

## Independent inquiry launched into sports facilities

By **Tom Walker**

An independent nationwide inquiry has been launched to chart the standard and range of the UK's sports facilities.

The Facilities Inquiry will be undertaken by a panel, chaired by sports broadcaster John Inverdale, with administrative support from the Central Council of Physical Recreation.

The inquiry will take evidence from a range of organisations, sports bodies and individuals including members of health clubs and sports clubs as well as users of parks, pitches and waterways.

The survey hopes to chart whether the country has



**The inquiry will look to chart the standard of grass roots facilities**

enough sport and leisure facilities, what condition they are in and how easily people can access them.

The inquiry has received the support of all three main

political parties in England and will produce a report and a range of recommendations based on its findings. The panel is scheduled to report in April 2010.

Inverdale said: "I want this inquiry to get into the finer detail of the UK's sports facility stock - and that's something we haven't done for a while. We don't really understand enough about what people's expectations are or what they want when it comes to doing sport."

"The Facilities Inquiry will really get to the bottom of those issues and come up with recommendations which will help get more people more active. We all want to see more people leading more active lifestyles, so it makes sense to make sure we're doing the right thing when it comes to providing facilities."

## Work begins on Metropolitan Arts Centre in Belfast

New £18m hub for creative arts to replace existing Old Museum Arts Centre

By **Tom Walker**

A major new £18m arts complex is set to open its doors to the public Belfast in 2011.

Work began in early December on the Metropolitan Arts Centre (MAC), which will form part of St Anne's Square in the city's Cathedral Quarter.

The centre will replace the existing Old Museum Arts Centre and provide a space for theatre, dance and art.

Facilities at the complex will include two black box performance spaces with seating



**The centre will include galleries and two performance spaces**

capacity for 120 and 350 spectators respectively, a 1,000sq m (10,764sq ft) art gallery, a box office, two

rehearsal areas, two workshops and two exhibition spaces.

Resident company offices, a retail unit, full back and front-of-house facilities and a coffee shop will also be included as part of the MAC, which will be delivered and managed by OMAC trustees.

The Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) has awarded £10.76m towards the cost of the development.

Belfast-based architects Hacker Hall McKnight were selected to design the complex after a design competition.

### MPs call for Gatwick rethink

Government ministers should give more consideration to building a new runway at London's Gatwick Airport, rather than at Stansted Airport, according to a new report by a committee of MPs.

The Transport Select Committee said it was "not convinced that a national case for an additional runway at Stansted has been made" and that Gatwick Airport may be a preferred option for expansion after 2019.

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## First Minister reopens Burns Cottage

Scottish poet's historic birthplace transformed as part of a major £1m revamp

By Pete Hayman

A historic 18th century cottage in Alloway, Ayrshire, which was the birthplace of Scottish poet Robert Burns, has reopened, following a £1m refurbishment.

The eight-week revamp of the property will form part of a wider £21m scheme led by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) to transform the Burns National Heritage Park into the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, which is due for completion in September 2010.

New audio-visual displays have been installed at the cottage as part of the revamp, which has also included repainted interiors, a re-thatched roof and some necessary repairs.

NTS chief executive Kate Mavor said: "Our team of experts in Alloway has restored



The cottage has been revamped to enhance visitors' knowledge

the cottage in a highly imaginative way to enhance visitors' knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of Burns and his early life."

First Minister Alex Salmond added: "The re-opening of Burns' Cottage and the opening of the Education Pavilion marks an important

step forward in the Robert Burns Museum Project."

The Education Pavilion – housed within the former Burns Museum – boasts three education spaces, is the first facility in Scotland to have Burns experts on site. The area around the Burns Cottage has also undergone landscape work.

## Go Ape announces major 2010 expansion plans

By Pete Hayman

Go Ape has announced plans to open seven new high-wire forest adventure parks across the UK in March 2010 as part of the company's efforts to open 40 sites by 2012.

Two of the new courses – Pembrey Country Park, Carmarthenshire, and Coed y Brenin Forest Park, near Dolgellau – will be situated in Wales, following the launch of the first Welsh Go Ape site near Port Talbot in March 2009.

Go Ape will unveil its second Scottish course at Beecraigs Country Park, West Lothian, and plans to open a course at Black Park Country Park, near Slough, Berkshire, as part of the expansion proposals.

The new locations, which will take the total number of Go



One of the new features set to be introduced at Go Ape courses

Ape courses to 29, will boast three new features, including a twisting bridge made up strong wire and round logs and a crossing comprising wooden steps between wires that will give users the chance to jump or step across.

Go Ape is also launching a competition to determine the names of the new crossings,

which do not feature at any of the existing parks.

Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) has already approved plans for the development of a new £250,000 Go Ape forest adventure course at Itchen Valley Country Park in West End, Hampshire. The facility will boast five separate sections featuring ladders and walkways.



## Branson reveals new Virgin space vessel

SpaceShipTwo unveiled at ceremony held at Mojave Air and Spaceport in California

By **Pete Hayman**

Virgin Galactic's new spaceship, designed to take passengers on the world's first commercial space tourism service, has been unveiled by Sir Richard Branson.

SpaceShipTwo (SS2), which will be called the Virgin Space Ship Enterprise, will now undergo an extensive test-flight programme after being revealed at a ceremony held at Mojave Air and Spaceport, US.

The ship, which can carry up to six passengers and two pilot astronauts, is around twice the size of SpaceShipOne – designed and built by Burt Rutan and Scaled Composites and flew three times in 2004.

SS2 test flights are scheduled to get underway in early 2010 and is expected to take around 18-24 months to complete.



The new spaceship will be called the Virgin Space Ship Enterprise

Virgin Galactic will operate from Spaceport America, New Mexico, which will see SS2 carried to an altitude of above 50,000ft (15.24km) by its mothership WhiteKnightTwo (WK2), before it is 'dropped' and propelled into space using its rocket motor.

Branson said: "The unveiling of SS2 continues to provide tangible evidence that this ambitious project is not only moving rapidly, but also making tremendous progress."

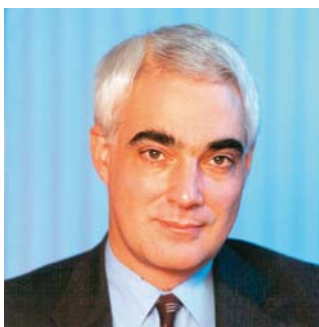
Flights will cost US\$200,000 (£122,650, €135,508) when the Virgin Galactic service launches.

## Government to cut quangos and consultancy fees

By **Pete Hayman**

Chancellor Alistair Darling has backed up a pledge by Prime Minister Gordon Brown to abolish around 120 quangos and reduce consultancy fees as part of the pre-Budget report unveiled in the House of Commons on 9 December.

The government is looking to save more than £650m by cutting back on work handed to consultancies and around £500m each year by axing 123 of the 752 non-departmental organisations. In his pre-Budget report to the House of



Darling is planning to cut ALBs

Commons, Darling also reiterated plans to sell off publicly-held assets, such as the Dartford Bridge river crossing, the Channel Tunnel rail link and the Tote bookmaker.

The report outlined measures to streamline the number of Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) and axe more than 120 bodies performing advisory roles. A review, which is due to be submitted by next year's Budget, will put forward more options that could see up to a third of DCMS non-museum organisations axed.

Around 30 publicly-funded quangos in the skills sector could also be axed over the next three years, while four military museums are to be merged to form the new National Museum of the Royal Navy.

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## IN BRIEF

**Benefits of referrals unveiled in study**

► Researchers studying an exercise referral scheme running in Forest Heath have found that those completing the 10-week programme showed "small but important changes" in a number of key measurements. The study into the Active For Life scheme, carried out by the MRC Epidemiology Unit at Cambridge's Addenbrooke's Hospital, found that many participants reduced their blood pressure, increased their peak flow and decreased their weight and waist circumference. It also found evidence of social, emotional and physical improvements.

**Esporta appoints new chief executive officer**

► Struggling health club operator Esporta has appointed John Cleland as its new chief executive officer. Cleland, a former chief operating officer of retail chain Somerfield, will take up the role on 14 December. Cleland succeeds Glen Timms, who left Esporta in June 2009 after two years in the job. Before joining Somerfield in February 2006 Cleland also held the roles of commercial managing director of B&Q and senior vice president of operations at Wal-Mart Japan.

**Health facilities set for Hull rugby league clubs**

► New health and lifestyle facilities are to be developed by Hull Kingston Rovers and Hull FC rugby league clubs after NHS Hull agreed to provide funding towards the schemes. The new Hull Kingston Rovers centre will form part of a wider project to expand the East Stand at the club's Craven Park venue, having received £300,000 from NHS Hull to include services including weight management support and help for people looking to stop smoking.

**Revamp work starts on Buxton Pool**

£3m redevelopment will include new health club supplied by Technogym and Precor

By **Pete Hayman**

A swimming pool in Buxton, Derbyshire, has closed its doors to the public in order to allow construction work to get underway on the first phase of a major £3m refurbishment.

Buxton Pool, operated by management company DC Leisure on behalf of High Peak Borough Council (HPBC), is set to undergo improvements to the swimming pool hall and changing facilities as part of stage one of the project.

Machinery will be refitted during the first phase of work, which is due to be completed by Easter 2010. Work will then start on the second phase to provide a new 150sq m (1,615sq ft) health and fitness facility.



The centre, managed by DC Leisure, is set to reopen in Easter 2010

Initial plans for the gym area include the installation of 35 stations of cv, resistance and free weight equipment, which are expected to be supplied by Technogym and Precor. A new group exercise studio will also

be created.

Andrew Bingham, HPBC executive councillor for social and community development, said: "The improvements are what people want – and expect in the 21st century."

**Stalker appointed FIA's executive director**

By **Tom Walker**

The Fitness Industry Association (FIA) has promoted its chief operating officer Dave Stalker to the role of executive director. Stalker will begin in his new position with immediate effect after the move was unanimously ratified by the FIA board in a meeting on 3 December.

Stalker, whose career has included stints at LA Fitness, Leisure Connection and First Leisure, joined the association



Stalker joined the FIA in 2008

in July 2008 when he was appointed the association's operations director.

According to a spokesperson, Stalker's promotion is a recognition of his work as FIA's chief operating officer (COO) and his success in developing operations and expanding the reach of the association.

During Stalker's tenure as COO, the FIA has appointed its first ever chief medical officer, John Searle, and launched the MoreActive4Life consumer campaign, which has already attracted 200,000 people to take part.

**Beacon Centre for the Blind installs dance system**

The Beacon Centre for the Blind in Wolverhampton has installed a range of interactive fitness equipment as part of efforts to break down barriers to exercise for people with sight loss.

The centre, which has been tasked with helping people with sight loss live fuller and more independent lives, has installed a two

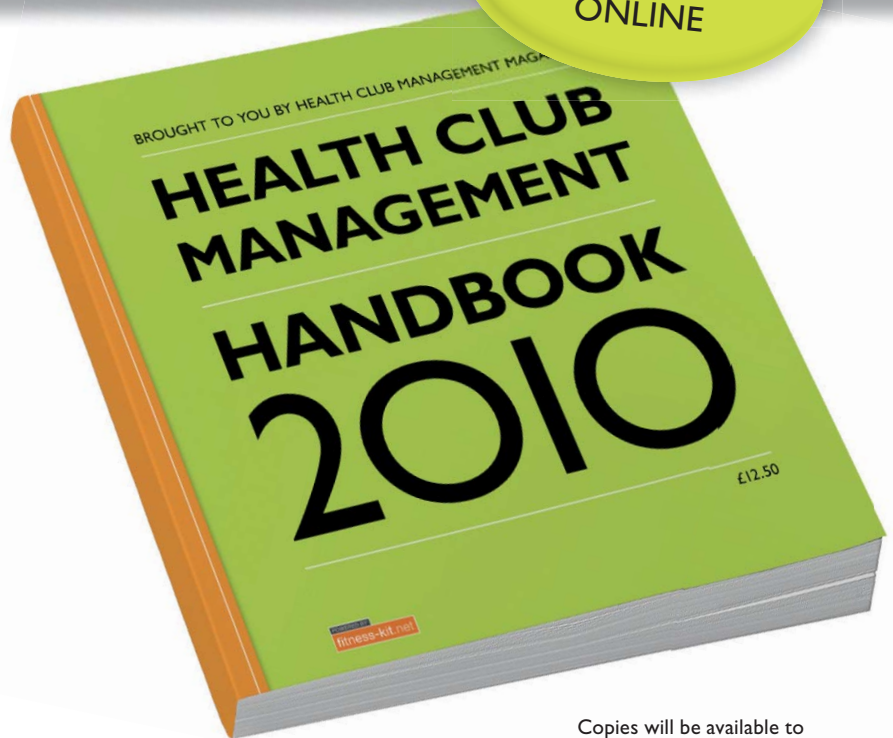
panel Sportwall and an eight dance mat system supplied by ZigZag.

Beacon's marketing manager, Clare Thomas said: "Part of our job is to keep people fit and healthy. Even some able bodied people find it hard to go to the gym, so you can imagine how hard it can be for people with sight loss."

# HEALTH CLUB MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK 2010

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The 6th edition of the Health Club Management Handbook, published in association with the Fitness Industry Association (FIA), is being distributed in January 2010. The handbook is a comprehensive guide and reference tool distributed to industry suppliers and operators, FIA members and to industry buyers at events such as LIW, SIBEC and IHRSA..



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## IN BRIEF

### New £800,000 MUGA opens in Belfast

► A new £800,000 multi-use games area (MUGA) has been officially opened by Northern Ireland social development minister Margaret Ritchie in the Sandy Row area of Belfast. The facility, which received £758,749 from the Department for Social Development and £30,950 from Big Picture Developments, has been built on land provided by Belfast City Council and will be maintained in conjunction with Sandy Row Community Forum.

### 2012 organisers make "green Games pledge"

► Organisers of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics have pledged to ensure the event "will set new standards in sustainability" after unveiling the latest Games' green proposals. London 2012's Sustainability Plan, Towards a One Planet 2012, reported a 15 per cent decline in carbon emissions as part of the venue construction process. In total, London 2012's carbon footprint during the seven-year period between winning the 2012 bid and hosting the Games is only expected to contribute 0.05 per cent of the UK's total emissions.

### Flood relief for Cumbrian cricket clubs

► Cumbrian cricket clubs severely affected by the recent flooding have been handed an initial £50,000 by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to offer financial and logistical support. The England and Wales Cricket Trust, a charitable organisation formed by the ECB, will provide a relief fund for affiliated clubs in Workington, Cockermouth, Carlisle, Keswick and Appleby. Funding will go towards enabling works, such as the hire or purchase of machinery to aid the clear up process.

## Parc Eirias stadium plans submitted

Colwyn Bay in line for development of new sport and leisure centre of excellence

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for a major new Centre of Excellence for sport, leisure and culture at Parc Eirias in Colwyn Bay, North Wales, have been submitted to Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC).

The proposals include a rugby training pitch, a 2,000-seat grandstand, team changing facilities, a weights room and floodlights, as well as additional car parking, which is set to create a new home ground for Rygbi Gogledd Cymru (North Wales Rugby).

Local residents were given the opportunity to comment on the plans as part of a public consultation held during September and it is expected that the scheme will contribute



The venue will provide a home for the Rygbi Gogledd Cymru team

towards the council's Bay Life Development Plan to regenerate the wider area.

CCBC deputy chief executive Bethan Jones said: "We've identified Colwyn Bay as our regeneration priority. Creating a centre of excellence at Parc

Eirias is just one element in our vision to revitalise the town.

"We believe these proposals along with others outlined in the Bay Life Development Plan can stimulate investment in the area, support business stability and result in new employment."

## ECB sees further increase in cricket participation

By **Pete Hayman**

New research from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has reported an increase in the number of people playing cricket across the country for the third successive year.

According to an annual survey of the ECB's Focus Clubs, there has been a 15 per cent increase in participation during 2009, following a 24 per cent and 27 per cent increase in 2008 and 2007 respectively.



Grass roots cricket is thriving

Disability cricket has seen a two-thirds increase in participation, while the Sky Sports

Coach Education Programme contributed towards a 14 per cent increase in cricket coaches.

ECB chief executive David Collier said: "For cricket to be able to satisfy this increase, it's essential we continue to invest in building and renovating much needed pavilions, pitches, and practice facilities.

"Without this continued level of investment, we will not be able to cater for the increased number of children who are choosing to play cricket."

## IOC commission visit welcomes London 2012 progress

The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Coordination Commission has welcomed progress being made on preparations for the 2012 London Games, following its fifth full visit to the city.

Between 25-26 November, members of the commission heard from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games about the latest advances that had been made with the construction progress, with less than three years to go until the event.

The IOC Coordination Commission initially visited London once a year after the city was awarded the 2012 Games, but that has now increased to two visits a year after the Beijing Games.

# £10m to boost women's participation

Sport England launches new themed funding round to address grass roots issues

By **Pete Hayman**

Sport England has unveiled a new £10m 'Active Women' funding package, which aims to increase the number of women from disadvantaged communities participating in sport.

The funding pledge, which will also target women who care for children full-time, is designed to remove the number of barriers facing those who want to play sport, including childcare, transport, cost and time constraints.

Backed by former Olympic gold medallist Denise Lewis, sports minister Gerry Sutcliffe and the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation, it is the second of Sport England's themed rounds to address some of the key issues affecting



**The £10m scheme aims to remove barriers facing women in sport**

grassroots participation ahead of the 2012 Olympics.

According to the organisation's *Active People Survey July 08 - July 09*, only one in eight women across England regularly play sport, which compares with one in five men. Women from disadvantaged

communities are less likely to regularly play sport.

Sport England chief executive Jennie Price said: "We know that women can face particular barriers to taking part in sport, and it is important we invest resources into understanding how best to overturn those."

## Climbing centre set for opening

The Harrogate Climbing Centre will open its doors in January 2010.

Owned and operated by climber John Dunne, who also owns the Manchester Climbing Centre, the site includes 65 climbing lines spread over 1,000sq m (10,764sq ft) of climbing surface and incorporates an IFSC-approved speed climbing wall.

The climbing centre has been designed and constructed by Entre-Prises Climbing Walls.

Dunne said: "With the skills and experience we've gained in the ongoing development of Manchester Climbing Centre, we will be able to take indoor climbing in Yorkshire to a new level."

## West Ham submits training plans



**The club's first team is eyeing up a move to the Rush Green site**

By **Pete Hayman**

West Ham United Football Club has submitted its proposals for the creation of a new training ground at the former Ford Sports and Social Club site to Havering Council.

The 29-acre (11.7-hectare) Rush Green facility will be developed in two phases; the first including the renovation of the existing sports club, the construction of groundsman's

buildings and the creation of three full-size training pitches.

First team players and staff will relocate to the site when the first phase is complete, before work gets underway on the second stage to include a purpose-built training, rehabilitation and media centre to replace the renovated sports club building.

An additional four training pitches will also be created as part of Phase Two.

## IN BRIEF

### Edinburgh Leisure to close crèche facilities

► Edinburgh Leisure, the company which runs leisure centres across Edinburgh on behalf of the local authority, has announced that it will close all remaining crèche facilities by March 2010. Crèches at Ainslie Park Leisure Centre, Drumbrae Leisure Centre, Gracemount Leisure Centre and Portobello Swim Centre will all be axed unless an alternative provider can be found to save costs.

Edinburgh Leisure said it can no longer afford to subsidise the facilities due to an expected 12 per cent reduction in funding over the next three years.

### New pitches unveiled at Dome Leisure Centre

► Trustees of Anglia Community Leisure reopened sports pitches at the Dome Leisure Centre in Mildenhall on 10 December. Work began to resurface the all-weather multi-use games area just after half term and the centre now boasts a new large synthetic grass pitch for five and six-a-side football and hockey practice, while a smaller area caters for netball, tennis and five-a-side football. The £50,000 scheme was funded by Suffolk County Council and Forest Heath District Council.

### Northampton Saints call for stadium debate

► Northampton Saints Rugby Football Club has urged the local authority to hold a public debate to discuss the potential benefits of plans to redevelop the Franklin's Gardens stadium. Earlier this year, the club announced plans to increase the venue's capacity from 13,500 to 17,000 spectators after admitting the stadium had been operating at 98 per cent in recent years and needs to expand to compete with other clubs.



## IN BRIEF

### Fuller's sales boosted by good weather

► Good weather in south east England during the summer has helped pub company Fuller, Smith and Turner to boost pre-tax profits by more than a quarter during the 26 weeks ending 26 September 2009. Compared with the same period last year, the London-based company reported a 2.8 per cent increase in like-for-like sales at its managed pub and hotels business, helped by low interest rates and incremental earnings from acquisitions. Fuller's has now expanded its estate of managed properties to 489 sites..

### New owners for three West Midlands casinos

► Edward Symmons has confirmed that it has completed the sale of three casinos across the West Midlands formerly operated by Blue Chip Casinos, which went into administration earlier this year. Acting on behalf of joint administrators Michael Kiely, Peter Kubik and Andrew Adronikou of UHY Hacker Young, Edward Symmons has sold freehold sites in Dudley and Wolverhampton to Aberystwyth-based Casino 36 for £2.9m. The 11,480sq ft (1,067sq m) Wolverhampton property and the 10,775sq ft (1,001sq m) Dudley property have been offloaded as going concerns, each including gaming machines, casino tables and equipment.

### Ladbrokes to close Aintree call centre

► UK bookmaker Ladbrokes has unveiled proposals to close its call centre operations at Aintree, Liverpool, in a response to increasing competition from offshore companies. A spokesperson for the company said its telephone business saw a 41 per cent fall in revenue in its 2009 half-year results.

## Silverstone secures British F1 GP deal

Northamptonshire circuit wins the right to host the event for a further 17 years

By **Pete Hayman**

Silverstone has secured the long-term future of the British Grand Prix after the Northamptonshire venue and the British Racing Drivers' Club (BRDC) agreed a deal with Formula One supremo, Bernie Ecclestone.

The agreement will ensure that Silverstone, which staged its first grand prix in 1948, will continue to be the home of the British leg of the Formula One World Championship for a further 17 years starting in 2010. It has been the sole host of the event since 1986.

BRDC president Damon Hill said: "This long term contract will enable us to continue with our plans to develop Silverstone into a world class facility, bringing the venue into line with the very best sports facilities in the world for the benefit of all race goers, teams, drivers and fans."



The deal will see the British F1 GP hosted at Silverstone until 2026

Formula One Management's Bernie Ecclestone added: "This will ensure that Great Britain will remain on the Formula One calendar for many years to come, which is something I have personally always wanted to see happen. The team at Silverstone already knows how to organise a good event, so now everyone can look forward to next summer at Silverstone."

Concerns had been raised over the future of the British Formula One Grand Prix after the operator of Donington Park in Leicestershire, Donington Ventures Leisure Limited (DVLL) was forced into administration in November 2009 having failed in a bid to raise £135m to fund a major revamp of the venue in preparation for Formula One racing.

### New manifesto for pub industry

A new manifesto, which has been designed to help secure the future of the UK pub sector, has been drawn up by the British Beer and Pub Association and the Society of Independent Brewers.

The document puts forward a range of policies, including decreasing duty on lower strength beers, increasing support for pubs serving food and scrapping proposals to increase duty by 2 per cent above inflation. A new campaign – *I'm backing the pub* – has also been launched in support of the pub sector.

## Bids are in for Lottery operator

By **Martin Nash**

Prospective bidders for the majority stake in National Lottery operator Camelot – reported to be more than 20 – have submitted their bids after a deadline was set for 18 November. The deadline had been extended, following delays in documentation.

Four of the five equal shareholders in Camelot – Cadbury, Thales Electronics, De La Rue and Fujitsu – have appointed NM Rothschild and Greenhill and Co. to put their stakes up for sale.

The fifth, Royal Mail, has also bowed under pressure from the other four and agreed to offload its 20 per cent stake.

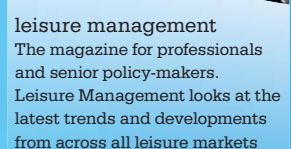


Camelot has operated the National Lottery since 1994

Potential bidders are said to include private equity bodies; foreign lottery operators, such as Sugal & Damani which bid for the current license two years ago; and Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group, whose People's Lottery bid has lost out twice in the past.



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## IN BRIEF

### BBPA reveals London pub closure rate

► Further concerns about the state of the UK pub industry have been raised after new figures from the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) revealed that 11 pubs close every week in London. During the first half of 2009, a total of 281 properties closed their doors across the capital, while other regions in southern England were also hit – nearly 200 pubs closed in the Meridian area, which equates to 8 properties a week. The research – conducted by CGA Strategy – also reported the closure of 105 pubs in the Anglia region and 74 in the Westwood region, which comes as the BBPA launches a new campaign to safeguard the sector.

### UK bucking the trend in hotel revenue

► Both revenue and occupancy continues to fall at European hotels, but the UK seems to be weathering the storm rather well. A year-to-date report from research company Deloitte shows that revenue per available room (revPAR) in the euro zone was down 19.2 per cent – at €58 – on last year. The UK too, has suffered, but the staycation effect has offset the fall in inbound tourism. London boasts the highest occupancy in Europe at 79.8 per cent, while Glasgow and Edinburgh were the only two cities in Europe to show positive occupancy growth for the period.

### Mercure unveils Letchworth property

► Hotel operator Mercure has reopened its Letchworth Hall Hotel property in Hertfordshire, following the completion of a major £1m refurbishment. All 85 bedrooms have been revamped as part of the scheme to transform the property into a four-star hotel.

## Accor expands Ibis in Northern Ireland

French hotel group launches two new budget hotels as part of development pipeline

By **Pete Hayman**

Two new Ibis properties have been unveiled in Belfast, Northern Ireland, after Accor – the company which owns the brand – secured a franchise agreement with hotel group Andras House.

The Ibis Belfast City Centre and Ibis Queens Quarter hotels – the first to launch under the Ibis brand in Northern Ireland – are the result of a £12m investment by Accor and increases its UK portfolio of Ibis properties to 54.

Ibis Belfast City Centre, which is situated on Castle Street near the city's main shopping district and the Titanic Quarter, boasts 124 bedrooms, a café and a bar, while Ibis Queens Quarter – near Queen's University – has 50 bedrooms.



The hotel will be operated by Andras House on a franchise deal

Jean-Jacques Dessors, chief operating officer for Accor Hospitality UK, said: "Expansion into Northern Ireland is a significant move towards our goal of becoming a reference point for economy hotels worldwide with quality services."

"These are also the first Ibis franchised hotels in the UK and the launch demonstrates our commitment to our new development strategy to sign and open more franchise properties across Accor brands present in the British Isles."

### African-theme club for Camden

A £5.5m, 740-capacity African-themed restaurant/nightclub is to open in Camden Stables Market, London, in the spring.

Shaka Zulu is a joint venture between the market itself and London club owner Roger Payne, who already operates The Cuban (also located in the market) and Sound in Leicester Square.

The club will feature a 340-capacity mezzanine floor and a 400-capacity ground floor and will serve as both a nightclub and restaurant, serving African food.

It will be located beneath the existing Gilgamesh restaurant and is scheduled to open in May 2010.

## Wetherspoon to open 250 pubs



The group has opened 40 new pubs across the UK during 2009

By **Pete Hayman**

JD Wetherspoon, the Hertfordshire-based pub operator, has unveiled plans to open 250 new properties across the UK over the next five years as it continues to defy the recession.

The chain, which unveiled its first pub in 1979 and currently operates 743 sites nationwide, is set to invest £250m in expanding its portfolio, having reported a 4.5 per cent

increase in sales in the 13 weeks ending 25 October 2009.

New JD Wetherspoon pubs will be located in Sheffield, South Yorkshire; Otley, West Yorkshire; Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire and Livingston, West Lothian, as well as Leominster, Herefordshire; Liverpool and Newcastle upon Tyne. Earlier this month, the chain reported that it is on course to open around 40 pubs in the current year.



## Brewing museum planned for Burton

New visitor attraction to be funded by brewery and operated by Planning Solutions

By **Martin Nash**



**John Lowther (far left) of Planning Solutions is leading the plans**

A new brewing visitor centre and museum in Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, is to open at the site of the Coors Visitor Centre and Museum of Brewing – formerly the Bass Museum – which closed in June last year.

The new attraction, to be operated by Planning Solutions and called the The National Brewery Centre, will retain key elements of the original facility – which included historic vehicles, a micro-brewery and a shire horse collection – and see the updating and reorganisation of the site.

Molson Coors UK is making a contribution to the new development by providing the buildings and artefacts at a peppercorn rent, donating £200,000 in matched funding to get the project moving and a further £100,000 annually for

the maintenance of the buildings during a 25-year lease.

John Lowther, Planning Solutions' chief executive, said: "Burton has a proud position in not only the UK's brewing industry, but throughout the world. We are delighted to be opening The National Brewery Centre and celebrating the vital contribution that the town has made to our brewing industry."

"I know from our many discussions with local people that this will be widely welcomed and it will provide a much-needed boost for tourism and local employment."

Planning Solutions is a Hampshire-based research and development company whose clients currently include English Partnerships, the British Council and Vinopolis.

## Middlesbrough Wheel launched

By **Tom Walker**



**The attraction is set to be fully operational by Christmas**

Middlesbrough Council has announced that a new 40m (131.2ft) observation wheel attraction has opened in the town's Centre Square after months of delay.

The scheme, which is the result of a partnership between the local authority and operator Great City Attractions (GCA), received planning permission in April 2009 but was delayed after it was revealed in May that a suitable wheel was not available.

However, the council has now confirmed that the observation wheel is now in place in time for Christmas, while a decision will be taken by councillors in due course on

whether to retain the attraction beyond the festive period.

The Wheel of Middlesbrough – the only one of its kind in north east England – is boasts 30 observation pods, each capable of holding eight people. Pods also feature on-board commentary, offering views across the town.

## Exhibition for *SS Great Britain*

A new animation and oral history scheme has been devised by the University of West England (UWE) and the *SS Great Britain* Trust to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ship's return to Bristol in 2010.

The Visualising Voices initiative aims to immortalise the memories of people involved with salvaging Brunel's *SS Great Britain* vessel, which was rescued from the Falkland Islands in 1970 after being scuttled in the 1930s and left to fall into disrepair.

UWE's Gill Sandford, project leader, said: "This project is unique – this is the first time that a museum has worked with an animation production team in this way."

### IN BRIEF

#### UK museums receive HLF funding support

► Plans to create a new wing at Birmingham Museum and Gallery, dedicated to the city's history, have been handed a £4.8m boost as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund's 15th anniversary celebration. Initial support has also been pledged by the funding organisation towards schemes at Penarth Pavilion, South Wales; Colchester Castle in Essex; Torre Abbey, Devon and the Charles Dickens Museum, London, as well as plans for a new visitor centre at Stonehenge in Wiltshire. The Charles Dickens Museum will net a £99,000 development grant to help fund a bid for £1.77m, which will help finance the transformation and expansion of the attraction's display areas.

#### Brainspark buys stake in Mediapolis

► Brainspark, the London-based investment firm, has acquired a stake in the £200m Mediapolis theme park currently being planned for northern Italy. Brainspark has secured the rights to invest 47.6 per cent of a €1m (£896,000) capital increase being undertaken by developers Mediapolis Investments, which will give it a 10.87 per cent stake in the park. Francesco Gardin, chair of Brainspark, said: "This is the first of a series of investments that the new board is considering which have a particular focus in the leisure and entertainment sectors."

#### Crealy to rebrand mine train ride

► Crealy Great Adventure Park, near Exeter, will rebrand its runaway mine train as Maximus, a Roman themed rollercoaster. The ride will re-open in time for February half term in 2010 and Crealy has appointed contractors Michael Thorne to undertake the £150,000 project.



## IN BRIEF

### Match-by-match sponsorship for WBA

► West Bromwich Albion Football Club has confirmed it has been given the go-ahead by officials at the Football League to offer businesses the chance to sponsor its shirts on a match-by-match basis. The club, which competes in the Coca-Cola Championship, has been without a main shirt sponsor since the end of the 2007-08 campaign, and has so far this season carried the England 2018 World Cup bid logo in a televised game against Newcastle United Football Club.

### IFI status for Sencio Community Leisure

► Sencio Community Leisure (SCL) has secured the Inclusive Fitness Initiative's (IFI) provisional level status. The Kent-based operator has achieved the accreditation for its work at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre, which it manages on behalf of the local council. SCL chief executive Mark Whyman said: "Access to facilities and opportunities for everyone has always been key to our operation and we are constantly looking to develop and serve the needs of our customers better."

### Shoppers still spending on fitness

► Spending on health clubs and gyms by customers holding John Lewis and Waitrose credit cards increased by 179 per cent in September 2009 compared with previous years. Complementing the trend is the partnership's revelation that John Lewis has sold 25 per cent more running shoes compared with sales figures in 2008. James Furse, of John Lewis and Waitrose, told *Original Bristol*: "Clearly, partnership card customers are not letting the difficult economic conditions put the brakes on their desire to get fit."

## Fitness First unveils *Strictly* classes

Health club operator launches new initiative to improve fitness levels using dance

By **Pete Hayman**

Health club operator Fitness First has secured an agreement with BBC Worldwide, the UK-based broadcaster's commercial division, to offer new exercise classes based on the television programme, *Strictly Come Dancing*.

The group classes aim to encourage participants to improve their fitness levels through a range of dance moves and disciplines, including the cha cha cha, the waltz, the quickstep and the jive.

Strictly Fit classes are free for members of Fitness First health clubs, although non-members will be given the opportunity to sign up to the classes with a five-day pass, which costs £25 for a limited period.



**Classes will use a range of dance disciplines to boost fitness levels**

Fitness First's UK national fitness manager, Derek Crawford, said: "The nation is already gripped by *Strictly Come Dancing* and now everyone can get involved – and get fit at the same time."

The health club operator is one of the largest privately-

owned in the world, with more than 425,000 members at 164 sites across the UK.

BBC Worldwide is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the radio and television broadcaster, which aims to maximise the corporation's assets to benefit UK licence fee payers.

### London 2012 signs up BMW

German car manufacturer BMW has been named as the Automotive Partner of London 2012, by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG).

The firm, which has become the seventh Tier One Partner and 24th domestic sponsor overall, will provide around 4,000 vehicles during the Games to transport athletes, technical officials, media, LOCOG operational teams, national Olympic Committees, international sports federations, the IOC and marketing partners.

The announcement also means that BMW has become London 2012's sixth Sustainability Partner.

## NZ scheme targets UK travellers



**UK backpackers will be urged to "go all the way" on their travels**

By **Pete Hayman**

A new £650,000 campaign has been launched by Tourism New Zealand, which is designed to encourage more backpackers from the UK to visit the country.

Social media, an online reality TV show and an advertising campaign will form part of Go All The Way, which will target people to go beyond Australia as part of their travels.

Travellers will be targeted at home before they set off and on the east coast of Australia, with tour operators and New Zealand Immigration taking part in the campaign.

*The Gap Year: Challenge New Zealand* – an online reality show run in partnership with Endemol UK – will spearhead the campaign by handing five travellers extreme challenges over a four-week period.

## New marine sites consultation starts

English and Welsh waters set to form part of Europe-wide conservation network

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the creation of 12 new marine conservation sites located off the coast of England and Wales are the subject of a formal consultation, which was launched on 27 November.

Forming part of the 'Natura 2000' network of European protected waters, a total of 10 sites are being considered for Special Areas of Conservation status, while the two others – Outer Thames and Liverpool Bay – are in line to be designated as Special Protection Areas.

The 10 proposed areas are: Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge; Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton; Margate and Long Sands; Bassurelle Sandbank; Poole Bay and Lyme Bay and Prawle Point to Plymouth Sound.



Land's End and Cape Bank waters form one of the proposed sites

Eddystone and Lizard Point; Lands End and Cape Bank; Shell Flat and Lune Deep and North-West Rockall Bank are also earmarked as potential Special Areas of Conservation.

Natural England, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Countryside Council for Wales are leading

the consultation to gather views on the scientific reasons for the proposed sites, as well as the impact on marine industries.

Marcus Yeo, managing director for JNCC said: "This will help these sites to be recognised as ones that fully deserve their high profile and consequent protection."

### IN BRIEF

#### Local authority grants for coastal change

► The government has awarded grants worth £11m to fifteen local authorities who have come up with the best and most innovative ideas for dealing with and adapting to coastal change. The winning local authorities come from all around the English coast, amongst them being South Hams District Council in Devon, Dorset County Council, East Sussex County Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Lincolnshire County Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council in Merseyside and Somerset County Council.

#### National Forest hits the trail

► The National Forest Company has unveiled plans to create a new long distance trail across the park. The announcement follows research which indicated that the development of the trail – running from Charnwood in Leicestershire to Needwood in Staffordshire – could bring as many as 25,000 new visitors into the Forest, plus around £650,000 of new income. The design of the route and the potential cost of putting it in place is expected to be known by the end of 2010.

#### Council to pursue Skegness park scheme

► East Lindsey District Council is set to explore alternative funding options for the regeneration of a disused building in the centre of a Skegness park after failing to receive government support. The council was unsuccessful in its bid to secure funding through the Sea Change initiative, which would have contributed towards a £1m project to transform the Inn on the Park in Tower Gardens into a new community venue.

## 2012 Olympic Park garden designs announced

By **Pete Hayman**

Olympics minister Tessa Jowell has announced the winners of a public vote to help draw up designs for a new 0.25-acre (0.1-hectare) garden, which will be created on the site of the London 2012 Olympic Park.

A competition run in partnership between the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and the Olympic Delivery Authority invited people across the UK to submit ideas for a garden to illustrate the qualities of a domestic British garden.

Hannah Clegg and Rachel Read were selected from the young people's and adult categories respectively to work with professional designers on the new Olympic Park garden, which follows the RHS Olympic Park Great British Garden



Read (left) and Clegg (right) with their proposals for the garden

Competition and will form one of the largest urban parks created in Europe for 150 years.

Former Olympic triple jump champion Jonathan Edwards said: "London 2012 is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the country and it's great to have Hannah and Rachel on board.

"The parklands will be the centrepiece of the Olympic Park

and they will be designing a garden that will be enjoyed by spectators and athletes during the Games and people using the park for generations."

Jowell added: "Our green fingers are known the world over and this garden is a celebration of that talent that will live on long after the Games are over."



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## IN BRIEF

### Council to sell off leisure facilities

► Southampton City Council is planning to sell off its loss making leisure facilities to private operators for 15 years. The leases for sports pitches on parks and recreation grounds across the city, a public paddling pool at the Common and the land around leisure centres are all being put up for sale. The sports pitches at Mayfield Park, Riverside Park, Green Park, Hoglands Parks and the Veracity, Lordshill and Millbrook recreation grounds could be offloaded, as could leases in land at the Alpine Centre, the municipal golf course, Southampton Sports Centre and Chamberlayne Leisure Centre. However, the Tory council's proposals have been strongly contested by Labour opposition, who fear that the decision will cause prices to go up.

### Northampton Saints call for stadium debate

► Northampton Saints Rugby Football Club (NSRFC) has urged the local authority to hold a public debate to discuss the potential benefits of plans to redevelop the Franklin's Gardens stadium. Earlier this year, the club announced plans to increase the venue's capacity from 13,500 to 17,000 spectators after admitting that the stadium had been operating at 98 per cent in recent years and needs to expand to compete with other clubs. The proposed project includes replacing the Sturtridge Pavilion with a new stand, which will be funded through the sale of a long-term lease on the Edgar Mobbs Way car park for the development of an ASDA store.

## £2.5m makeover for London gasholder

Disused King's Cross structures set for major overhaul following design contest

By **Pete Hayman**

One of four disused gasholders in King's Cross, London, is set to undergo a £2.5m makeover after designs drawn up by Bell Phillips + Kimble architects were selected for the scheme.

The London-based practice was selected from a shortlist of five firms following the King's Cross Central Gasholder No. 8 design competition, which aims to transform the Grade II-listed structure situated to the south of the Regent's Canal.

Bell Phillips + Kimble's designs for the 150-year old gasholder feature a new water pool and garden, flexible internal spaces and a natural amphitheatre for informal performances and relaxation.

The large shallow pool will be used as a children's play



The King's Cross gasholder will feature a night-time public space

space during the day and as a public space at night, while beneath the 'roof-top' pool will be an events space with glass lenses in the ceiling offering views of the structure.

Bridget Evans, project director at King's Cross Central, said: "The winning design works on several levels for

King's Cross Central – it will be accessible with multiple uses, it's fun, has style and it will create an enchanting space for local communities to enjoy."

Work is expected to start on transforming the 25m (82ft)-high gasholder in 2011, subject to receiving planning permission and listed building consent.

### 'Quality streets' plans unveiled

Culture secretary Ben Bradshaw and housing minister Ian Austin have published details of how the government aims to deliver its vision for more sustainable neighbourhoods across the UK.

Increased public ownership of local community assets, such as parks and green open spaces, is among the government's planned measures outlined in the strategy – along with improving design standards for all publicly-funded building schemes.

## Heathrow T2 closes for revamp

By **Martin Nash**

The Terminal 2 building at London's Heathrow Airport has closed to allow the construction of a £1bn replacement.

Work is expected to start in the new year and the new terminal – to be the base for the 25 airlines making up the Star Alliance network – is scheduled to open in 2014.

Construction will be by HETco consortium, led by Laing O'Rourke and Ferrovial Agroman, while the project architect is Foster and Partners.

Colin Matthews, BAA Chief Executive said: "The closure of Terminal 2 marks an important



Heathrow's new £1bn terminal

moment in the modernisation of Heathrow.

"We look forward to the new Terminal 2 providing a new home for the Star Alliance and a better experience for our passengers, with less impact on the environment."



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## The prospects for the new year

Spending review means we are not yet out of the woods



**KURT JANSON** is policy director of Tourism Alliance

It's probably fair to say that, provided you are not in the business travel, outbound travel or luxury markets, 2009 has probably been a reasonable year. Spend from overseas visitors is tracking at the same level as last year due to the weakness of the pound while domestic holidays are tracking at 20 per cent up over 2008.

However, that doesn't mean that 2010 will be a better year for the tourism sector. For a start, some of the main impacts will arise from something that wasn't mentioned in last week's pre-budget report (PBR) – the Comprehensive Spending Review.

While the PBR set solid targets for the reduction in public expenditure, it contained no real detail as to where those reductions would come from, other than to say that they wouldn't come from key areas such as health. So if they don't come from high spending departments such as health, then where will they come from? The easy answer to this is "departments where sharp reductions in expenditure won't lose too many votes".

This will have two impacts on the tourism sector. First, it's hard not to see DCMS as being identified as one where cuts in expenditure won't cause people to take to the streets. Second, there will be big cuts in public sector employment – some think tanks put the figure at 1 million people. This level of public sector employment and expenditure reduction can't help but impact on the tourism sector. So we are not out of the woods by any stretch of the imagination.

## Visit London rejects ETOA claims

Tourism agency argues 2012 Olympics will generate £1.5bn in revenue

By **Helen Patenall**

Visit London has dismissed a report by The European Tour Operators Association (ETOA) claiming that tourism numbers are likely to fall significantly after the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The organisation refutes the claim – based on a precedent set by Beijing and other recent host Olympic Game cities – contending that the capital will reap an additional £1.5bn in tourism revenue during the post-Games decade.

Visit London says that the introduction of a Fair Pricing and Practice Charter will prevent tourists from being 'ripped off' during the Games, while planned improvements to the already accessible transport system will meet the increased demand.

Chief executive Sally Chatterjee said: "It's impossible to compare Olympic cities directly. London is the world's most visited



**It is anticipated that the 2012 Games will increase visits to London after the event**

destination by foreign travellers and one of the most accessible cities in the world.

"We believe the London 2012 Olympic Games will bring an influx of new visitors to London. Olympic year will be one of the most exciting times in our history and no-one will want to miss out."

## Funding for Causeway Coastal Route project

By **Pete Hayman**



**Work will improve the town's promenade**

Plans to improve the East Strand Promenade in Portrush, Northern Ireland have received £900,000 in a bid to boost tourism along the Causeway Coastal Route.

Areas of the promenade between the town's Arcadia and the Watersports Centre will benefit from improvements.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board will provide £450,000, along with £400,000 from Northern Ireland's Department of Social Development and £50,000 from Coleraine Borough Council.

## Tourism Ireland launches major global campaign

Tourism Ireland has announced a major new worldwide marketing campaign, which it is hoped will help increase the number of inbound visitors to Ireland and Northern Ireland during 2010.

It is hoped that the agency's new strategy will boost the number of visitors to the two countries by 3 per cent to contribute towards a target of 7.85

million overseas people travelling to the island of Ireland over the next 12 months.

Plans include increasing the levels of investment to specifically target the important British and German markets, as well as countries in southern Europe, while also using themed cultural promotions to highlight Irish music, literature and genealogy.



The scheme aims to get 5,000 more youngsters playing volleyball

## New volleyball scheme launched

Volleyball England launches bid to boost participation

By **Pete Hayman**

A Community Development Coach (CDC) scheme has been unveiled by Volleyball England as part of its wider *Can You Dig It* campaign in a bid to increase participation in the sport.

Unveiled at the new National Volleyball Centre in Kettering, Northamptonshire, the national governing body has appointed 14 coaches tasked with getting 5,000 more young people playing volleyball across England.

The CDC scheme, which aims to have 20 coaches in place by April 2010, is being funded by

Volleyball England and its partners, including School Sport Partnerships and county sport partnerships.

CDCs, who all have at least three years experience in coaching volleyball, will help to train new players, encourage potential event organisers, and ensure talented young players receive the chance to progress.

Lisa Wainwright, chief executive officer of Volleyball England, said: "Our goal is to show people that it's a great sport for men and women of all ages to enjoy in the park, beach or in a leisure centre."

## Elemis unveils online training centre

Skincare brand Elemis is to launch an online training centre, which will act as a central portal for its therapists around the world to learn and share the latest spa therapy and retail techniques.

The online library will include information on treatment protocols, product knowledge, a frequently asked questions section and a history of Elemis' beauty awards and press articles.

It is hoped that the online centre will reduce off-site time with tests that must be passed before attending off-site training while improving the quality of therapy and aftercare.

Sean Harrington, Elemis' managing director, commented: "This is an exceptional trade tool for our team of trainers, offering cost-effective resources for the best training in the business."

## Making an investment in your future career

Now's the time to furnish your CV with as many accolades as possible

In today's ever changing work environment, employees who keep their skills and experience a cut above the rest are making a wise investment in their career. With employers paring staff levels down to the essentials, it pays to make sure you're the cream of the crop. Looking ahead, when the economy starts to pick up and the employment market moves again, employees looking for great positions will need to be sure they're ahead of the competition. So now's the time to furnish your CV with as many accolades as possible and to make sure your skills are well honed.

Within the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industries, there's an award which could make you stand out from the crowd. For employees who are under 30-years-old and working in customer facing roles of any kind, winning the Savoy Gastronomes' Olive Barnett Award could be a career turning point. This is a highly prestigious award recognised across the industry and it comes with some fantastic prizes, including Career Development Grants, donated by the Savoy Educational Trust and courses at the prestigious Lausanne Executive Education Summer Programme, donated by the globally respected Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne.

The knowledge, experience and career development to be gained through winning this award simply cannot be measured. The 2009 winner, Benjamin McEwen, said of winning the award "The value of the award is just astronomical, it was such an excellent platform from which to really boost my career and have access to opportunities which ordinarily would have been harder to attain." The Olive Barnett Award was created by The Savoy Gastronomes in recognition of Olive Barnett OBE who pioneered excellence at The Savoy and this year the award is returning to its roots with main sponsors The Savoy. This landmark hotel will reopen next year after an incredible £100m restoration and will host The Savoy Gastronomes' Olive Barnett Award ceremony in May 2010.

The award is now open for entries. Entrants simply need to submit a two-minute video of themselves, speaking about why they have chosen a career in the industry and why they feel they should be considered to receive the award. From the videos a shortlist of 30 entrants will be selected and invited to submit a 750-word report, from which a final shortlist of eight finalists will be invited to attend the Judging Weekend in May 2010.



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**MARY HEMSWORTH**  
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16  
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## Chronic Respiratory Disease Exercise Instructor Course

**BLF bursaries are now available for the January 2010 intake of this innovative distance learning course.**

Developed by Loughborough College, the University Hospitals of Leicester and the British Lung Foundation (BLF), with funding and input from Rotherham PCT, the course has been submitted for endorsement at level 4 on the Register of Exercise Professionals. It covers:

- Physiology and pathology of respiratory disease
- Management of chronic respiratory disease
- Responses to exercise and exercise prescription
- Managing breathlessness
- Referral pathways

The BLF bursary, funded by Air Products, is available to exercise professionals who meet the following entry requirements:

- Level 3 equivalent qualification as recognised by REP's
- A current valid first aid certificate
- Endorsement from a local pulmonary rehabilitation team
- 100 hours practical exercise instruction over the past year, with some experience of working with clients with COPD/respiratory disease
- Current CRB disclosure form

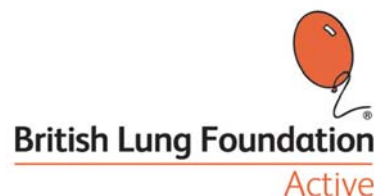
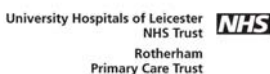
Instructors taking up a bursary will be expected to work with local Breathe Easy support groups to set up exercise classes within the community.

For more details or an application pack please log on to [www.lunguk.org/supporting-you/blf\\_active/](http://www.lunguk.org/supporting-you/blf_active/) or contact Danielle Smreczak using the details below

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HEALTH ◦ VITALITY ◦ WELLBEING



# Be a Part of Our Future

There has never been a more exciting time to join Fusion.

We are one of the fastest growing companies in the leisure industry, more than doubling in size over the last two years.

Fusion provides first choice leisure services in Southwark, Lambeth, Croydon, Tunbridge Wells, Milton Keynes, Watford, Hillingdon, Leatherhead (Mole Valley), Hounslow and Oxford. We also have partnerships with a range of other voluntary organisations and schools. We are seeking yet more positive & dynamic professionals to support our team's drive for continued delivery of excellent sport and leisure services in collaboration with our partners. In return, you will receive a generous benefits package and opportunities to further your career.

## Divisional Sports and Community Development Manager

London and Oxford  
Circa £24,000 - £28,000

### Sports and Community Development Officer

West London Circa £20,000 - £25,000

### Projects Officer

Southwark Circa £20,000 - £22,000

We are seeking a new team to support the growth of our Sports and Community Development programmes across our London and Oxford Leisure Centres. The successful candidates will need to have a passion for making a difference to the community, with the aim to promote and develop a wide range of sporting activities and to increase participation in sport and physical activity for all sectors of the community. If you have excellent communication, project management and analytical skills, combined with a background in sports development or with National Governing Bodies and/or a leisure related degree, then we would like to hear from you.

## General Managers

London and South East  
Circa £25,000 to £40,000

Ref: GM12/09

Are you capable of taking on a challenging role to inspire and motivate a team to deliver exceptional customer services? You will already be a General Manager or an Operations Manager in a large facility with a demonstrable record of success. Your strong interpersonal skills and approachability will be as important as your commercial awareness. Whilst driving your business forward, you will be meticulous in your standards, managing the needs of your customers, team and your client.

## Operations Managers

London  
Circa £19,000 to £23,000

You will be responsible for ensuring the smooth daily running of the centre. Management, training and motivation of staff, financial performance of all activities and assisting the General Manager in the development of the centre. You will be RLSS Pool Lifeguard Award qualified have experience of managing a team including training, development, appraisals and possess excellent oral, numerical, written skills.

## Divisional Marketing Managers

London and South East  
Circa £23,000 to £30,000

Ref: DMM12/09

This newly created role at Fusion requires excellent sales & marketing experience that can be applied in a relevant & targeted manner to help drive our genuinely local approach to business growth. By using classic marketing and media techniques, embracing CRM and bringing innovation to our communication there is the opportunity to create your own unique successes. Supported by central sales and marketing and your peers in other divisions, this role is a critical part of the Divisional Business Manager's team.

## Divisional Maintenance Managers

London  
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Ref: DmaiM12/09

Due to the development of existing centres, we are looking for an experienced Divisional Maintenance Managers to oversee the planned preventative maintenance, capital investment and responsive maintenance at Fusion sites. You will be a motivated manager with good technical knowledge of M&E, H&S, Pool Plant and Building Fabric, who is able to set up and manage contractors as well as managing the local maintenance technicians. Experience within the leisure industry is desirable but essentially we require a manager who has an excellent grounding in hard FM plus an understanding of client and contractor management, energy management, and principles of managing refurbishment projects.

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Ref: DBM12/09

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**To apply for any of the above positions please email your CV and covering letter to [careers@fusion-lifestyle.com](mailto:careers@fusion-lifestyle.com) quoting the relevant reference number. Closing date: 30th December 2009.**



### Sports Development Manager – National Governing Bodies

**Location:** team BEDS&LUTON (the County Sports Partnership for Bedfordshire and Luton), Wigmore Hall, Eaton Green Road, Luton, LU2 9JB  
**Salary:** £35,430 - £38,042 per annum

A tremendous opportunity is available for a skilled and talented Sports Development professional to lead on team BEDS&LUTON's work with National Governing Bodies. An excellent relationship with NGBs already exists, we are looking for someone to drive this forward and make it outstanding.

You will understand the core role of County Sports Partnerships and their role in underpinning the work of NGBs, have a terrific sports development track record and have a desire to add value to a successful team.

You will lead and manage all aspects of NGB Partnerships - including the line management of staff, provision of services through procurement, development of delivery programmes and performance management. You will ensure systems for reviewing, monitoring and evaluating the work of the NGB partnerships are in place.

You will be up to date with all relevant legislation, professional developments, emerging best practice and funding initiatives. You will play a vital role in contributing to the development of policies, strategies and initiatives in the County Sports Partnership.

**team BEDS&LUTON has developed a strong reputation locally, regionally and nationally and is always looking to improve and grasp opportunities – can you make the team better? For an informal discussion contact Lloyd Conaway, on 01582 813768.**

**You can obtain an application form and job description by either calling us on 01582 400272 or send a request via email to [info@activeluton.co.uk](mailto:info@activeluton.co.uk). Alternatively these can be downloaded from [www.activeluton.co.uk](http://www.activeluton.co.uk). Please note CV's will not be accepted in isolation, an application form must accompany them.**

**Closing date for applications is Friday 8th January 2010**  
**Interviews are scheduled for Friday 22nd January 2010 and only successful applicants will be contacted.**  
*All appointments will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Check.*

Community & Economic Promotion

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OFFICER

£24,646 - £26,276 p.a. plus Essential User Car Allowance

Ref: ADC521

Subject to Job Evaluation

Ashfield District Council, in partnership with a number of health services providers, operates a number of schemes providing a variety of Community Healthy Living Services. As co-ordinator, you will ensure the effective delivery of the Community Healthy Living Schemes and will administer and manage the discrete elements of the initiatives.

You will have good communication and organisational skills as well as being I.C.T. literate and must be experienced in managing budgets. Understanding the work of public services is essential as is knowledge of community health programmes. Previous experience of working with a variety of partners is required (some of which must be within the delivery of physical activity programmes).

A full clean driving licence is required as is the ability to work outside normal office hours if required.

For an informal discussion relating to the post, please contact Theresa Hodgkinson on (01623) 457588.

**Canvassing of Members of the Council (directly or indirectly) for any appointment shall disqualify the candidate for that appointment.**

**Applicants should disclose if they are related to a Member or Officer of the Authority.**

You can obtain an application form and job description by visiting our website at [www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk/jobs) or by writing to Human Resources, Ashfield District Council, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottingham NG17 8DA or by telephoning (01623) 457583 or by calling in at our Information Offices at Hucknall, Kirkby-in-Ashfield or Sutton-in-Ashfield.

Closing date for applications: 30th December 2009.

Interviews will be held on: 14th January 2010.

Ashfield District Council is working towards Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the Community.



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**\*Applications to: [H3144-hr3@sofitel.com](mailto:H3144-hr3@sofitel.com), or visit [www.accorjobs.com](http://www.accorjobs.com) OR [www.sofitel.com](http://www.sofitel.com) for applications.**

**Closing date: January 2010**

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\*Please note that due to the high number of applications received we are ONLY able to contact candidates who will take part in the next stage of our recruitment process.

\*You must have the experience mentioned above or similar and legibility to work full time in the UK to be considered for this position.

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**(Sports, Leisure, Health and Wellbeing Manager)**

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**Job Ref No: 3250/AMB/LO**

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We have won national awards for our outstanding customer care and as a recognised 'Investors in People' employer excel at staff development. We will shortly become part of the National Skills Academy network for SkillsActive.

You will lead an enthusiastic and motivated team to deliver a variety of pioneering healthy living initiatives and educational programmes to the local community.

Previous managerial, leadership and business experience in the sector is essential, as is a commitment to further personal professional development, equality and diversity.

For an informal chat contact Richard Burt (Operations Manager) Tel 01823 410227 or Andrew Burns (Area Service Manager) Tel 01823 322934.

**Look at our website [www.somerset.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/jobs) for application details or telephone our recruitment line 01823 356862 (24 hours). Please quote the reference number.**

Closing date: 11 January 2010, Interviews: w/c 18 January 2010

This post requires a criminal background check via the disclosure procedure.

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LINCOLN - Yarborough Leisure Centre

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Successful candidates must have the ability to 'champion' swimming and have a clear understanding of the impact this project can have on the community and on health and sporting agendas.

Excellent project and time management skills with an ability to work effectively as a team and on your own initiative are also required. An ASA/UKCC Level 2 Teaching qualification is essential, as is NPLQ. Relevant practical knowledge, experience and understanding of UKCC, ASA products and Aquamark would be advantageous.

Contact [stuart.blackbourn@activenation.org.uk](mailto:stuart.blackbourn@activenation.org.uk) or 01522 873605

Closing Date 15th January 2010

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## JUNIOR ACTIVITY CO-ORDINATOR



An ambitious Junior Activities Coordinator is required for Colet's market-leading junior provision. You'll be responsible for delivering a wide range of sports and play activities for our 1500+ young members aged 4-17. Qualifications are required to Sports Science graduate/NNEB/NVQ 3.

We are looking for a confident candidate who shares our belief in the importance of sport and play towards the healthy development of young people. You will have the ability to enthuse, encourage and develop the skills and confidence of our juniors, so good communication skills are essential. Strong administration and organisational skills plus a keen attention to detail are further attributes we are looking for. OFSTED regulatory knowledge is desirable. The chosen candidate will be encouraged to participate in the Duty Manager rota for overall general club management development.

Please phone 020 8398 7108 for more information or send your CV to the HR Manager, Colet's Health & Fitness, St Nicholas Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0PW  
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## Sports Development Officer (Competitions)

Target salary £22,920 - £27,009 pa with potential future progression based on performance up to £31,935 pa

Use your experience in sports development to nurture activities across the community. Your key challenge is to deliver a large and successful primary, secondary and special school sports competitions and leagues framework. You will need to work closely with partners and stakeholders by building mutually productive working relationships making it as easy as possible for stakeholders to access the provision that they have identified they need.

For an informal discussion, please contact Jonathan Hearn, Sports Development Manager - Progression on 020 7641 4810.

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Alternatively, email: [applications.hr@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:applications.hr@westminster.gov.uk) or telephone 0870 606 0505, quoting reference 3853.

Closing date: 31 December 2009.

Interview date: 12 & 13 January 2010.





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## Minister hails progress on Titanic Quarter project

£97m heritage attraction to be form part of wider strategy to increase inbound tourism to Northern Ireland

By **Pete Hayman**

Northern Ireland tourism minister Arlene Foster has welcomed the "good progress" being made on the new £97m visitor attraction, which will be located in the centre of Belfast's Titanic Quarter.

The Titanic Signature Building, which was designed by a team of international firms, including Eric Kuhn Associates, RFR and Event Communications, will tell the story of the city's association with the ill-fated luxury liner.

Located at the head of the former Titanic Slipways, the attraction will boast the new Titanic Experience – an interactive exhibition dedicated to the ship's origin, launch and voyage, as well as boasting a 50m (164ft) model of the ship in its construction phase.

A "Flying Theatre" using cinematic projection to transport visitors over Belfast and Northern Ireland, a large community arts facility and a Titanic-themed banqueting suite are also planned, as well as a restaurant and a shop.



The Titanic Signature Building was designed by Eric Kuhn Associates

## £60m winter repair schemes for UK waterways

By **Pete Hayman**

British Waterways (BW) is to spend £60m on a range of repair work on canals and rivers across the UK

The investment programme forms part of the annual £100m expenditure on the UK's waterways network, which is funded using a combination of government grants and income generated by property and boat licences.



BW manages UK inland waters

Work will include the inspection and cleaning of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct on the Llangollen Canal, North Wales,

while a bridge on the Grand Union Leicester Line which includes a bat roost will undergo repairs which will help the preservation of the protected species.

Sea gates at Sharpness Docks will be replaced and four new sets of lock gates at Newlay Locks on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal will be installed. A 17th century accommodation bridge on the Trent and Mersey Canal will also be rebuilt.

## Active Living Centre unveiled

The Active Living Centre in Newport, Wales has opened to the public as part of the new £28m Newport High School.

Operated by Newport Sport & Leisure, the centre at the newly constructed high school will be open to local residents outside of school hours. Facilities include a 18m swimming pool and a fitness club.

## CONTACTS BOOK

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