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Business



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Riverside receives honour

TripAdvisor has awarded a Certificate of Excellence to the **Riverside Caravan Park** in Bentham, Lancaster. "It's a credit to the staff and

all the hard work they put in over the course of the season," said park owner Thomas Marshall.



Hiring to slow

A survey by the **Institute of Directors** found that around a quarter of its members are planning a hiring freeze in the wake of the Brexit, while five percent are planning to cut jobs. However almost a third will continue hiring at the same pace.



Gold on the rise

The **Royal Mint** has reported that in the 24 hours following the announcement of the referendum result, visits to its gold bullion website rose by 550 percent, while new account openings soared 200 percent. The value of gold has risen in the face of economic uncertainty.



Ainsworth takeover approved

Novomatic is set to take a 53 percent stake in Aussie slot manufacturer Ainsworth, after a meeting of the minority shareholders. "We value the and support by the minority shareholders and will make effort to meet their expectations" said CEO Harald Neumann



Rudd readies for new cash

CASH HANDLING

Bob Rudd has announced a plan to upgrade all of its machines to deal with the new currency, with the September deadline for the polymer £5 note looming.



Single site operator Bob Rudd has announced its plans to prepare an array of machines around the country for the various forms of new currencies that are soon to be introduced. The Bank of England is due to introduce a new £5 note on 13 September this year. The new note is made from polymer, which remains cleaner, and in better shape than the current paper version. It also adds another layer of complexity to deter counterfeiting. This is the first of the English bank notes to be converted to polymer; both £10 and £20 notes will also be completed by 2020.

"Naturally this will affect the acceptance of notes in machines for all involved in

the industry and Bob Rudd have been working on the £5 polymer alterations on the Innovative NV11 estate since 16 May," said a company statement, "and have now started with the JCM Vega updates."

Bob Rudd reports that each of its depots has a dedicated workstation prepared to update its equipment and also has equipment for engineers to perform on site upgrades. "The Bank of England has given the company access to the new note so they are able to fully test all updates and ensure their hard work now will not be in vein further down the line," said the statement.

The company also confirmed that it has plans to

convert its entire suite of machines before the launch of the new note, a process which should also prepare them for the polymer £10 note in 2017 and £20 note in 2020.

Meanwhile the controversial £1 coin, which has created plenty of discussion in coin-op circles, has also been addressed by Bob Rudd. The company says it, "already has all systems, hardware and software in place to cope with the introduction of the new £1 coin."

To road test its new hardware the operator currently has a small sample of sited equipment accepting the new £1 coin, enable the company's technicians to partake in testing and analysis well before the

2017 deadline. However problems with the test model of the coin means that the Bank of England is yet to finalise the design, causing further heartache for the industry.

Bobb Rudd Collectors are also undergoing a program to identify all sited coin mechanisms on equipment such as pool tables, jukeboxes and other ancillary machines where coin acceptors can sometimes be non-standard.

"We can confidently say, at this moment in time all of our coin acceptors will convert and we already have procedures in place to swap out and update them where required," confirmed Kevin Astley, technical director at Bob Rudd.

Hoburne enjoys 2015 profit leap

HOLIDAY PARK

Dorset-based holiday park owner, Hoburne, has announced a welcome jump in its financial results, crediting the rise to a £6m investment in its facilities and an increase in the number of holidaymakers choosing to travel to, or remain in, the UK for their vacations.

Hoburne runs seven holiday parks across the south of England, many of which benefit from the presence of amusement arcades and fruit machines. Turnover at the company grew to £28.9m during the year ending 30

November, 2015, an increase of £2.5m on the previous year's results. Pre-tax profit rose from £4.5m in 2014 to £6.2m in 2015.

Speaking to The Independent, Hoburne's managing director, Paul Tucker said: "We have had a strong financial performance the past year in all areas of the business. Thanks to the support of our shareholders we have been able to reinvest in our parks and facilities bringing them in-line with increasing expectations of holidaymakers and day homeowners."

