

On your marks, get set.... go!

QHotels Employees line up for the London Marathon hoping to raise over £5,000 for Asthma UK

Chris Marais, Operations Manager at The Hampshire Court Hotel in Basingstoke, Rob Conway, the Assistant Conference & Events Manager at Norton Park near Winchester, and Richard Slatcher, Food and Beverage Assistant at The Queens Hotel in Leeds (all part of QHotels), are men on a mission – to raise money for Asthma UK by running in this year's Virgin London Marathon on 17th April.

All three are currently in training having successfully applied and been accepted to participate in the Marathon, albeit it as a late entrant in Richard's case! For Rob and Richard it is their first Marathon but Chris is an old hand having competed in the 2006 London Marathon "I have been training all winter and recently completed the Banbury 15 miles race but now that it is only a matter of weeks away I am beginning to think I haven't done enough!" commented Chris. A keen runner, Chris jumped at the chance to run the marathon in aid of Asthma UK – the charity of choice for QHotels. In April last year QHotels began a two year fundraising partnership with the charity which is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the millions of people in the UK whose lives are affected by asthma. The hotel group, which has 21 four star hotels dotted throughout the UK has committed to raise at least £100,000 over the next two years for the charity and Chris is determined to do his bit!

"I'm delighted to have the chance to take part once again in the Virgin London Marathon and to help raise money towards the group's £100,000 target for Asthma UK." commented Chris "It is also good to know that I have fellow colleagues taking part with me and I look forward to the celebrations afterwards, just so long as I manage to cross the finish line in a decent enough time! I am aiming for 4:30 hours but we will have to see how it goes on the day!"

Chris has the full support of the team and the General Manager of The Hampshire Court Hotel, Dan Kelly "I know I speak for everyone at QHotels and The Hampshire Court when I say we are very proud of Chris for undertaking such a challenge and for using it as an opportunity to raise funds for Asthma UK. We wish him the best of luck and will be cheering him on as he pounds the streets of London on the 17th April!"

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If you would like to support Chris in his endeavour please go to
www.justgiving.com/chris-marais

ENDS

The QHotels 21: **The Westerwood Hotel & Golf Resort** - Near Glasgow... **Aldwark Manor Golf & Spa Hotel** - York... **The Queens** - Leeds... **Forest Pines Hotel & Golf Resort** - North Lincolnshire... **Tankersley Manor** – Tankersley, Nr Sheffield... **The Midland** - Manchester... **The Park Royal** – Stretton, Warrington... **Crewe Hall** – Crewe, Cheshire... **The Nottingham Belfry** - Nottingham... **Telford Hotel & Golf Resort** – Telford, Shropshire... **Stratford Manor** - Stratford-upon-Avon... **The Stratford** - Stratford-upon-Avon... **Chesford Grange** – Kenilworth, Warwickshire... **Hellidon Lakes Golf & Spa Hotel** – Hellidon, Northamptonshire... **The Cheltenham Chase Hotel** - Gloucestershire... **The Cambridge Belfry** – Cambourne, Cambridge... **The Oxford Belfry** –Thame, Oxford... **The Hampshire Court Hotel** - Basingstoke, Hampshire... **Norton Park** - Winchester, Hampshire... **Bridgewood Manor** – Chatham, Kent... **Ashford International Hotel** – Ashford, Kent

Media Contact

Gail Sinden
Sinden LTD Consulting
T: 01672 861397
E: gail@sinden.net

A little bit about us:

- QHotels prides itself in its collection of 21 carefully nurtured, unique properties throughout the UK. Some hide away in the most beautiful countryside, some preside over bustling city centres, but each with its own little idiosyncrasies, ensures guest enjoy a truly unique experience - whether staying for pleasure or business.
- Founded in 2003 by Managing Director - Michael Purtil, Sales Director - David Taylor, Finance Director – Ian Goulding and investment company Alchemy Partners;
- The collection has grown from 2 to 21 properties over the last six years.
- The collection, which boasts iconic properties including The Midland in Manchester, The Queens in Leeds and Crewe Hall in Cheshire, has been voted AA Hotel Group of the Year 2008/09 and is ranked 17th in The Times Buyout FastTrack register of the 100 fastest growing private equity backed businesses... one of the few companies to feature in the top 100 in two consecutive years. In addition to this... January 2009 alone saw QHotels shortlisted for the Business Hotel Brand of the Year Award at the Business Travel Awards and Winchester property Norton Park scoop two HRS Hotel Excellence Awards (Excellence in Meetings and Excellence in Business Management). Since then QHotels trophy cabinet is buckling under the

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Hotel Group of the Year
2008 - 2009

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weight of new awards, including 'Most Improved Brand' for the second year in a row in the 2009 BDRC UK Meetings Market Survey and the 'Excellence in Training Award' in Caterer & Hotelkeeper's Best Places to Work in Hospitality 2009

- Take a look at our website www.QHotels.co.uk

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