

5 May 2008



Northern Ireland's Biggest Marquee **Boosts Derry Hotel's Business**

A luxurious hotel marquee, believed to be the biggest in Northern Ireland, will this week open its doors for the first time to become a banqueting hall for VIP tourism visitors from around the world.

Beech Hill Country House Hotel in Derry has erected the marquee in its 32-acre grounds in order to cope with an increasing demand for space for large weddings and conferences and other gatherings.

On Thursday (8 May) Beech Hill's super-marquee, which has a floor space of nearly 500 square metres, will be the venue for nearly 300 overseas holiday organisers and travel trade executives who are attending a prestigious North of Ireland Tourist Board event.

Beech Hill's owner, Mrs. Patsy O'Kane, said: "This is quite an occasion for us and our chefs and other staff are really excited about it. The marquee has its own kitchen and bar and it is carpeted and heated. A luxury toilet block has been built-in and we have created a furnished patio area for smokers. This is a marquee with a really great atmosphere, a large degree of style and comfort and its large windows give great views of our gardens."

As soon as the tourism delegates have left, their colourful themed displays will be dismantled and the marquee will be redecorated and given an entirely new look in time for the arrival of 160 guests who are attending a wedding reception 2 days later.

Mrs. O'Kane said: "The decision to install this beautiful marquee was an important one for Beech Hill. We expect it to generate a considerable amount of valuable new business and it will make it possible for us to hold almost any kind of event here including big business functions, weddings, exhibitions, trade fairs and musical gatherings. We are already dealing with a large number of bookings and enquiries."

