

Research Possibility?

One of the most interesting things about the Australian gaming machine industry is the varied access to electronic gaming machines across each State and Territory.

New South Wales has had "pokies", as they are affectionately referred to in Australia, for nearly 50 years whereas other States and Territories have had them for less than 15 years with each State and Territory introducing them at different times and in different ways.

Western Australia, apart from Burswood Casino, has remained "pokie"-free and doesn't look like changing in the near future. It would seem that there exists a perfect opportunity to attempt to measure the social and community consequences of the presence and manner of introduction of gaming machines in Australia. Western Australia would make the ideal 'control' sample as it has no pokies outside the Casino.

While we all know how expensive this type of research is, it would be a feather in the Australian Federal Government's cap to fund such a project—and, more importantly, the research could be truly independent as the Federal Government earns no direct revenue from gambling. It's just a thought but we would welcome your comments on such a possibility.

Inside this issue:

News from the Netherlands and a Lotto Joke	2
BetFair Licence	3
Americans gamble on	3
How to Contact G4	3
G4 visits APPGC	3
Nordic News	4
HoldemPoker gets responsible	4



GLOBAL GAMBLING GUIDANCE GROUP

G4 Newsletter

G4 Welcomes a New Board Member

Kevin Farrell-Roberts of the UK has joined the G4 Board.



Kevin, a qualified and registered social worker, has 37 years of experience of working with addictions in the UK. Starting his career as a substance abuse social worker in London he went on to manage residential centres for the Probation Service. Ten years ago he left the Probation Service to take over the Gordon House Association, a charity

specialising in the rehabilitation of gambling addicts, where he devised and implemented a new intensive treatment programme and has been responsible for several other new treatment and support initiatives including the internet referral, advice and counselling service, www.gamblingtherapy.org. G4 welcomes Kevin to the fold and values very highly his experience, particularly in the counselling and therapy areas.

Launch of new gambling research institute—GREGRI

The launch of a new gambling research institute will take place at the European I-Gaming Conference, 8 November 2005, in Nice, France

The Global Remote and E-Gambling Research Institute (GREGRI), the first private, non-profit research organization focuses on

- ◆ The historical, economical, mathematical, legal, social and psychological aspects of remote gambling and e-gambling.
- ◆ The development, execution and evaluation of the regulation of remote gambling and e-gambling.
- ◆ Ethical marketing and management of gambling opportunities.

The institute is aiming to be internationally recognized for its basic research into the areas of remote gambling and e-gambling. It will be located in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and will collect funds from three levels of sponsorship: Gold, Silver and Bronze.

The institute will provide funding to support remote gambling or e-gambling related research projects. The intent of the Research Grants is to provide new researchers or new research ideas to be investigated. The grant can also be used to support or "top up" other research funding. A Young Researcher's Grant will be made available in addition to Annual Standard Grants. GREGRI has a Scientific Committee composed of persons who have been invited for their academic competencies and for their concrete experience in the field of gambling research.

The present members of the Scientific Committee are: Alex Blaszczyński, University of Sydney, Australia, Jeffrey Derevensky, McGill University, Canada, Mark Griffiths, Nottingham Trent University, UK, Angels Gonzalez-Ibanez, Hospital of Mataro, Spain, Gerhard Meyer, University of Bremen, Germany, and Ken Winters, University of Minnesota, USA.

Sponsors are invited to support GREGRI financially. For more information on sponsorship and any other questions, contact Rob d'Hondt via info@gregri.org or have a look at : www.gregri.org



Get the best deal on Responsible Gaming. Contact G4 for a real, expert solution.

Why use G4?

G4 has numerous e-Gaming partners like UNIBET, NetEnt, PokerRoom, MrBookmaker, HoldemPoker, OnGame and eCOGRA.

The G4 Board has started negotiations with other companies to get certification before 2006.

If you need to show you're serious about player protection and responsible gaming, contact G4 as soon as possible.

It's great to know that more and more e-gaming sites are delivering responsible gaming to their clients. It won't be long before sites accredited for responsible gaming will be the only ones to survive.

News from the Netherlands

'CASINO-STYLE' OPERATING TARGETED

The arcade gaming market in the Netherlands is entering a period in which it is coming under sharp scrutiny from the Government for its proximity to casino-style operating.

The industry itself is far from wilting under the pressure, however, and is demanding recognition within a monopoly structure.

New gaming laws are on the way, likely to be announced in early 2006 and implemented in 2007. The regulations will affect both the arcade gaming market and Holland Casino's network of 12 international-standard locations (soon to be 14) which are government owned.

Although the new laws are only at the stage of discussions between the interested parties, some views held by the Ministry of Justice – which administers gaming in the Netherlands – are already becoming apparent. The government does not like the trend within the street market to name its arcades 'casinos'. The Netherlands has the most lavish and sophisticated arcades in the world and the current vogue to install casino-style limited pay-out machines, with multiplayer roulette and horse racing or dice games, serve food and drinks has all of the trappings of a luxurious casino. The Minister for Justice, Piet-Hein Donner, has criticized the progress of narrowing the gap between the two forms of gaming and the use of 'casino' in arcade names.

This is refuted by the industry, however, which suggests that the word casino is more a description of standards rather than a style of play. It is also criticizing the Ministry for apparently backtracking on promises to open up internet gambling licences to the independent trade as well as its own monopoly Holland Casino.

Other elements within the proposals could see the number of machines in Holland Casino's 12 locations set as a ratio of the number of gaming tables. The Ministry has also conducted experiments with cashless gaming in both casinos and arcades.

www.intergameonline.com July 2005

It's not too late to get to the National Association for Gambling Studies Conference in Alice Springs, Australia.

The 15th Annual Conference runs from 10-12 November.

Details can be found at www.nags.org.au

Lottery Joke— Joe rushed into his house and yelled to his wife “Mary, pack your things, I’ve just won the lottery”.

Mary said “Should I pack for warm weather or cold?”

Joe responded “I don’t care, just make sure you’re out of the house by midday!”

BetFair Licence?

Will BetFair get a licence to operate in Australia?

Negotiations with the Tasmanian State Government appear to have stalled for BetFair to gain a licence for its internet wagering site to operate in Australia.

Hopefully we'll have some news for you on this subject in the next newsletter.

Watch this space!

And they reckon Australians will gamble on anything!

AMERICANS GAMBLE ON PRICE OF GASOLINE

New York – Americans, possibly, can earn some money due to the rising oil prices. The Internet gambling company PinnacleSports.com pays \$30 for each dollar if the petrol price in New York and Los Angeles has reached the limit of 3 dollars a gallon by the end of this year. Just like the rest of the world, United States citizens complain constantly about the high prices of petrol.

Gamblers can wager a maximum of 500 dollars on the bet concerning the development of the petrol price. In sports betting games, the most important income source of PinnacleSports.com, the amounts wagered can run to many thousands of dollars.

Feel free to email a contribution for the next G4 newsletter. I would really like to hear from people in the USA and Asia.

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Pieter Remmers to present at APPGC in Hong Kong, November

Next month, the inaugural Asia Pacific Problem Gambling Conference will be held in Hong Kong.

G4 founding Board member, Pieter Remmers, will be attending the Conference to gather more gambling contacts and build on existing networks as well as delivering a paper.

Given the growth now and in the future of gambling in Asia, this conference should be very informative and well worth attending. There will be a report on the conference in the next newsletter.

Next Issue in January 2006

*Until you hear from us again
G4 wishes you all a happy
Christmas break and a
responsible and successful
year in 2006*

G4 offers you:

International
Responsible
Gaming Standards

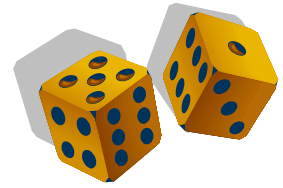
World Experts
Supporting and
Accrediting Your
RG Policies

Secure G4
Self-Exclusions
Database

24-Hour Email
Support



**In a spin over
Responsible Gaming?
Give G4 a call.**



Are some of your players getting spots before their eyes from excessive play? Help them play it safe and contact G4.

“Trust is essential in the online poker business. By implementing all of the changes recommended by G4, we demonstrate that we take our responsibilities seriously and can be trusted.”

*Michael Wahlgren
Director, HoldemPoker,*

New Online Poker Site Gets Serious on Problem Gambling

With more and more companies cashing in on the online gambling boom it comes as a welcome surprise to hear of an online poker room that is taking its responsibilities seriously.

HoldemPoker.com has stolen a march on its competitors by being awarded accreditation from the G4 for its commitment to Responsible Gaming. Together with G4, HoldemPoker.com has worked to implement features and procedures specifically designed to prevent and minimise the harm caused by problem gambling.

Michael Wahlgren, the Director of HoldemPoker, welcomed the accreditation, commenting, “Trust is essential in the online poker business. By implementing all of the changes recommended by G4 we demonstrate that we take our responsibilities seriously and can be trusted.”

Members of HoldemPoker can now check their gaming activity and set personal limits. For those concerned about problem gambling help is available around the clock on the HoldemPoker website, from the customer care team and via G4’s

e-mail counselling service. For those players wishing to distance themselves from gaming altogether a voluntary exclusion program is also available.

To gain accreditation HoldemPoker had to meet a comprehensive set of standards outlined by G4. These included the establishment of strict procedures designed to ensure the suitability of all marketing materials, that all players are aged 18 or over and that all staff are fully trained in relation to problem gambling issues. The standards set by G4 exceed the legal regulations or requirements currently in place in any individual country.

G4’s Pieter Remmers commented, “We are very pleased at the efforts made by HoldemPoker.com to tackle problem gambling. Their efforts send a clear message to their customers and competitors alike and prove that HoldemPoker takes the issue of problem gambling seriously.”

About HoldemPoker.com

HoldemPoker.com was launched in September 2004 initially offering only

free play versions of its poker games. In April 2005 real money versions of the games were introduced. HoldemPoker.com now has more than 750,000 registered users from more than 100 countries worldwide. HoldemPoker is part of the Ogame Group.

About Ogame

Ogame is a world leader in digital entertainment with a focus on poker. The Group develops and markets everything from stand-alone products to turnkey solutions in poker and leisure games for digital media. By mid 2005, Ogame had a total of 200 employees. Revenue in 2004 was SEK 411 million with a pretax profit of SEK 137 million. The Group’s head quarters are located in Sweden. Ogame is one of Sweden’s fastest growing companies and was appointed “IT Company of the Year” by Swedish business magazine Veckans Affärer in May, 2005.

For more information about HoldemPoker.com, e-mail press@holdempoker.com or visit

www.holdempoker.com

For more information about the Ogame Group, visit <http://www.ogame.com>

NORDIC NEWS

- The Public Health Institute of Sweden has launched a web-based education program for 700 social workers and other treatment people about problem gambling. The program is the first step in an attempt to raise the awareness about problem gambling and how to help and treat those with gambling problems.
- The Swedish Government plans to give the state owned lottery company, Svenska Spel, a licence to offer poker on the Internet later this year. The aim of the Government is to offer Swedish poker players a poker site that is attractive, safe and can handle age limitation. It is also a way of meeting the competition from the poker sites that today attract many Swedish players.
- The helpline for problem gamblers in Sweden reports, for the first six months of 2005, that 20% of all calls from problem gamblers concern poker on the Internet. This is a dramatic change compared with 2004 when only a few persons called about poker on the Internet. The helpline also reports that scratch cards is the “runner up”. Scratch cards have never been an issue among those who have called the helpline but, during 2005, callers reported scratch cards on the Internet as a significant problem.
- In Norway, the Government won in the High Court regarding the regulation of slot machines. The state owned lottery company Norsk Tipping will be the only company that can offer play on slot machines. The Government will also reduce the overall number of slots and regulate where they should be offered. The private companies currently running the operation won the first court battle but lost in the High Court.