



First Quench administration update: 35 further redundancies

Wednesday 11th November 2009

The joint administrators of First Quench Retailing (“First Quench”), which trades as the Threshers, Wine Rack, The Local, Haddows, Bottoms Up and Victoria Wine brands, have announced a further 35 redundancies at head office today.

Richard Fleming, UK Head of Restructuring at KPMG, and joint administrator, commented:

“Unfortunately, we have made a further 35 redundancies at head office in Welwyn Garden City. This follows the initial 81 redundancies announced on appointment of administrators. The redundancies reflect the reduced need for head office staff, following the store closure programme announced last week. The redundancies were made across the head office teams.”

First Quench Retailing operates around 1,200 Threshers, The Local, Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, Victoria Wine and Haddows branded stores across Scotland, England and Wales and employs approximately 6,300 people. Richard Fleming, Mick McLoughlin and Ian Corfield of KPMG were appointed joint administrators to First Quench on Thursday 29th October 2009. 81 staff at head office were made redundant on Friday 30th October 2009. A further 1,738 redundancies are being made as part of the closure of 373 stores, announced on Thursday 5th November 2009. There were originally 208 employees at head office, which has now reduced to 92 as part of the administration.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

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KPMG is focussing on selling the business as a going concern. Parties interested in acquiring more than 50 stores, should call 0844 576 8862. KPMG is taking expressions of interest only at this stage for parties interested in less than 50 stores, these should be emailed to: fqrsale@kpmg.co.uk.

The administrators have set up a general query helpline number and email address:

0844 576 8862 / fqinfo@kpmg.co.uk.

More detailed information for stakeholders, such as landlords, employees and creditors, is available at www.threshergroup.com.

About KPMG

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