



Press release - for immediate release

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Tunstall MP Elected as Bingo Champion in Parliament Visits Tower Bingo in Tunstall to Mark New Role

Ruth Smeeth, MP for Stoke-on-Trent North and Kidsgrove, was joined by the Chief Executive of The Bingo Association at Tower Bingo in Tunstall to mark her new role as Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Bingo.

Ruth was recently elected as Chair of the APPG on Bingo, which is a group of MPs who will champion the positive role that bingo plays in UK communities. To mark her appointment to this important role for the industry, Ruth was shown around her local club, Tower Bingo in Tunstall, by The Bingo Association's Chief Executive Miles Baron. During her visit, Ruth met with the club's manager, Seamus Duffy, and with club regulars who told her what bingo means to them. Ruth was also able to witness first-hand the charitable nature of bingo players when one bingo player won £1,600 in cash – and then promptly donated £100 to the bingo caller's own charity, which supports children with autism in the local area.

Over the coming year, Ruth will meet regularly with The Bingo Association to discuss how she can support the industry, which is an important part of the social fabric of many communities. She also looks forward to returning to Tower Bingo in the near future!

Miles Baron, Chief Executive of The Bingo Association, said:

"I was delighted to show Ruth around her local bingo club, where she was able to see first-hand how bingo brings people together to socialise in a lively and fun environment. The community aspect of bingo really stands out in clubs such as Tower Bingo.

"Ruth is clearly committed to her role as Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group and will be a strong advocate for the industry in Parliament. We are really pleased to be able to count on her support and look forward to working with her in the months ahead."

Ruth Smeeth, MP for Stoke-on-Trent North and Kidsgrove, said:

"I am honoured to be an ambassador for bingo in Parliament. Bingo is an activity at the heart of many communities across Britain, including Tunstall. The warm spirit of bingo was absolutely captured on my visit to Tower Bingo and I can't wait to visit again!"

- 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 licensed under The Gambling Act 2005.
- There are 68 proprietors, covering 506 Licenced Bingo Premises, and 16 suppliers in membership. Membership profile ranges from the large operators, including Gala (110 clubs) and Mecca (98 clubs), to smaller operators like Carlton Clubs (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