order to re-open.</p> <p><u>Polymer Bank Notes</u></p> <p>Mark Edmundson advised that the basic information on the website was that polymer notes are no different to plastic. Andy Bullock added that</p>	

	<p>there are various comments online saying between 2-3 days and up to 7 days on plastic – there are also cards and pin pads to consider and if someone has exceeded their daily amount on contactless they have to insert the card their finger contacts the pin pad.</p> <p>Tony Eyre – in terms on hygiene on PDQ's would it not be possible to use cling film as that is used for a first aid for burns victims as it is sterile. Mark Edmundson – it is certainly an option but you will need someone there to manage it and replace it every time.</p> <p>Polymer notes seem to be better because they don't absorb like paper notes and hopefully we are not too far off getting a £20 polymer note rolled out more widely. The £50 note is still in paper form which is due in 2021 to become a polymer note but this date could potentially be brought forward due to the situation.</p> <p>Mark asked PH if GBG will circulate the links.</p> <p>Following the meeting below are a few links including "Paper vs Cotton". What's clear is that touching pin pads etc. typically carries far more risk than Cash itself.</p> <p>https://www.centralbanking.com/central-banks/currency/7509046/will-cash-survive-covid-19</p> <p>https://lendedu.com/blog/dirty-money-credit-cards/</p> <p>https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8343725/CDC-says-virus-does-not-spread-easily-contaminated-surfaces.html</p> <p>https://www.finextra.com/newsarticle/35578/covid-19-cash-and-the-future-of-payments</p>	PH
3.	<p><u>Feedback from NEXSTART Meeting</u></p> <p>PH advised that we had a NEXSTART meeting yesterday which was quite intense. The Gambling Commission are engaged in the process but they don't seem to be very empathetic towards the industry.</p> <p>We raised the issue of Test Purchasing and whether that can be carried out effectively during social distancing. We talked about interventions and that it will be difficult to carry out a confidential intervention with a customer at 2 metres. The Local Authorities are asking for guidance from the Commission on their own inspections and how they might be carried out. We also asked the Gambling Commission for their views on how we might be pragmatic about the 20% rule for Category B.</p> <p>Their overall response to all the issues was if you can't operate compliantly with your LCCP, COVID-19 and social distancing you should not be open.</p> <p>The GC representative on the call yesterday was receptive to what the industry is going through and what our challenges are so he has taken those back and his written to the Gambling Commission Exec Group with</p>	

	<p>all of these points expressing how urgent it is as it is only about 9 days until we open again.</p> <p>David Lucas added – the 20% rule was discussed at the GC Exec team and there is no change but the GC representative will go back again to see if there is any movement.</p> <p>Test purchasing – as far as the GC are concerned all the LCCP requirements continue and they have spoken to Serve Legal who do a lot of work with operators and Serve Legal will risk assess every piece of work that they do before they commit to doing any test purchase exercises</p> <p>LA inspections – the feedback we were getting from the Local Authority representative yesterday was it is not a high priority but will be down to individual risk assessment by the licensing authority. Interventions and self-exclusions are both LCCP requirements.</p> <p>FAQ's are still being worked on by the GC.</p> <p>There is going to be a letter from Neil McArthur which will be sent out next week to all land based operators who will be opening from 15th June and 4th July about the expectations of the Commission going forward in relation to gambling.</p> <p>Elizabeth Speed asked what is the content of the letter from Neil McArthur. David Lucas advised that one of the things the GC representative did say earlier in the meeting was the expectation that any High Street Bingo operators would have to comply with all their LCCP conditions, which could be the basis of the letter.</p> <p>PH - we asked what might be in this FAQ document and the GC are still not in a position to tell us yet.</p> <p>PH advised that if the GC do not offer any pragmatism it leaves us 2 options within the NEXSTART group. We could produce our own Q&A's to help guide operators to make sure they don't break the law or secondly, we have still got the option of escalating this through the Task Force.</p> <p>David Lucas advised that Jason Frost was going to speak to Edward Mellors to get an update following the meeting that the Task Force had on Wednesday but the feedback from Edward was that the Task Force have referred the 20% rule to a Working Group within the Task Force.</p> <p>PH advised that there could be 8 Working Groups for the DCMS remit and one of those is picking up the Gambling matters.</p> <p>Elizabeth Speed advised that they released the details of the Working Groups last night and below is the link. In the Visitor Economy Group that is linked to us there is not one organisation with any gambling remit.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/cultural-renewal-taskforce-and-supporting-working-groups</p>	
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	<p><u>Other issues</u></p> <p>PH does anyone have any other points or issues.</p> <p>David Lucas attended an OPSS meeting and they were talking about the guidance they are producing. The guidance that has been published so far for those sectors that have opened is high level and very repetitive. Any guidance we do get for the Gambling sector is going to be high level and the emphasis from them was that it is down to every business to do their own risk assessments to make sure they are safe environments. We will probably get an idea from the pubs and restaurants guidance when that becomes available which is anytime.</p> <p>PH asked what is the position on Pubs? DL advised that the date for pubs is 4th July at the earliest. Social distancing rules for most pubs is not possible at 2m so what they are looking at is to open outside areas where they could manage social distancing. So this could be in stages.</p> <p>DL advised that BACTA are producing some guidance for the operation of machines in pubs.</p> <p>Graham Roberts advised that there are some pubs hoping to open on the 4th July given Government guidance, so there is an expectation that pubs will be opening. But there are some concerns around the square footage in some of the venues which will not open.</p> <p>DL advised that there is a template on Gov.uk that you can display in your premises with a 5 point note saying you are Covid safe</p> <p>PH advised BGC have produced a casino protocol and there is one for LBO's. There is a concern that the trade protocol may get adopted as a standard, which will not suit everyone.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>The next update meeting is on Tuesday 9th June at 1.30 pm</p>	