

PRESS INFORMATION
April 2008

CYCLESURGERY AND GRILLE TO OPEN AT NIDO, KING'S CROSS

An innovative restaurant and leading cycle retailer have chosen Nido, The Blackstone Group's student Hall of Residence, as the site for their latest restaurant/shop opening. Nido is the name for two 16-storey, glass-fronted towers on Pentonville Road, King's Cross, developed at a cost of £95 million and launched last year by The Blackstone Group, to provide first class accommodation and services to undergraduates and postgraduates from around the world who are studying in London

CYCLESURGERY will open its eighth London store at the end of May 2008 and **GRILLE RESTAURANTS** opens its fourth **Grille** on 30th June 2008 in the retail units located at the entrance area to the student towers, a prime location just one minutes' walk from King's Cross and within 5 underground stops from most of Central London universities.

The Nido site makes perfect sense for the location of **CycleSurgery's** eighth London store. With 250 secure bike storage spaces in the basement, there is a readymade customer base right on the doorstep, and its position on the junction of Pentonville Road and King's Cross Road is at the junction of two major cycle routes. "We wanted a store in the heart of King's Cross, following the relocation of the Eurostar to St Pancras," says Kevin Young, Head of Marketing at CycleSurgery.

CycleSurgery will occupy a 5,500 sq ft unit, to deliver a clear, uncluttered retail space that shows off the best cycle brands and accessories in the world. There will be a fully equipped workshop with qualified, attentive mechanics using the latest tools and technology to maintain and service every bike from commuting and folding through to racing and downhill.

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King's Cross Grille is due to open at Nido on 30th June, the fourth site for Grille Restaurants, whose Hoxton restaurant opened in London on 1st September last year, in addition to its two further restaurants out of London in Harrogate and Lincoln. Director and co-Founder, John Pallagi, says: 'The King's Cross Grille will sit well within the local market, who we feel will appreciate our trademark qualities of offering a competitively priced menu of well known favourites, alongside a great selection of cocktails and wines'.

The Grille will be open daily from 7am to midnight serving breakfast, lunch and dinner and brunch at weekends. Prices will appeal to the students living above in Nido, as well as to the local community. A Sausage and Bacon Sarnie at £4 could become cult cuisine for hungover students and Rump Steak and Chips (£17) and a classic Caesar Salad (£10.50) are just some of the many great-value dishes on offer. The interior is stylish and contemporary with leather banquette seating and an elegant cocktail bar.

CycleSurgery and Grille at Nido fits with the The Blackstone Group's aim that its student accommodation be more than just a place to live. Maureen McDermott, Manager of European Student Accommodation Nido Student Living – London, says: 'At Nido students get a lot more than just four walls and a bed. There are campus style facilities with common rooms, study rooms a screening room and a gym. The addition of Grille, with its affordable and varied menu right on site is a great asset for students living here, who can pop down and treat themselves to a cocktail or meal after a long day's study and CycleSurgery will appeal to the many cyclists living here (we have 250 cycle stands). Now they won't even have to leave the premises to get their bike fixed or to buy new cycling accessories.'

The first students moved into Nido King's Cross last September and there are now some 900 living on site. It is the first of The Blackstone Group's developments designed to offer first class accommodation and services to undergraduates and postgraduates studying in London and giving them a close knit community in which to study, live and relax. Nido means 'nest' in Spanish and Italian

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A third retail/restaurant space of 4,482 square feet is available adjacent to the main entrance to Nido King's Cross. For information please contact either Simon Horner at Gooch Cunliffe Whale (0207 408 0030) or Steve Burns at Shelley Sandzer (0207 580 3366).

Nido Spitalfields is the next London site due to open in 2010. Located minutes away from trendy Hoxton and Brick Lane, this building will accommodate 1,204 students over 34 floors and the commercial element of the development includes 23,400 square feet of retail, restaurant and gymnasium space and other state-of-the-art leisure facilities. The first international venture is planned to open in Barcelona in 2010.

For further information on Nido King's Cross please contact:

Maureen McDermott, Nido Student Living Manager of European Student Accommodation on +44 (0)207 395 7260.

Or visit www.NidoStudentLiving.com

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For images and general press information on Nido and The Blackstone Group please contact Anna Coverdale or Kristina Kis at Coverdale Davis on +44(0) 207 287 9770 or email anna@coverdaledavis.com or Kristina@coverdaledavis.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

The original scheme was conceived in 1971 by Sterling Land which was run by Stuart Lipton (now Sir Stuart Lipton). Thirty five years later the original building refurbishment and conversion is being run by development managers First Base, a company owned by Elliot Lipton, Sir Stuart's son.

From 1994 to 2005 the number of students in London has grown by 4% per annum with expectation for continued growth. (Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency)

The Blackstone Group

Real Estate

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