



NEWS RELEASE

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PSYBT SET THE “PAINTBALL” ROLLING

Two local young entrepreneurs with a taste for outdoor activities have brought the sport of Paintball to Stornoway, one of the fastest growing leisure activities in the UK. Johannes Engebretsen (30) and Jason King (29) saw a gap in the market for leisure activities on the Island and decided that they could do something about it. As a result Viking Paintball was set up and has recently begun operating games at it's Macaulay Farm venue.

Paintball is a team sport, and Viking Paintball have a variety of game scenarios and missions for paintball teams to choose from. They provide paintball equipment, safety gear, ammunition and camouflage. Game details and timings can be organised to suit each individual group. Viking Paintball are open to play by appointment and can be contacted by telephoning 01851 702110 / 704521 or via email: enquiries@vikingpaintball.co.uk. They also have a website which can be accessed for further information www.vikingpaintball.co.uk

Viking Paintball have taken bookings for as far ahead as July and as the summer progresses they hope to expand their site and continuously improve their service. Speaking on behalf of their company, Johannes said “We are both happy that the response to Paintball has been the one we hoped for and are also convinced that we have gone about things as well as we could. We would like to thank PSYBT for the advice, support and financial assistance they gave us in starting up our own business.”

Johannes and Jason already had a basic plan in place when they approached The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT), for advice and financial assistance to help them turn their business idea into reality.

With help from the PSYBT, they finalised their Business Plan and Cash Flow forecasts, which proved to be essential, in terms of raising finance for their business. After a meeting with the local PSYBT Panel, they were awarded a loan of £3,200 to help them establish their Paintball Centre. Johannes and Jason will also receive two years of follow up business aftercare support from a PSYBT Business Adviser. Viking Paintball were successful in attracting additional funding from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Business Advantage programme, and from Western Isles Enterprise.

Regional Chairman for PSYBT in the Western Isles. Councillor Donald Maclean said *"I am delighted that PSYBT have been able to assist Johannes and Jason to set up their new business in the Western Isles. I congratulate them on their idea and their courage to take their idea forward."*

Viking Paintball have already achieved success in the Regional Shell-LiveWIRE Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2003 where they won second prize and a cheque for £800.

PSYBT in the Western Isles offers start-up funding and advice to young people aged between 18 and 30, with a business idea of their own. For further information contact: Jane Campbell, PSYBT Regional Manager, Business Advantage, Town Hall, Stornoway, on 01851 707475.

Enterprise Youth is part-funded by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the European Regional Development Fund through the Highlands and Islands Special Transitional Programme – HISTP.



Photo:- Johannes Engebretson and Jason King, Viking Paintball

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Issued by:

**Jane Campbell
Youth Enterprise Development Officer
Department for Sustainable Communities
Business Advantage
Town Hall
Point Street
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis HS1 2BE**

**Tel: (01851)-707475
Fax: (01851)-703657
Email jane.campbell@cne-siar.gov.uk**

Note:-

Photo of Johannes Engebretsen and Jason King, Viking Paintball is attached.