



PRESS RELEASE

20th April 2011

Tee Off with the Tigers

The Isle of Wight Zoo took on a new role in Sandown this week, as it formally took over the running of Browns Family Golf. Browns has been on the Island since the 1930s and is a key landmark on Culver Parade, famous for its cream teas. Early in 2011 the Isle of Wight Council - who own the grounds - invited applications to run the site. The Isle of Wight Zoo, which backs onto the main golf course, was selected and on 16th April the doors were officially opened under the new management.

“The site’s usage will remain the same,” explained a spokeswoman, “so there’s no need to worry about the golf course becoming a giraffe paddock! However we are keen to explore ways in which the businesses can complement each other, with joint family tickets and the promotion of our shared history.”

Both the Zoo and Browns had key parts in the Island’s World War II effort. Both sites housed equipment for the PLUTO pumps that supplied the allied forces with fuel following D-Day. A fake clubhouse was even specially built at Browns to house the generator that powered the Sandown pump. This clubhouse still stands on the golf course and the zoo is keen to explore ways to promote this fascinating piece of heritage.

Managing Director Charlotte Corney said “we were delighted to secure the operation of Brown’s; it makes perfect sense for the zoo to take this neighbouring and much-loved Island attraction under its wing. We are committed to investing in the Sandown Bay leisure experience both for our growing Island resident market and seasonal tourists. I am personally feeling very confident that the sun will be shining on this end of the Bay in 2011 and beyond. Between the two venues we have a wonderful team who are dedicated to delivering a first-class day out for all the family”

-ENDS-

Media enquiries: Sonia Mitchell, Marketing Supervisor, Isle of Wight Zoo

marketing@isleofwightzoo.com 01983 403883 <http://www.isleofwightzoo.com>

Notes to editors:

Isle of Wight Zoo aims to promote the survival of endangered species through first class educational and recreational experiences, exemplary animal management, conservation and research. The Zoo is best known for its work with exotic cats. As a centre for surplus or rescued big cats, all have come to the Zoo at different stages of their lives and from a variety of backgrounds. The Zoo strives to encourage the social development and natural behaviour of each cat in their care. Every species of big cat residing at the Zoo is currently under considerable threat in its natural habitat. Isle of Wight Zoo is currently home to 8 tigers, 4 lions and 2 jaguars.



Tel: 01983 403883 | Web: www.isleofwightzoo.com | Email: enquiries@isleofwightzoo.com

Isle of Wight Zoo Limited | Registered Address: Isle of Wight Zoo, Yaverland Seafront, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8QB | Company Number: 7572295 | Directors: Mrs J Corney and Ms C Corney |