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EDITED BY STEVE HAWKES

8 ice rinks on skids over unpaid taxes



Rink ... Basingstoke

By STEVE HAWKES, Business Editor

Published: 18 Jan 2012

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BRITAIN'S biggest ice rink operator was last night at risk of meltdown after a wave of winding-up orders by the taxman.

The Arena Group could see eight of its Planet Ice centres shut over unpaid taxes.

The company confirmed the shock move yesterday — and vowed to fight it. Arena also insisted it is trading as normal.

Each of the eight centres at risk — Basingstoke, Cardiff, Milton Keynes, Norwich, Gosport, Isle of Wight, Peterborough and Hemel Hempstead — has been hit with a separate winding up order.

The cases are due to be heard in the High Court next month. Arena bills Planet Ice as "Europe's No1 for Ice Leisure".

The company said in a statement: "The board disputes the assessment and action taken by HMRC and the likelihood is that this will be resolved within the next few days."

But one insider claimed that as each rink is registered as a separate company, Arena may use the orders as a chance to decide which to keep or close.

Valentine's disco nights at the rinks were still being advertised online last night along with deals for half-term

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The firm's struggle shows the strain on companies which rely on discretionary spending by hard-up Brits. Clothing retailer Peacocks is poised to go into administration, while Britain's biggest nightclub owner Luminar collapsed last year before being bought by a consortium.

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blanclady

0 likes

Correct me if I'm wrong but I thought all one had to do was take a member of the Revenue Hierarchy out to lunch and jobs a gooden???

14 HOURS AGO



c73

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we need a rink In Wolverhampton..

17 HOURS AGO



HarryJamesCooper

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planet ice, no planet slush use cardiff rink for devils ice hockey not safe no maintenance poor safety poor staff no cleaning over priced ,and over here let them go out of business please

17 HOURS AGO



britainisamess

0 likes

If HMRC can do anything to help businesses stay afloat they should. It's not as if the HMRC are not struggling themselves! From what I've seen they keep making mistakes and losing information. In these tough times they should be more lenient to businesses that show willing - backed by the government, otherwise we ALL lose by spending more on benefits and lost taxes with a business shut that could have paid back any money owed. If that happens Who loses WE THE GENERAL PUBLIC DO - AGAIN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

19 HOURS AGO



shreka

0 likes

All this in the year we have the olympics. The hypocrites said, lets get britain healthy and active in the run up to the games...yaeh right, these places closing down, swimming pools, recreation areas being dug over for development .

Today's Discussion



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