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DATE FOR THE DIARY

GMFA's GAY Sports Day. Monday August 27th 2007, 2pm – 6pm.
Spring Gardens*, Royal Vauxhall Tavern.

* Pending final police approval

PRESS RELEASE

GMFA Revive Gay Sports Day

***Toss a handbag to raise funds for GMFA
The Guide goes online for sports and social groups***

London, 13th July 2007 -- Summer sports have just gone gay as the RVT and GMFA host a gay sports day to raise funds and promote the new online guide to gay sports and social groups. The gay sports day was an institution and, with GMFA and RVT on board to resurrect the day, it's going to be THE summer event of 2007.

There will be serious competitive events to tickle your fancy, like sprinting, as well as fun games like the egg and spoon race. For those who like a camper twist to their track and field, try tossing a hand bag or the drag relay race.

Anyone can take part but teams should consist of 5 members. Each team will be asked to raise a minimum of £250 through online sponsorship (that's just £50 per team member) and there's a prize for the team that raises the most cash. To register, email tim.molloy@gmfa.org.uk. The deadline for entries is 10th August. The majority of the proceeds will go to GMFA but Vauxhall City Farm and the Friends of Spring Gardens will benefit too.

As well as all the frivolity, there's a serious side too. The event will help to promote GMFA's new online guide to sports clubs and social groups. Studies have shown that gay men are less likely to achieve recommended amounts of exercise compared with their straight counterparts so why not get involved?

"Gay men can shy away from sports groups because of negative experiences at school or homophobia," said Matthew Hodson, Head of Programmes for GMFA. "Our sports day is a fun way to raise some cash while providing a showcase for London's gay sports and social groups."

And it's not just sports; with details of over 100 gay groups, the online guide has something for everyone. Whether it's wrestling, salsa, singing or swimming you'll find it all at www.gmfa.org.uk/theguide

Most clubs and groups welcome beginners, and while some clubs are very competitive, others pride themselves on their members' enthusiasm rather than their skill or trophy size. Some clubs also welcome supporters, so if you love music but have no musical talent, you can still get involved with the London Gay Symphony Orchestra to help them organise their concerts. You'll also be warmly welcomed as a supporter of the Kings Cross Steelers or the Gay Football Supporters Network.

If you can't find a club built around your main interest, we may inspire you to set up your own. GMFA's Guide To Setting Up A Successful Sports Club Or Social Group (which you can download from the website – www.gmfa.org.uk/theguide) provides all the information you need.

-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 GMFA is the UK's leading gay men's health charity, reaching over 140,000 men with our interventions. 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. Yearly we deliver three new mass media campaigns in the gay press to disseminate up to date information regarding HIV and STIs to the gay male community. Independent surveys have concluded that our campaigns reach up to 55% 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. Annually, we deliver 1000 hours of group work to educate gay men in safer sex, and over the last fourteen years have provided courses for over 10,000 gay men. We have recently launched two new websites containing information for gay men on sex and sexual health (www.gmfa.org.uk/sex) and details of sexual health services available for gay men in London (www.gmfa.org.uk/londonservices). Over the next couple of months we intend to launch websites for HIV positive gay men and a gay sports and social groups site. All of our sites can be accessed at www.gmfa.org.uk