



R30 MILLION INVESTMENT FOR BLUE MARLIN HOTEL

The Blue Marlin Hotel (Blue Marlin) in Scottburgh, on the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) south coast, is about to be restored to its former glory.

One of South Africa's most well-known family hotels, which enjoyed its heyday between 1950-1980, was bought by Sandie Curtis in 1990. Curtis renovated the Blue Marlin and successfully marketed the hotel to local and international tourists.

For the past six years Curtis, who has moved to the UK for personal reasons, has been looking for a like-minded partner with a view to completely restoring this renowned 'old lady' and creating a resort that will once again appeal to the domestic and international travel markets.

"I have always believed that there is huge potential in South Africa, and particularly Scottburgh, for growth in tourism, which is why we have not wanted to sell the Blue Marlin," says Curtis. "We are delighted to have formed a partnership with Messrs Dickson of Dream Vacation Club who have an established track record in the hospitality industry and who share our vision of re-launching the Blue Marlin as an upmarket family holiday resort with superb conference facilities."

Dream Vacation Club will take over the management of the hotel and will be responsible for the renovation work which will be rolled out in phases, starting with the common areas and the first 40 rooms. It is estimated that the work will take up to two years to complete at a cost of approximately R30 million. Building work is expected to commence in August 2013.



'Our partnership with the Blue Marlin ticks all the boxes for us in terms of our core business, as well as giving us a chance to be involved in re-establishing a resort-type holiday facility of international standard,' says Weston Dickson, Chairman of Dream Vacation Club.

"As there are plans afoot to improve and uplift Scottburgh, we believe that we will play a significant part in creating a whole new South African destination,' adds Dickson. The new offering will cater to guests on a package basis where meals, accommodation and entertainment are all included."