ICCA
UK & Ireland Chapter

Main Sponsor

Levy Lime Venue Portfolio

Where Operational Excellence Meets
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ICCA UK & Ireland Annual Conference 2025

Programme

Date: 26th - 28th February 2025
Venue: Cloth Hall Court, Leeds
Theme: "Business Beyond Borders"

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Wednesday 26 February 2025

Optional pre-conference tours (pre-registration required):

Leeds Queer History Tour

On this walking tour historian Kit Heyam will take you on a tour of Leeds' queer history highlights. From chaotic protests to groundbreaking conferences, from 1840s court cases to 1990s raves, you'll see the city and its past in a new light.

Running time approx. 1.5-2 hours.

Meeting point: The Bookish Type queer bookshop.

Start time: 2pm

Cost: £15

Biohub at Ings Farm

The Biohub at Ings Farm is a demonstration site under the umbrella of our main Chapter sponsor, Levy's/Lime Venue Portfolio, to transform an upland grazing farm in North Yorkshire into a regenerative agriculture landscape underpinned by a whole system design approach.

Meeting point: Cloth Hall Court

Timings: 11am - 5pm

Cost: £25

Leeds Walking Tour

Enjoy a 2-hour exploration of Leeds and learn all about the city with professional tour guide Clifford Stead.

Meeting point: Cloth Hall Court

Start time: 2pm

Cost: £15

Pre-Conference Networking

Banyan, 2 City Square, Leeds, LS1 2ES

17:45 - ICCA UK & Ireland Executive Committee Meeting
Invitation only

18.30 - First Timers Registration & Introductory session from the ICCA UK & Ireland Executive Committee
All first time conference attendees are invited to join the Executive committee for a welcome to the event.

19.30 - Registration/Delegates Networking Evening
All conference attendees are welcome to join for a relaxed evening of pre-conference networking.

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Our Charity partner this year is Zarach, who are working hard to prevent child bed poverty in England and a charity that the Leeds Hotels and Venues Association is currently supporting.
You can donate to Zarach during registration or via a QR code onsite at the conference.

Thursday 27 February 2025

The Conference will take place at Merchants Hall, Cloth Hall Court, Quebec Street, Leeds, LS1 2HA
08:00: Registration open, tea and Coffee will be available

08:30 - 09:00	**Opening and Welcome from Conference Leeds and ICCA Head Office** Marta Gomes, President, ICCA Head Office and our event moderator, Patrick Delaney, SoolNua will welcome attendees. Session includes an introduction from Ian Webb, EventMobi, the new ICCA UK & Ireland Conference App provider.
09:00 - 10:00	Keynote – **Changing Lives through the Power of Sport** Jamie Jones-Buchanan is Leeds-born and is a British rugby league coach and former professional rugby player. He is a living, breathing example of how people can change their lives through sport. He is now Director Culture, Diversity and Inclusion at Leeds Rhinos. Sport has a unique ability to change lives. It serves as a platform to reach diverse audiences, bringing people together, and empower individuals to unlock their talents and realise their potential. The Leeds Rhino brand and all its teams fosters collaboration across sectors—whether in education, local authorities, third-sector organisations, charities, or business. This collaborative approach becomes even more crucial in times of financial austerity, where potential cuts to government budgets challenge us to find innovative ways to how we provide care and support. • What is the social impact and potential of these collaborations through sport • How can they drive lasting, positive change in society? Jamie looks forward to discussing how sport can be a powerful catalyst for social transformation in your city.

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10:00 - 11:00	**Transforming Events: Empowering Inclusion through Neurodiversity** Speaker: Gayle McGuinn and panel	
11:00 - 11:30	**Coffee Break**	
11:30 - 12:15		
Safety Without Borders – Cultivating international confidence within the event industry Speakers: Karina Kendrick, University of Leeds & Claire Heap, Conference Leeds and Mosaic Events	**The Three Musketeers of Digital Transformation** Speakers: Caroline Dawson, iVvy & Adam Baggs, Soaring Worldwide	**Digital Platforms for Sustainable Tourism: A Roadmap to a Greener MICE Future** Speakers: Tina Veater & Tracy Ryan, Simpleview

Thursday 27 February 2025 Continued

12:15 - 13:15	**Lunch and walk to the Carriageworks Theatre**
13:15 - 14:30	The Big Debate **This house believes that the use of public funds to win conferences is an unfair practice and should be abolished** Chaired by Amanda Ferguson, University of Edinburgh
14:30 - 15:00	**Return to Cloth Hall Court for coffee break**
15:00 - 15:45	**The ICCA UK & Ireland Feud!** Presenter: Lindsay McClenaghan, Abbey Conferences
15:45 - 16:45	**Pop Goes the Biosphere!** Presenter: Dr. Vincent Walsh
16:45 - 1700	**Summary and close of day one** Presenter: Our Moderator, Patrick Delaney

Conference Dinner

Bus transfers are available from Cloth Hall Court, departing promptly at 18:45.

19:15 - Dinner at the Royal Armouries
Housing the national museum for arms and armour, the Royal Armouries is THE event space in Leeds for gala dinners with a difference. Explore thousands of incredible objects, from ancient times to the present day including Japanese samurai weapons, iconic movie props, Henry VIII's armour and an Indian war elephant.

Our evening will take place in three of the museums' galleries and finish with a Silent Disco!

Dress Code: Smart casual.
Return buses to Cloth Hall Court will be available from 22:15 - 22:45

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Friday 28th February 2025

08:30 - 09:00	**Networking tea & coffee**
09:00 - 09:15	**Welcome to day two** Speaker: Our Moderator, Patrick Delaney, SoolNua
09:15 - 10:15	**Association Aficionados and Tomorrow's Talent** Speakers: led by Lyndsey Rafferty, Edinburgh International Convention Centre with Julia Calver, Leeds Beckett University & Deborah Hindley, Bonner & Hindley
10:15 - 11:15	**Breaking down Barriers of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion** Speaker: Rory Archibald, New Intent
11:15 - 11:45	**Coffee Break**

11:45 - 12:30	
Celebrating the Power of Cooperation Presented by SFA-Connect	**Redefining Leadership – Bingo style!** Led by Laird Faichney-Smith, Abbey Conferences
12:30 - 13:15	
Harmonising Housing Panel discussion led by Phil Cross, BNetwork with representatives from a convention bureau, a venue and a PCO company	**Green Bound – Accelerating our Sustainability Journey Beyond Borders** Presenter: Jennifer Jensen, GDS-Movement

Friday 28th February 2025 continued

13:15 - 14:15	Lunch time session **The Meeting Room Live – Beyond Borders** Live podcast recording with James Lancaster, Holly Patrick and Paul Harvey, Northstar Meetings Group **Lunch will be served during this session**
14:15 - 15:00	**Don't leave 'til the end! – moderator Patrick Delaney shares his words of wisdom** Includes announcement of destination for the Annual Conference 2026 and closing remarks from Suzanne Singleton, Chair, ICCA UK and Ireland Executive Committee

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