

BVEP Newsletter - December issue

The **Business Visits & Events Partnership's** aim is to lead the way in supporting a competitive, high quality and more profitable business visits and events sector in Britain.

"I am delighted to welcome our four new Vice Chairs for 2013, and thank them for their proactivity and the support they will bring to the partnership. They have started reviewing the future for the partnership and reviewing the issues that will challenge the events industry in the coming year. As a partnership they and I offer our best wishes and thoughts for the year ahead and wish you all a festive season and event-full new year."

Michael Hirst, Chair of the Business Visits & Events Partnership

In the news – Vice Chairs welcome

Following Glasgow's partners meeting in November, four new Vice-Chairs have been appointed for 2013. We welcome Samme Allen, President, MPI UK Chapter; Richard Foulkes, ISES International; Simon Hughes, Chairman, Eventia and Chris Skeith, Director of AEV & ESSA who will work alongside Michael forming proposals for partners on the future aims, activities, and structure of the organisation.



Samme Allen, President MPI UK Chapter: "I am extremely excited about the future of the BVEP and supporting Michael and the other Vice Chairs to develop our strategy and deliver on behalf of the partners and industry. Next year will be tough, but what year hasn't in recent times? Collaborating with stakeholders and competitors will be integral for the future as will be the use of technology within all areas of the industry and focusing on these areas we will be expected to deliver the highest quality events."



Chris Skeith, Director of AEV & ESSA: "I've been working with the BVEP for six years and working with such a diverse event community I admire their communication, they provide a platform and amplify the voice for the industry as a whole to those that matter in government and I'm looking forward to offering my thoughts and support. The Olympics underlined the UK's world class events industry and infrastructure, 2013 will continue to be about the Best of British, our first rate supplier, venue and organiser communities, both at home and abroad."



Richard Foulkes, ISES International: "The power of the BVE P is in the combined strength and business acumen of its partnership organisations. I am incredibly excited about helping direct, harness and promote the creative influence of these organisations to highlight the effectiveness, excellence and economic benefit of UK events. More than ever before in 2013, we have a tremendous opportunity to present aligned British creative event expertise to the world stage."



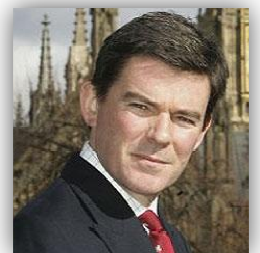
Simon Hughes, Chairman Eventia: "Next year we need to make sure the industry moves on from the Olympics and continues the positive effect it has had by making sure that the world class service delivery that was evident across so many different areas of the event industry translates into recognition of the real value we deliver for our clients, stakeholders and UK plc. I'm really confident that the focus and energy of all the BVEP partners can make that happen. I for one am certainly looking forward to being a part of it."

Britain for Events – Acknowledgment from Hugh Robertson

The industry received endorsement from the new Minister for Tourism, Rt Hon Hugh Robertson MP in response to Grant Schapps, Chairman of the Conservative Party. The letter was initiated by Richard Foulkes.

"The events industry, of course, plays a vital role by enabling opportunities for the UK to be the global business destination of choice, and at the same time, creating real growth by generating opportunities and forming vital international business and research networks. The Government fully supports the Britain for Events initiatives and which showcases the important work carried out by the UK events industry, and indeed which also promotes Britain, competitiveness and growth.

The Ministers state that business tourism plays a vital role in the UK's economy; nevertheless, we want to capture an even higher share of the international market.



Campaigns - Cut Tourism VAT

The BVEP strongly supports the Cut Tourism VAT Campaign to increase the UK's competitiveness as a tourism destination, create jobs and grow GDP.



In 2011 the World Economic Forum ranked the UK 135th out of 139 countries in terms of travel and tourism price competitiveness with strong evidence of a clear relationship between the high rate of VAT and its low ranking.

The campaign backed by hotel groups, attractions, restaurants, individual hotels and associations and event trade associations who are members of the partnership. Link to the cut tourism site, argues that reducing tourism VAT to just 5% will not only increase international visitors, but also encourage more domestic holidays. The track record across Europe proves that reducing VAT has stimulated investment, created jobs and boosted growth, confirming that tourism is highly price sensitive and at risk from high taxation rates.

Read further at www.cuttourismvat.co.uk

Events in the Industry – Festival Organisers Conference

At the recent Association of Festival Organisers annual conference MP and member of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Events, Kevin Brennan MP for Cardiff West spoke about the growing influence, dynamism and creativity of festivals to the UK events scene.

As the festival scene continues to grow and niche festivals develop, public support underlines the love and enthusiasm people have for events in their local area and further afield. The Association of Festival Organisers is a keen supporter of Britain for Events highlighting to government the social, cultural and financial effect these events have on the local community and the wider economy.

For further information visit the AFO website www.festivalorganisers.org



In the news - Events Industry Forum Purple Guide

The EIF is progressing production of a new purple guide which will be a comprehensive guide to all aspects of event management.

Editing Coordinator Sarah Cole from SC Productions Ltd – funded by the Concert Promoters Association – has been appointed to work alongside an Editing Panel and the Working Parties for the various sections of the guide.

The aim is to publish the guide online and is attended that it will be available from the spring of 2013, in time for the summer season of outdoor events and music and cultural festivals. There will still be opportunity to input comments and suggestions once the guide has been issued in the Spring of 2013

For further information contact EIF Secretary Jim Winship – jim@teso.org.uk



Partnership – Sustainable Events Summit

Created by Positive Impact, Smyle and Sustainable Events Ltd, the Sustainable Events Summit community aims to inspire the continuous development of a global sustainable event industry. The Summit provides a platform for delegates and partners to meet engage and create solutions.

Joining a prestigious list of founding partners and sponsors, the BVEP have confirmed as a Summit Sponsor while Britain for Events has joined as a Summit supporter.

Rick Stainton, Managing Director, Smyle commented on the importance of the summit, “The breadth of official support for the summit from the key associations, agencies, venues and the supplier-base demonstrates that initiatives that encourage a collaborative approach can engage at all levels. Now we have the first brands announced with more to follow shortly, the Summit community’s representation across the entire live events industry becomes a reality, powering better understanding, innovation and education to all.”

Taking place on Thursday 24 January 2013 at The Crystal in London, speakers include David Stubbs, Head of Sustainability at London 2012 and member of the IOC Evaluation Commission.

Visit www.sustainableeventssummit.com to join the community for free.



Contact us

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