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RICOH ARENA £3M EXPANSION

A recent £3 million investment programme at the Ricoh Arena, home to Coventry City Football Club, has created enhanced conference and exhibition facilities. The expansion, which began in January, includes three new exhibition halls, a 650-seat indoor auditorium and improved accessibility in the arrival area for the exhibition halls.

Angus Houston, Executive Director at the Ricoh Arena, said: "This is the biggest development at the Ricoh Arena since it opened in 2005 and we are thrilled to be able to welcome more delegates from all over the world."



Ricoh Arena

FEVERSHAM ARMS AWARDED

The Feversham Arms & Verbena Spa in North Yorkshire has been named Hotel of the Year 2010 at the York Tourism Awards - Visit York's awards ceremony that celebrates excellence in the city's tourism industry.

Jill Rhatigan, the hotel's owner, said: "It's an amazing achievement for all the team, who have all worked incredibly hard over the last 12 months. We are so proud of every award we receive but we are especially delighted as this one is from our local tourism community which makes it that bit more special."

The Feversham Arms & Verbena Spa was one of 14 winning venues at the awards ceremony, which was held at the National Railway Museum in York. The museum itself won the Conference Venue of the Year award.



L-R: Christopher Atkinson, Managing Director, Yorkshire Laundry Services; Jill and Simon Rhatigan, owners of Feversham Arms Hotel & Verbena Spa

MANCHESTER CENTRAL SECURES DEAL

Manchester Central Convention Complex has won a three-year deal to host the Vascular Society AGM from 2012-2014. The annual four-day conference is expected to attract up to 800 delegates and was last held in Manchester in 2007.

Jeanette Robey, CEO of the Vascular Society, said: "Manchester Central has a lot of breakout rooms and the proximity of the exhibition hall to the auditorium really suits our needs and fits our style of event."

PRO AUDIO SYSTEMS' SIGNING

Production specialist Pro Audio Systems was appointed to supply sound equipment and personnel to Liverpool City Council for the annual Spring Ball, which took place at St Georges Hall, Liverpool. The event is one of the UK's leading ballroom dance events.

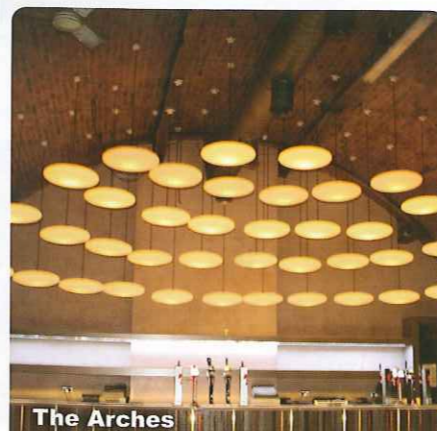
Andy Brooks, Hire Manager at Pro Audio Systems, explained: "Very large reverberant spaces like the St Georges Hall require careful planning and system design, especially when the project demands large numbers of live microphones such as those we needed for the orchestra. Fortunately we have extensive experience in this type of work, plus the inventory and CAD system design tools necessary to provide the solution demanded by our client." Visit www.proaudiosystems.eu

GOOGLE TALK AT SUMMER EVENTIA

Andrew Barke, Agency Industry Head of Google UK, will be presenting a keynote session at The Summer Eventia, the networking sessions organised by Eventia. The talk is entitled Brands on Film and will address the issues of how companies can use video to amplify and increase the lifespan of live events. The Summer Eventia will take place from 4th - 6th July at the SECC in Glasgow.

THE ARCHES REOPENS

The Arches, a multi-arts venue in Glasgow, has reopened following significant refurbishment. It includes a new bar, which combines original Victorian arches and modern design, among its adaptable spaces. The Arches can now accommodate 700 for dinners and product launches and up to 2,000 for drink receptions. Visit www.thearches.co.uk



The Arches

VISITOR NUMBER INCREASE

This year's Academic Venue Show, which took place in May at the Emirates Stadium in London, achieved a 14 per cent visitor increase. Over 40 academic venues exhibited at the show, which was organised by VENUEMASTERS, the consortium representing over 80 UK academic venues. Exhibitor Trevor Miller, Sales & Marketing Manager for Leicester Conferences, said: "It was a very successful exhibition and our enquiry numbers were significantly up on last year. It was interesting to see how busy the show was when the market is still in a downturn and it demonstrates that academic venues are very much sought after in the conference, meetings and events industry."



Academic Venue Show

HOAR CROSS HALL AWARDED

Hoar Cross Hall in Staffordshire has been awarded the title of 'England's Leading Resort' at the World Travel Awards for the fifth consecutive year.

Stephen F. Joynes MBE, Managing Director, said: "The award gives us even more recognition as a worldwide leading resort and confirms to our guests that they are correct with their constant congratulations and encourages new guests to book soon."

Hoar Cross Hall is recognised as 'the only spa resort in a stately home in England'. Set in 100 acres of landscaped gardens, it has seven function rooms, 99 bedrooms and a nine-hole golf course. Visit www.hoarcross.co.uk.



Lodore Falls Hotel

AIM WIN FOR LODORE FALLS

Lodore Falls Hotel in the Lake District has been awarded the Accreditation in Meetings (AIM) certificate from the Meetings Industry Association and Cumbria Tourism. Tanya Sentance, Sales Manager at Lodore Falls Hotel, said: "We are now one of only 15 venues in Cumbria to have achieved this accreditation - it demonstrates that we are serious about corporate hospitality."

HOTEL GROUP WINS NINE AWARDS

Jurys Inn Hotel Group scooped a clutch of awards at this year's Scottish Hotel Awards. Jurys Inn won the Eco Hotel Group of the Year award and its hotels in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen achieved a collection of accolades. The Jurys Inn Aberdeen was awarded Scottish New Hotel of the Year and Aberdeen City Hotel of the Year; Jurys Inn Glasgow won Premium Budget Hotel of the Year and Best Breakfast; Jurys Inn Edinburgh won the Scottish Eco Hotel of the Year award and its General Manager, Barry Rowland, received Special Commendation.

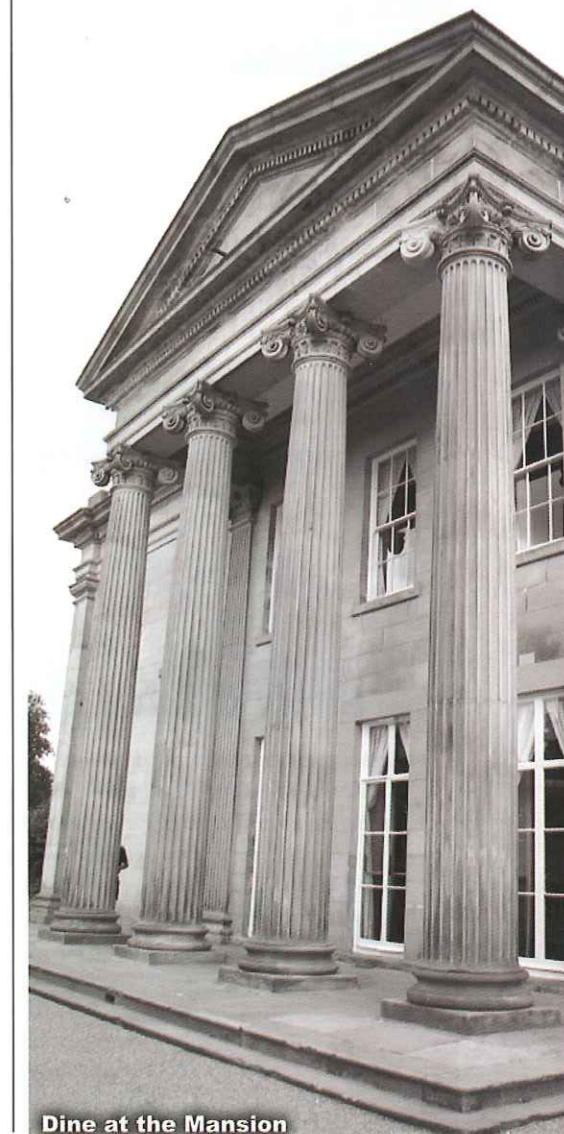
£12M THE POINT TO OPEN

The Point, the new £12 million conference and events venue at Lancashire County Cricket Club, will open on 27th June. Building began at Old Trafford Cricket Club in April 2009 and it will accommodate conferences or formal dinners for up to 1,000 people. It is the first phase in an overall £85 million development of the local area, which aims to secure the future of international cricket for the region.

Celebrity Chef Paul Heathcote has recently been appointed catering consultant for The Point.

DINE AT THE MANSION AWARD

Dine at the Mansion, a listed venue in Leeds, has been awarded in the Leisure and Tourism category at the RICS Pro-Yorkshire Awards. It is the third award for the venue, which won Best Altered Building and Best Conserved Building at the Leeds Architecture Awards 2010 in January.



Dine at the Mansion