

Eventia appoints Ley to deliver events programme

Industry trade association Eventia has appointed education and communication consultant Rachel Ley to deliver its 2007 events programme, following an open agency pitch process.

Ley is a former managing director of Meeting Point Conferences (MPC). She left MPC in October 2007 to set up her own company and was one of seven agencies to submit proposals for the contract, which entails full creation, development, design, production and execution of the association's event strategy and programme.

John Walker, head of Eventia's Education Committee, said: "Rachel will be working closely with executive director Izania Downie and our committee on what will be an ambitious programme for 2007. This is a



Ley

Downie

great step forward in providing all of our members, at all levels of seniority, with significant education and networking

opportunities." The association's events programme will include seminars, freelancer open days, trade show participation and familiarisation trips, as well as the Summer Eventia and Autumn Workout. A new senior level residential summit and a social party to celebrate National Meetings Week have also been proposed.

www.eventia.org.uk



UK champion jockey Pat Eddery helped complete the superstructure of the £32 million Doncaster Racecourse Exhibition and Conference Centre, tightening up the roof's final bolt using a hefty four-foot spanner.

The new Exhibition and Conference Centre is on schedule for a late-summer 2007 opening. The trackside complex will include 4,300 square metres of purpose-built exhibition space, conference accommodation for up to 2,500 delegates, and state-of-the-art technical and catering services.

Pricing structure won't change, says NEC

"We will be more competitive as a venue," Birmingham NEC Group CEO Paul Thandi told journalists at the company's annual media lunch. But he wasn't referring to price, he was talking about the breadth of offer. "We will never be the cheapest because we are the best venue in the UK. Our pricing structure will remain where it is." Thandi also promised that NEC's catering would be the best in Europe, bringing an innovative a la carte menu to banqueting. "We will provide restaurant-style catering for up to 1500 people.

He said the future growth of the business would come from more international management deals such as the new Dublin convention centre and from providing better services for the company's 4.5 million visitors. He also hinted at new venue developments. "There will be a new generation of venues which will focus on self-expression." He explained that these will provide the connectivity and interactivity demanded by its 21st century customers and visitors.

"We have more competition than ever, both in the UK and overseas, and we must rise to the challenge."

Greater motivation for Worldspan International

Worldspan International plc has announced the expansion of its existing motivation services division and a new brand identity.

The new division, Worldspan Motivation Ltd, headed up by former Maritz executive Chantal Orlik, joins the Worldspan

Group divisions in delivering event, motivation and communication campaigns. Orlik joins Worldspan Motivation as managing director, following a 19-year career with Maritz Europa and the Grass Roots Group.

Worldspan has also unveiled a new corporate identity,

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Refurb for Chester Grosvenor

Meeting and private dining facilities at The Chester Grosvenor and Spa will undergo a £3 million refurbishment during the summer. The Westminster Suite closes on June 3 for a 12-week period of comprehensive refurbishment reopening on September 4.

www.therefurb.com

Melbourne gets religion

Melbourne has been chosen to host the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions (PWR) event.

www.mcvb.com

Live events office for UAE

European live events consortium XPOSERV International has opened new offices in Dubai.

Second summit for AIPC

Following its inaugural International Sales and Marketing Summit for senior level congress centre sales and marketing directors at last year's IMEX, AIPC is staging a second summit to coincide with IMEX 2007.

www.aipc.org

Premier offering

The Liverpool Malmaison has opened for business offering two premiership suites.

'Toffee Shop' is a corner suite overlooking the Mersey while 'The Kop' is dedicated to Bill Shankly.

www.malmaison.com

New ICCA members

The UK and Ireland Chapter of the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) has elected two new members - Jane Cunningham, of Visit London, and James Rees, of ExCel London, to join its Chapter Committee.

www.iccaworld.com