

“A wonderful journey”: Amanda Fry steps down as company secretary at the Gambling Business Group after 14 years

PEOPLE

Amanda Fry is to step down as company secretary for the Gambling Business group as of 10 July, bringing to a close 14 years service with the organisation as it undertakes a major expansion to “build on the success” of recent campaigns.

Gambling Business Group Company Secretary/Administrator Amanda Fry, has decided that the time is right to step down from her role, after 12 years supporting the organisation

Fry worked closely with GBG executives for the delivery of the group’s strategic aims, having previously held numerous positions across the industry, including with Pubmaster and Brent Walker.

“We would like to thank Amanda for all her loyal support to the GBG during this time and Business in Sport and Leisure before that (which is 30 years in total)” said GM Charlotte Meller.

“Amanda is well known to many in the industry and I am sure she will be missed. No doubt you will join us in wishing Amanda well and every success for the future.”

The announcement comes at a key time for the GBG, which has significantly expanded the breadth of



activities underpinning its strategic aims and objectives.

The group is now looking to strengthen its expertise and capacity in project delivery, membership support and stakeholder engagement, working even more closely with other

trade associations.

“The success we have had working with the IOL, the BBPA and UK Hospitality has proven that speaking with a single voice on common issues is far more powerful than when we are not aligned,” said CEO

“Exceeded all expectations”

Part of the original team that heralded in the launch of the Gambling Business Group back in 2012, Fry is proud of the work the organisation has done in the industry. Talking to Coinslot she noted: “Looking back at when GBG first formed during the reshaping of the widely respected Business in Leisure & Sport (BISL), Hopes were obviously high for the organisation. But the knowledge, professionalism and vision of the organisation has probably exceeded all expectations. For me personally, it’s been a wonderful journey. Nearly three decades of working for and

with some great minds in the industry is something to be proud of. I have no doubt that the management team will drive the body forward with the skills the industry both needs and deserves in this changing landscape.”

And not surprisingly Fry, who parts next week, wanted to express her appreciation to all her colleagues. “I just wanted to say thank-you to all the people at the GBG, from my management colleagues to all the members, it has been a privilege. And also my appreciation to all the groups, bodies and authorities that I’ve dealt with over the years. Thank you.”

Peter Hannibal.

“The same can be said with the effective work we collectively did in fending off an increase in MGD leading up to the last budget. Our aim is to build on this success going forwards.”

Commenting on the cur-

rent development, Meller added: “These are exciting times in the continuing evolution of the GBG and anyone who is not currently part of the organisation should keep an eye on what it is doing for its Members and the wider land based sector as a whole.”

South Lakes Game Exchange signage approved in Barrow expansion

RETRO GAMING

South Lakes Game Exchange has been granted planning approval for new signage at its new Duke Street premises following a successful move that has helped the retro gaming retailer expand its presence in Barrow.

Westmorland and Furness Council has approved two non-illuminated fascia signs for the venue at 51-55 Duke Street, the former Furness Building Society head office, where the business relocated from Cavendish Street earlier this year. The prominent corner building sits within the Central Barrow Conservation Area, close to the Grade II* listed Town Hall.

Owned by Scott Geldart and Jayde Hartley, South Lakes Game Exchange



stocks retro and modern video games, consoles, collectibles and gaming memorabilia. The move to the larger premises proved an immediate success, with more than 40 people waiting outside on opening day and the owners describing their first week as “amazing”.

Planning documents show the new signs will feature a gloss black background with multi-coloured lettering reflecting the venue’s branding and will be manufactured from aluminium and vinyl. Advertisement consent was granted subject to standard planning conditions and will remain valid for five years.

Wilkinson family invest £100,000 in resurrecting Hull pool hall

POOL

Gary Wilkinson and son Louis have invested £100,000 in resurrecting the Monica Sports Club in Hull, having returned from running a bar in Majorca to find the popular social club closed.

The Alexandra Road venue had been repurposed as a church, but now once again boasts snooker tables and a bar, as well as pool tables and darts, and will be open seven days a week.



“We just want everyone to see that it’s back,” Louis Wilkinson told Hull Live.

“We’ve renovated the whole lot - it had been quite run down but now it’s like brand new.”

“It’s totally different from what it used to be. It was previously just snooker tables but now we’re more like a sports club with snooker, pool and darts.”

The bar will also work closely with the local com-

munity and council to provide a safe environment for young people to socialise.

“When I was at school, I was a bit naughty but I was given privileges like that so now I want to give back, and offer that to other kids,” added Wilkinson.

“If kids want to come in with a carer or worker for a couple of hours during the day, we’ll give them that - as long as they’re off the street.”