

BRIGHTON

# Planners' choice

C&IT asks event planners to recommend Brighton's best spaces for an executive lunch, large conference and teambuilding activity. By Jack Carter



## Large conference

**SOPHIE SPENCE** Operations manager, **Tangent Link**

Tangent Link recently delivered the International Search & Rescue 2015 conference, supported by the Maritime Coastguard Agency, at The Hilton Brighton Metropole hotel, which has a fantastic conference and exhibition centre. It provided us with the perfect space for our event. The conference took place across two days and involved a supporting exhibition that demonstrated the latest equipment.

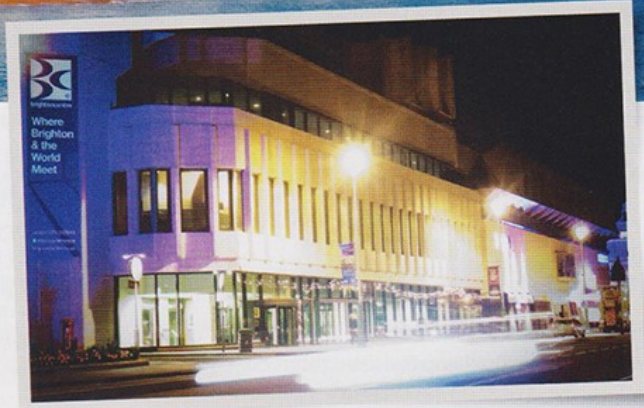
The conference and exhibition rooms are right next door to each other, which meant when the sessions ended the delegates could filter into the second room where they had a great opportunity to network with some of our international speakers.

The venue team was great to work with and they also provided help with finding local dinner venues. Usually, we hold the drinks reception elsewhere but they provided us with the facilities for this and it meant that people could stay longer in the exhibition.

**KAT ALLSO** Venue coordinator, **DRP**

The Brighton Centre is a great venue for a variety of corporate conferences. The venue boasts the 4,500-seat Auditorium 1 and the revamped 650-seat Auditorium 2. These are both suited to conferences for large audiences. Additional event space includes the ground-floor foyer, which provides a light, open space of 1,300m<sup>2</sup>; the Syndicate Wing, comprising of two floors, each seating 400 that can be divided into four individual rooms of 200 theatre-style; plus many more smaller meeting rooms and offices ideal for conference organiser offices and speakers rooms.

The Brighton Centre has many uses and options that can be manipulated to a client's brief and because there is plenty of space it gives event planners the freedom to be creative. There are options for breakout meetings and rooms come equipped with the latest technology.



## Senior lunch meeting

**LEANNE LAND** Events consultant, **Conference Care**

For an intimate lunch I would recommend Hotel Seattle – a boutique option that offers fresh, modern spaces overlooking the marina. One of Conference Care's FMCG clients regularly uses it as they love the light-filled meeting spaces with private decking. If you are looking for something more relaxed in the warmer months, the hotel will provide al-fresco dining on its ship-shaped terrace.

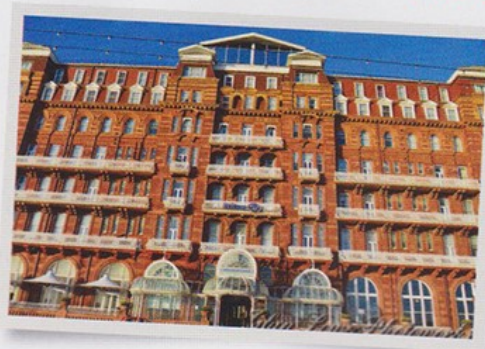
As Hotel Seattle is located at the marina, rather than by the pier, there is a more relaxed and private feel to its location, which works well when clients want to get away from the busy office environment. Similarly, if clients do want to tag on an afternoon activity, they can conveniently walk straight from the hotel to boating activities on the marina.

**CHARLIE HEPBURN** Managing director, **Vivid Event Group**

Hotel du Vin was selected as the ideal venue to create a package for a European Financial consultancy firm, which was looking to hold a senior management meeting and lunch for 15 as a reward for exceeding targets.

Guests began the day in the private meeting room for an introductory briefing before a wine tasting in an open-view, dedicated space where the sommelier presented a selection of fortified wines

*By the seaside (from top) Brighton seafront; Brighton Centre; Hilton Brighton Metropole*





**Stylish and flexible** (above) Hotel du Vin; (right) Albert Room, The Grand Brighton hotel

and canapés. The guests then returned to the meeting room, which also doubled as a reception area, for a five-course lunch.

The venue was an excellent choice due to its service and stylish yet flexible space, as requested by the clients who required an interchangeable room to be used for both dining and presenting. The event provided a quantifiable return on investment and our client felt that the bonds between senior managers were strengthened as a result.

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## BRIGHTON

### Afternoon teambuilding activity

**CHARLOTTE JARMAN** Account manager, Bluehat Group

We delivered our Guinness World Record Team Challenge for 120 of our client's delegates and because of the type of activities the delegates would be taking part in, we had very specific requirements for our venue. The Grand Brighton hotel was really well suited for this.

Typically, we need a room the size of two tennis courts for delegates to make the most of the teambuilding activities and in London this can be quite limiting. In Brighton, however, we had the luxury of space and the venue made it really easy to meet our specific requirements. We even had a reception area with nice views over the beachfront, which we used for tea and coffee and as a preliminary holding area before the activity. Everything at The Grand is high quality and very far removed from the average conference centre.

**JAMES DIMENT** Head of projects and operations, Chillisauc

Deloitte appointed Chillisauc to deliver a teambuilding event to celebrate the end of its graduate scheme and to incentivise the 400 graduates to stay on with the company. Because it was taking place at the end of July, the client wanted to do something outdoors so we opted for a 'party in the park' theme on the Hove Lawns on the seafront.

The venue fitted our theme perfectly. We had more space than we knew what to do with and it allowed us to have a lot of fun. We organised activities with a competitive element, as well as a marquee with a chill-out area and evening entertainment. Deloitte loved the venue and we are in negotiations to hold the event there again this year. ■

