



Press release - for immediate release
27th June 2012

Association Welcomes New Chairman

The Bingo Association has today announced the appointment of Mark Jones, Managing Director of Mecca Bingo, as its new Chairman.

Mark Jones joined Rank Group Plc as Managing Director of Mecca Bingo, in 2009, a post he will retain. Mecca is a long standing member of the Association and firmly committed to working with other operators to shape and further the industry agenda.

Mark Jones said:

"I am delighted to have been appointed to the position of Chair of the Bingo Association. My primary focus will be to continue the Association's campaign to secure a fairer tax deal for bingo and to continue to change people's perceptions of the industry."

The Association's previous Chairman, Brian Mattingley, was appointed in June 2009 and his expanded role at online gaming operator 888 Holdings PLC is taking up an increasing amount of his time, following a change in role from Deputy Chairman to Chief Executive Officer in March this year.

Paul Talboys, Chief Executive of The Bingo Association said:

'We are highly appreciative of Brian's contribution to the work of the Association over the past three years and I have greatly enjoyed working with him. The industry faces a number of significant challenges, specifically in regard to securing a fair tax regime, against the backdrop of an ever changing leisure market. Mark's experience in the leisure sector will be a great asset in helping the Association navigate the road ahead.'

Jones will be supported by the current Association team.

Ends

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Notes to editors

The Bingo Association

- The Bingo Association is the trade association of the licensed bingo industry in Great Britain, representing the proprietors of bingo clubs licensed under the Gambling Act 2005.
- There are 50 proprietors in membership. Membership profile ranges from the large operators, including Mecca (98 clubs) to smaller operators like Carlton Leisure (14 clubs) and many single unit businesses.
- Around 70% of all Bingo players are women and overall, 10% of all women in the UK play bingo
- www.bingo-association.co.uk

Mark Jones

Mark has been the Managing Director of Mecca Bingo for the past three years and has over 25 years experience in the leisure industry.

Prior to joining Mecca Bingo he was Executive Chairman of Premium Bars and Restaurants, an AIM listed London Stock Exchange quoted company. He has held a number of other senior management posts in the Leisure industry, including Chief Executive of the Yates Group - a fully listed company on the Stock Exchange. While at Yates he led a management buy out (MBO) of the business, through to the successful sale to Robert Tchenguiz's R20. Prior to this he spent 8 years with Whitbread, culminating in heading up their joint venture with Pepsico, as CEO of Pizza Hut UK Ltd.

Mark holds a B.Sc. in Zoology and a M.Sc. in Vertebrate Palaeontology, the latter from University College London.