

GBG unveils its High Street Hub agenda with the focus on player protection and facial recognition standards

EVENTS

The Gambling Business Group has released its High Street Hub seminar programme to be held at ARE Expo, highlighting player protection, compliance and the introduction of new facial recognition standards.

The Gambling Business Group has announced its High Street Hub seminar agenda for the Amusement & Retail Entertainment Expo 2026, with a programme focused on player protection, regulatory compliance and technological innovation across the sector.

Taking place on 28-29 April, the GBG sessions will bring together industry specialists to address key operational and regulatory challenges.

Proceedings begin on Tuesday at 12:00-12:45 with Training, Education & Apprenticeships: Building a Stronger, More Respected Gambling Industry, led by Dave Richardson, director of strategic partnerships at Better Change. The session will examine workforce development and the role of education in improving industry standards and perception.

At 13:30-14:00, Andrew

O'Brien, head of biometric technology at Innovative Technology, will present 'How facial analysis can enhance player protection'. The session will explore how facial analysis technology can protect minors, including on-machine age verification, restricting access to over-18 zones and generating instant alerts and compliance logs to support compliance and accountability.

Later, from 16:00-16:30, Richard Dutton, director of ELIAS Partnership, and Peter Hannibal, CEO of The Gambling Business Group, will introduce Facial Recognition & Self Exclusion - the FRACT Standard. FRACT - Facial Recognition Accreditation, Compliance & Technical Standard - has been developed as an accreditation and governance framework designed to ensure facial recognition technologies used in self-exclusion environments meet appropriate technical, compliance and



ANDREW O'BRIEN, HEAD OF BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGY AT INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

operational standards. It provides a consistent approach to assessing

providers, supporting lawful deployment, ensuring oversight and maintain-

ing governance beyond initial approval. The final GBG session

on Tuesday, scheduled for 16:30-17:00, will cover Subjects of Interest in Gambling (including Martyn's Law). The panel features Richard Dutton alongside Jim Leitch, CEO of Link Integrated and a counter-terrorism expert addressing wider regulatory and security considerations.

On Wednesday 29 April, GBG will host Regeneration and Saving the High Street from 12:00-12:45, with panel details to be confirmed but will also include representatives from the pub and hospital-ity sectors.

Charlotte Meller, the GBG General Manager, said: "This year's Hub comes at a time when so much is happening on the licensing front. We've got a schedule of excellent seminars and I think the dialogue and examination of policies and new innovations this year will generate enlightening debate."

Arcade Club thanks customers for support as it marks more than ten years at Ela Mill

ARCADES

Arcade Club has marked 11 years since opening on the top floor of Ela Mill in Bury, with owner Andy Palmer thanking customers for the support which has enabled the company to expand across all four floors of the Victorian landmark.

The brand was first launched from the back of a computer repair shop in Rossendale Valley in 2013, and relocated to the mill in



2015 after Palmer sold an original Sega Out Run Deluxe to raise the deposit. "A few years back we

went to view an ex-gym space on the top floor of an old mill," said Palmer. "It didn't exactly scream



arcade! But we saw something." "Fast forward to today and we've taken on the

entire mill, filled it with over 400 original machines and welcomed thousands of visitors. Not bad for an idea

that started life in the back of a computer shop! We love looking back as much as we love looking towards the future, so sincerely from everyone here, thanks for your support."

The message, posted via Facebook, was met with comments of support and thanks from customers, overseas fans, and even local businesses such as Wax and Beans, which described Arcade Club as "the greatest place on earth."