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PRESS RELEASE

GET TRAINING FOR RVT/GMFA GAY SPORTS DAY 2009

London, 8 July 2009 – GMFA, the gay men's health charity, and the Royal Vauxhall Tavern (RVT) are pleased to announce that the 2009 RVT/GMFA Gay Sports Day will take place on the Bank Holiday Monday, 31 August. Registration is now open and teams of five are invited to participate in the games to help raise some vital money for three great causes – GMFA, Vauxhall City Farm and the Friends of Spring Gardens.

This year's event promises to be bigger and better than last year. Expect more fun, frolics and frivolity with events such as the drag relay, the handbag throw and the fabulous 50m mince.

Matthew Hodson of GMFA says: "It's no surprise that the GMFA and RVT Sports Day has already become one of the highlights of the gay calendar. You never know quite what to expect at the Sports Day, and that's what makes it so brilliant. Last year some of the teams made a real effort with their costumes and the whole event has this carnival atmosphere, but the sporting competition can get pretty intense too."

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 the fabulous 'Sodomites', and the top fundraisers were 'Mighty Metamorphic Zebras', who managed to raise over £1,000.

Places for teams will be strictly limited to the numbers allowed by the local council, so entry will be on a first-come first-served basis. For registration information, visit www.gmfa.org.uk/sportsday.

Matthew adds: "The day promises to be great fun and in joining in you will be helping to ensure that GMFA can continue its vital work for gay men's health. We hope to see you there!"

The sports day will start at 2pm in Spring Gardens, Vauxhall (behind the Royal Vauxhall Tavern).

- ENDS -

About GMFA

Founded in 1992, GMFA is the UK's leading charity dedicated to gay men's health. Its mission is to improve gay men's health by increasing the control they have over their own lives. The organisation is based on the belief that the best health promotion for gay men comes from gay men themselves. For this reason, it uses the knowledge and ideas of its 170 volunteers, most of them gay men, to design and plan its thought-provoking sexual health interventions. These include a range of advertising campaigns, leaflets, postcards and booklets; FS, its health magazine, distributed in London's gay bars and clubs; and national and London-based courses covering sex education, life skills and smoking cessation. In addition, GMFA creates targeted sexual health interventions for black gay men and HIV positive gay men. Independent surveys have concluded that GMFA's campaigns reach up to 60% of the London gay population and that the organisation is the most reliable agency at reaching gay men. The charity runs a range of information websites:

- Sex & Sexual Health, www.gmfa.org.uk/sex - visited by a third of London's gay men in 2006;
- London Services, www.gmfa.org.uk/londonservices - detailed listing of sexual health services for gay men in London;
- Positive Gay Guide, www.gmfa.org.uk/positive - information for HIV positive gay men;
- The Guide, www.gmfa.org.uk/theguide - a guide to gay sports and social groups in London;
- About GMFA, www.gmfa.org.uk/aboutgmfa - for more information on GMFA.

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