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DATE FOR THE DIARY

RVT / GMFA Sports Day.
Monday August 25th 2008, 1pm – 6pm.
Spring Gardens behind the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, SE11.

PRESS RELEASE

Last Chance to Register for the RVT Sports Day!

Toss a handbag and raise funds for GMFA

Following the huge success of last year's revival, GMFA and the Royal Vauxhall Tavern have once again teamed up to host the ultimate summer Bank Holiday event – the Vauxhall gay sports day! This year's event looks to be even bigger and better than last year's, as already, more teams have signed up to enter than took part in the 2007 Sports Day. The number of teams is limited by the local council, so entry is on a first come first served basis, with a maximum of 20 teams. Places are filling up fast so teams will

need to register quickly to guarantee a place. For more information and registration details visit www.gmfa.org.uk/sportsday.

The 2008 RVT Sports Day will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 25th August, in Spring Gardens (the park just behind the famous South London pub). Last year's sports day attracted a crowd of over 500 revellers and a diverse selection of serious, and distinctly unserious, sports people. For a taste of what to expect at Sports Day, join the thousands of visitors who have watched last year's event by visiting YouTube:

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=moFkttOPJb4>. This year's event will be officially opened by the Mayor of Lambeth, Councillor Angela Meader.

GMFA's Head of Programmes, Matthew Hodson, said, "The great thing about this Sports Day is that there are events for everyone, from the light-hearted and frivolous events, which you might expect at a particularly broadminded school's Sports Day, to the events that are a little bit more athletic. You don't have to be Ben Cohen to take part, or even to win – although if he wants to put together a team and come along he'd be very welcome."

The day offers fun, frolics and frivolity with popular events such as the drag relay, the handbag throw and the fabulous 50m mince! Outside of the competitive events, last year's Sports Day also hosted a duck race (with live ducks), a gay Punch and Judy that was definitely not for children, and the popular appearance of a couple of llamas! The organisers have promised a host of surprises in store this year too.

“The Sports Day is a lot of fun,” added Hodson, “but it also raises much needed funds for GMFA, which goes towards those projects that receive no statutory funding, such as our work for HIV positive gay men. We’re delighted that the event supports local Vauxhall charities too, and we’re thrilled to have Lambeth’s Mayor coming to give the day her official blessing.”

Whether you’re gay, lesbian, trans, bi, queer or heterosexual, you’re welcome to take part in the Sports Day but teams should consist of five members. To enter the event, teams are being asked to get as many people as possible to sponsor their team, via a simple to set up online sponsorship page. Proceeds from the event will be divided between GMFA, Vauxhall City Farm and the Friends of Spring Gardens. There will once again be a trophy for the winning team, and another trophy for the team that manages to raise the most money. Last year the event was won by Dried up Drag, and the top fundraisers were Saint Edna, who managed to raise over £1,000.

-Ends-

For more information about this or any other of GMFA’s campaigns and actions, contact:

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Notes to Editor

About GMFA:

GMFA was established in 1992 and is the UK's leading charity dedicated to gay men's health. GMFA's mission is to improve gay men's health by increasing the control they have over their own lives. We believe that the best health promotion for gay men comes from gay men themselves, and so we use the knowledge and ideas of our 170 volunteers (most of them gay men) to design and plan our thought provoking sexual health interventions. We have received international acclaim for our Sex and Sexual Health website (www.gmfa.org.uk/sex), which was visited by one in three London gay men within a year of being launched. Our other websites include a detailed listing of sexual health services available for gay men in London (www.gmfa.org.uk/londonservices), an information resource for HIV positive gay men (www.gmfa.org.uk/positive) and a guide to gay sports and social groups in London (www.gmfa.org.uk/theguide). All of our sites can be accessed at www.gmfa.org.uk. GMFA produce a range of advertising campaigns, leaflets, postcards and booklets. Independent surveys have concluded that our campaigns reach up to 60% of the London gay population and we are the most reliable agency at reaching gay men. In addition to this we distribute our own health magazine, FS, free to London's gay bars and clubs to further educate gay men about relationships, their bodies, general health and STIs. Over the last fourteen years we have provided courses for over 10,000 gay men, providing safer sex education, life skills and stop smoking courses. We currently provide a range of groupwork interventions across England and Wales. GMFA has Big Lottery funding to create sexual health interventions for Black gay men in London.