

Skegness calling: UDC plans a full house of product at the annual ECAS roadshow

EVENTS

From China to Skegness to Saudi Arabia - it's a hectic schedule for **UDC** in May, but next it's the East Coast of England that takes centre stage as the distributor takes its ECAS show on the road. And joining them for the annual excursion to the Southview Park Hotel in Skegness next Tuesday and Wednesday will be **7's Above**, **E-Service** and **GeWeTe**.

It's probably the king of the roadshows and ECAS is heading east up to Skegness for its annual two day stint at the Southview Park Hotel in the seaside resort.

The UDC show will be held on Tuesday 20 - Wednesday 21 May with the leading distributor joined on the hotel floor by 7's Above, E-Service and GeWeTe, for a mini-expo which brings the quartet together under one roof in Skegness.

And there will be plenty for the East Coast operators to savour during the amusement show with UDC not holding back on the portfolio display. "We're taking around 20 machines," sales director Jonathan Lauder told Coinslot, "including redemption games, cranes, kiddie rides, video games and our 'Vibe' multi-hopper change machines."

Bear in mind UDC has just completed its latest international excursion, this time to China for the highly successful China Import and Export Fair in Guangzhou, Skegness clearly holds a magnetic pull for UDC's ECAS innovation.

"It's one of the first events we put on our annual calendar

when we map out the year. ECAS and Park Avenue set us up for the summer season here and they're industry traditions for us," Lauder said.

And looking at the portfolio on its way to Skegness,



it's an event UDC takes very seriously.

Top of the list are the E-Claw cranes, which remain a steadfast favourite for players and operators not just up and down the UK, but around the world.

On the floor will be Tornado which continues to be a top performer across the



country, with Lauder proudly noting: "It's pulling up trees everywhere".

Another machine impressing at the moment, Shock Wave, will also be making a show. A 2-player ball pusher game from the same stable as Tornado, this machine has had a big boost in income when operated on 10p.

"We've had recent reports

of operators switching Shock Wave from 20p to 10p play which has majorly boosted income, in some locations it's taken more than Tornado - without affecting Tornado earnings, which is excellent news. Right now we still have

this crane: "Because it's so new, not so many people have seen it yet. So we're bringing it to ECAS to show it off to local operators. It's an attractive piece which we think will do very well."

And where would any exhibition be without StepmaniaX - it's the star pull at most shows, ECAS being no exception. The fast growing dancing game around, with around 700 songs, offers multiple levels of difficulty to bring players in gradually, free regular online music updates and even a free companion smart phone app for players to track their progress and compete online.

In addition, UDC will be showing its Rush And Catch animal safari racing video game and the Galaxy Ranger DX 4 Player - an upgraded and updated version of the sci-fi shooting video game, now with 4 players and an even bigger presence and optional redemption ticket payout.

The UDC team at Southview Park Hotel will comprise Lauder and his colleague Richard Crompton with technical crew Paul, Rob and Miguel all on hand to answer and address any technical issues for visitors.

some units available."

A new machine on the block is Dream Car 4 player crane which was first introduced at EAG this year. Lauder has high hopes for

Champion Gaming awaiting decision on new Worksoy AGC

AGC

Champion Gaming Ltd is awaiting a decision from Bas-setlaw District Council on plans to convert a former clothing shop in Worksoy town centre into a new 24-hour AGC.

The proposal was recommended for approval, but is now due to be considered by the authority's planning committee on 21 May.

"AGC use at ground floor level with associated office use at first floor level is considered in line with policy that aims to regenerate Worksoy Town Centre while bringing vacant units back into use, creating employment opportunities and footfall into the town centre," states the planning officer's report.

"The use will not generate unacceptable levels of noise or have a detrimental impact on the current levels of amenity to adjacent residential units therefore the application is recommended for approval."

If the proposals are given the green light, the new Champion Gaming facility will create six full and part-time positions.



GBG stages first Pubs Group meeting

TRADE BODY

The Gambling Business Group staged the first meeting of its pub membership last week. The body, which comprises businesses and organisations from across the spectrum of the high street gaming and gambling sector, established the group to offer specialised support to its pub members and provide a forum to discuss matters which relate to machines, licensing and other GC regulatory matters. The pub group will meet every six weeks and will also co-



ordinate with both allied trade associations the BBPA and UKHospitality.

Charlotte Meller, General Manager of the GBG, joined the meeting and officially welcomed the pub members to the trade body. "Machines and gaming equipment are playing an ever increasing role in pubs and their financial contribution to these operations are crucial. The first Pubs Group meeting discussed the triennial and the Gambling Act Review, and we also explored the licensing issues that they face. We have an extremely diverse membership

which will be an important source of support in all areas to the sector, and the Pub Group has made an extremely positive start."

At the same, she added the learning curve shapes both ways: "Additionally the gambling sector can learn from the Pub Group, as pubs have been very active in local partnership schemes such as BIDs and Purple Flag for many years and many pubs are Best Bar None accredited venues having been assessed for their commitment to excellence in safety, customer service, and responsible alcohol management practices."