

AIRtime

The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain

Issue 52 — May - June 05



Krispy Kremes - how it all began ...
Real Roller Coaster Tycoons ... Track Talk ...
Movie News and much more ... all inside ...



Issue 52
May / June 05

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Club News

Chairman's Comment

Welcome to another packed issue of **AIRtime**.

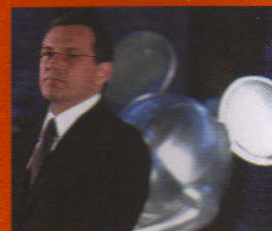
This issue see a new feature called 'The Real Roller Coaster Tycoons'. Each month a different park owner or manufacturer will be interviewed about their role in the real coaster world! See page 5 for an interview with Will Koch, President of Holiday World.

You still have time to book for the Summer Bash (July 9th) at Hayling Island. It is only £7.50 and that includes unlimited riding, ERS, parking and lunch. Just send a cheque with your membership number on the back and mark the envelope 'Summer Bash'. The next big trip after that is 'MegaGLOWMania' (August 13th). Your chance to ride the fabulous Megafobia for 2 hours! It's a great trip and well worth the journey to Wales. On the subject of trips all those of you about to embark on 'USA 2005 ~ West Coaster Story' - don't forget your passports!!

Finally enjoy reading **AIRtime** and I look forward to seeing you on a trip soon.

The Iger Sanction

The board of Walt Disney has unanimously elected **President and chief operating officer Robert Iger** to take over as **Chief Executive** when the current incumbent, Michael Eisner, steps down. **Mr. Eisner will be leaving** in September, a year earlier than originally planned, according to a statement released on March 13. Mr. Iger, 54, was the sole internal candidate for the job, though external candidates including eBay Chief Executive Meg Whitman and News Corp President Peter Chernin, were believed to be in the frame.



Fish coming to Legoland?

American investment group Blackstones is reportedly looking to make a double purchase. Firstly they are interested in buying Merlin Entertainments who operate 26 attractions in 8 countries, including the London Dungeon, and the Sea Life Centre brand. The deal could be worth £100 million. At the same time the US group could be looking to buy the Legoland parks from the toy manufacturer. If both deals goes through it's thought Blackstones may add Sea Life Centres to the four Legoland parks.

London Eye tops Attractions Poll



Five years after it was built, the UK's London Eye has topped a poll of the world's most popular attractions. The 135m.-high giant wheel beat famous landmarks including the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty and the leaning tower of Pisa, as well as the Sydney Opera House and the Vatican.

The poll was commissioned by crisp maker Pringles.

The history of the RCCGB and Krispy Kremes!

by Barry Healey

The infamous Krispy Kreme, known to all on the last few US trips, is a delight to behold. From your regular 'glazed' doughnut, a further 14 varieties

(plus seasonal limited editions) are there for your exploration. Just ask the recipients of the 12 dozen boxes, shared on arrival in Pennsylvania

between the two coaches on last year's mini trip, and they'll be able to describe the assortment of mouth watering delights on offer.

Starting in 1937, the first shop opened in North Carolina. From that date they have expanded right across the USA and now have 365 stores worldwide. In December 2001 they opened their first International store in Toronto, Canada, and then in October 2003 Krispy Kremes arrived in the UK. Based in Harrods initially, they have since opened seven further London outlets, the latest being Shannon Corner just off the A3.

With the promise of free goodies and the chance to win a lifetime supply, I forced myself out of bed at some unholy hour for the chance to be first in the queue at their Grand Opening. I came an impressive ninth, which still qualified for some fine freebie merchandise and of course that all important complimentary box of Krispy Kremes. The victor of the lifetime supply deserved his spoils having camped out from 9am the day before to secure his prize!

As part of an ambitious plan they hope to have a minimum of 25 further outlets in the UK within the next 5 years. Those further north than London need not worry as negotiations are underway with key retail sites to have outlets in Milton Keynes, Birmingham and Manchester by the end of 2005.



The whole Krispy Kreme experience includes 'factory shops', where you can watch the doughnuts being made and buy them hot off the production line, and 'fresh' shops where doughnuts are delivered everyday. It's not uncommon for staff to offer 'hot tasters' to the queuing public straight from the belt. With coffees, shakes and merchandise for sale, you can eat, drink and wear Krispy Kremes to your heart's content. For more information check out the Krispy Kreme website at www.krispykreme.co.uk.

Some good news though for everyone who is going to the States on West Coaster Story, as a Krispy Kreme will be in our Las Vegas hotel!



New arrivals at Drayton Manor

Drayton Manor Park has recently had two new arrivals at their Zoo. The park has become home to two endangered West African Dwarf Crocodiles.

The dwarf crocodiles are the worlds smallest growing to a maximum 180cm.

Mark Dainty, Head Reptile Keeper at Drayton Manor Zoo commented "Drayton Manor Zoo is very proud of its ongoing involvement in captive breeding programmes, and the dwarf crocodiles will be an important addition to that."

The next objective is to find a male to bring in to the zoo.



My first Bash with the RCCGB

By Kate Patten



My first encounter with the RCCGB was at Blackpool in April for the 2005 Blackpool Bash. I had heard stories about a weekend like this, and quite how mad every one was going to be, but I'm not sure I was quite prepared for what did happen.

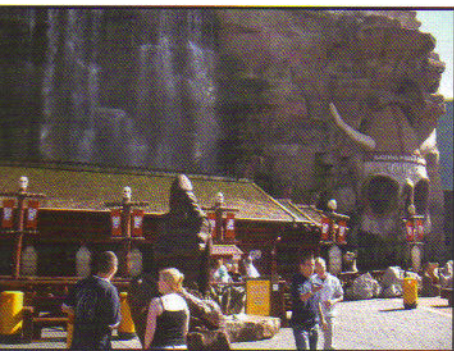
By the time we arrived at Blackpool I was really excited about the weekend away. Our

B&B was very homely and all seemed to be starting off really well.

When we arrived at the Pleasure Beach for the Friday night entertainment, it was quite overwhelming just standing in the foyer with all these people that already knew each other, and many who were meeting up again for the first time this year. I felt quite small, not knowing anyone other than Mat South or Lee Bennett (Prof), but during the evening I was introduced to a handful of people and they were all very friendly, so after a while my nerves calmed down slightly! The entertainment was enjoyable but by the end of the evening I was ready for bed as it had been a long day, with an early start, and by then, a late night! Anyway, I wanted to be up bright and early ready for a day of riding coasters at the Pleasure Beach!

Saturday was brilliant. I have never been to Blackpool Pleasure Beach before so everything was new. I loved the ERS on the Big Dipper, and after a while lost count of the amount of times we went on it.

The rest of the day was just a blur, apart from



lunch, it was none stop. Probably the worst bit though was being dragged on to Vahalla despite the weather, and yes, we came off absolutely soaked!

Saturday night was amazing, I loved all the acts and Sarah Booker with the Wizard of Oz crowd, was great, and she really deserved to win the Gong Show. It was an exciting evening, after



spending most of it reassuring Mat that he would be great on stage, I finally got to see him perform his song, and despite all his fears, really he was very good! I was amazed at the costumes, some people had gone to a lot of trouble to make, and they were all just wonderful, however I think my favourites were the Wizard of Oz group!

As for the people I met, you were all very friendly, and just as mad as I had been warned you would be! But it's all such good fun and adds to the pleasure of the weekend!

When it got to the end of Saturday night I didn't want to go back to the B&B - if I could, I would have danced all night!

Sunday saw another first for me - Southport.

I really enjoyed the ERS's on Traumatizer and the Cyclone and then into the Funhouse. Yes I came off the Joywheel with a few bruises, including a relatively large one on my back!!! But as I was told, what would the joywheel be without a few bruises!



I didn't really go to the Bash with any pre-set expectations. I was just looking forward to a good weekend, and was really pleasantly surprised at the mix of people in the club, the variety of ages and so on. Everyone I spoke to was very friendly and since Blackpool I have kept in touch with some of them via the message board.

One thing I do know though, I really hope I can go on to attend many more Blackpool Bashes and other club trips! **Thanks to everyone, for a really great introduction to the Club.**



Velocity at Flamingoland

Construction of Flamingoland's new £4million roller coaster is well under way. Due to open in July **Velocity** will be the UK's first motorbike coaster from Vekoma.

Launching riders to 100 Km/h in 2.8 seconds along a kilometre of track **Velocity** is sure to be popular.





Moondance

Technical Park is getting ready to release their latest flat ride. **Moondance** has a capacity of 24 people and features an elevating arm that reaches 15m and almost vertical. The main arm rotates, and at the same time the platform that the seats are fixed to, also rotates. The main arm can rotate at 10rpm while the platform rotates at 16rpm. The operator has control of the speed of both rotations as well as direction. **AIRtime** is the first magazine to get hold of these photos as the ride has the finishing touches added at the Italian manufacturers factory.



Knoebels sells a Roller Coaster

A roller coaster whose upside-down loops used to make its riders sick will now go to help the sick. Knoebels has sold its Whirlwind roller coaster to a Caribbean amusement park that is operated by a children's hospital. The park's proceeds go directly to the Costa Rica Children's National Hospital.

Knoebels bought the Whirlwind from a New York park in 1993 to replace Jet Star. A crew is currently preparing the roller coaster for shipment to Costa Rica.

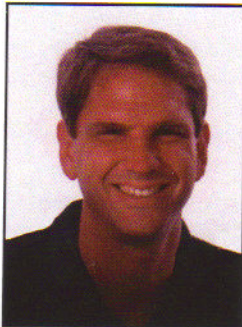
The Park has however, added two new rides, a pendulum thrill ride - Fandango, and a family ride - Flying Tigers, which are loosely modelled after World War II planes.



THE REAL

Rollercoaster TYCOONS

The first of a new series looking into the lives of theme park owners, managers and ride designers.



Will Koch is President of Holiday World in Santa Claus, Indiana. Opened in 1946 by Will's grandfather Louis J. Koch, Holiday World is home to two Top 5 wooden roller coasters, Legend and Raven. Last year Holiday World won the Applause Award for 2004 / 05 the theme park industry equivalent of an Oscar. Amusement Today also voted the park as the friendliest for 7 years running and cleanest for 4 years. Hardly surprising for a park that offers free soft drinks and sun screen. Holiday World is also home to the Number 2 ranked water park Splashin Safari.

Q. How do you decide what ride you want next?

A. We look at what our customers are asking for, and at capacity. We also listen to ride manufacturers' reps to see what new products are about, and listen to other park operators to see what rides are working for them. A ride has to be family oriented, have marketing 'pop', substantial capacity, and be a safe ride that can be maintained for reasonable cost in relation to the investment.

Q. How much input do you have into a rides design?

A. It depends on the type of ride. Flat rides, very little - colours, the options on safety systems, physical site parameters, etc. but, basically, the ride is the ride. For roller coasters or log flumes / rapids, we would have a great deal of input. Typically, we start by choosing the site. This tells you a lot about the kind of ride that you can build on it. We normally go through several design, starting with discussions with the sales rep and progressing through a very detailed analysis of the ride layout, content, themeing, station layout, loading and unloading systems, etc. I would say that on these types of rides, we have a great deal of input.

Q. Which project were you most excited about?

A. For us, the ultimate project was the Raven. This was our first wooden roller coaster. It was a 'good sized' coaster, but not world-beating by any size or measure. Yet, by working with CCI, we were able to create a ride that was truly outstanding. As it went up, I spent many days walking the area, 'riding it in my mind'. When the day came to actually get on board (I'm always among the first group to ride a new ride!) we were literally blown away. Even with the slower speed that it had at start-up, we knew we had something special. Our beliefs were confirmed when Raven was voted Ride of the Year in its opening season, and was the No.1 Wooden Coaster in the world, for four years according to Amusement Today.



Q. What's the best thing about being a roller coaster tycoon?

A. It's an awful lot of fun to work on projects like this, and then to build them, see them in operation, and see how guests respond to them. It a lot of fun, and is very satisfying.

Q. What can we expect from you next?

A. We're continuing to grow and expand. We're thinking about projects for 2006, and have some very interesting ideas. Stay tuned.

Next issue - Charles Canfield, President & CEO Santa Cruz Seaside Company, owners & operators of the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk





... USA News ... WORLD News ...

Track talk



Dollywood

As part of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations, Dollywood has added 10 new family rides for the 2005 season at a cost of \$5million. Three rides, the Lucky Ducky; Busy Bees flying bumblebees; and the bouncing Piggy Parade are designed especially for small children. While all the family will enjoy Lemon Twist spinning cups; the Waltzing Swinger swings; the Amazing Flying Elephants; and the Dizzy Disk. The one-of-a-kind Sky Rider lets passengers help create their own flying adventure 70ft in the air, while good times soar on the 25ft Shooting Star junior drop tower.



Completing the line up is Dollywood's first kids' coaster the Veggie Tales Sideshow Spin. Only last year the park opened Thunderhead a \$7million GCI woodie featuring the worlds first fly through station where the train travels back through the station at 40mph just above the loading platform.



Hong Kong Disney

The full line up of attractions for Disney's newest park has been revealed. Hong Kong Disneyland is to open on the 12th of September this year. Adventureland will be home to Jungle River Cruise, Raft's to Tarzan's Treehouse, Tarzan's Treehouse, Liki Tikis and Festival of the Lion King. In Fantasyland you can experience The Many Adventures of Winnie The Pooh, Mickey's Philharmagic, Dumbo, Mad Hatter Tea Cups, Snow White's Grotto, Sleeping Beauty's Castle, Disney's Storybook Theatre an indoor theatre presenting 'The Golden Mickeys', Cinderella's Carousel, Fantasy Gardens a large character meet and greet area and the Disneyland Railroad. Tomorrowland will feature Space Mountain, Buzz Lightyear's Astro Blasters and Orbitron.



New Universal Park

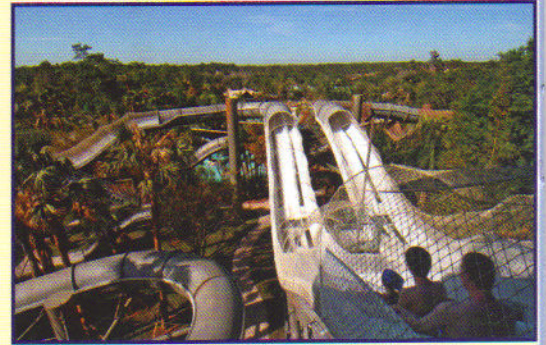
Malaysia's Genting Group and Universal Parks and Resorts have submitted plans for a new resort in Singapore. The proposed resort is intended for construction on Singapore's Sentosa Island at a cost of \$1.9 - 2.5 billion. The resort will include Singapore's first casino. 17 other companies have submitted casino resort plans including, Wynn Resorts and MGM- Mirage. Lim Kok Thay, chair, president and chief executive of Genting Berhad, said: "If given the opportunity, Genting and Universal will develop an exciting Universal Studios theme park on Sentosa which will be the premier entertainment destination in southeast Asia."

Bell's Tower

Bells Amusement Park in Tulsa drops in a new ride. Mind Melt is ARM/Larson Super Shot. The 135ft freefall tower accommodates 12 passengers and features an impressive lighting rig both on the tower and the ride vehicle.

Splash Battle

Splash Battle, a new interactive wet ride from 3DBA and Preston Barbieri has opened at Walibi World (formerly Six Flags Holland). Riders board bright coloured submarines equipped with water cannons that travel along a 591ft track. Passengers must fire the cannons in battle with other submarines, to deactivate water features to avoid getting a further drenching and to retaliate against spectators who can soak riders with water cannons placed at specific points along the ride.



Master Blaster Coasters

Disney's Typhoon Lagoon has launched a new water attraction. Crush 'n' Gusher consists of three different Master Blaster Water Coasters from NBS International. Each one has its own name, Coconut Crusher, Banana Blaster and Pineapple Plunger, they vary in length from 392ft to 415ft. Each slide features three uphill blaster sections that will propel riders in rubber rafts.



Being Disney Crush 'n' Gusher is heavily themed, the ride is found in a dense tropical jungle amid the remains of fruit exporting factory.

Sally's Latest Ride

Davy Crockett's Tall Tales ride is the latest dark ride installation by Sally Corporation. Located just across the road from the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas it is based on the mostly fictitious stories of Davy Crockett. Ride cars carry guests through many hilarious scenes and stories; from baby Davy living up to his reputation as a young hell-raiser to his romance with Miss Polly, his amazing feats of riding an alligator, wrasslin' bears, winning shooting contests and saving the world from Halley's Comet to his days in Washington and his brilliant plan to unfreeze the sun. At the end of the ride, visitors exit their wooden - barrel - style ride cars, and enter the Interactive Outpost with its artifacts and exhibits relating to Davy Crockett. Davy Crockett's Tall Tales Ride will be the sister attraction of Ripley's Haunted Adventure and The Guinness World Records Museum.



Another Club TV Star!

Hayley - our friend and daughter of club member Mark and Kerry Okines has been making even more TV appearances recently.

She featured on television twice on Monday 8th May, firstly on **This Morning** for ITV, and also in second hour long documentary for Extraordinary People - **The child who is older than her Grand-mother**, on Channel Five at 9pm. This is a follow up on her story "Extraordinary People ...The Child Who is Older than her Mother" another documentary made a couple of years ago, which is still being aired around the world.



At present there are about 40 known cases of Progeria around the world and only 4 in the UK. Progeria is a progressive terminal condition which mimics many of the characteristics of the normal ageing process, but faster ... a lot faster .. about 8 times faster in fact!

If you want to learn more about Hayley and her many antics, or learn about Progeria, why not visit Hayley's own web site at :- www.hayleypage.com



Are you a Knex Coaster Designer?

Club Member - Mark Jones is! Using several sets together, this is photo of one of his designs set up in his back garden. All three lift hills are fully motorised, and as is the nature of the fun with Knex, since taking this photo, Mark has added a loop to the layout, at the bottom of the big drop.



Some of you may remember Hayley, who is now 7, from her several visits to Blackpool Bashes, and especially her enthusiasm for the coasters and the 'Gofer Game'.

Hayley suffers from an extremely rare genetic condition called Hutchinson

Gilford Progeria Syndrome, also known Progeria.

My dearest friends ...

Now have I the chance to thank you all for your VERY KIND wishes, text messages, get well cards, and phone calls. I can honestly say I have never been so moved and overwhelmed before ... it actually brought me to tears.

I can truly say "you are like a family".

Again MANY MANY THANKS, if it wasn't for you ALL - I don't think I would have coped so well. Take care ... and hopefully I'll see some of you at Heathrow!

Regards, Ryan.....ON HIS ROUGHEST RIDE YET!!



New Member news!



Welcome to **Tegan Charlotte Lewis** born on the 4th March at 4.30pm. Tegan arrived weighing a healthy 8lbs 4oz to club members Lee Lewis and Jackie Hughes.

AIRtime would like to thank everyone who has contributed text and/or images for this issue including:- Kate Patten, Shawn Kay, Barry Healey, Mark Rose, Jackie Hughes, Joel Rogers, Mark Okines, Duane Marden, Scott Anderson, Dave Perry, along with the featured manufacturers and parks - and anyone else we may have inadvertently omitted.

THE PHOENIX

The legendary woodie '**The Phoenix**' at **Knoebel's** is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

The next issue of **AIRtime** will have a feature on this classic coaster and I would like to invite anyone who has ridden it to submit a few words part of a tribute.

So if you are a Phoenix Phan (sorry!) please e-mail your comments (no more than 100 words) by the end of June to andy@rccgb.co.uk.

Thanks



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8th or 9th to 23rd June
- USA 2005 ~ West Coaster Story

9th July - Summer Bash ~ Funland, Hayling Island

13th August - Megamania ~ Oakwood Leisure Park

8th & 9th October - Loopathon 05
- Alton Towers and Drayton Manor Park

1st to 3rd November
- Disney Dash ~ Bonfire Spectacular!

21st to 23rd April 2006
- Blackpool Bash 2006 - Pantomime Theme!

November 2006 - USA 2006 ~ "FFF"

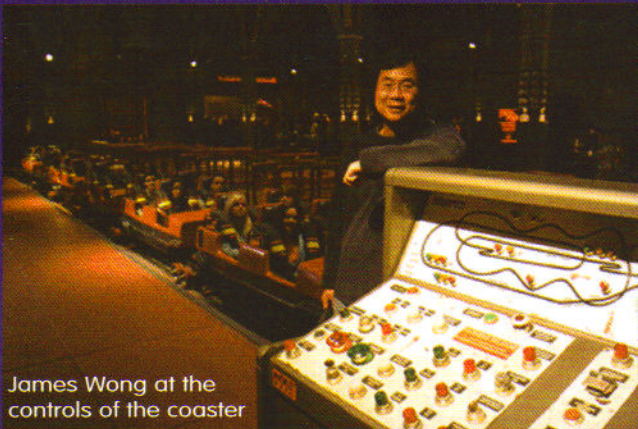
Full details will be sent with trip application forms, when applicable. All trips, venues and itineraries are subject to change.



Roller Coaster Movie Star

This is part of an interview with Glen Morgan - who with partner James Wong is returning to the Final Destination franchise by writing and producing the upcoming third installment for New Line Cinema - **Cheating Death: Final Destination 3**.

Reportedly the sequel's opening disaster, takes place on a roller coaster and will be shot in a way that hasn't been seen before. "It's not necessarily ground - breaking, but it hasn't been done before, you know, in this way," Morgan said in an interview during a break in filming.



James Wong at the controls of the coaster

Like the previous two films, the movie begins with the main character - in this case, high school senior Wendy, played by newcomer Mary Elizabeth Winstead - experiencing a horrific disaster in which she and her friends all die - then realising it's only a premonition of death.

"In the first film the disaster was a plane crash. In the second, a



Kevin (Ryan Merriman) and Wendy (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) learn that roller coasters aren't all fun & games

multi-vehicle pileup on a motorway. In Final Destination 3, it's a disaster on a roller coaster" said Morgan.

"I don't know if we have ever successfully pulled it off, but Jim and I like to have themes. And this one, for the Wendy character, is about loss of control. Psychologists will tell you that's why some people hate coasters. Or why you're afraid to fly. Because you have no control. And it's the same

for me ... when I'm going up on any roller coaster, I just think, 'I want out.' ... but I can't get out - it's just torture. I'm nervous talking about it. ... If you look at dying, that's the same thing. I think that's why the franchise kind of works."

A 'pre-visualisation' of the sequence, or animated storyboard, details the action which takes place on a fictional roller

coaster with a 200ft drop, corkscrews and a high loop. The speeding coaster loses hydraulic pressure, causing restraining harnesses to relax and ultimately failure of the ride. As the coaster accelerates into its various turns and whirls, the high school students riding the coaster experience a gruesome accident with many dying.

To shoot the scene, the filmmakers will use a combination of an actual roller coaster (**Corkscrew** - at Vancouver's Playland Amusement Park), computer - generated extensions, wire stunts, computer animation and actual actors in simulated cars shot against a green screen.

"It's complicated," Morgan said. "We're going to have two weeks of green screen on hydraulic things, and CGI."

Producer Craig Perry added "Actors are being hung upside down, being yanked out of cars, cars are falling, and flipping over. It's all good fun."

Production of this sequel movie began filming on the set in Vancouver, Canada, on the 13th April and is expected to run through until June 05.

Final Destination 3, is due for general cinema release in 2006.

Corkscrew - Playland Amusement Park

