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Press Release: April 2010

21

Telford Hotel & Golf Resort Celebrates 2nd Anniversary

New General Manager Ben Bridgeman Appointed

Telford Hotel & Golf Resort, part of AA Hotel group of the year 2008 – 2009 QHotels, celebrated its 2nd anniversary this week with the opening of a new bistro restaurant, *The Gorge*, at an elegant evening event hosted by the newly appointed General Manager Ben Bridgeman.

Attended by over 70 guests including, the Mayor of Telford Cllr Karen Blundell and consort, the evening started with the official opening of The Gorge, a stylish 60-seat bistro restaurant serving a mixture of classic dishes and contemporary fare. Guests were treated to a selection of delicacies from the new menu as they listened to the live jazz band and enjoyed drinks on the terrace bar overlooking the stunning Ironbridge Gorge. Having undergone a 12-month, £10 million refurbishment programme when QHotels acquired the hotel in 2007, this latest enhancement will ensure that the Telford Hotel & Golf Resort continues to maintain its reputation as one of Shropshire's finest four-star hotels.

Many of the guests who attended the evening were fortunate enough to be able to enjoy a helicopter flight over the famous Gorge and it was an opportunity for them all to meet the new General Manager – Ben Bridgeman. With a degree in Hotel and Catering Management and over 12 years experience in the hospitality industry Ben joins QHotels and the Telford Hotel & Golf Resort from Merchant Inns where he was Group Operations Manager. Prior to this Ben was General Manager at the Bailbrook House Hotel in Bath and before this enjoyed several positions within the De Vere Group, latterly as Operations Manager for the Belton Woods Resort Hotel in Grantham.

Commenting on his new position and the anniversary celebrations Ben said "I am delighted to have taken on the role of General Manager for this unique hotel at such an exciting time and look forward to working with the excellent team we have here at the Telford Hotel & Golf Resort. The hotel has long been an excellent golf, spa and conference hotel and we are now looking forward to working with the local market to promote the hotel as an equally wonderful wedding and leisure destination. With its situation in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Ironbridge Gorge, stunning views over the Gorge and 18-hole championship golf course it is the perfect location for a weekend break away, spa and golf retreat, elegant wedding or flexible meeting venue."

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Hotel Group of the Year
2008 - 2009

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21

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About Us

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

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 Purtill, 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 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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Hotel Group of the Year
2008 - 2009