

## PRESS RELEASE

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### *Harper Collins kills **Skulduggery***

Harper Collins & Warner Brothers, both international giants are trying to put a small entrepreneur out of business for good!

Two books out of a series of nine have already been published; they are entitled "Skulduggery Pleasant" which is about a detective, referred throughout as "Skulduggery" who solves murders.

Warner Brothers claim to have purchased "**Skulduggery**" which implies that they have purchased the rights to the trade mark. This is not true and according to their promotional material, they expect the films and merchandise based on the books to be as big as "Harry Potter"

In reality "**Skulduggery**" is a registered trade mark owned by Leeds Businessman Jack Johnson. "I am absolutely furious that both Harper Collins & Warner Brothers are more than willing to blatantly ignore my legal rights by infringing my registered trade mark especially when they are so keep on asserting their own rights on other people" "both of whom issue proceedings against others at a drop of a hat" stated an outraged Jack Johnson "Where does their double standards end?"

"**Skulduggery**" is well established as the UK's leading provider of murder mystery dinners & weekends with over 100 events per year throughout the UK alone. "If this is not a typical David & Goliath story then what is?"

“I am very proud that **“Skulduggery”** has the reputation as the best comedic murder mysteries & I am mortified that Harper Collins & Warner Brothers are willing to trample all over my legitimate rights” stated Jack “I’ve currently suspended a number of business opportunities in the way of franchising just so I can defend my rights before they are stolen from me.”

End

## **Background**

Jack Johnson started **“Skulduggery”** on a part time basis in 1999 whilst owning his own accountancy practice. He started out at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate, famous for its links with Agatha Christie. **“Skulduggery”** became the only murder mystery company to work in the Isle of Man and now work throughout the UK, our flag ship being the Grosvenor Hotel at Stratford upon Avon where we have been performing murder mysteries since 2001 and are currently booked until December 2009.

In 2004 Jack sold his Accountancy practice to run **“Skulduggery”** on a full time basis in order to keep up with demand. “We do not advertise and all of our work comes from word of mouth, our promotional cards and our website” – all of which will have to change if Harper Collins and Warner Brothers have their way.

Attached are details of some of our past Corporate clients and our website not only includes our public events for the remainder of 2008 & 2009 but you can read a selection of comments from past guest and watch the DVD thereby appreciating the standard of entertainment provided.

**“Skulduggery”** was featured on Sky TV and a number of prestigious newspapers.

## **Contact details**

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