

Brokers' hotel h

They were just relieving stress, says
rogue traders go on a £20,000 wrecki



By ARUP BISWAS

DRUNKEN City traders went on a wrecking spree at a country house hotel, causing £20,000 damage.

The vandals were among a group of 11 men who had consumed 20 bottles of vintage wine during the evening.

They played cricket in the dining room before some of the party ripped lights off walls and smashed Victorian furniture.

The debris was allegedly piled on to a log fire in the lounge, sparking a blaze which filled the £180-a-night hotel with smoke and forced the other 100 guests to be evacuated.

Police investigating the incident have questioned two of the commodity traders on suspicion of arson.

Last night London finance firm Intercapital, which employs some of the group, claimed the incident at the Careys Manor Hotel in Brockenhurst, Hampshire, was merely 'high jinks'.

Paul Newman, managing director of Intercapital, dismissed the episode as 'boys relieving the stress of work by having some fun' and promised the damage would be paid for.

His staff were simply enjoying a 'boisterous shooting weekend in the country', he said.

'I have spoken to them and it seems that it was just rowdiness that got out of control while they were entertaining clients and

time. We will sit down and talk to them and they will be paying the repair bill themselves.'

The trouble at the hotel, in the heart of the New Forest, began at around midnight on Friday after the men had drunk the £80-a-bottle wine.

Oblivious to other guests, they played cricket in the dining room, before moving to the lounge which features an open fire and a chandelier.

There, it is alleged, wine was thrown at curtains, soft furnishings ripped and a chandelier pulled down by some of the traders.



Above: The Careys Manor Hotel. Left: a coffee table and a Victorian chair

'The fire started a chimney fire and three fire engines were called to make sure it did not spread.'

'The smoke caused a lot of damage and seeped through the chimney stack into two bedrooms above the lounge area.'

'Police spoke to all of the members of the group and they were in a sorry state.'

'There were a lot of red faces and much embarrassment.'

Two traders, aged 27 and 30, had been released on bail until January pending further inquiries, he said.

Intercapital, which deals with stocks and shares, was founded

The NEW FAT RE PROC FROM TR

- Transform brings you the latest in fat removal technology
- Permanently removes fat in any areas treated
- Removes fat with amazingly smooth and natural looking results
- A day case procedure