

GBG Zoom Meeting held on Thursday 9th July 2020 at 12.30 pm

In attendance

Peter Hannibal (GBG)
Amanda Fry (GBG)
Joanne Craig (Blueprint Gaming)
Alan Humble (Crane PI)
Lee Jefferson (Inseinc)
Paul Comer (Moto)
Nigel Kelly (Novomatic)
Elizabeth Speed (Novomatic)
Nigel Davis (Praesepe)
Steve Brownlow (Reflex Gaming)

Rob Wheeler (Rimini)
Brian Jamson (Roadchef)
Tracy Baitup (Roadchef)
Lee Morton (Scientific Games)
Wayne Ellard (Scientific Games)
Tez Field (William Hill)
David Lucas
Byron Evans
Graham Glanfield
Tony Eyre

		<u>ACTIONS</u>
1	Introduction and Apologies	
	PH welcomed everyone to the update meeting. Apologies were noted.	
2.	Actions and matters to bring forward from the last meeting	
	PH asked DL if we could pick up the point with Steve Brownlow in the Nexstart update	
	PH – Guidance documents were both circulated including Cat B 20% rule and we will pick that up later in the agenda	
3.	Updates from the Group	
	<u>NEXSTART</u>	
	PH advised that there is an item later on the agenda about Devon & Cornwall Police guidance that has come out which was pretty unhelpful as it was advising operators not to bother with machines if it will cause them more risk assessment issues, darts and pool should not be played in pubs. Very negative advice that contradicted the guidance coming out from the industry. In response NEXSTART produced a set of FAQ's explaining that Government advice says you should risk assess your machines, pool tables and make decisions to operate them locally.	
	Group J which is the Gambling Group are going to produce a note specifically on pool tables so there is a consistent interpretation on how they should be operated.	

PH advised that NEXSTART have launched their own website which will be going public shortly. The intention is that the FAQ's and guidance for the whole hospitality sector will be available on that website. DL advised that the NEXSTART website will have a library for people to access information or be sign posted to where you can find it.

PH asked AF to circulate the website address for NEXSTART when it becomes available.

ΑF

Jason Frost raised an emerging issue about Fairgrounds in that the only Government guidance that has come out in March is that they should be closed. There has not been any follow up guidance for Local Authorities about when they can/do open as technically they could be open from 4th July – there is a guidance gap from Government which NEXSTART are going to see if they can pick up.

PH advised that we are continually updating FAQ's and we are going to be adding Track & Trace guidance.

The Gambling Commission has agreed to put links on their website to the various sector guidance for re-opening.

Summary from around the Industry

PH reported that regarding LBO's, FEC's AGC's and Bingo there is nothing to report on compliance or regulation apart from some issues with the 20% rule.

The feedback from LBO's is that gaming business has recovered well, sport not good. England is running between 60 & 80% of where they were last year but not all shops are open yet (which is the same as AGC's). Scotland is not performing well because of the restrictions they have to work with and there is no news on Wales at all.

Feedback from AGC's is performance is good. Social distancing is holding back full recovery and some operators are still ordering perspex screens to help with the capacity and distancing.

FEC's are off to a poor start because of the poor weather so it is hard for them to understand what the true picture is.

Bingo are struggling with customers not returning as they are not comfortable or confident about coming back out. They are running about 30% of where they should be.

PH advised that there are no major issues with pubs yet but early days and mixed results.

ND advised that Sky News are currently making an announcement on Scotland that pubs can open from 15th July. There is no date for Bingo yet and they have announced changes up to 22nd July and the next announcement will not be until the 30th July.

4.	Gambling Commission delayed response to NEXSTART Guidance on 20% rule	
	PH advised that the guidance went out last week from NEXSTART and the only reservation was the LGA wanted to confirm that they were happy. The Gambling Commission has belatedly advised that they do not after all agree with it as 'it fails to refer to our expectation that licensees are only entitled to count the number of machines that can be played simultaneously by different players without physical hindrance'. PH advised that the point was made to them that it was not included because this part of their guidance is neither regulation or law and is their 'expectation'. We are therefore going to slightly amend the document to make reference to those words.	PH/DL
7.	Any other Business	
	There was no other business	
8	Date of next meeting	
	Thursday 16th July at 1.00 pm	