

## Nightspot ordered to close earlier

A SECOND town centre nightspot has been forced to shut early after an undercover police investigation revealed that it was not complying with the conditions of its late licence.

Flickers Bar, in Newcastle, appeared before licensing magistrates after police found the High Street venue did not serve food at night with its booze. The law says the sale of alcohol at late-night venues should supplement food, music and dancing, but police found no food on offer and the kitchens unused.

The news comes one month after The Albion Pub, in High Street in the town centre, warned it could face closure after its late licence was revoked on a similar matter.

North Staffordshire Division licensing sergeant, Wayne Jones, said: "We have been looking at a number of premises in Newcastle town centre which have late licences.

"They should be providing food and entertainment, with alcohol secondary to that. We found there was no food being provided at Flickers and the majority of people were going there to buy alcohol."

Flickers will now revert to an 11am to 11pm licence, leaving 13 late licence premises in Newcastle.

The venue did not appear at Newcastle Magistrates Court but accepted breaching the Section 77 requirements of the Special Hours Certificate by prioritising the sale of alcohol above other entertainment.

Nick Maslin, operations director for MTL Management Services Ltd, which operates Flickers, said the pub had offered food, but no one wanted to eat it.

## Man admits approaching two girls

A MAN accused of attempting to abduct two girls has told a court he did approach them but he did not intend to kidnap them.

Graham Holden told Chester Crown Court he had approached one girl out of concern and offered her a lift as she was walking alone at night. The 43-year-old denies two charges of attempting to unlawfully, by force or by fraud, take or carry away a girl against her will.

The charges relate to two separate incidents on January 3 and 4 this year involving a 16 and a 17-year-old. Holden, of West Street, Crewe, told the jury he had stolen the car which he was in when he saw the two girls. Holden a friend, who had asked him on January 3 to check on a property in Haslington.

He said he thought he had seen the 16-year-old coming off the property and wanted to talk to her about it. Holden said he had approached a 17-year-old girl the next night at because he was concerned about her walking home alone. The trial continues.

## Waterworld owner ranked 111th wealthiest with £21.5m



MULTI-MILLIONAIRE: Mo Chaudry at Waterworld

Picture: Neil Hulse

# Mo makes his mark on Britain's Asian rich list

BY CHRISTINA SAVVAS  
BUSINESS REPORTER

SELF-MADE millionaire Mo Chaudry is ranked among the top 10 wealthiest Asians in the region thanks to the success of his tourist attraction Waterworld and property business.

The entrepreneur is a new entry into the Asian Rich List published and compiled by Dr Philip Beresford, a journalist who creates rich lists as a full-time job.

The official index of Britain's top 300 Asian millionaires puts the man behind the Festival Park fun pool in 111th place and estimates he's worth around £21.5 million.

However, it is thought the most up-to-date figures show Mr Chaudry, who was born into a working-class family in Pakistan, is now worth £25 million to £30 million.

The 44-year-old said: "I had no say in being listed and, therefore, the figures are not entirely accurate because they are based on assets such as land and property.

"However, I am very proud to be included in the list. My wealth is a reflection of my hard work and determination to make something of myself following a difficult childhood.

"I hope I become a positive role model not only for the Asian youth of today but to all youths. With hard work, determination and the right attitude anyone can achieve success."

Mr Chaudry moved to Britain in 1969 with his parents and settled in Luton. His family later moved to Telford where he went to a grammar school.

He left with just one O-level but he made up for it later at what is now Staffordshire University.

After university he worked in financial services before moving into property through his MIC Properties operation, which has more than 30 commercial properties. His net assets are around £10 million.

However, it is Waterworld, which employs 125 people, that has been his major

### Profile

**Name:** Mo Chaudry  
**Position:** chairman and chief executive of Waterworld and founder of MIC Properties  
**Birthplace:** Rawalpindi, Pakistan  
**Age:** 44  
**Marital status:** married with three daughters  
**Qualifications:** BA (hons) sports science, Member of the Life Insurance Association (diploma)  
**Car:** Bentley  
**Music:** Lionel Richie, Neil Diamond and most pop music  
**Hobbies:** keeping fit, adventure, travel, mountain climbing, cricket and golf  
**Film:** El Cid

achievement in Stoke-on-Trent. He bought the site at a knock-down price from Rank in 1999 and has since invested heavily in it.

The site now attracts

around 400,000 people each year and contributes around £10 million to the local economy, based on research in 2002, which revealed day visitors who travel more than 40 miles spend an average £34 each.

The aqua park, which generates annual net profit of £500,000, has been ranked second most efficient leisure business in the UK in a report produced by sector analyst Plimsoll Publishing.

Mr Chaudry said: "I will continue to invest to make Waterworld a major national multi-destination attraction but to achieve this aim at least £5 million needs to be invested and public sector support is needed."

Despite being the wealthiest Asian in North Staffordshire, Mr Chaudry said it is important to him to remember his roots; he donates £10,000 each year to a school in Pakistan.

"I find it very humbling when I go back to my village. I am grateful for what I have and what I have achieved in my life.

"Failing at school was a turning point in my life. It shook me up but it inspired me to do something with my life or who knows where I would have ended up.

"I am not your typical millionaire. I drive a nice car and live in a nice house but the things that really matter are my family and giving my children the best opportunities and pushing myself with exciting challenges. The latest was climbing mount Kilimanjaro.

"It was the hardest thing I have ever done. But it's an example of pushing myself to the limit and not wanting to fail."

Steel baron Lakshmi Mittal heads the rich list with a fortune of £13,500 million.

The 300 individuals featured on the list are worth a combined fortune of more than £26 billion, more than double the wealth of last year.

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## £4.9m council HQ set to win approval

PLANS for a new £4.9million headquarters for Congleton Borough Council look set to be approved tonight.

The new building will replace Westfields in Sandbach and also lead to the closure of council buildings in Alsager and Congleton.

Instead one-stop shops — which have council services under one roof — look set to be created in Alsager,

Congleton, Middlewich and Sandbach.

The new headquarters is planned for land off Middlewich Road and Platt Avenue in Sandbach.

But members of the borough council's Board must decide whether to use an extra £772,000 from their reserves before approving the plan tonight.

Peter Sutton, the borough

council's legal democratic officer, said: "The office centralisation project board believes that centralisation of all head office staff in a single location could bring about service efficiency savings.

"They have stated that an essential part of kick-starting the process is the appointment of the recommended programme manager on a fixed term three-year con-

tract at a revenue cost of £50,000."

Mr Sutton added that doing nothing is no longer an option as the council's current buildings do not comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, which became law last year.

Even though simply upgrading the existing council offices would save the authority almost £1million,

they would not get good return in terms of its valuation after work is completed.

If the council decides not to centralise, it will face large capital costs to undertake the backlog of repairs.

Two options are expected to go before the executive tonight include either updating existing council buildings or opting for centralisation.