

Work begins on Glamorgan's sports science centre

By **Tom Walker**

Construction has begun on a new £2.6m sports science centre at the University of Glamorgan in Pontypridd, South Wales.

The centre, which has been designed by London-based Holder Mathias Architects, is being built on the existing playing fields at the university and includes a new multi-purpose sports hall with six courts and an ancillary support block.

The sports centre will also act as a high-tech teaching and training facility with a monitoring room enabling teaching staff to track strength and the conditioning of athletes.



The new centre has been designed by Holder Mathias Architects

The new facility is the first sports centre in Wales to be awarded a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) Excellent rating and

has been designed in accordance with the latest Sport England guidelines.

Work on the project is being carried out by Midas Construction and is due to be completed

by June 2010. It is hoped that, once complete, the facility will be used by the Welsh Rugby Union and local professional teams from various sporting disciplines.

Alun Woodruff, the University's director of estates, said: "This is another piece of the University's Capital Development jigsaw which will raise the bar in terms of sporting facilities, not just at Glamorgan, but within Wales as a whole.

"Sport is a growing part of the university's curriculum and I have no doubt that the Glamorgan Sport Park building will inspire our students to achieve great things in the sporting field."

British Museum's expansion approved by council

Ambitious £135m plans for new museum wing receive Camden Council approval

By **Tom Walker**

Camden Council in London has awarded planning permission for the £135m expansion of the British Museum.

The plans received the green light at the second time of trying, after the council turned down an initial application for the works in June 2009.

The previous, rejected plans had angered a local conservation group, Bloomsbury Conservation Area Advisory Committee, which claimed the development would block



The British Museum will be expanded by 10,760sq ft

daylight from the existing buildings and "diminish the museum's existing architectural delights".

The rejigged plans, drawn up by architects Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners, include sinking part of the extension below the ground in an attempt to solve criticism that the extension will block views of the Grade I-listed Reading Room.

RSHP's original plans included a 1,000 sq m (10,760sq ft) building at the rear of the museum, replacing the former offices of the British Library on Montague Place, as well as a conservation centre to train museum conservators.

BW publishes trust plans

British Waterways has published its plans for a 'national trust' to be created in order to secure the future of the UK's canals and navigable rivers and waterways.

The organisation has published a report entitled *Setting a new course, Britain's waterways in the third sector*, which outlines the proposals to move from the public sector and close the current £30m annual gap in funding.

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Childhood obesity levels still 'too high'

New report claims a quarter of the UK's children are either overweight or obese

By Pete Hayman

New research published as part of the government's National Child Measurement Programme has revealed that more than one in five children in the UK are starting school overweight or obese.

The Department for Health claimed that the NHS Information Centre's study showed that the rapid increase in childhood obesity levels had started to level off, but accepted that the figures among young people were still "too high".

According to the report, 24 per cent of boys and 21.5 per cent of girls in reception classes were deemed to be either overweight or obese during 2008-09, while nearly a third of Year 6 pupils – 32.6 per cent



The number of overweight children increased during 2009

– are above their recommended weight. The National Child Measurement Programme was established in 2005 to weigh all children in reception and Year 6 at primary school to help determine how local authorities can best deliver services for children.

NHS Information Centre chief executive Tim Straughan said: "The study shows that the number of children starting their school life either overweight or obese is just over one in five and that it is even higher in Year 6 where nearly one in three pupils is overweight."

Work starts on new Brockholes visitor centre

By Pete Hayman

Work is set to start on the development of a new floating visitor centre at Brockholes Wetland and Woodland Reserve near Preston, Lancashire, in a bid to establish the site as a major attraction.

The facility is being developed as part of the £59m Newlands regeneration scheme through a partnership including the Forestry Commission, the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWRDA) and site owner Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT).

Designed by Adam Khan Architects, the centre will float on the reserve's lake and will boast a café and a gallery, as well as education rooms in a bid to allow visitors to engage with the natural world.



The wetland reserve scheme was designed by Adam Khan

Around £8.8m has been invested in the transformation of Brockholes Wetland and Woodland Reserve, which boasts wildlife habitats covering more than 106 hectares (261.9-acres), including lakes, reed beds and grasslands. An adjacent

66-hectare (163.1-acre) area of semi-natural ancient woodland also forms part of the site.

LWT chief executive Anne Selby said: "The start of work at Brockholes is a momentous occasion for us and for the region as a whole, and it comes at an appropriate time, almost exactly three years on from our purchase of the site.

"We have worked hard since then to get to this stage and look forward to continuing towards our goal, which is a natural adventure that brings wildlife to everyone and can inspire, educate and entertain all at the same time."

NWRDA head of environmental quality, Richard Tracey, added: "Brockholes is an important site for the region and the flagship of the Newlands programme."

£7m redevelopment underway at MOSI

Buttress Fuller Alsop Williams designs upgrade for iconic Manchester museum

By **Tom Walker**

Work has begun on a £7m redevelopment project on the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Manchester.

The project is being led by architects Buttress Fuller Alsop Williams and funded jointly by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), North West Development Agency (NWDA), DCMS, Garfield Weston and a number of other trusts and foundations.

The improvement works will include the removal of the metal ramps at the heart of the 130-year-old, Grade II-listed building, a procedure which will free up more than 1,000sq m (10,800sq ft) of space for exhibition and access purposes.

In this space, a new main entrance will take visitors



The Grade II-listed museum is to undergo a £7m redevelopment

straight into the orientation area, rather than through the coffee shop as at present.

The entrance will be linked to the museum's new Revolution Manchester gallery where some of Manchester's leading inventions and objects will be put on display.

The Experiment Gallery will be expanded during the nine-month revamp and moved from the second floor to a dedicated, purpose-built space on the first floor. Four new classrooms will be constructed to further develop the museum's educational programme.

Birkenhead Docks revamp plans submitted

By **Pete Hayman**

An outline planning application for the transformation of East Float, which forms the main section of the £4.5bn Wirral Waters regeneration project at Birkenhead Docks, have been submitted to Wirral Council.

Manchester-based developer Peel is leading the mixed-use scheme, which covers a 1.4 million sq m (15 million sq ft) area and will boast a range of restaurants, cafés and bars, a hotel and conference centre and cultural attractions.

More than 13,500 new



The waterside scheme is based on five individual districts

homes, civic and community buildings and green spaces are also included in the plans, which comprises five individual districts – SkyCity, Four Bridges,

Northbank West, Marina View and Vittoria Studios.

Each area has been designed by individual architects, such as Glenn Howells Architects, BroadwayMalyan, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, Allford Hall Monaghan Morris and HKR.

Wirral Council leader Steve Foulkes said: "This is a significant step in our vision to regenerate Wirral. It is encouraging that even at a time of such economic difficulties we continue to make significant progress towards the delivery of our strategy."

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IN BRIEF

Southampton Council to sell off facilities

► Southampton City Council is planning to lease its loss-making leisure facilities to private operators for 15 years. The sports pitches at Mayfield Park, Riverside Park, Green Park, Hoglands Park and the Veracity, Lordshill and Millbrook recreation grounds could be offloaded, as could leases of land at the Alpine Centre, the municipal golf course, Southampton Sports Centre and Chamberlayne Leisure Centre.

Health club admits safety failures

► Holmes Place Health Clubs has admitted breaking health and safety laws following the death of a 32-year-old female customer at its City of London club in March 2003. Holmes Place pleaded guilty to three charges relating to the operation of a faulty lift. At a hearing in Southwark Crown Court, the company admitted that it had allowed employees to enter the lift plant room and to operate the lift machinery. The 32-year-old was crushed to death after being trapped between the faulty lift and the wall of the lift shaft. Holmes Place's UK operations were acquired by rival fitness chain Virgin Active in September 2006.

UKFN appoints board members

► A further four members have been appointed as directors of the UK Fitness Network (UKFN). The new directors are Steve Ward from Greenwich Leisure, Peter King from Fusion, Karen Burrell from Freedom Leisure and Ken Leggate from Redbridge Sports and Leisure. The quartet was elected at the UKFN's first AGM in December, to help shape the strategic direction of the organisation.

£15m leisure centre opens in Banbury

Cherwell District Council opens Spiceball Leisure Centre ahead of schedule

By **Pete Hayman**

Cherwell District Council (CDC) has opened the new £15m Spiceball Leisure Centre in Banbury, Oxfordshire, which has been completed on budget ahead of schedule.

Initially due to open in January 2010, the new centre replaces the former Spiceball Park Leisure Centre and forms part of a wider sports centre modernisation programme in the local area, which is being led by Cherwell Community Leisure, a wholly owned subsidiary of Parkwood Project Management.

Facilities at Spiceball Leisure Centre include a 150-station gym equipped by Precor, an eight-court sports hall with spectator area, a six-lane, 25m swimming pool and a 20m x 10m training pool with moveable floor. Two squash courts, a multi-purpose studio,



The centre boasts a 150-station gym and an eight-court sports hall

an exercise and dance studio, a health suite including spa, sauna and steamroom facilities, a soft play area and a meeting room also form part of the complex, along with wet and dry changing areas and a café.

Moss Construction, a subsidiary of the Bedfordshire-based Kier Group, constructed the new complex, which was designed by Plymouth-based

Burke Rickhards architects.

CDC's portfolio holder for environment, recreation and health, George Reynolds, said: "Spiceball marks the culmination of this investment and I'm sure you'll appreciate how good the centre is when you visit.

"This has been a massive project for the council and our gratitude should go to all those involved in its completion early and within the agreed budget."

New gym opens in Wombwell

A new gym has officially been opened at Wombwell Swimming Pool in Barnsley by Olympic swimmer James Kirton.

The health and fitness facility, which is managed by Barnsley Premier Leisure, boasts a range of Technogym equipment and a dedicated free weights room.

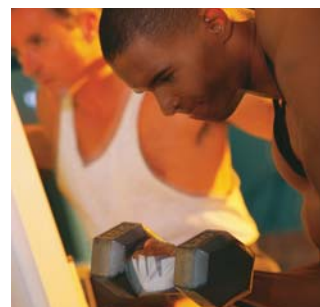
Kirton, who has his first swimming lessons at Wombwell Swimming Pool over 15 years ago, said: "This is just what Wombwell needs and I am looking forward to being able to use the facilities here myself."

£3m revamp for college centre

By **Tom Walker**

The Manchester College is to invest £3m in redeveloping the college's fitness and sport facilities. The health and fitness clubs at the college's Northenden and Moston campuses have recently been refurbished with around £100,000 being spent on 30 cv stations and resistance equipment supplied by Cybex.

The Northenden campus has also undergone substantial building work converting workshops into a new fitness suite, as well as the creation of an outdoor, multi use games area. At Moston, the old gym, located in the basement of the building, has been refurbished



The gym will be open to both students and the public

including levelling the floor and adding a spa.

The opening of the fitness centres is the first phase of the college's plans to improve the provision of active leisure at the institution. Further plans include the redevelopment of the old Harpurhey Baths.

Revamped gym opens at Horwich site

Fitness suite at trust-operated centre includes 80 stations supplied by Life Fitness

By **Pete Hayman**

A extended fitness suite has opened to the public at Horwich Leisure Centre in Bolton, Lancashire, as part of a larger £250,000 refurbishment of the facility.

Renovation work was undertaken by the Bolton Community Leisure Trust and Life Fitness, which has led to the creation of a 456sq m (5,005sq ft) gym boasting three different spaces and 80 stations.

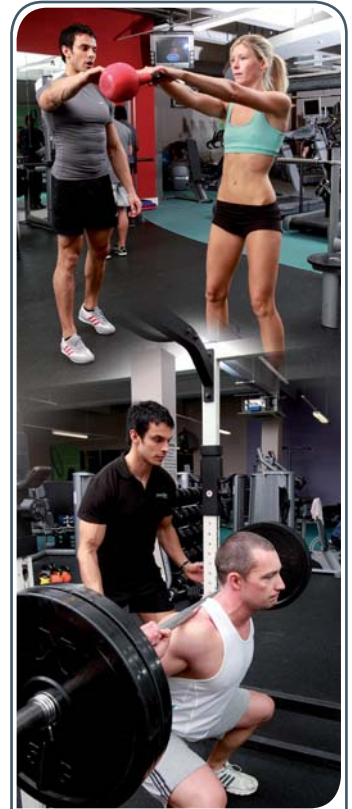
A new entry-level gym space has been created in the centre's former crèche, which has been designed to cater for disability groups, schools, junior clubs and elderly people, as well as offering cardiac rehabilitation programmes.



The gym space has been created in the centre's former crèche

The second fitness space incorporates a wider range of Life Fitness strength and CV equipment, while the third area for more advanced members boasts an extended free weights area and a separate personal training area.

Vice-chair of the Bolton Community Leisure Trust Richard Saunders said: "Horwich Leisure Centre has seen significant improvements over the last five years and this new gym is another major leap forward."



Trust invests in rehabilitation gym at Papworth

By **Tom Walker**

Health care provider Papworth Trust has created a new gym at its Vocational Rehabilitation Department in Papworth Everard, Cambridgeshire.

The £40,000, 156sq m (1,700sq ft) fitness suite has been created by converting two unused office spaces and includes 14 exercise stations supplied by Cybex, the majority of which have been credited at Stage 2 by the



The facility boasts 14 stations

Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI). Other facilities include a physiotherapy room which

offers massages, reflexology and traditional physiotherapy.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department was originally funded by the government via the Department of Work & Pensions but is now funded by insurance claims.

The process is part of the government's Rehabilitation Code, which ensures access to rehabilitation services without affecting the outcome of the insurance claim for the injured party.

Council backs £12m wellbeing centre designs

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council has approved William Saunders Partnership's designs for a new £12m health and wellbeing centre on a site next to the town's existing Jubilee Pool facility.

The Newark-based architects were appointed by the council to draw up plans for the new

facility, which will boast a 25m, eight-lane swimming pool, a learner pool, an 80-station fitness suite and a health suite.

Dance studios, a climbing wall, wet and dry changing facilities and multi-purpose areas also form part of the proposed centre, which is scheduled to open in 2011.

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IN BRIEF

Beckham academy set to close London site

► David Beckham's football academy is set to leave its permanent base in Greenwich, London, at the end of the year in order to adopt a mobile coaching model designed to reach communities across the UK. The David Beckham Football Academy, which opened in 2005, boasts two full-size artificial football pitches, changing rooms, a dining hall and classrooms, as well as a medical centre. However, site owner AEG Europe said that it was "very likely" the academy will now look to provide coaching on a mobile basis with the lease on the Greenwich facility due to expire in 2010.

Crusaders confirm Wrexham FC move

► Super League club Crusaders Rugby League (CRL) has announced that Wrexham's Racecourse Ground is to be its new permanent home ground after the Bridgend-based club was acquired by Wrexham Village Ltd (WVL). WVL – owner of Blue Square Premier team Wrexham Football Club, will take control of the rugby league club with immediate effect, following discussions between CRL's former owner Leighton Samuel and the football club.

Feel Good Factory for Haslingden centre

► Haslingden Sports Centre in Lancashire has opened a Feel Good Factory boasting £50,000 of toning table equipment. The new facility was installed for free thanks to a partnership between Alliance Leisure and Shapemaster, and works on an income share basis, where the facility retains the initial income up to a certain level, before a sharing mechanism kicks in. The Haslingden installation is the second Feel Good Factory in the UK.

Active People survey results unveiled

Sport England figures show steady increase in sports participation figures

By Tom Walker

Nearly 7 million adults across England participated in sport at least three times a week between October 2008 and October 2009, according to the *Active People Survey 3* published by Sport England.

The report revealed that six sports are currently meeting their targets for the first year of the funding initiative, with cycling and athletics reporting a combined increase of more than 240,000 weekly participants.

Meanwhile, boxing, table tennis, canoeing and netball are also meeting their respective targets. Tennis is also poised to meet its target, following a surge in participation due to the Wimbledon championships.



Football is among the sports that saw participation fall last year

However, despite being among the four sports that already attract at least one million adults participating once a week, football and swimming both failed to report any growth in participation in the past year, while participa-

tion among disabled people and women is also down.

The study claims that Sport England is close to achieving its target of getting 1 million more people participating in sport as part of the 2012 legacy plans.

Barnet FC opens new Edgware training complex

By Tom Walker

England manager Fabio Capello has officially launched Barnet Football Club's (BFC) new 44-acre (17.8-hectare) training complex in Edgware, London, which will host the club's new Centre of Excellence.

The Hive, which will also be home to the club's first team squad and ladies' team, has been funded by BFC, along with a £750,000 contribution from Harrow Council and a



The centre in Edgware, London

£1m grant from the Football Foundation. Designed by Battersea-based And Architects

and built by main contractor, the Buckingham Group, the new training complex boasts two full-size artificial turf pitches and natural grass pitches built by Kestrel.

Kestrel worked alongside sports pitch consultants TurfTrax and Surfacing Standards on the construction of the natural pitches at the £11m venue, which also includes 14 changing rooms and a physiotherapy room, as well as office areas.

Wakefield Wildcats stadium plans unveiled

Plans are set to be submitted to Wakefield Council for a new 12,000-capacity community stadium in West Yorkshire, which will be the home of the Wakefield Trinity Wildcats rugby league team.

The proposals were unveiled by the chair of the Wakefield and District Community Trust, Sir Rodney Walker, on 21 December and will see the stadium form part of a wider mixed-use scheme near to Junction 30 of the M62. Although the stadium will initially be capable of accommodating 12,000 spectators, it will have the potential to expand to a capacity of 15,000 people and will replace the Wildcats' Belle Vue ground.

World Cup 2018 candidate cities named

England bid team names candidate cities for 2018 FIFA Football World Cup

By **Pete Hayman**

London, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester have been confirmed as being among the 12 candidate host cities that will be included in England's bid to stage the 2018 World Cup.

Other cities selected for England's 2018 bid include Liverpool, Milton Keynes, Newcastle, Bristol, Sunderland, Nottingham and Plymouth.

The candidate host cities have contributed more than £300m in financial guarantees towards hosting the World Cup if England's bid is successful, complementing a further commitment of more than £100m towards legacy and regeneration projects.

A variety of stakeholders, including regional development



Wembley headlines the proposed venues for the 2018 World Cup

agencies, local authorities, sports governing bodies, school boards, Premier League and Football League clubs and non-league football have all formed part of the selection process.

Three cities – Leicester, Hull and Derby – missed out on

being included in the World Cup bid.

The final list was decided by a technical panel comprising the chair of the Football League, Lord Mawhinney, bid chief executive Andy Anson and chief operating officer Simon Johnson.

Plans published for Derby hubs

Derby City Council (DCC) is to consider a report that recommends the creation of a regional £50m sporting hub, consisting of two separate centres.

DCC commissioned sports consultancy PMP/genesis to evaluate the city's sport facilities and make recommendations on how to improve the provision of sport.

The report by PMP/genesis revealed the current facilities to be outdated and "no longer capable of meeting the modern demands and expectations".

The report recommends the creation of two leisure hubs and that the outdoor hub should house a 250m indoor cycling velodrome.

UK Sport reveals 2012 funding



Handball is one of the sports to benefit from increased funding

By **Tom Walker**

An additional £13m of funding has been made available to help Great Britain's Olympic and Paralympic athletes prepare ahead of the 2012 London Games, following a review by elite performance agency UK Sport.

Revised investment figures for all funded sports have been unveiled by the agency after a comprehensive annual review

process, with 11 of the 12 sports that missed out on 'full' Olympic funding last year now having their allocation doubled.

Handball, fencing, shooting and volleyball are among the 11 sports to benefit from the funding increase, which was made available by an initial £6.5m through credit card company's Visa's sponsorship of Team 2012 and a further £6.5m due to adjusted inflation levels.

IN BRIEF

BPL takes over four Notts centres

► Sports trust Barnsley Premier Leisure (BPL) is to take over the management of four leisure facilities in Nottinghamshire following an agreement with Bassetlaw District Council. The move will increase BPL's portfolio by a third, to 16 sites, as it takes over the operation of the Bircotes, Retford and Worksop Leisure Centres and Kilton Forest Golf Course. BPL invested more than £500,000 in upgrading and refurbishing its venues during 2009.

Fleming Park set for new tennis courts

► Four new outdoor tennis courts are set to be created at Eastleigh's Fleming Park Leisure Centre in Hampshire, as part of a scheme to increase participation in the sport. Construction work on the project will get underway this month and will establish the centre as a community tennis centre, which will double the number of existing tennis courts and also includes the addition of a clubhouse. Eastleigh Borough Council and the Lawn Tennis Association are working in partnership with Fleming Park operator DC Leisure to jointly-fund the scheme, which is due for completion in spring 2010.

Sports development funding hit by cuts

► Vale of White Horse District Council in Oxfordshire has announced that funding for sports development will be reduced by a third in 2010-11 as part of efforts to cut expenditure by £1m a year. According to the council, the level of funding for sports development will be reduced from £150,000 to £50,000 as it is not considered to be a priority, although most of the savings are expected to come through improved efficiency.

IN BRIEF

Droitwich operator enters receivership

► The Impney Group, the Droitwich-based operator of two Worcestershire hotel and conference centres, has been placed into administrative receivership after running into financial difficulties. Both the Chateau Impney and the Raven Hotel are expected to continue trading as normal after the appointment of Kim Rayment and Toby Underwood from business restructuring firm BDO as joint receivers of the company. A business review has been carried out, resulting in the loss of 45 jobs at the Impney Group.

East Anglian hotel firm enters administration

► Elizabeth Hotels, the Ipswich-based operator of pubs and hotels across the East Anglian region, has been placed into administration. On 8 December, Allan Graham and Jane Moriarty of KPMG were appointed as joint administrators of the Elizabeth Estates, Elizabeth Hotels and Cavendish Hotels businesses, which include 14 mid-range hotels and 13 pubs. A further four hotels operated by the companies will continue to trade as normal outside of the administration.

Transaction volume to increase in 2010

► Global hotel transaction volume will increase by 20 to 40 per cent in 2010, it has been predicted. Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels' Hotel Investment Outlook 2010 report forecasts that as a number of hotel markets reach their bottom, worldwide transaction levels will increase to US\$11-13bn. Arthur de Haast, global CEO of Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels, said: "Across the world, the trading of single hotel assets, mostly valued at up to US\$100m, will initiate the recovery."

£100m property fund for Travelodge

Budget operator unveils large development fund to benefit from weak market

By **Tom Walker**

Budget hotel chain Travelodge has affirmed plans to further expand its UK portfolio after announcing the launch of a new £100m development fund in partnership with Twenty10 Fund Management.

The new fund – the second unveiled by Travelodge in a year – is designed to allow the development of five hotels in London and other major UK cities each year, which will then be leased to the chain on 25-35 year deals.

It is expected that the fund will aim to develop new hotels as both standalone sites and as part of mixed-use schemes, enabling Travelodge to expand its presence in city centres across Britain.



The fund is the second such initiative in the past six months

The fund will be led by Twenty20 chair Christopher Stainforth, and will be financed using £50m of equity and £50m of bank debt. Travelodge will contribute £500,000 towards the fund.

Travelodge's managing director of development, Paul

Harvey, said: "This fund will ensure that we keep our foot firmly on the accelerator pedal in our UK growth drive."

In June 2009, Travelodge established a £100m joint venture with Meghraj Properties in a bid to capitalise on the weak property market.

Hoteliers facing tough times

UK hotel operators continued to encounter tough trading conditions in the run up to the Christmas period, according to preliminary figures for October and November released by PKF Hotel Consultancy Services.

London hoteliers reported a 1.6 per cent decrease in average room rate during the two-month period, compared with 2008 figures. Regional hotel operators too are facing difficult conditions, having reported decreases in average room rate (7.8 per cent), occupancy (3.5 per cent) and rooms yield (11.1 per cent), compared with November last year.

Whitbread buoyed by Q3 figures

Costa Coffee was among the top performers for Whitbread

By **Tom Walker**

UK hotel and restaurant operator Whitbread expects its full-year results to beat market estimates after posting a 6.7 per cent increase in total sales for the third quarter, compared with the same period last year.

During the third quarter of 2009-10, coffee shop chain Costa Coffee continued to perform strongly after reporting a 20.7 per cent

increase in total sales. Like-for-like sales at Costa Coffee were also up by 6.7 per cent.

Total sales for the 39 weeks to 26 November 2009 grew by 4.3 per cent, which led chief executive officer Alan Parker to predict the group will "somewhat exceed the top end of market estimates".

Parker said: "Our expansion programme has made further progress in both Premier Inn and pub restaurants."



Pre-tax profits at the chain fell from £5.6m in 2008 to £3m in 2009

Carluccio's profits hit by costs

Italian chain maintains plans to open five new sites

By Tom Walker

London-based Italian restaurant chain Carluccio's has blamed increased operating costs and the weak pound for a 46 per cent decline in profits for the year ending 27 September 2009.

Statutory pre-tax profits decreased from £5.6m to £3m compared with the previous year, although the company did see an 8 per cent increase in turnover during the 12-month period and currently remains debt-free. Adjusted profit before tax fell by 16 per

cent to £4.7m. Carluccio's expanded its portfolio over the past year with the opening of six stores, including its first in the Middle East and a second under franchise, while plans are still in place to deliver at least five new sites in 2010 - including Cardiff and Wimbledon, London.

The company's executive chair Stephen Gee said: "Despite the challenging economic environment, our business has performed robustly, delivering an adjusted profit before tax slightly ahead of consensus market expectations.

Task team to tackle underpayments

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has created a new group to prevent employers from underpaying staff, particularly in the hospitality industry.

The Dynamic Response Team will work on the most high profile and complicated National Minimum Wage (NMW) cases faced by HMRC, particularly where employers are using migrant labour to undercut competitors by

paying below the minimum wage – something relatively commonplace in the hospitality industry.

In fact, the hospitality industry was singled out in HMRC's press release regarding the scheme. Since last April, the HMRC has helped around 14,000 workers recoup more than £3m in wage arrears, and £640,000 of this was in the hospitality sector alone.

The case for reducing VAT – is there one?

Measures that encourage investment still offer the most beneficial impact for industry

With the general election only a few months away, questions are being raised about the measures that a new government could introduce that would improve the prospects of the hospitality industry. One of the most persistent is a reduction in VAT on either hotel accommodation or restaurant meals or both. We need to approach this cautiously.

Certainly, there is strong evidence that tourism is looked upon more favourably in other EU countries than in the UK. The vast majority already imposes a lower rate for hotel accommodation or will shortly. France, Spain and Italy, three of Britain's major tourism competitors have had a lower VAT rate on hotel accommodation for many years. Far fewer have introduced a lower rate for restaurant meals.

But would a cut in UK VAT to, say, five per cent help generate stronger home demand? Some put forward the argument that it would increase demand and raise turnover, thus increasing the total tax take. This, however, is difficult to sustain. Turnover would need to rise significantly to remain even revenue-neutral to the Treasury – an unlikely development in the present economic situation.

At present – and for the foreseeable future – the low value of sterling against the Euro and dollar is a much greater factor in lowering prices to overseas visitors than any realistic cut in VAT. In any case, any cut in VAT would not affect UK corporate business which comprises 20 per cent of domestic spend in hotels. If the industry is to argue for a cut in VAT it has to answer a number of questions: what are the overall benefits to the industry, how much of the cut would be passed onto the consumer, how much would demand increase, what is the cost to the Treasury, and what is the likely impact on jobs? So far, we have no precise answers.

One thing, however, is certain: investment remains critical. So would not the hospitality industry have a better case if it argued that any changes in the tax laws should be used not to try to stimulate demand through VAT cuts but should encourage businesses to grow by more investment?

There is a powerful argument that any measure that encouraged investment would have a much longer lasting and more beneficial impact on hospitality businesses than a reduction in VAT.



BOB COTTON is chief executive of the BHA. *Leisure Opportunities* is a member benefit of the BHA, for your free copy call 01462 471915

IN BRIEF

Devon beach site for new surfing museum

► Trustees of the proposed Museum of British Surfing have confirmed that they are in talks with the Christie Estate over the possibility of developing a permanent home for the attraction at a North Devon beach. A site close to Saunton Sands has been earmarked for the new museum, which has received approval for two development grants totalling more than £33,000 from the Leader 4 initiative and the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty's sustainable development fund.

'Harry Potter station' secures HLF funding

► DA West Highland railway station featured in two Harry Potter films has been handed £195,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund towards work to improve the site as a visitor attraction. Glenfinnan Station Museum will use the investment to allow visitors to experience the atmosphere of the station during the late Victorian period, while also providing information on the history of the West Highland Line. Many of the station's artefacts – including pieces of furniture, trolleys and original rolling stock – are currently in storage due to the poor condition of the building.

Orange Order to open visitor centres

► Two new museums are set to be created – one in Belfast and one in Loughall – under plans unveiled by the Orange Order to examine the history of the organisation in Northern Ireland. An application has been filed at the European Funding Programme to help fund the £4m scheme, which will create museums at Schomberg House in Belfast and Sloan's House in Loughall.

Cardiff Museum project nets funding

Cardiff's Old Library to be transformed into museum by £440,000 Lottery grant

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans to develop a new museum at the site of Cardiff's Grade II*-listed Old Library, which explores the history of the Welsh capital city, have been awarded £440,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The grant will go towards the first stage of opening the Cardiff Story attraction, which will be based around 8,000 exhibits stored by the National Museum Wales since the closure of the city's last dedicated museum in 1924.

Artefacts depicting the city's maritime, industrial and social history will be put on show at the new museum and will be interpreted through digital stories and interactive exhibits in order to help bring the story of Cardiff to life.

HLF funding will go towards part of a new ground floor



Dan Clayton-Jones (right) at the Old Library with Dr Kathleen Howe, museum manager, and councillor Nigel Howells

gallery, as well as an interactive history lab and learning suite with classrooms and group activity spaces in the basement for use by school and community groups.

Dan Clayton-Jones, chair of the HLF committee for Wales, said: "Cardiff is one of the few major cities without a dedicated museum and we wanted to help correct that. The

success of the temporary exhibitions staged at the Old Library proved there is a real demand for the story of Cardiff and its people to be told."

The first phase of work on the Cardiff Story is expected to cost £2.4m and is scheduled to be completed in November 2010. The Old Library building itself has already undergone restoration work.

Work underway on *Mary Rose*

By **Pete Hayman**

Demolition work has started on the Mary Rose Ship Hall in Portsmouth, Hampshire, which is making way for the development of a new £35m museum dedicated to the historic warship.

The ship itself at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard was withdrawn from public view on 20 September to allow work to start, which will see a boat-shaped museum building built over the dry dock containing the *Mary Rose*.

A team including architects Wilkinson Eyre has designed the new attraction, which will imitate a section of the *Mary Rose*'s missing port side and will enable visitors to view artefacts from galleries located



The attraction will reopen to the public in 2012

on the same level as the ship's main deck.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has contributed a total of £21m towards the scheme, while a special programme of events and activities will be provided for the duration of the construction process due for completion in 2012.

Dorset castle set for major revamp

A major scheme to repair and restore Sandsfoot Castle in Weymouth, Dorset, has been handed a boost after the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) approved a development grant towards a survey of the site.

The £23,100 first-round pass will allow the Friends of Rodwell Trail and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council (WPBC) to establish how much work is needed to stabilise the castle and make it safe for public access.

A full survey of the castle, including a laser scan of the building and the cliff face, is set to be completed by May 2010 before being submitted along with a conservation and management plan.

BAA triumphs in airport sale appeal

Tribunal sides with airport owner on accusations of Competition Commission "bias"

By **Pete Hayman**

BAA has succeeded in its appeal against an order to sell off three of its UK airports, after a tribunal agreed that the Competition Commission (CC) had been influenced by "bias" in its original ruling.

In March, the commission ordered the airport operator to sell off Gatwick, Stansted and either Edinburgh or Glasgow in the interests of passengers and airlines, although the BAA appealed the decision on the grounds that the commission had not been impartial in its inquiry. The Competition Appeals Tribunal (CAT) ruled "unanimously" in favour of BAA's claim that Professor Peter Moizer's inclusion as part of the inquiry team had led to "apparent bias" due to his role as an advisor to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund, linked to Manchester Airports



Stansted airport, one of the airports placed on BAA's "selling list"

Group (MAG) – a potential bidder for BAA assets.

According to the CAT judgement, a "fair-minded" observer would see a "real possibility" of bias due to Moizer's involvement, with MAG wholly owned by the 10 local authorities of Greater Manchester, which governs the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. Both sides will now be given more time to discuss

whether BAA should be forced to sell Stansted and either Edinburgh or Glasgow, with the Spanish-owned operator having already offloaded Gatwick to Global Infrastructure Partners in October irrespective of the CC ruling.

A BAA spokesperson said: "We are pleased that the Competition Appeal Tribunal upheld our appeal on the grounds of apparent bias."

Council secures Bluestone stake

Pembrokeshire County Council has confirmed that it has been granted an equity share in the Bluestone eco-resort as part of a financial restructuring at the South Wales holiday village.

Situated near Narberth in the centre of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, the £110m Bluestone eco-resort opened in August 2008 and boasts a fitness centre, a spa, a sports club and waterpark.

Last month, the resort announced it had secured around £10m of new investment to fund the next stage of development.

Silverstone receives £10m loan

By **Pete Hayman**

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) is set to provide a £10m loan to help fund major improvement work at Silverstone after it was confirmed the venue will remain as the home of the British Formula One Grand Prix.

Earlier this month, the motor racing circuit and the British Racing Drivers' Club secured a deal with Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone to retain the right to stage the British leg of the Formula One World Championship for a further 17 years.

However, the deal is subject to Silverstone undertaking a major redevelopment of the pit



The track will undergo a complete redevelopment

and paddock complex and the council's cabinet has now agreed in principle to help fund the scheme in order to allow work to get underway.

NCC leader Jim Harker said: "The Grand Prix attracted 9,000 visitors last year, with a total of £44.4m being spent in the county as a result of the event."

IN BRIEF

Orchid completes Premium deal

► a Independent pub and restaurant group, Orchid, has completed the acquisition of 43 sites previously operated by Premium Bars & Restaurants, which entered administration earlier this year. The deal will increase the number of properties within the Orchid portfolio to 292. The acquisition includes The Living Room and Prohibition brands and a workforce of more than 1,500 people. The deal is part of Orchid's strategy of acquiring distressed assets and the second such deal this year after Orchid took over Bar Room Bar – another group in administration.

Second tax victory for Rank Group

► Bingo hall and casino operator Rank Group has won a second case against HM Revenue and Customs after a tribunal ruled that the company was entitled to a VAT refund totalling nearly £26m. According to the VAT and Duties Tribunal, HM Revenue and Customs breached European Union rules on fiscal neutrality due to different levels of VAT applied to jackpot and other similar machines.

888.com confirms Wink Bingo acquisition

► Online gaming and entertainment company 888.com has reached an agreement with Daub to acquire the Wink Online Bingo business in a deal worth up to £60m. The acquisition, which includes the Wink Bingo, Posh Bingo and Bingo Fabulous networks, forms part of the Gibraltar-based firm's efforts to expand further into the UK online bingo market. Wink Bingo posted pre-tax profits of £1.3m and revenues of £15m for the 11 months to 30 November 2009.

IN BRIEF

Lottery award for Leicestershire museum

► The Snibston Discovery Park and Museum in Leicestershire has been awarded an £80,000 grant from Arts Council England (ACE). The monies will be used to fund the Transform project, which consists of four new outdoor visual art installations being added to the grounds of the park between January 2010 and July 2011. According to Tina Smith, regional partnership officer at ACE, the project will "animate and enliven" the museum and country park.

Green light for Banbury cultural proposals

► Plans for the development of a new Cultural Quarter in Banbury, Oxfordshire, have moved to the next stage after Cherwell District Council submitted a planning application. The local authority has resolved to invest £60,000 to move the plans forward, following months of discussions with Oxfordshire County Council and the Mill Management Committee over the scheme. The proposals include the development of a new library, the refurbishment of the Mill theatre and a new public open space and a restaurant.

Jerwood Gallery proposals approved

► Plans for the development of a new contemporary arts venue in Hastings, East Sussex, to house the Jerwood Foundation's collection of 20th and 21st century British art, have been given the green light. Hastings Borough Council approved planning permission for the Jerwood Gallery, which will act as a regional venue for the foundation's Visual Arts programme. Designed by architects HAT Projects, the scheme is set to boast 500sq m (5,382sq ft) of gallery space, a sculpture courtyard and a café.

Manchester's opera plans 'on track'

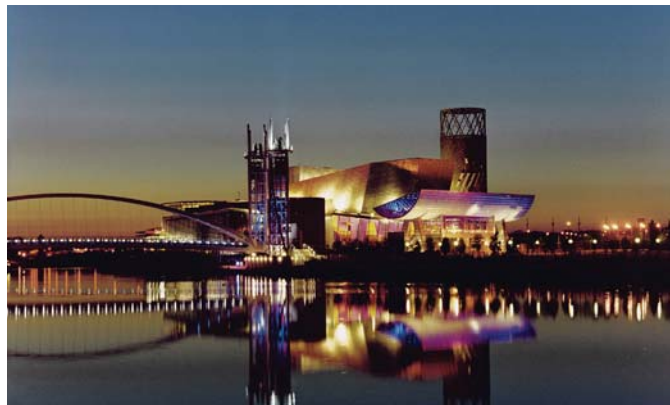
Trustees of £100m opera scheme reach agreement with directors of The Lowry

By Tom Walker

Efforts to establish a new northern base for the Royal Opera House at Manchester's Palace Theatre have taken a step forward after officials reached an agreement with trustees of The Lowry arts centre.

Lowry trustees had opposed the £100m scheme on the grounds that it could have a negative impact on the city's existing arts provision and threaten the long-term viability of the Salford centre, which opened in 2000.

However, the Royal Opera House (ROH) and Manchester City Council (MCC) have now struck a deal with The Lowry, which will see the Palace Theatre mainly act as a



It's feared the opera would have a negative effect on existing sites

producing theatre, as well as hosting opera and concerts.

The Lowry will continue to be the North West's regional base for lyric theatre under the proposals, with a core programme of theatre, ballet and dance from across the world.

MCC leader, Richard Leese said: "Creating Royal Opera House Manchester (ROHM) will consolidate the region's position as a leading creative economy. ROHM will be a major production centre for world class performances."

Council secures funding for £4m Scarborough Spa

By Tom Walker

Work on a multi-million pound scheme to transform Scarborough's spa complex into a new entertainment venue is set to start in January 2010 after receiving a £4m funding boost from Yorkshire Forward.

Scarborough Borough Council (SBC) confirmed that the regional development agency has approved the financial support for the redevelopment, which will see



The spa will be redeveloped

the Grade II-listed building undergo a major upgrade of its interior facilities.

The Spa's sun court, buffet bar and caretaker's cottage will all be revamped, while the grand hall will benefit from additional backstage areas, new lift pits, an improved dance floor and an extended stage, as well as a renovated foyer.

SBC cabinet member for strategic planning, Derek Bastiman, said: "This important funding from Yorkshire Forward will allow us to move forward with a significant development scheme."

John Peel arts centre plans move forward

Plans for the transformation of a former town hall in Birkenhead, Merseyside, into a new community arts centre dedicated to the memory of late broadcaster John Peel have taken a step forward.

Wirral Council has invited The Hamilton Partnership to submit a full business case for

the John Peel Centre for Community, Innovation and the Creative Arts, which is set to include a theatre and studio space.

Arts workshops, an academy, the John Peel archive and a business and enterprise centre are also included in the proposals, as well as providing space for weddings and conferences.

HLF earmarks funding for 11 parks

Urban parks to use cash boost for major redevelopment works across the UK

By **Pete Hayman**

Victoria Gardens in Neath, South Wales, is set to benefit from new visitor facilities after the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarded £1.39m towards a major renovation of the Grade II-listed park.

A further 10 UK parks – including Forty Hall Park in Enfield, London; Haddo Country Park in Ellon, Aberdeenshire and Cwmdonkin Park, Swansea – have netted first-round passes to draw up detailed proposals for a confirmed funding award.

Built in 1897 to provide open space for the town's expanding population, Neath's Victoria Gardens boasts a bandstand and a circle of Gorsedd stones – a set of standing stones constructed for the 1918



Haddo County Park in Ellon was among the parks to get funding

National Eisteddfod of Wales.

Forty Hall Park has received £100,000 to help develop its bid for a £1.3m grant towards a conservation and restoration scheme, while Haddo Country Park has been handed initial support worth £93,500 in its bid to secure £993,500 towards a makeover of the park.

Cwmdonkin Park has received more than £19,000 development funding, which will go towards restoring one of the oldest municipal parks in Wales. Cyfarthfa Park in Merthyr Tydfil received £1.93m after being handed a first-round pass towards a scheme to restore the parkland.

Views sought over Yorkshire park extension plans

By **Pete Hayman**

Natural England has launched a new three-month public consultation to gather comments on proposed extensions to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

The independent natural environment advisory body aims to determine whether the areas earmarked for inclusion within the respective park boundaries display the necessary qualities for National Park status.

Areas set to be incorporated into the Yorkshire Dales National Park include Firkbank Fell, Northern Howgill Fells, Mallerstang and Wild Boar Fell, Middleton, Barbon and Leck Fells and Lower Lune Valley and adjacent fells. Meanwhile, sites poised for inclusion in the Lake



The plans would expand the size of the two National Parks

District National Park include Birkbeck Fells to Whinfell and Helsington Barrows to Sizergh Fell and the Lyth Valley.

The consultation, scheduled to run between mid-December 2009 and mid-March 2010, will feature a questionnaire available both online and as a paper copy, while a series of

events will be held to raise awareness.

Poul Christensen, Natural England chair, said: "It is fitting that, 60 years since the National Parks Act came into being, we have a unique opportunity to look at a major expansion of two of England's most cherished protected areas."

IN BRIEF

New community woodland for Southport

▶ A new £1.78m community woodland has been unveiled by the Forestry Commission in Southport, Lancashire, which has transformed two former landfill sites as part of the wider Newlands partnership. The Northwest Regional Development Agency provided funding towards the scheme. A new viewing platform overlooking the West Pennine Moors, Southport Mosses and Blackpool Tower has been created as part of the 26-hectare (64-acre) woodland. It is anticipated that a cycle trail, a mountain bike skills course and new wildlife habitats will also be created.

Yorkshire canal heritage deal struck

▶ British Waterways (BW) has announced that it has reached an agreement with English Heritage and East Riding of Yorkshire Council to secure the future of historical structures along the Pocklington Canal. It is hoped the Heritage Partnership Agreement will improve the management of structures along the canal by using BW's existing policies and principles to increase the standard of repair works. The deal will run for a five-year period and provides the potential for a further five-year spell beyond 2014 to preserve the canal.

Woodland search engine to drive tourism

▶ The Woodland Trust is to launch a searchable online database of more than 24,000 publicly accessible woods as part of plans to increase visitor numbers at the sites. Called VisitWoods, the project has received £1.2m worth of funding from the Natural England's Access to Nature scheme. The service is expected to go online in Autumn 2010.

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Wandsworth Borough Council is inviting suitably qualified and experienced organisations to express an interest in being considered for the provision of Children's Play Facility Annual and Quarterly Inspection services for a period of three years with a possible further mutually agreed extension for two years.

The Department of Children's Services has approximately 54 play facilities, which include play facilities in children's nurseries, 1 o'clock centres, specialist settings, adventure playgrounds and parks. In addition many of the Borough's schools have outdoor play equipment. The Housing Department has approximately 122 play facilities which are mostly located on Housing Estates across the Borough and the Leisure and Amenity Services Department have approximately nine play facilities to include seven trim trails and two outside gyms based in local parks or commons.

Applications will only be considered from organisations able to demonstrate experience in the following essential areas of expertise:

ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY INSPECTIONS

Conducting annual and quarterly inspections that include whether the

- i) play facility complies with British and/or EU standards EN1176 and EN1177,
- ii) the Disability Discrimination Act and an assessment of reasonable and practical modification to achieve compliance or to rectify deterioration/damage;
- iii) a site and equipment risk assessment;
- iv) an estimate of play equipment life expectancy and
- v) immediate identification and notification of any emergency works.

The annual inspections take place in March each year with the quarterly operational safety inspections being undertaken quarterly with written reports being provided three times a year in June, September and December.

POST INSTALLATION INSPECTIONS

Conducting Post installation inspections of newly installed equipment to include a full written report that involves the information as set out above for annual and quarterly inspection requirements and also includes the inspection of the depth of any safer surfacing material used and that each item meets all installation requirements.

The estimated annual value of the contract is in the region of £20,000. although there is no guarantee of the volume or value of the work to be placed. It is anticipated that tenders will be sought in March 2010. The contract will commence on 1st June 2010.

Organisations wishing to be considered for selection to tender are required to complete a pre-qualifying questionnaire (PQQ) which should be obtained from Teresa Constantinou either by email at tconstantinou@wandsworth.gov.uk or by post from Wandsworth Borough Council, Children's Services, Play Services, Town Hall, High Street, SW18 2PU and submitted by 5pm on Friday 12th February 2010.

Selection for inclusion within the tender list will be based on the following criteria: -

1. Evidence of the company being a member of the Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII) and Association Of Play Inspectors (API).
2. Evidence that the inspectors have a valid RPII Annual Inspectors Qualification
3. Evidence that Inspectors have a current Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) certificate.
4. Evidence of at least three years experience in play facility inspection services environment of at least 75 sites.
5. Evidence of ability to deliver to the contract standard drawn from three references.
6. Sufficient suitably qualified staff to cover the relevant Essential Areas of Expertise set out above.
7. Three years of profitable financial accounts
8. Suitable insurance cover. (Public Liability to a minimum of £5,000,000 per occurrence, Employers Liability to a minimum of £10,000,000 (B) Professional Indemnity to a minimum per claim of £500,000) (or statements that these will be obtained if awarded the relevant contract(s))
9. The organisation has an annual turnover equivalent to at least twice the contract value
10. A sound record of quality standards including complaint handling.
11. Sound policies including safe guarding, customer care, health and safety, equalities/inclusive play and business continuity.

The award of each contract will be based on lowest price.

Applicants are advised that references will be obtained in writing from the three referees. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their referees respond within the time scale.

It is intended to limit the tender list to a maximum of six companies. If more than six companies fulfil the criteria for selection, those scoring the highest number of points on the PQQ evaluation will be invited to tender. A performance bond will not be required.

Draft specifications may be inspected free of charge at the Town Hall (Play Services Office - Prefab 1) on weekdays between 09.00 and 17.00.

**If you wish to discuss the contract please contact
Teresa Constantinou on 020-8871-7792.**

G K Jones, Chief Executive and Director of Administration
Town Hall, Wandsworth, London SW18 2PU



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Soft Market Testing of Leisure Contract

Wealden District Council is considering options for the re-tendering of its leisure services contract. The new contract will support the development of leisure services within Wealden and the implementation of the Council's leisure strategy. The current contract, which expires in 2012, includes the management of four leisure centres across the District in Hailsham, Uckfield, Heathfield and Crowborough. However, the Council is looking at new ways in which leisure services can be delivered to reach the wider community.

The Council wishes to soft market test the possible procurement options and packaging to gain a better understanding of the following:

- How service providers might approach delivery of the service
- Contract length- short, medium and long term
- Flexibility of solutions
- Views on procurement route, partnerships, trust etc.
- Specifications
- Risk

The Council wants to use the results of this exercise to help it shape a future contract and to ensure it provides a procurement package that is attractive and helpful to potential bidders.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 27th January 2010

Selected companies will be invited to attend an open day during the morning of Thursday 11th February 2010 at the Council Offices, Hailsham.

For further information and an application form please contact:
Mr G Palmer, Procurement Manager.

tel: 01323 443350 email: procurement@wealden.gov.uk



COLERAINE
BOROUGH COUNCIL

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR SELECT TENDER LIST

COMMUNITY STADIUM AND LEISURE FACILITIES, COLERAINE PRELIMINARY TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably experienced and qualified companies or partnerships of companies, under the contractual leadership of one company. The Council wishes to carry out a preliminary technical feasibility study for a potential new community stadium together with leisure facilities in Coleraine, Northern Ireland. The leisure facilities may include athletics track, swimming pools, sports halls and fitness gyms.

The preliminary technical feasibility study to be undertaken is to assess the technical and capital finance parameters for a comprehensive community stadium and sports and recreation scheme on Coleraine Borough Council's Rugby Avenue playing field site. The facilities anticipated would be of regional significance.

Companies must be able to demonstrate knowledge and experience of creating such facilities and have successfully completed studies of a similar nature. They must also be able to demonstrate adequate managerial, technical and financial skills. It is anticipated that the study will be completed by March 2010.

A pre-qualification questionnaire, obtainable from the address below, should be completed and returned in a plain sealed envelope clearly marked "Community Stadium & Leisure Facilities Study" to: R. Wilson, Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Coleraine Borough Council, Cloonavin, 66 Portstewart Road, Coleraine, BT52 1EY

The pre-qualification questionnaire should arrive no later than 12 Noon on 12 February 2009.

Pre-qualification questionnaires sent by post should be registered or sent by recorded delivery. Faxed or e-mailed PQs will not be accepted. An official receipt should be obtained for a PQ delivered by hand.

At the Tender Stage Coleraine Borough Council will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.



INVITATION TO TENDER FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY

Hartlepool Borough Council is offering suitably established and experienced organisations an exciting opportunity to tender for the development of a new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for the town.

The overarching aim of the strategy is to increase sport and physical activity by at least 1% year on year by identifying gaps in provision and activity across the town and action planning across a network of key partners to achieve this.

Consultants are likely to have:

- Considerable experience of the sport and physical activity industry, including knowledge of market segments in North East England.
- A proven track record in the production of strategy documents within the field of sport and physical activity.
- Experience of working closely with a variety of key stakeholders in sport and physical activity.
- A good sound knowledge of current sport and physical activity national and regional agendas.

Requests for a consultants brief can be made by contacting Pat Wormald, sport.recreation@hartlepool.gov.uk or (01429) 523404.

The deadline for the submission of tenders is 12 noon on Monday the 8th February 2010.



Management & Operation of Blandford Leisure Centre

NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitable leisure management contractors including existing NPDOs and private sector operators to enter into a contract to manage and operate the existing dual-use Blandford Leisure Centre.

The Council wishes to expedite the letting of this contract as soon as possible. Guaranteed funding exists up until the end of March 2013. The contract will need to be co-terminus with this date although it is hoped that it will be extended beyond that date, subject to future funding.

The Council considers that the existing staff at the leisure facilities will transfer under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) and that the Code on Workforce Matters and Pensions Direction may apply. The option to second staff will be discussed, but this option will be subject to legal opinion.

Potential Partners must complete a Pre Qualification Questionnaire and demonstrate a proven successful track record in delivering innovative partnerships with the public sector, ideally involving wet and dry dual-use leisure centres. The successful contractor will be selected through a formal tender process and/or via negotiation.

Interested organisations can request an information pack and pre-qualification questionnaire from:

Jon Carney, Senior Consultant, Strategic Leisure, 3rd Floor, Rutherford House, Warrington Road, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 6ZH. Telephone: 01925 855 550

Email: joncarney@strategicleisure.co.uk

The closing date for the return of completed questionnaires is 12noon Friday 11th February 2010.



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IN BRIEF

Council considers WaterSpace feedback

► Daventry District Council (DDC) has responded to feedback from a public consultation held earlier this year to gather views on proposals for the new mixed-use WaterSpace development. According to the council, the consultation revealed that 62 per cent of those who took part were in favour of the scheme, while also raising a range of issues that will require "further attention".

Council rejects Penzance proposals

► Cornwall Council has refused plans for a multi-million pound harbour development on a site incorporating Penzance's Battery Rocks beach, as part of efforts to improve links between the Isles of Scilly and the British mainland. Proposals drawn up by a Route Partnership comprising Cornwall Council, the Council of the Isles of Scilly, Penwith District Council and the Duchy of Cornwall, were rejected by the county council's Strategic Planning Committee by a vote of 12 to seven.

Charity offloads Lord Crewe Arms hotel

► Lord Crewe's Charity, owner of the historic Lord Crewe Arms hotel and restaurant in Blanchland, Northumberland, has agreed to sell the leasehold on the property for an undisclosed sum. The 21-bedroom hotel, which dates back to the 12th century, has been taken over by J&G Inns, an independently-owned hospitality group. J&G will take over the operation of the hotel with immediate effect

Qatari Diar names Chelsea architects

Dixon Jones among team tasked with redesigning controversial Chelsea Barracks

By **Pete Hayman**

Developer Qatari Diar has appointed a new team to draw up a masterplan for the mixed-use redevelopment of the 12.8-acre (5.2-hectare) Chelsea Barracks site in Westminster, London.

Dixon Jones, the London-based architects behind the refurbishment of the Royal Opera House, have been selected along with Squire and Partners and Kim Wilkie Associates to create a design framework for the scheme.

The firms were chosen from a shortlist of 10 teams by an evaluation panel, which included representatives from property group Grosvenor, the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment and international and local architects.



The former military site will be redeveloped as a mixed-use scheme

Qatari Diar's chief executive officer and managing director, Ghanim bin Saad Al-Saad, said: "Qatari Diar has a long-term commitment to major investment at this site, in order to create a magnificent and sustainable new neighbourhood, respectful to the traditions, diversity and

cultures of the surrounding urban fabric, and delivering the private and public spaces where people will want to be."

Earlier this year, state-owned Qatari Diar withdrew its plans to redevelop the site, which included a 108-bedroom boutique hotel with two restaurants and a health spa.

PUFC stadium deal approved

Peterborough City Council has approved plans for the £8m acquisition of a freehold interest in land surrounding and including London Road stadium - home of Championship club Peterborough United Football Club.

Councillors overwhelmingly voted in favour of the proposals at a special meeting on 21 December, which will see the council move forward with efforts to secure a deal with current landowner, Peterborough United Holdings Ltd.

Government rejects canal plans

By **Pete Hayman**

Communities secretary John Denham has refused planning consent for a £150m mixed-use redevelopment of Lancaster's Canal Corridor North, following a public inquiry.

London-based urban regeneration company Centros is behind the Castle View scheme, which was approved by Lancaster City Council in October 2008 but was later called in by Hazel Blears in February 2009.

However, Denham has rejected the plans due to concerns about the evidence for removing some buildings



The project would have included a canal-side park

located on the site, as well as the amount of retail floor space earmarked for the early years of the scheme.

Plans feature six public spaces, including a new park leading to the city's canal, new canal-side restaurants and cafés.

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LPF: 5-a-side soccer – will the growth continue



An early evening LPF seminar to be held at:
The offices of Cushman & Wakefield LLP,
43/45 Portman Square, London W1A 3BG
on Monday 25th January 2010

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CONTENT:

We'll give an overview of the 5-a-side soccer market and take a look at the growth of the Goals Soccer Centres' brand and the component parts of their success.

SPEAKERS:

Keith Mitchell, Development Director, Goals Soccer Centres, a leading 5-a-side soccer operator. Goals have 34 facilities currently operational with further in the pipeline. Each site costs circa £2.5m to develop and takes 5 months to complete.

Gavin Brent, Director of Humberts Leisure and an expert in the sports and health and fitness sectors will talk about his experiences in selling sports grounds

PROGRAMME

6.15pm Seminar registration	Fee:
6.30pm Introduction	£45.00 + VAT LPF members
6.45pm Speakers	£55.00 + VAT member guests
7.15pm Panel Discussion with Q&As	£90.00 + VAT non members
7.45pm Refreshments and networking	
8.30pm Close	

TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Emmerson, LPF Administration
E: info@leisurepropertyforum.org
T: 01462 471932 **F:** 01462 433909
W: www.leisurepropertyforum.org

The Leisure Review of 2009 and the prospects for 2010



An LPF Evening Seminar to be held at:
The offices of Jones Lang LaSalle,
22 Hanover Square, London W1A 2BN
on Tuesday 9 February 2010 6.15pm-8.30pm

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CONTENT:

We'll be giving an overview of the main activity in the leisure sector during 2009 and discussing trends in the industry and what has been affecting it. We'll also be looking at the prospects for 2010.

SPEAKERS:

Rob Howarth, is Director of Leisure Agency at Jones Lang LaSalle. He has over 12 years experience of the leisure property sector, having advised some of the leading developers, landlords and operators. His development and agency experience includes high profile schemes such as The Printworks, The Gate, and the MetroCentre. Rob's main operator focus is on large space leisure occupiers such as cinema, casinos, and bowling.

James Welch, Cortex Partners. James created the Leisure Group within Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) in 1993. In 2001 he became head of the Out of Town Retail and Leisure Investment Team. James left JLL in September 2003 to co-found Cortex Partners.

PROGRAMME

6.15pm Registration	Fee:
8.30pm Finish	£45.00 + VAT LPF members
	£55.00 + VAT member guests
	£90.00 + VAT non members

TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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2010 – a case for optimism

Predictions for year ahead suggest modest growth



SANDIE DAWE is the chief executive of VisitBritain

As we enter 2010, we can be optimistic about the year ahead. Recent figures for 2009 suggest that the tourism industry has 'turned a corner', marking it as an economic driver to lift Britain out of recession as we enter 2010, and beyond.

We forecast a slight rise of nearly 1 per cent in the volume of inbound tourism to 30.4million, with inbound visitor spending rising to £17.1bn, an increase of nearly 4 per cent on 2009. If sterling remains weak we may see a steeper increase in visitor spending than expected.

At VisitBritain, we will continue to respond to market conditions trends and opportunities. We will be launching three-year global campaigns in 2010 along three key themes: Classic, Dynamic and Luxury, encompassing traditional Britishness, youth and high revenue markets. A new VisitBritain iPhone app has been launched as part of our film tourism work around the new Sherlock Holmes film, allowing users to locate and then visit locations from their favourite British films.

The Ryder Cup will also take place in Britain in 2010 at the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport, South Wales and we will be capitalising on the opportunities that hosting this prestigious event brings. We mustn't forget various other set piece events that promote Britain around the globe such as Glastonbury, Wimbledon and The Edinburgh Festivals.

With best wishes for a prosperous new year!

Irish tourism receives budget boost

DAST's tourism services budget for 2010 increased by 2 per cent

By **Pete Hayman**

Ireland's tourism industry has been handed a funding boost for the forthcoming year as part of the Department for Arts, Sport and Tourism's (DAST) overall allocation in the 2010 Budget.

Tourism minister Martin Cullen has welcomed the government's commitment to help the industry with a range of initiatives designed to return the number of inbound visitors to growth, following a period of decline.

DAST's tourism services budget for the forthcoming year has increased by 2 per cent to €155m (£140.4m), while finance minister Brian Lenihan has allocated €22m (£19.9m) to invest in the upgrade of major tourist attractions and improving cycling and water-based infrastructure, as well as local heritage sites. More than €44m (£39.9m) has been earmarked for market-



The Irish government hopes to attract more overseas visitors to its heritage sites

ing Ireland in overseas markets, which follows Tourism Ireland's recent announcement for a major push to bring in more visitors from Britain and Germany.

Cullen said: "This allocation is clear recognition by government of the important role that the tourism and hospitality sector will play in Ireland's economic recovery."

BAA reports increase in passenger numbers

By **Pete Hayman**



Traffic at Heathrow increased by 1.1 per cent

Airport operator BAA has reported a 0.8 per cent increase in passenger numbers during November compared with the same period last year – the first net monthly increase since March 2008.

Traffic at Edinburgh Airport has continued to grow for an eight consecutive month, while London's Heathrow Airport posted a 1.1 per cent increase, when compared with November 2008. Gatwick – in its last full month of BAA ownership – saw an increase of 4.5 per cent.

Irish residents take less trips abroad

The number of Irish residents travelling abroad between July and September 2009 has fallen by 12 per cent, compared with the same period last year, according to new figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

Leisure trips overseas by Irish residents decreased by 17 per cent during the three-month period – the first time since

1991 that the number of overseas visits has fallen between July and September, compared with the previous year.

The CSO reported that the number of inbound visitors to Ireland also continued to decrease during the third quarter of 2009, with nearly 300,000 fewer overseas visitors holidaying in the country. Details: www.failteireland.ie



Creative arts is among the sectors to benefit from the scheme

Jobs boost for young people

Government scheme to create jobs in arts and culture

By **Tom Walker**

Culture secretary Ben Bradshaw has announced that £5m will be invested in a range of projects to create more than 600 new jobs in the cultural, creative and sport sectors through the government's Future Jobs Fund.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has confirmed funding to help Creative and Cultural Skills create 200 new positions in cultural organisations and community venues, such as theatres and live music venues.

More than 140 jobs will be created by English Heritage in a bid to help digitise 30,000 historic images of Wiltshire for educational use, while 31 positions will be made available in the London Borough of Newham working for performing arts venues. A further 51 jobs are to be created at the National Association of Clubs for Young People.

A total of 200 new jobs will also be created across the West Midlands region, co-ordinated by the Skills Partnership and contributing towards regional Olympic legacy targets.

English universities face £398m cut

English universities and higher education institutions are being encouraged to offer more foundation and "fast-track" degree courses in order to help offset a major funding cut forced on them in 2010-11.

In a letter outlining the Higher Education Funding Council for England's budget for the forthcoming year, business secretary Lord Mandelson revealed a further

£270m will have to be shaved off its annual funding award in addition to previously announced reductions of £180m and £83m.

Mandelson is now urging institutions to move away from traditional three-year courses in favour of full-time degrees that can be completed in two years, as well as increasing the number of programmes that are taken "flexibly and part-time".

A year of possibilities, but not without challenges

Last year was all about relicensing, this year is about delivering our strategic objectives

As we enter a new year, and indeed a new decade, we are faced with a number of new possibilities, but also new challenges.

According to the economists we are entering into phase two of the recession and the old adage of getting worse before it gets better is a real possibility for us in the skills sector. With a general election fast approaching, there is a renewed emphasis on squeezing public expenditure. There appears to be a competition going on between the political parties on who can cut public expenditure the most, yet have the least impact on public services. This very much puts funding for training into the spotlight.

With that said, we are already in active dialogue with the political parties to fight the corner for public funding focused on the needs of employers. It is clear that whichever party gets in, apprenticeships will be the flagship training programme. This is good news for a sector built of vocational qualifications.

There is clear evidence that apprenticeships provide the best route for young people into the industry by giving them structured training and real work experience. They also provide employers with the opportunity to get to know and shape the people that they need for the future.

The good news is that the role of Sector Skills Councils as the coordinated voice of employers has been reaffirmed by both the Labour and Conservative parties; and in fact the Conservatives see employer leadership as crucial to the continued rationalisation of the skills landscape. Of course a major weapon in our armoury is our National Skills Academy, set up to bring together public, employer and individual investment to achieve best value for money and ensure the best training available. We are proactively promoting the Academy to politicians as the most cost effective way of getting funding into skills delivery where it is really needed. Looking forward, the new Qualifications and Curriculum Framework finally becomes the only game in town after the end of this year, enabling employers to access bite sized learning credits.

So what a year we have in front of us. Last year was all about the relicensing process, this year is about delivering our strategic objectives. With that said, we still need employers to engage with us, now more than ever. With your support we can continue to pressure the government to fund the qualifications and training that are important to our sector.



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STEPHEN STUDD is
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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

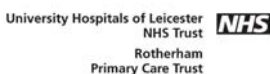
The BLF bursary, funded by Air Products, is available to exercise professionals who meet the following entry requirements:

- 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/ or contact Danielle Smreczak using the details below

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w: www.lunguk.org



Strategic Director, Cornwall Sports Partnership

Truro

Grade M, £38,521 - £46,672 pa
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Cornwall Sports Partnership exists to increase participation in sport and physical activity across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

We are now seeking to appoint an outstanding individual to further develop the work of the partnership. You should have a proven track record of leading and developing organisations in a multi-agency partnership environment.

You will have extensive knowledge and experience of the issues affecting the development of sport and physical activity, in a range of settings and the ambition to create a sport and physical activity legacy for Cornwall.

Funding for this post is confirmed until Mar 2011, but further funding is anticipated.

Please note enhanced CRB clearance is required for this post.

For an informal discussion please feel free to contact the outgoing postholder Mike Thomas on 01872 323337.

An application form and further details can be obtained from telephoning 01872 322670 (24 hour answerphone), email: recruitmentadmin@cornwall.gov.uk or you can apply online by visiting www.cornwall.gov.uk/vacancies

Closing date: Wednesday 27 January 2010.

Interview date: Monday 8 February 2010.



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Lincolnshire Sports Partnership is seeking an exceptional candidate to lead the Partnership team and its partner organisations into the challenges of 2012 and beyond. This post is responsible for the strategic management of grass roots sport across the county of Lincolnshire. A full appointment pack explaining the role, background and success of the Partnership and the appointment process can be found at: www.lincolnshiresports.co.uk

For an application form, please contact the Partnership by e-mail to office@lincolnshiresports.co.uk or by telephone on 01522 585580. Closing date for applications is Thursday 11 February 2010.

The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check and reference checks.



GENERAL MANAGER POSITION ILKLEY LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB

The General Manager is primarily concerned with managing all aspects of the club and will have overall responsibility for the club's facilities, services and activities ensuring that the needs of members and their guests, are met at all times.

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For further details of this position, please log onto www.iltsc.co.uk for a copy of the full job description.

Interested? Please forward your CV and a covering letter to Caroline Buncall at manager@iltsc.co.uk or post it for her attention to Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, Stourton Road, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 9BG. For further information, please contact 01943 607182.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Friday 22nd January 2010



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Closing date: Noon, Tuesday 19th January 2010.
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Cambridge

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and communities. A skilled, clear communicator, who is confident in working with the media, you will act as an advocate for 2012 activities, exchange information and promote activities in a way that will engage and enthuse partners and ensure participation by all sections of the community. You will also be required to devise action plans and ensure they are delivered.

Your background may be in local government or the private or voluntary sectors and could include the creative industries, managing or commissioning events and projects or developing partnerships. What is crucial is that you are an accomplished influencer and negotiator who is positive and outcome-focused and believes in the value of culture and sport as catalysts for personal and community development. **Ref: CT195**

For an informal discussion about this role, please contact Mike Hosking on 01223 727954.

To apply visit www.jobsincambs.com or call 0345 045 5210 quoting the reference number. Alternative formats on request.

Closing date: 29 January 2010. Interview date: 10 February 2010.



www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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(Ref No: ENV15266)

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The successful candidate will have excellent interpersonal and management skills, ability to work independently and as part of a departmental and extended team as well as project management experience. By developing links with existing and future partners, you will ensure that club and youth development programmes increase participation across the city. Applicants should have extensive experience of managing sports/activity programmes and projects, together with previous responsibility for managing staff and volunteers.

Sports Facilities Officer

(Ref No: ENV15268)

Grade SO1/2 £24,646 - £28,636

This is an exciting opportunity to work in a vibrant city and influence the quality of service provided by a range of sports facilities. The ability to develop partnerships with facility operators is a key requirement to ensure continuous improvement in the facility programmes.

The successful applicant will have proven experience in both facility development and sports development. Good communication skills combined with experience of budgetary control and computerised data systems will all be needed as well as an ability to work on your own initiative. There will also be the chance to assist in the review of the future management arrangements for a number of sports facilities which will take place shortly.

(This post was previously advertised as Sports Facilities Development Officer.)

You can obtain an application form for these jobs and further details online at <https://jobs.brighton-hove.gov.uk> or phone the Human Resources Recruitment Line on 01273 292284 (voicemail) or minicom facility 01273 295100.

Completed application forms can be submitted online or by post to: Human Resources, 4th Floor, Brighton & Hove City Council, Kings House, Grand Avenue, Hove, BN3 2LS
Closing date for applications: 26th January 2010

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/jobs

LINCOLNSHIRE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**Chief Executive Officer**

Location – Lincoln office base

Salary: £48,000 plus (dependent on experience), performance related increment system (to be finalised), pension scheme, and private health cover

Lincolnshire Sports Partnership is seeking an exceptional candidate to lead the Partnership team and its partner organisations into the challenges of 2012 and beyond. This post is responsible for the strategic management of grass roots sport across the county of Lincolnshire. A full appointment pack explaining the role, background and success of the Partnership and the appointment process can be found at: www.lincolnshiresports.co.uk

For an application form, please contact the Partnership by e-mail to office@lincolnshiresports.co.uk or by telephone on 01522 585580.
Closing date for applications is Thursday 11 February 2010.

The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check and reference checks.

**www.liverpool.gov.uk**

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**Development Manager (sports)****£31,754 - £37,206**

As one of the leading edge partnerships in the country, Merseyside Sports Partnership is looking to recruit a highly motivated individual to help achieve its vision "to improve the quality of life for the people within Merseyside through Sport & Physical Activity"

The successful candidate will build and strengthen strategic links between National Governing Bodies of Sport, Education and Local Authority Leisure providers to ensure effective structures and the provision of sport and physical activity can develop and flourish within Merseyside.

As the successful candidate you will need to demonstrate:-

- The ability to motivate, enthuse, persuade, negotiate and influence others
- Two years demonstrable experience
- A strong knowledge and understanding of the sporting landscape Nationally
- Significant experience of working in partnership to achieve successful outcomes

If you are ready, able and willing to take on the challenge then Merseyside Sports Partnership is the place for you!

For further details regarding Merseyside Sports Partnership log onto www.merseysidesport.com

This is a fixed term post to 31st March 2012

This post is subject to disclosure at the appropriate level.

Closing date: 5th February 2010 Ref: COM/5162/4620

All posts advertised are subject to review as a result of job evaluation.



For job details go to www.liverpool.gov.uk Telephone 0151 233 3003/ 0151 233 3033 or 0151 225 3275 (Minicom). Quote job reference number in all enquiries. Liverpool City Council is an equal opportunities employer and service provider. Free internet access is available in Liverpool libraries, one stop shops and job centres.

Facilities Manager**Sheffield Arena****£30k - £40k depending on experience**

The Sheffield Arena has over 120 events a year, ranging in attendance from 2,500 to 13,500 and from Ice Hockey to Arctic Monkeys and everything in between. The Facilities Manager will be responsible for all aspects of the maintenance of the venue and for all the services, machinery and the infrastructure of the building. You will lead a team of experienced technical staff to ensure the smooth running of the technical aspects of the arena on a day to day basis. People Management skills and the willingness to work unsociable hours are essential, as is at least 3 years experience in facilities management.

Please send an up to date CV with a covering letter detailing all relevant experience to: Rob O'Shea, General Manager, Sheffield Arena, Broughton Lane, Sheffield S9 2DF or e mail rob.o'shea@livenation.co.uk

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY 22nd JANUARY.

**GENERAL MANAGER POSITION
ILKLEY LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB**

The General Manager is primarily concerned with managing all aspects of the club and will have overall responsibility for the club's facilities, services and activities ensuring that the needs of members and their guests, are met at all times.

The successful applicant must be able to work under pressure, handle multiple priorities and meet deadlines. In addition he/she must have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to influence at all levels, have a proven track record of managing staff and budgets and be able to work evenings and weekends, as required.

For further details of this position, please log onto www.iltsc.co.uk for a copy of the full job description.

Interested? Please forward your CV and a covering letter to Caroline Buncall at manager@iltsc.co.uk or post it for her attention to Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, Stourton Road, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 9BG.
For further information, please contact 01943 607182.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Friday 22nd January 2010



where people count

Pitsea Leisure Centre Manager

£28,404 - £30,566 per annum (incl. of fringe)

Pitsea Leisure Centre is one of the Council's largest community facilities, including a range of halls and conference rooms, a day care facility, bar areas and a soft play area. We are seeking a manager to lead the team into the future, making Pitsea Leisure Centre a real hub of the community.

You will be directly responsible for the development and delivery of a strategic business plan, as well as the operation of the facility on a day-to-day basis. You will be required to ensure maximum usage of the facilities to meet community needs. You will also be responsible for the programming, promotion and co-ordination of the centre's facilities and activities.

You will have significant experience of managing a leisure/community facility, as well as a proven track record of achieving business/commercial objectives and service development. Excellent customer service skills are essential.

You will be required to undergo a disclosure check with the Criminal Records Bureau and will in future be subject to referral to the national vetting and barring scheme.

This post is open to job share.

Grade: PO1D – Hours: 36.25 per week

For further details and an application form, please telephone our 24 hour recruitment line on 01268 294289 or visit <http://www.basildon.gov.uk/jobs> Please quote reference number 518. We are registered with Type Talk. The pack is available in alternative formats.

Closing date: 22 January 2010.

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FREE SWIMMING CO-ORDINATOR

LINCOLN - Yarborough Leisure Centre
Salary: Up to £17,500

ACTIVE NATION

We are seeking to recruit a highly motivated and enthusiastic Free Swimming Co-ordinator to promote & develop the Government's Free Swimming initiative.

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 or 01522 873605
Closing Date 15th January 2010

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Leisure & Projects Officer

Salary range £23,136 to £25,473

We are looking for a motivated, well-organised and experienced person to join the Leisure Team in this interesting and challenging role. The Leisure and Projects Officer role is exciting and varied.

You would assist with the management and monitoring of the leisure contract, act as project manager on a variety of community events and activities, manage the section's Community Grants scheme, and make grant applications for funding from external organisations.

The successful applicant will have ideally experience in leisure or a related industry, preferably in the supervision of leisure contracts, and in project management. In addition, applicants will have a proven understanding of health and safety principles and financial management, backed up by an analytical mind, keen eye for detail and highly developed computer skills.

Based in Denham, South Bucks District Council offers flexible working arrangements, a final salary pension scheme, generous leave entitlement and the training and development you would expect from an Investors in People employer.

The successful candidate will be required to complete a CRB application for an enhanced level of disclosure.

For an informal discussion regarding this post, please contact Keith Simkin, Leisure Client Officer, on 01895 837356.

Closing date: 1 February 2010.

Interview date: 12 February 2010.

Application forms and further details are available by telephoning the Personnel Unit on 01895 837287 (24-hour answer phone) e-mail: personnel@southbucks.gov.uk online at www.southbucks.jobs or by writing to: The Personnel Unit, South Bucks District Council, Council Offices, Capswood, Oxford Road, Denham, UB9 4LH.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY



General Manager

37 hours per week - up to £38,766 plus benefits



Situated in the heart of Kent, Tonbridge & Malling is an 'excellent' authority and nowhere is this better demonstrated than in its dynamic approach to leisure and ongoing investment in first class facilities. Healthy Living and Young People are two of the Council's key priorities.

Larkfield Leisure Centre, highly commended under Quest, has health and fitness facilities, leisure and competition pools to rival any in the South East.

As General Manager, you will have previous experience of managing a busy leisure facility and will be comfortable managing the £2.25 million annual budget and up to 200 staff. Reporting to the Leisure Contracts Manager, the General Manager is a key player within a team driving continuous improvement in the management and operation of the Borough's leisure facilities. The key focus for the successful candidate will be the delivery of a high standard of service to the customer on a day to day basis. You should be quality driven, have sound operational and people skills, be flexible and have a 'Can Do' approach to work.

With an innovative approach to the industry, a varied and extensive programme of activities and our commitment through liP to training and development, you will definitely want to work with us!

For an informal discussion, please contact Martin Guyton, Leisure Contracts Manager on 01732 876150 or for an application pack, please e-mail personnel.services@tmbc.gov.uk or ring our 24 hour answerphone Recruitment Line on 01732 876011. The closing date for completed applications is 26 January 2010 and we anticipate interviews being held on the 10 & 11 February 2010.

Working towards equal opportunities. Please note that all disabled applicants who meet the essential criteria for this job (as given in the personal specification) will be invited to interview.

This position is subject to disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

www.larkfieldleisure.co.uk



TEDUK

Sensatori Resorts Crete, Mexico and Tenerife are 5T deluxe hotels, a new hotel concept exclusively from Thomson.

TED Leisure is looking for the following professionals to work within these world class resorts...

- **Sports Supervisors** with experience in coaching & instructing. Also able to supervise a sports team
- **Sports Coordinators** to run activity sessions which may include Archery, tennis, Volleyball, Cricket and other sports.
- **Studio Instructors** must hold ETM, Yoga/Pilates or equivalent.
- **Swimming Pool Lifeguards** must hold the RLSS Pool Lifeguard Qualification Or Equivalent
- **Swimming Teachers** professionally trained by the ASA or STA
- **Football Coaches** / must hold the F.A Level 2 qualification

To apply please send a covering letter and C.V to carlie.barlow@teduk.com

For more information log onto

<http://www.thomson.co.uk/editorial/sensatori/sensatori-resort.html>

TEDUK 23 – 24 Titan Court, Laporte Way, Luton, Beds, LU4 8EF

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Want to further your career in sport & recreation?

The University of Leeds is recruiting for the following full time posts to be ready for the opening of the £12.5m Swimming Pool and 200 station Fitness Suite in the Spring of 2010.

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Senior Recreation Assistants
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For more information about how to join our dynamic team, see the University website www.leeds.ac.uk/universityjobs or the Sport & Physical Activity website www.leeds.ac.uk/sport

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To apply, or for more information on our vacancies, please visit www.markwarner-recruitment.co.uk or call 0871 703 3955



Calls are charged at 5p per minute. Calls from mobile networks may be charged at a higher rate (please check with your provider).

OLD THORNS MANOR HOTEL

The Old Thorns £20 million development is due for completion late 2009

Further developments includes luxury accommodation, 10 new spa treatment rooms, restaurants, bars, new pro-shop

Requirements:

Senior Shiatsu Spa Therapists

- Must have NVQ3 qualification or a minimum three year's equivalent level of work experience
- Salary £15,000
- Accommodation available
- Location Hampshire



Contact: Karley Hill, Head of Spa
Old Thorns Golf & Country Estate
Email: healthspamanager@oldthorns.com

www.oldthorns.com

www.solihull.gov.uk

Exercise Referral Project Manager

£26,276 - £32,800 pa

Ref: CS137

Fixed Term Contract until March 2012

We are looking to appoint a highly motivated committed, dynamic and flexible person to positively contribute to our established exercise referral programmes.

You will possess excellent planning, organisational, communication & interpersonal skills, be a team player whilst being able to work independently and have the appropriate qualifications.

You will manage, develop and seek to sustain the Solihull adult exercise referral scheme (DocSpot) and a family weight management programme (SHINE).

DocSpot exercise referral scheme is a targeted health and physical activity intervention programme that is well-established across the borough. Shine is an innovative project helping overweight children and teenagers. Working with the whole family, our multidisciplinary team provides clinics and physical activity sessions to encourage healthy lifestyles.

In this high profile role, you will lead and motivate our team of trainers, build strong relationships with a range of partners and ensure the smooth running of the programme. Your proven track record in health promotion and community development will be supported by a relevant degree. You will bring detailed knowledge of national policy relating to nutrition, physical activity or mental health.

For an informal discussion, please contact Russell Cartwright, Physical Activity Development Manager, Tel: 0121 704 8201, email: rcartwright@solihull.gov.uk

Apply on-line at www.solihull.gov.uk

Alternatively for a recruitment pack and application form:

Tel: 0121 704 6800 (24 hour answerphone)

Email: connectcc@solihull.gov.uk

We are unable to accept CVs. Please quote reference number.

Closing date: 29 January 2010.

Solihull Council is committed to keeping children, young people and vulnerable adults safe. People with disabilities who meet the essential criteria will be guaranteed an interview.

The council is in pursuit of equality.





Field Sales Representatives Required ZOOM MEDIA

Do you want to work for the world's leading provider of digital media to the fitness industry and earn over £50k

Zoom Media are looking for highly motivated, experienced and professional field sales people to sell advertising space on their TV networks within major health clubs.

The ideal candidate will be experienced in generating new prospects, driving revenue, presenting and closing. You will also be passionate about the health and fitness industry and have experience in B2B sales and relationship building.

Own transport is essential as the position is field-based.

We offer ongoing training, fantastic opportunities for career progression and a highly competitive uncapped commission scheme.

If you are able to demonstrate the above, then please send your CV and a covering letter to:

louisemarshall@zoommedia.com

We regret that we can only consider applicants who already have the right to live and work in the UK.

South West London and St George's **NHS**
Mental Health NHS Trust

Trust is committed to providing high quality integrated health and social care for local people with mental health problems in South West London.

Exercise Therapist

Springfield University Hospital

16.5 hours per week over 3 days

Band 4 £21,679 - £25,581

pro rata per annum incl.

Ref: 294-09CO337

We are looking for a team player, with good communication skills, a professional attitude and a keen interest in working with people with mental health needs to join our team. You will need to have a Level 2 Gym Instructor qualification and a Level 1 Sports Coaching award.

Your main duties will be to organise & lead exercise groups on the wards and supervise gym sessions. You must be able to travel across 3 sites and be prepared to work some weekends/evenings.

For further information contact, Di Everett Head of Physical Therapies on 020 8682 6589

For an informal visit, contact Barbara Moran on 020 8682 6216

Closing date: 26 January 2010

Interview date: w/c 08 February 2010

To apply please go to www.jobs.nhs.uk

The Trust actively seeks to recruit people currently underrepresented in the workforce. This includes people from ethnic minorities and people who have experienced mental health problems.

www.swlstg-tr.nhs.uk



www.coventry.gov.uk



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Individually we can achieve a great deal, together we can achieve so much more. Which is why we want our organisation to reflect the rich **diversity** of the population we serve. To be as diverse and amazing as our communities. To welcome **people**, of all ages and races and bring out the best in everyone who works as part of our **team**.

Get in touch and let's talk about how we can succeed together.

Community Services

Community Lifestyle Coach ★

£23,708 - £29,236 pa

Temporary until March 2012

The One Body One Life programme practically supports people to lead a healthier lifestyle. The programme runs across Coventry working with clients of all ages. You will be responsible for delivering physical activity and healthy eating sessions which enable clients to make real changes to their lives.

To find out more please visit:

www.coventry.gov.uk/beactivebehealthy

Closing date: 22nd January 2010.

Our preferred method of application is via our on-line facility

www.coventry.gov.uk

Alternatively you can request an application pack by email: jobs@coventry.gov.uk or you can

Call our jobs line: 024 76 83 3030

minicom: 024 7683 3487

(for hearing impaired callers).

We no longer accept emailed application forms.

★ This post is exempt under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and as such an appointment to this post will be conditional upon thereceipt of a satisfactory response to a check of police records via the Criminal Records Bureau.

This authority is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



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to the Board of Management.*

*The successful candidate will have a
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positions, understand the complex nature
of the modern countryside,
and lead a team whose members live and
work where others seek their leisure.*

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of the remuneration package.*

*Application forms and background
information can be had through
adminco-ord@penshurstplace.com.*

Closing date for applications 29 Jan 2010.

attractions

CASTLE MANAGER

Applications are invited for the appointment of
a Manager to be responsible for the opening
of Glamis Castle to the general public



The Castle Manager is responsible for all aspects of an important
Scottish visitor attraction with its attendant Functions business.
A proven track record in the tourism industry with a knowledge of
marketing, catering, and management accounts is essential along
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Salary by negotiation.

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Tel. 01307 840242 or download from www.glamis-castle.co.uk**

Deadline for Applications – Monday 1st February 2010

Assistant to the Administrator

An efficient and dynamic marketeer is required for the award winning
Newby Hall and Gardens, Ripon, North Yorkshire. www.newbyhall.com

The privately owned, Wren designed, Hall (and its 10 Ha of formal
gardens) welcomes around 130000 visitors each year with a mix of
facilities including contemporary Sculpture Park, programme of Art
Exhibitions, busy events programme, a miniature railway and children's
Adventure Gardens. The candidate will join a small team in delivering
a top quality visitor experience and will be expected to assist in the
development of all areas of the business. The role is a mix of managing
the opening office, bookings, other systems and delivering advertising
and PR campaigns and will involve some weekend duties.

The successful candidate will have marketing/PR experience.
Salary dependant on experience.

Please apply in writing enclosing a C.V. to
The Administrator, Newby Hall,
The Estate Office, Ripon, N Yorks HG4 5AE
Alternatively email : jobs@newbyhall.com



news & jobs at www.leisureopportunities.co.uk

Nuyuu Fitness acquires two new fitness centres

Budget fitness club operator aims to have five sites up and running by the beginning of June

By **Tom Walker**

Nuyuu Fitness, the gym chain launched in October by Ben Silcox and Dragons' Den entrepreneur James Caan, has expanded its portfolio to five sites after acquiring two new properties.

The £2m venture, which is backed by Caan's private equity firm Hamilton Bradshaw, has added former LA Fitness outlets in Newbury, Berkshire, and Stevenage, Hertfordshire, to its portfolio of sites. Nuyuu already operates clubs in

Slough, Berkshire; East Grinstead, East Sussex and Livingston, Scotland.

Both the Newbury and Stevenage gyms will be redecorated and rebranded as part of the first phase of a three-stage development programme. Phase Two will see the installation of Precor and Vibrogym equipment in January 2010, while Phase Three – scheduled for March 2010 will involve member feedback and deep site works.

The first three clubs will open in the second week of January.



Nuyuu was launched with the help of entrepreneur James Caan

DCMS announces bidders for UK's City of Culture

By **Tom Walker**

Culture minister Margaret Hodge has revealed that 14 candidates have submitted bids as part of a Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)-led competition to be the first City of Culture in 2013.

The DCMS invited cities, towns and urban areas across the UK to put themselves forward as part of the scheme, which aims to build on the



Durham, one of the candidates

success of Liverpool's status as European Capital of Culture during 2008. The 14 bidders are: Barnsley, South Yorkshire;

Birmingham; Carlisle; Chichester, West Sussex; Cornwall; Durham; Hull; Ipswich and the Haven Gateway and Portsmouth and Southampton, as well as Sheffield and Southend, Essex.

In addition to the English applicants, Swansea in Wales, and Derry in Northern Ireland are also among the applicants, which will be reduced to a shortlist of five by a DCMS advisory panel in April 2010.

Visitor centre for historic hall

Grade I listed Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland will be redeveloped and reopened as a visitor attraction following a fundraising campaign led by the National Trust.

The hall – near Blyth in the south east of the county – is widely regarded to be the finest work of the English Baroque.

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