

Natural England announces coastal path schedule

By **Pete Hayman**

Natural England (NE) has revealed how it plans to implement the development of a new coastal path along the length of England's coastline.

Work is set to get underway on creating the coastal route after the Coastal Access Scheme, which sets out the targets and the ground rules for the plan, was given government backing.

The scheme reveals the steps to be taken to ensure the trail remains continuous at estuaries; how the 4m (13.1ft)-wide path will cater for other land uses; and how areas – such as dunes and beaches – will be used by the public as "spreading room".



Work will start on the creation of a path around England's coast

Formal government approval means the first stage of the coastal path – along a stretch of coast at Weymouth, Dorset – can now be implemented ahead of the 2012 Olympics.

Implementation of the first phase during 2011 will also include five other regions across the UK – Cumbria; East Riding of Yorkshire; Kent; Norfolk and Somerset.

NE chair Poul Christensen said: "The publication of this scheme is an important step in making clear, secure and consistent coastal access a reality for England."

"The scheme explains the procedures and criteria we will use to align the route and associated 'spreading room', and the ways in which access will be managed to minimise conflicts with other land uses."

The government's decision to approve the Coastal Access Scheme follows an extensive public consultation exercise carried out by NE between November 2009 and February 2010 and two initial versions of the Scheme published in 2008.

New Discover Greenwich attraction opens its doors

New multi-million pound cultural centre exhibits previously unseen historic objects

By **Martin Nash**

Discover Greenwich, a new £6m cultural centre at the Old Royal Naval College on London's Thames riverside, has opened to the public.

The attraction – which opened on 23 March and is aiming to attract a million visitors each year – uses interpretation techniques and previously unseen historic objects, rare artefacts, film footage and models across permanent and temporary exhibitions to tell the story of



A part of the new exhibition at Discover Greenwich

Maritime Greenwich and the Old Royal Naval College. The Royal Hospital's Old Brew-

house – located adjacent to Discover Greenwich – has also been brought back into use after 140 years by Meantime Brewing Company.

Discover Greenwich will be run by the Greenwich Foundation, which also manages the Old Royal Naval College.

The visitor attraction, which was designed by John Miller + Partners with Sidell Gibson Architects and Real Studios and constructed by Vinci Construction, received total grants of just over £2m from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Walsall mulling over leisure

The first in a series of meetings has been held by Walsall Council to discuss the future of leisure facilities operated by the authority.

The Community Services and Performance Panel met with members of the public to debate six possible outcomes for the council's six centres.

One of the options mooted was for the council to transfer all leisure operations to private providers.

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Mayor outlines vision for London 2012

Plans announced to recruit 7,000 volunteers located at "strategic travel points"

By Pete Hayman

London mayor Boris Johnson has revealed his vision for how the city is set to "look, feel and party" during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Johnson set out his plans before the Olympic Board – comprising Olympics minister Tessa Jowell; British Olympic Association chair Colin Moynihan and 2012 organising committee chair Sebastian Coe.

The mayor plans to recruit 7,000 volunteers located at a number of strategic points across the capital to ensure people are able to travel to venues quickly and efficiently.

Four live sites – Hyde Park; Victoria Park; Potters Field and Jubilee Gardens – will screen events, while Trafalgar Square is also identified as a key area.



The mayor aims to ensure the Games creates a party atmosphere

A 12-week arts festival is scheduled to take place as part of the Cultural Olympiad between 21 June and 9 September 2012, which will feature commissions from some of the world's leading artists.

Johnson said: "We're under no illusion about the mammoth tasks ahead in planning and

preparing for the world to experience our capital.

"It would be remiss of us to think people will stay away from such an occasion – simply put, it will be 'business as unusual'. But we will be more than ready and are carefully planning these momentous and historic days for our city."

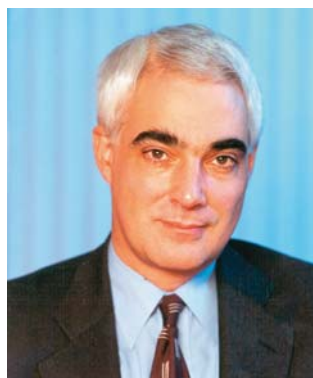
Budget 2010: benefit for SMBs, alcohol tax up

By Tom Walker

Small and medium-sized leisure businesses should find it easier to secure bank loans and funding, according to plans outlined by chancellor Alistair Darling in the 2010 Budget.

The Budget – the last by chancellor Alistair Darling before the expected general election in May – will see Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds make £94bn available in business loans, with "at least half" made available to small and medium-sized firms.

The government will also establish a new investment corporation – UK Finance For Growth – in order to oversee a £4bn funding package designed to offer support for businesses and help them negotiate red tape.



Darling delivered his last budget before the election

Small and medium-sized leisure companies will also be able to tap into a £2.5bn 'pot of gold', which has been made available for investing in key skills and training.

This has been funded by the tax on bankers' bonuses, which raised a total of £2bn – double the original figure expected.

Meanwhile, the hospitality sector will have to deal with continued rises in alcohol duty – the tax on beer, wine and spirits increased by 2 per cent on Sunday 4 April.

In addition to this, pubs will no doubt be unhappy with Darling's announcement that the tax on cider has increased by 10 per cent from 4 April.

British Institute of Innkeeping (BII) chief executive Neil Robertson, said: "BII is disappointed that the Chancellor has gone ahead with the duty escalator.

"I find this somewhat jarring in the context of John Healey's 12-step action plan full of supportive measures for pubs. It seems the Government is determined to give us support with one hand and then take it away with the other."

Football World Cup set to drive recovery

Pub and restaurant celebrations to boost UK economy if England wins tournament

By **Pete Hayman**

New research conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has suggested this summer's football World Cup in South Africa could help provide a boost to the economy.

A survey of more than 2,000 adults revealed 20 per cent believe a successful World Cup campaign for England would help the entire UK recover from the recession.

According to the study, 15 per cent of participants said they would buy more if England won the World Cup – specifically celebrating in pubs or restaurants and with purchases.

Meanwhile, PwC research has also revealed the gambling sector could be in line for a World Cup boost, with 7 per cent of people who took part



Cape Town is set to host an England fixture during the World Cup

saying they would place a bet on the tournament despite never normally betting on sports events.

Julie Clark, UK head of sport at PwC, said: "Winning a global tournament such as the World Cup has a significant impact on domestic consumer discretion-

ary spend and therefore GDP. A strong performance by a national team creates a long-lasting feel good factor.

"A successful campaign unites a nation in pursuit of a goal greater than their individual needs, instilling pride and self-confidence."

Nielsen report predicts fitness sector changes

By **Pete Hayman**

A report by research company Nielsen has predicted rapid changes in the way the health and fitness industry operates over the next few years.

Commissioned by Les Mills, the white paper, called *The Future of Fitness*, in which it suggests that to survive in the future, health clubs must ensure that they get 'closer' to their members and to other health-related businesses within the community they operate.

Nielsen claims that changes will be so profound that in



Home-based fitness will increase in popularity

future young adults may find the concept of 'going to the gym' completely alien.

The authors of the paper say that "tweaks to existing models

are unlikely to match the pace of transformational change".

Among future trends, the report identifies the rapid increase in the amount of home-based, interactive workout products and services that could "kill the gym".

The report has already resulted in lively internet-based debate among fitness professionals and club owners as well as fitness employees.

To read the complete article outlining the report's findings and experts' reaction to it, see *Health Club Management* April 2010 issue, pp. 30-32.

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IN BRIEF

Interactive fitness room for Bradley Stoke

► Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre in Gloucestershire has opened a new interactive fitness room called Studio:Tech. The studio has been touted as the first in the UK to feature WebRacing, an exercise format which mixes a cardio routine with a fast-paced virtual game. Aimed at the teen market, gym members will be able to choose a WebRacing bike or rower and are "transformed" into a virtual character. They will then be able to race against each other in a virtual world while viewing the action as it unfolds on a big screen. Lisa Vyner, leisure operations manager at the centre, said: "To us this is about more than selling the same old workout message, this is about encouraging ongoing interaction, excitement and competition so that our customers get fit without noticing how hard they are working."

Factory expands gym space

► The Factory Gym and Dance Club in Holloway, north London, is expanding its facilities and adding more classes over the Easter period. The centre, owned and operated by Julian Aston, will add a range of equipment supplied by Star Trac to its existing kit. The additions include a 3D Max Rack, eSpinners and additional pulleys and leg presses. The club's selection of group and dance classes will also be widened. Aston told *Leisure Opportunities* that the club will begin hosting Zumba aerobics, cheerleading and Bollywood dancing due to increased demand. Aston added that the revamp has been planned to cater for the needs of a fast-growing membership. The club now has 500 full-time members, compared to 70 just two years ago.

Fourth Fit4Less opens in Canterbury

Facilities at énergie's new budget club include 21 cv stations supplied by Precor

By **Tom Walker**

Health club operator énergie Fitness has opened its fourth Fit4Less budget club in Canterbury, Kent.

The club, which cost around £250,000 to set up, will be operated by a franchisee and offer the group's standard membership of £16.99 a month.

Chief executive officer of the énergie Group, Jan Spaticchia, said the club is one of a number of planned new openings for the chain.

"This is a very exciting concept that we believe will do well in this economic climate.

"We are looking to continue to introduce Fit4Less to multiple towns and cities across Britain.

"We aim to do this through our successful franchise support scheme, which will empower people to own their



Fit4Less is looking to expand into all major UK towns and cities

own business and be their own boss."

The Fit4Less brand was launched by énergie last year as part of efforts to tap into the expanding budget gym sector within the UK.

David Weir, an énergie spokesperson, said at the time of the launch that the company was reacting to customers' needs. "In the current circumstances,

premium products and services are becoming less viable," he said.

"As consumers become increasingly cautious about their spending habits. The same is true of investors with their own funds. We believe Fit4Less, with its consumer focussed approach, combined with the relatively low entry level investment will prove appealing to franchisees."

New boss for YMCAfit

Central YMCA has appointed Denise Page as the new executive director of its training division YMCA Fitness Industry Training (YMCAfit).

Page will take up her role in April 2010 and succeeds Robin Gargrave, who will be taking on the new post of director of innovation and development for central YMCA.

Rosi Prescott, Central YMCA's chief executive officer, said: "Denise is without doubt one of the most significant contributors to the growth and impact of YMCA Fitness Industry Training."

TwentyTen preparing for launch

By **Tom Walker**

After 250 hours of debate, involving more than 60 of the industry's leading innovators, the TwentyTen Commission Report has started to take shape prior its launch to the fitness industry.

Speaking at the TwentyTen workshop held earlier this month, David Stalker, Fitness Industry Association's (FIA) executive director, said: "In the 20 years the FIA has been in existence, we have never undertaken anything as ambitious as this Commission.

"We've never asked strategic questions about our future and we've never attempted to identify what our future needs



The FIA is looking to identify future trends, such as dance

will be. If we know these, then we can develop the strategies required to address them.

"This Commission is about our industry being masters of its own fate. It's about identifying the key potential areas of growth and assessing what we need to do to get from where are to where we want to be."

Djanogly leisure centre to open in April

New facility forms part of council's £32m leisure centre transformation programme

By **Tom Walker**

The new £6.44m Djanogly Community Leisure Centre (DCLC) in Hyson Green, Nottingham, will open to the public on 6 April.

The new facility will replace the existing Noel Street Leisure Centre which is set to close as the new centre opens.

Facilities at the DCLC will include a 50-station fitness suite equipped by Technogym, a multi-activity studio, a 25m swimming pool, sauna and steam rooms.

The scheme forms part of Nottingham City Council's wider (NCC) £32m Leisure Centre Transformation Programme to improve the city's sports provision.



The centre was designed by Archial and is being built by ISG Regions

The centre has been funded by Nottingham City Council, but also received a £2.2m contribution from the Neighbourhood Development Company and a £1m grant from Sport England's Swim Modernisation Programme.

The facility was designed by Archial Architects and is being built by ISG Regions.

NCC has also lodged plans for the £9m development of the city's new Victoria Leisure Centre, which will be built on the site of the existing facility.

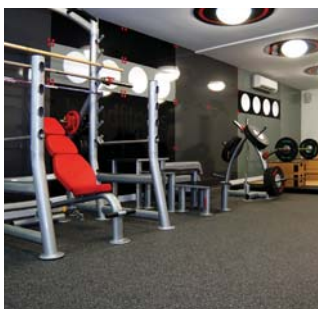
First Bond Fitness Studio opens in Hertfordshire

By **Tom Walker**

Bond Fitness, a 1,800sq ft (167sq m) health club, has opened at the Hertford Rugby Club in Hertfordshire.

Although located within the rugby club's premises, the gym is open to the general public and aims to offer members a workout previously only available to professional sportsmen and women.

Facilities include a fitness suite, vibration suite with six



The fitness studio in Hertford

VibroGym trainers, treatment rooms and changing facilities. The gym features an Olympic

lifting platform and performance rack, barbells, dumbbells, TRX, kettlebells, medicine balls, rebounders, Bosu balls, core boards and boxing bags.

According to owner Steve Bond, the club has no cardiovascular machines, with all CV training achieved through focusing on all-body exercises.

"Our aim is to make the professional training environments and equipment more widely available to members of the general public," he said.

Nottingham leisure centre revamp put back

The redevelopment of Harvey Hadden Leisure Centre in Nottingham, which was approved in 2004, has been delayed for another year.

The City Council's decision is a result of it prioritising the rebuild of the Victoria Leisure Centre instead. A report to councillors said: "The Harvey Hadden scheme has been

rephased into later years. An evaluation of the development costs relating to the Harvey Hadden Leisure Centre scheme is being undertaken and further reports will be presented to the board."

The centre was originally supposed to open in 2006 as a swimming pool and sports centre.



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IN BRIEF

Tallest climbing wall in central London opens

► A new indoor climbing centre featuring the tallest climbing wall in central London has opened to the public at the Seymour Leisure Centre in Westminster. The £700,000 facility features a 13m (43ft) climbing wall scaling three floors, a 7m (23ft) high training wall, bouldering area and a series of traversing and exercise walls. Funding for the project was provided by Westminster council, the London Marathon Charitable Trust and Sport England.

New performance chief for disability swimming

► John Atkinson has been appointed as the new national performance director of British Disability Swimming. He will leave his current role within British Swimming as director for world class programmes in May to take up the new post, which will involve him driving forward the technical infrastructure of the programme within Britain as well as assuming a team leader role. Atkinson will be supported by former national performance director Tim Reddish, who will adopt the role of executive director for disability swimming. Chief executive of British Swimming David Sparkes believes the appointment will enhance opportunities while providing fresh stimulus in the run up to 2012 and beyond.

Surrey CCC reports record profits

► Surrey County Cricket Club has reported record annual pre-tax profits of £752,000 for 2009 – a 29 per cent increase compared with the previous year. The club has posted a 6 per cent year-on-year increase in turnover to £25.5m despite challenging conditions, driven by the hosting of an Ashes Test match and the ICC World Twenty20.

FCUM reveals new stadium proposals

5,000-capacity venue planned for Newton Heath's Ten Acres Lane sports centre

By **Pete Hayman**

FC United of Manchester (FCUM) has announced plans to develop a new 5,000-capacity stadium at the Ten Acres Lane sports centre in Newton Heath, Manchester.

The supporter-owned club was formed in 2005 in a protest against the acquisition of Manchester United Football Club (MUFC) by US-based tycoon Malcolm Glazer.

Plans for the £3.5m Newton Heath scheme will see the club move from its current home at Bury's Gigg Lane venue to the initial home of MUFC and incorporates new community and sports facilities.

The sports centre site is currently owned by Man-



FCUM's new stadium will be located at the Ten Acres Lane facility

chester City Council, which is working in partnership with the club and regeneration agency New East Manchester on the proposals.

Andy Walsh, general manager at FC United of

Manchester's said: "The significance of this location is historical while it will also showcase a new model of facility development, based on football supporter ownership and community involvement."

Bradford sports village proposals to be reviewed

By **Tom Walker**

Plans to replace the Richard Dunn Sports Centre in Bradford with a new £76m sporting village are to be reviewed due to a funding shortage.

The current plans, backed by Bradford Metropolitan District Council, include the redevelopment of Odsal stadium into a modern, 18,000-capacity stadium; the replacing of the Richard Dunn centre with a new community sports centre;



Odsal is home to Bradford Bulls

and the creation of a 120-bedroom hotel. It is understood that the council has only

managed to secure £19.3m of the £76m needed. Grants so far secured include monies from the regional development agency, Yorkshire Forward and England Netball.

The council will now submit a report to the council's executive in which it will leave all funding, design and development options "open to exploration" as part of efforts to get the project off the ground. It is possible that the project will be downscaled.

West Ham and Newham Council in 2012 stadium bid

West Ham United Football Club (WHUFC) has reaffirmed plans to move to the Olympic Stadium after teaming up with Newham Council to work on a joint bid for the site.

The newly-formed Olympic Park Legacy Company is seeking a viable and lasting legacy for the venue after the London Games finish, with the club considering it as a potential new home.

Organisers argue the stadium must retain an athletics track as part of a pledge to the International Olympic Committee, but WHUFC and the council are confident their prospective bid could offer a wide range of benefits to the local community.

Our Sporting Life initiative launches

Scheme to celebrate the UK's sporting heritage to run until London 2012 Games

By **Pete Hayman**

Our Sporting Life – a nation-wide programme of 100 events designed to explore the UK's sporting heritage – has launched with the unveiling of a new exhibition in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Jonny Wilkinson's Rugby World Cup-winning ball, a football used in the first Olympic final and 1930s football etiquette are among artefacts that have been put on display as part of Our Sporting Life Henley.

Located at the town's River and Rowing Museum, other exhibits include items related to the history of Henley Town Football Club and an account of Atlantic rowers. Both the British Olympic Association and the



Museum curator Suzie Tilbury with two of the sporting exhibits

British Paralympic Association have contributed objects to the exhibition, which forms part of the wider Museums, Libraries and Archives Council initiative.

Highlights from each of the UK-wide exhibitions will help to form one of the largest ever collections of sporting memora-

bia, which will be held in London for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The People's Record, which aims to bring the UK's museums, libraries and archives together to connect with eyewitness stories ahead of the 2012 Games, is also involved.

ECB issues free-to-air warning

Domestic cricket could be severely affected if home Ashes Test matches are listed for free-to-air television, according to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

In its response to a government consultation on the review of free-to-air sporting events, the ECB warned of a

"devastating collapse in the entire fabric" of the domestic game from grassroots to elite level.

An independent economic assessment of the proposals, which will also see all other cricket matches removed from the B list, estimates the sport would lose £137.4m from the 2014-2017 domestic broadcast contract.

The Shay's new East stand opens



The stand has boosted The Shay's capacity to more than 10,000

By **Pete Hayman**

A new £4.5m east stand has officially opened to the public The Shay stadium in Halifax, West Yorkshire.

Hall Construction Services has carried out the design and build of the 3,500-seat stand at the venue – home to FC Halifax Town and Halifax Rugby League Football Club (HRLFC).

The stand will take The Shay's total capacity to more

than 10,000 for the first time in more than 30 years and will provide one of the largest conference facilities in the area.

HRLFC's fixture with Leigh Rugby League Football Club on 28 March was the first event to take place in front of the new stand, while changing facilities and catering areas also opened.

The East Stand, which boasts 11 function rooms, also houses retail outlets for the local football and rugby teams.

IN BRIEF

Labour to unveil fan ownership pledge

► Football supporters could be handed the right to purchase a 25 per cent share in their club under new proposals being developed by the government. According to the *Guardian*, the Labour manifesto for the forthcoming General Election is set to include a pledge that will radically shake-up the ownership structure of English clubs. The plans come amid a number of clubs running into financial difficulties – most notably Portsmouth Football Club, which has become the first Premier League club in history to enter administration.

New sports campus planned for Derry

► A new sports centre is being planned for Londonderry, Northern Ireland. The plans for the North West Regional Sports Campus include a performance development centre, a multi-use sports hall, a fitness suite, a 3rd generation floodlit football pitch and offices for Sport Northern Ireland and Coaching Ireland. The scheme is estimated to cost £759,815, with the majority to be funded by the International Fund for Ireland (£650,000) and the remainder from the Department of Social Development (£109,815).

New inner-city rugby scheme for London

► A new rugby programme aimed at inner-city communities where young people are felt to be at risk from anti-social behaviour has launched in London. The Hitz project will run across six London boroughs – Hackney; Islington; Hounslow; Croydon; Ealing and Southwark – and will help to build self-confidence by introducing young people to tag, touch and contact rugby. Premier Rugby, the Rugby Football Union, the Metropolitan Police and rugby union charity Wooden Spoon.

IN BRIEF

£1.6m ten-pin bowling centre for Slough

► Slough Community Leisure is to start work in April converting the existing Slough Tennis Centre into a new £1.6m ten-pin bowling centre. Due for completion by the end of the summer, the new facility will boast 18 bowling lanes, gaming machines, pool tables and a café/bar. The project is being funded and managed by Alliance Leisure. It was designed by Bignell Shacklady Ewing and building work will be carried out by WFC Ltd. Greg Sinclair, commercial director for Slough Community Leisure, said: "The leisure trust has taken the decision not to bid for other contracts, but instead to look within our own estate at how we can expand our services outside of traditional health and fitness." The centre will be retaining its outdoor tennis provision – the existing eight floodlit tennis courts are to be refurbished – and to make up for the loss of indoor tennis facilities, plans are being drawn up to add two new indoor courts at Thames Valley Athletics Centre.

William Hill 'expects' World Cup boost

► UK bookmaker William Hill has revealed it "expects some benefit" from this summer's World Cup after posting a 4 per cent increase in net revenue for the year ending 29 December 2009. Compared with the previous year, the group posted a 63 per cent increase in online net revenue to help offset a 4 per cent decline in retail figures. Pre-tax profits also decreased by 9 per cent from 2008 levels. Higher than average football margins helped to drive strong fourth quarter growth for William Hill, although early trading for the current year has been hit by a number of football fixture cancellations due to wintry weather conditions.

Builder named for Scunthorpe scheme

Construction on £14.4m Baths Hall venue scheduled to begin later in the year

By **Pete Hayman**

North Lincolnshire Council has announced that Scunthorpe-based Clugston Construction has been appointed to build the town's new multi-million pound entertainment venue.

Baths Hall, which is expected to cost £14.4m – £1.3m less than initially thought, will provide Scunthorpe with a new multi-use venue capable of hosting a range of events and live performances.

The council's appointment of the construction company is subject to the conclusion of normal procurement procedures – including a mandatory 15-day 'standstill' period.

Work is scheduled to get underway in April to deliver the new venue, which is set to incorporate an auditorium equipped with flexible partitioning and seating capacity for 1,200 people and



Facilities at the centre will include a 1,200-capacity auditorium

a standing area for up to 2,000 people.

Additional balcony seating, conference facilities and a café and a bar are also among the proposals for the venue, which is poised to be run by one of three potential leisure operators.

Council leader Mark Kirk said: "The new venue will act

as a catalyst for further regeneration work along Doncaster Road – a key gateway into the town."

In January, the council revealed that SMG Europe; Sheffield International Venues and regional theatre operator HQ Theatres are vying for the chance to operate the Baths Hall venue.

Minmar buys Agora sites

Business advisory firm Baker Tilly has announced it has completed the sale of more than 100 gaming centres owned by Agora Gaming Group to investment vehicle Minmar (929).

Edward Symmons LLP acted on behalf of Baker Tilly to secure the deal, which includes 106 leasehold properties formerly operated by the four subsidiary companies under the Agora banner.

Centres in London and Aldershot are among those to be sold after Agora was placed into administration last December.

Rank Group posts profit growth

By **Pete Hayman**

Rank Group, the UK casino and bingo hall operator, has posted an operating profit of £60.8m for the year ending 31 December 2009, when compared with a £9.1m loss for the previous year.

A strong performance by the company's Grosvenor Casinos chain, which saw operating profit grow by a fifth and revenue increase by 7 per cent, helped to increase an overall 3.4 per cent increase in revenue for the 12-month period.

An increase in customers and customer visit helped to boost the casino chain, while Rank's Mecca Bingo arm saw an increase in revenue through a

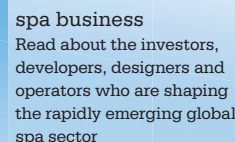
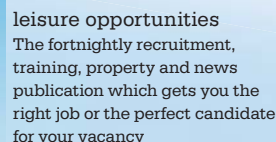
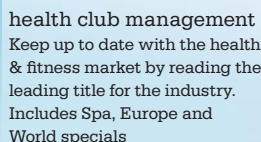
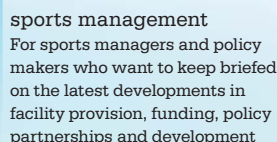
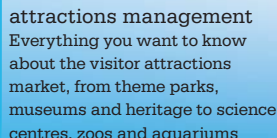


Revenue increased at Rank's chain of Mecca Bingo venues

growth in average spend per visit helping to offset a "modest decline" in visits.

Rank Group's chief executive Ian Burke said: "The company's financial performance in 2009 was principally a result of the actions we have taken over a number of years to reposition the group."

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IN BRIEF

Pubs and restaurants returning to growth

► Some of the UK's leading pub and restaurant operators have reported a return to growth during February after wintry weather affected trading in January, according to new research. The monthly Coffey Peach Business Tracker, which comprises a total of 15 companies, saw like-for-like sales and total sales increase by 1.3 per cent and 3 per cent respectively, compared with February 2009. Produced by Peach Factory in partnership with KPMG, UBS Investment Bank and the Coffey Group, the tracker revealed that trading in February had increased by 18 per cent, compared with January.

Lakeside hotels reopens after flood damage

► The Lakeside Hotel at Newby Bridge has re-opened its doors following a three-month clean-up and refurbishment programme forced by the flooding in November 2009. Located on the banks of Lake Windermere, Cumbria, the majority of the four-star hotel's ground floor rooms – including the reception, Oak Room, Lakeview Restaurant, John Ruskin's Brasserie, Lakeview Conservatory and the kitchens – were overwhelmed by flood water as the lake level rose by three metres after two days of torrential rain.

Premier Inn for Olympic site

► Hotel operator Premier Inn, part of the Whitbread Group, will open a 267-room budget hotel close to the Olympic Stadium in Stratford, East London. The company is investing £25m in the hotel, which will open in time for the Games in 2012. The opening is part of Premier Inn's larger, £160m expansion programme for London.

£60m Cardiff hotel plans unveiled

Wyndham Hotel Group to operate 32-storey, 200-bedroom luxury hotel

By **Pete Hayman**

Wyndham Hotel Group and Cardiff-based developer Bayscape have unveiled plans for the construction of a new £60m waterfront hotel in Cardiff Bay.

The two companies have signed a 25-year management deal for the 32-storey Wyndham Cardiff, which will become the tallest building in Wales at 127m (417ft) high.

Located on a site adjacent to the International Sports Village and the new 350-berth Cardiff Marina, the property has been designed by Custard Architecture and will boast 200 bedrooms and 35 serviced apartments. The hotel is set to boast two restaurants and three bars, including a signature



Facilities at the hotel will include two restaurants and a spa

restaurant and bar on the 24th and 25th floor to offer views across Cardiff Bay, as well as a health bar and café.

Other facilities will include an indoor swimming pool; a spa; a sauna; a whirlpool; a fitness centre and conference facilities, as well as 100 residential units,

shops and offices. Private river bus rides to the city centre will also be provided for guests.

Malta-based operator CHI Hotels will provide technical assistance in the design of Wyndham Cardiff, which will contribute to the ongoing regeneration of the Cardiff Bay.

Energy scheme comes into force

The Environment Agency is urging the hospitality sector to prepare for the introduction of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.

The initiative came into force on 1 April and is a government initiative aimed at cutting carbon emissions from large public and private sector organisations.

Coming into force on 1 April, all organisations that had at least one half hourly electricity meter during 2008 must register for the scheme. Those that used at least 6000MWh of electricity per year through these meters (equivalent to about £500,000 worth) will need to buy and sell allowances to cover their emissions.

Pub group eyes up food-led model



M&B operates the Harvester-branded chain of pub restaurants

By **Pete Hayman**

Pub operator Mitchells and Butlers (M&B) has unveiled plans to move to a food-led business model, following a review of the group's strategy.

The company is eyeing a move away from the "price sensitive" drinks-led model to boost its performance, while also aiming to improve returns on capital expenditure.

Smaller-scale Harvester and Toby Carvery outlets could open in High Street locations under the proposals, along with leisure and retail park sites to facilitate the group's move to a food-led model.

Around £10m savings have been identified from purchasing goods not for resale, as well as overhauling the non-beer supply chain and service levels.



Ufi Ibrahim will take over as the BHA's new CEO on 19 July

Ibrahim to succeed Bob Cotton

Surprise choice to become BHA's new chief executive

By **Tom Walker**

The British Hospitality Association has announced that Ufi Ibrahim will take over from Bob Cotton as the association's next chief executive officer.

The 38-year-old Ibrahim, who is currently the chief operations officer of the London-based World Travel & Tourism Council (W TTC), will take over from the retiring Cotton on 19 July 2010. Despite her work with the tourism sector, she is largely unknown within the hospitality industry and has no operational experience. Ibrahim joined

W TTC in 2000 and prior to that received a BA in leisure and tourism management from the London Metropolitan University. At W TTC, her role involved advising on policymaking and the development of planning frameworks in tourism.

Ms Ibrahim said she was delighted to be appointed. She said: "Hospitality is a key pillar of Britain's economy, particularly in the long-term.

"I look forward to working with BHA members and UK tourism organisations to advance hospitality's role as a generator of employment."

Value of hotel property to fall in 2010

Hoteliers could see millions shaved off the value of their property portfolios during 2010, according to Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels (JLLH).

The real estate firm said the fall in property prices will result in the market "correcting itself" after a period of perceived stability spurred by lack of stock and few sales, which have resulted in prices staying roughly at 2007 levels.

Hotel transaction volumes across the globe continued to fall during 2009, with the UK particularly hit by lack of activity. JLLH said the total value of hotel deals completed during 2009 was £353m – a huge decline from the £1.81bn seen in 2008 and the 2007 peak of £7bn.

JLLH's Mark Wynne-Smith added that the reason for the stability in pricing was a lack of stock.

Shortage of skilled staff remains a key concern

The history of training is riddled with schemes that have changed at a whim

What's the major preoccupation of every manager in the industry?

As I go around the country, the shortage of motivated, skilled staff, even at a time of high unemployment, remains the key concern.

But why don't businesses train their staff to ensure that they do have the required skills? Is it the cost of training? Apathy? High levels of staff turnover? Probably a combination of all these and other factors.

At so many different levels, confusion reigns in both the training and qualifications available and in the organisations involved. We have People 1st, City and Guilds, the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency and several other awarding bodies; we have UKSP and Springboard to provide careers advice; at another level we have government departments, Quangos, tourist boards and the Sector Skills Council all with a stated claim to have an interest in developing training. The industry also has its own Hospitality Skills Academy to raise standards.

At yet another level, we have associations such as the BHA, the IoH, the Academy of Culinary Arts, the Academy of Food and Wine, Craft Guild of Chefs – and many others – all concerned about the shortage of trained people and all – also – keen to have an input into the development of the industry's training programmes and qualifications.

Unfortunately, all this interest has yielded little. The history of training in the hospitality industry is riddled with initiatives which have changed at the whim of government or administrators. As a result, it's little wonder that employers, trying to find their way through a morass of competing courses and qualifications, are confused. Unable to understand exactly what is on offer and what they should be doing to help train their own employees, they probably take the easy option and leave the training to others.

We know what the problem is – but what's the solution? There needs to be more clarification and less confusion. A national forum to bring all the interested parties together and collectively agree the way ahead may be the first step.

But even before that, 200,000 hospitality businesses need to commit to the concept of training and skills development. In such a fragmented industry, with such a poor history of training, that's an immensely tall order. But if we don't meet it, we'll still be complaining about our skills shortages in sixty years' time.



BOB COTTON is chief executive of the BHA. Leisure Opportunities is a member benefit of the BHA

IN BRIEF

SPATEC debut for spa industry survey

► Leisure-net Solutions is expanding its mystery shopping services into the European spa industry. The company's annual HAFOS survey already offers data on consumer attitudes towards fitness, health and leisure. This has now been extended to look at the public's perception of spas; the results will be released at SPATEC in April 2010. A call-Focus survey for spas is also being launched, again in line with the existing health club survey, to assess how spas answer telephone and email enquiries. It will include calls and emails to more than 100 sites across health club, hotel and independent spas.

Spa consultant chapter launched

► The Institute of Management Consultants USA has launched a new spa consultants chapter with 14 new members officially inducted into its International Spa Chapter with founding chapter president Deborah Evans of the SpaSense Group. The primary objectives of the chapter will be to set new industry standards, promote best practice and to create a forum for professional collaboration. Other goals include educating and informing potential clients through a range of ongoing education options.

Two new financial backers for AA brand

► Two new financial investors have been announced for Aromatherapy Associates. Ian Richardson and Dr Magdy Ishak will be driving new areas of growth and expansion for the brand. The duo built up and sold Covenant Healthcare Limited for £170m (€187.2m, US\$257m) in 2005. Geraldine Howard will continue to run the company as managing director.

Seven new sites for Spa by von Essen

New properties for hotel operator include standalone luxury spa in the Cotswolds

By Sarah Todd

Hospitality group von Essen is to extend its spa offering with a further seven spas added to their portfolio of UK properties throughout 2010.

The spa facilities will be added to Callow Hall in Derbyshire; Congham Hall in Norfolk; The Greenway in Gloucestershire; Homewood Park in Bath; The Mount Somerset in Somerset and Woolley Grange in Wiltshire.

There will also be a standalone spa development in the village of Lower Slaughter in the Cotswolds, which will have combined access to both Washbourne Court and Lower Slaughter Manor. Elsewhere within the group, the handover



Von Essen also operates the Halcyon Spa at Bishopstrow House

has been completed from Weston Homes to von Essen of the Hotel Verta development and the new London Heliport terminal in Battersea, London.

The new 70-bedroom flagship hotel will boast a subterranean spa covering two

levels below the property, von Essen's first in London, and is scheduled to open in mid-2010 following a final fit out. The project was initially due to open in June 2009, but was delayed due to problems in the excavation of the site.

Luxury spa facility opens at Cotswold House hotel

By Sarah Todd

A new spa has opened in collaboration with the Great Hotels of the World group and the Cotswold House boutique hotel at Chipping Campden, near Evesham, Gloucestershire.

Operated by the British company Temple Spa, the facility will be the inaugural branded Temple Spa in the UK.

Featuring seven treatment rooms, a hammam room, a hydrotherapy pool and several



The Cotswold House property

lounge areas created by architects and designers D'Alton, the £1.2m spa will be

located adjacent to the main hotel building in a converted coach house, accessible via a covered path from the hotel.

Geared towards both hotel and day guests, treatments will use Temple Spa products and the menu will blend holistic and advanced-results treatments. These will include anti-ageing facials, pedicures, manicures, Indian head massage, thermal stone massages and a wide range of therapies for men.

EHL launches new spa management programme

The Swiss-based Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) has launched its Professional Certification in Spa Management programme.

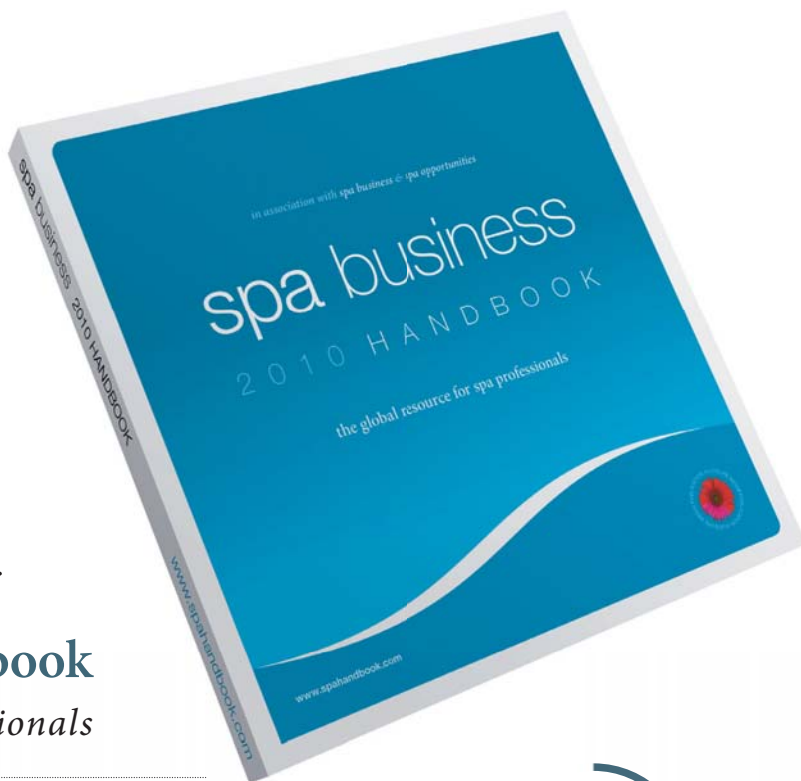
The course has four themes – finance, marketing, human resources and operations and facility management – that have been selected as the most relevant to the industry.

Each theme includes off-site exercises and is treated twice during the programme, once as a two-day module and then again as a three-day module, followed by an exam.

The spa-related themes also include key tools that aim to aid the development of the final management report project.

Get your copy of the new Spa Business Handbook

The *Spa Business Handbook* is the ultimate reference guide for the international spa market. Published in January 2010 as a comprehensive resource for operators and suppliers worldwide, it will be read by key decision makers including leading hotel and spa operators, suppliers, developers, consultants and other experts. It will also be distributed at key spa events.



spa business 2010 handbook
the global resource for spa professionals

What's in the handbook?

OPERATOR INFORMATION

- Predictions and trends for 2010
- Global market hot spots
- Industry movers and shakers
- Key industry statistics and research
- A 2010 diary highlighting events, shows and networking opportunities
- A development pipeline
- Spa design
- A focus on disabled access
- Fitness in spas
- Product launches

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IN BRIEF

£9.25m boost for Giant's Causeway plans

► Plans for the development of a new £18.5m visitor centre at the Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland, have received a £9.25m boost from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. The funding announcement comes after the tourism agency reached an agreement with the National Trust (NT), which owns the attraction and plans to enhance the World Heritage Site's visitor experience. Dublin-based architects heneghan. peng are behind the designs for the new visitor centre, which has also received a £3m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £4m from the NT.

Work begins on Drayton Manor hotel

► Construction work has begun on the new hotel at the Drayton Manor Theme Park in Staffordshire. The new 150-room hotel is designed primarily to meet demand from visitors to the theme park, it having seen an upsurge in visitor numbers following the arrival of Thomas Land in 2008. Scheduled to open in the summer of 2011, the hotel will feature themed bedrooms, including ones from the *Thomas and Friends* series. Also on offer will be extensive conferencing and hospitality facilities, complementing those already at the theme park, plus two restaurants and a crêche.

Jersey museum set for repair work

► Repair work is to be carried out on the northern facade of Jersey's Maritime Museum in St Helier after a crack was discovered during an annual building survey. Housed within a former warehouse building, the Port of Jersey will undertake repairs to the 108-year-old section of wall as part of the scheme, which will take 12 weeks to complete.

Merlin to take over Blackpool Tower

Plans include the UK's second Madame Tussauds and an "Eye"-branded attraction

By **Martin Nash**

Blackpool council has signed up Merlin Entertainments to manage the redevelopment and operations of the Blackpool Tower complex and Louis Tussauds Waxworks when it formally takes over the businesses later this year.

A £10m council-funded investment programme is scheduled to start this autumn, which will see a new Dungeon attraction added to the Tower complex, plus the development of the current observation platform into an 'Eye' branded experience including a 4D cinema preview show.

The nearby Louis Tussauds waxworks is to be converted into a second UK Madame Tussauds attraction with a planned opening date of Spring 2011. The first of the new attractions in the Tower complex



Blackpool Council will retain the ownership of the famous tower

is scheduled to open later in the year, with all the work completed for early 2012.

The new developments will join Merlin's existing association with Blackpool, the Sea Life centre on the town's promenade close to the complex. The current restoration programme for Blackpool Tower itself – a listed building – will also continue, with the site's ballroom and circus being

retained. Blackpool council estimates that the plans – part of a regeneration initiative covering the whole town – could bring in an extra 800,000 visitors every year.

• Merlin also announced it has secured a deal with Marvel Entertainment and Austria-based Kraftwerk Living Technologies to create a new 4D visitor experience at London's Madame Tussauds.

Revamp for Abingdon museum

By **Martin Nash**

Plans to give the historic County Hall Museum in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, a complete makeover are to go ahead following the award of a final grant of just over £1.7m by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

To date, the project has been awarded £210,000 in development funding, and a £50,000 project planning grant, making the total investment £1.97m.

The Grade I listed building in the town centre was constructed between 1678 and 1682, its dual role as market hall and Sessions House dating from when the town was included in the boundaries of the old county of Berkshire and played host to the local courts.



The County Hall Museum was built between 1678 and 1682

A popular local museum created in the 1920s, it is home to a wide collection of local historical artefacts, archaeological finds, paintings and objects relating to the former MG Motors plant in the town.

Abingdon Town Council hopes to increase the museum's visitor figures from 20,000 per year to 30,000.

Council dismisses zoo complaints

North Somerset Council (NSC) has ruled that allegations of animal cruelty made against Noah's Ark Zoo Farm near Bristol are "grossly unfair".

Inspectors from the council, which licenses the Wraxhall attraction, and two zoo inspectors carried out interviews with the proprietor and staff members as part of the probe into the claims.

Zoo records were also examined and animal enclosures inspected after the Captive Animal Protection Society (CAPS) accused Noah's Ark Zoo Farm of "serious animal welfare issues". NSC's executive member Peter Bryant, said that animals at the attraction are "generally" well looked after.

£35m arts venue planned for Bangor

North Wales university starts design work on major "innovation hub" development

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for a new £35m arts and innovation centre in Bangor, North Wales, have taken a step forward after Bangor University started design work.

The Pontio Project – a name derived from the Welsh word for "to bridge" – will include the creation of a dynamic innovation hub, learning facilities and a new home for the university's students' union.

Indoor and outdoor performance spaces, including a 450-seat theatre, a rehearsal studio, cinema space and an outdoor amphitheatre, are also being planned as part of the scheme, which has been backed by a £15m grant from the Welsh Assembly Government.



Vice-chancellor Professor Merfyn Jones (left) and Professor Lowe

London-based architects Grimshaw; Yorkshire-based consultants Atkins and design firm Arup have been appointed to design the building, with initial designs due to be revealed in April ahead of a public exhibition.

Bangor University deputy vice-chancellor Professor Fergus Lowe said: "This is the project that will provide a centre of such remarkable innovation and artistic excellence that it is sure to draw the attention of people from near and far."

Edinburgh concert hall launches new public wing

By **Pete Hayman**

An Edinburgh concert venue has unveiled its new public wing, following the completion of a major multi-million pound refurbishment of the Grade A-listed building.

The renovation of Usher Hall, which has received funding from a range of public sector organisations, has included the creation of a new café and bar area, an expanded box office area and new hospitality spaces.



Usher Hall's new café facilities

Work on the new wing has formed the second phase of a three-stage scheme, the first of

which was completed in December 2000 to provide a new stage and the installation of removable seating.

Phase two cost around £25m and included the public wing, expanded cloakroom and toilet provision, refurbished dressing rooms and enhanced protection of the venue's acoustics.

A purpose-built education space has also been created as part of stage two, while the third stage is currently ongoing to improve the public realm.

IN BRIEF

Ipswich set for major new arts venue

► A new art gallery and museum could open in Ipswich later this year under plans currently being explored by Ipswich Borough Council and Suffolk New College. The facility would be housed in the college-owned former Art School on Ipswich High Street, which is currently empty and will be used as an educational resource for local schools and students. A fundraising drive is set to get underway, while the council is planning to submit a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Nederlander acquires London theatre stake

► Theatre operator, the Nederlander Organisation, has acquired the remaining share in London's Dominion Theatre after receiving backing from Lloyds TSB Corporate Markets. The US-based company, which runs nine Broadway theatres across the US, has now added the Dominion venue to its existing London portfolio comprising the Aldwych and Adelphi theatres. A team from Lloyds TSB Corporate Markets' technology, media and telecoms team worked with the Nederlander Organisation to provide a funding package that allowed the deal to be completed.

Council drops plans to sell off artwork

► Southampton City Council has performed a u-turn on its plans to sell off two renowned works of art valued at around £5.5m as part of a bid to help raise funds for the city's proposed new Titanic museum. Last year, the council revealed its plans to sell the works but Royston Smith, the council's cabinet member for economic development, told the BBC that the plans had been dropped and had only been considered as a last resort to help fund the Titanic scheme.

Council backs new home for Warwick theatre company

Warwick District Council (WDC) has approved plans for the refurbishment of a Grade II-listed former church in Leamington Spa to provide a new home for the Loft Theatre Company.

The former United Reform Church building on Spencer Street will be extended and revamped as part of the project to create a

new performance centre, which will establish a focal point for the arts and creative industries.

Plans to overhaul the former church will also contribute towards the first phase of WDC's five-year regeneration strategy for the Spencer Yard area, which will result in the mixed-use redevelopment of the riverside area.

IN BRIEF

Former Blantyre quarry set for major overhaul

► A former clay quarry in Blantyre, South Lanarkshire, is set to be transformed into a new £300,000 Urban Fringe park under plans unveiled by South Lanarkshire Council. The 27-hectare (66.7-acre) Redlees Quarry site off Blantyre Farm Road will undergo a renovation in the coming months after plans for phase one were given the green light by the council's planning committee.

Forestry Commission renews advisory bodies

► Nine regional committees, responsible for advising the Forestry Commission on policy throughout England, have been renewed. Each of the committees assist the implementation of forestry and related policies at a regional level, while also offering advice on issues that affect the management of woodland areas on a national basis. Professor John Moverley (West Midlands) and Graham Usher (North East) have been appointed chair of their respective committees for the first time, while many chairs have now entered a second term.

Consultation over Croydon park plans

► Local residents in Croydon, south London, have been given the chance to put forward ideas for improvements at nine parks as part of a consultation. An internet message board was set up by Croydon Council to allow people to have their say throughout February on plans to spend £1.5m on the nine parks that were chosen by the public. The council will now draw up options for each of the parks to be put before residents, who will decide how the money will be spent as part of the Parks To Be Proud Of initiative.

NT's Stackpole estate set for facelift

Heritage and environmental centre set for transformation as part of £3m project

By **Pete Hayman**

Welsh heritage minister Alun Ffred Jones has revealed plans for a £3m transformation of the National Trust's (NT) Stackpole estate in Pembrokeshire, south west Wales.

Four main elements of work comprise efforts to overhaul the 2,000-acre (809.4-hectare) heritage and environmental centre, which has received £1.6m from the European Regional Development Fund.

NT funds will provide the remaining balance for the scheme, which will include improvements to accommodation at the former Home Farm Complex for students, volunteers and adult groups.

The former Stackpole Court and the Brewery Complex will be revamped to enable visitors



The scheme has already received £1.6m of funding from the EU

to see how the estate's landscape was shaped and to see how the infrastructure allowed it to function.

Work will be carried out on the Historic Core and Woodlands to improve access and preserve historic features and buildings, while trees planted during the 1950s will be

removed to allow natural woodland to emerge.

Jones said: "The facilities will be an exemplar of sustainable development in the sensitive environment of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, and provide opportunities that will help people enjoy, learn about, and care for the environment."

Council opposes national park boundary proposals

By **Tom Walker**

Cumbria County Council (CCC) has rejected plans to extend the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks due to fears over a "democratic deficit" in decision-making.

According to the council, issues currently dealt with by elected councillors on a county or district level would be taken by unelected members of a national park authority if plans were allowed to go ahead.

CCC also said the proposals, which would affect the Eden and South Lakeland areas, could increase house prices and would bring about more stringent planning restrictions.

Southern and eastern boundaries of the Lake District, and the northern and western sides of the Yorkshire Dales,



The council opposes plans to extend the Lake District's boundaries

would have extended into Cumbria under proposals put forward by Natural England.

CCC cabinet member for the environment Tim Knowles said: "While we do work closely and constructively with the national park authorities and Natural England, we feel we can't support proposals that will take decisions out of the hands of

democratically elected members and could have a negative impact on some of our local communities.

"Areas that Natural England are proposing become parts of the national parks are already beautiful and unspoiled areas of countryside and this won't change if they aren't incorporated into the national parks."



SPORT AND LEISURE CENTRES MARKET CONSULTATION

Birmingham City Council is currently developing a procurement plan for the management and operation of its sports and leisure centres and invites suitable organisations or individuals to participate in a market consultation process which will allow the Council to investigate the possible options and future development of the service. Through the service the Council strives to raise the quality of life and health of its citizens and to enhance its reputation as one of the UK's leading sporting cities.

The aim of this market consultation will be to help identify the best way to manage and run the service or elements of the service in the future, while maintaining the quality of provision and at the same time make the facilities and services more efficient, effective and economic. It will also be used to shape a future contract and to ensure it provides a procurement package that is attractive to potential bidders.

Suitably established and experienced organisations and individuals are invited to register their interest in taking part in the market consultation exercise by email to procurement_info@birmingham.gov.uk or by fax to 0121 303 7322 by 30 April 2010 quoting reference number S28, stating whether you wish to receive a hardcopy or electronic copy of the information pack and questionnaire.

Completed questionnaires should be returned by 7 May 2010. Applicants may also be invited to discuss their responses.

This is an opportunity to gain an initial understanding of the service and its objectives, and to participate in the market consultation. General information on the Councils Sports and Leisure Service can be viewed at www.leisure.birmingham.gov.uk

For further information please contact:

Sport and Leisure Service - Dave Ellis on 0121 464 6011 or email dave.ellis@birmingham.gov.uk

Process - Stephanie Prutton on 0121 303 0026 or email stephanie.prutton@birmingham.gov.uk

***Please note, this is not a formal request for applications to tender nor does it form part of any tender process.**

TENDER OPPORTUNITY

The London Borough of Sutton (Sutton Council) is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and innovative organisations for the management, generation and collection of income and providing a balanced programme of activities of their four Leisure Centres (Westcroft, Cheam, Phoenix and Sutton Arena).

The Contract shall be for a maximum period of fifteen years commencing 1st January 2011.

Sutton Council currently contracts with a diverse group of voluntary, statutory and private sector providers and encourages a range of organisations to apply for this provision.

A pre-qualification questionnaire will be sent to you on receipt of your expression of interest which the Council shall evaluate to identify the shortlisted suppliers to be invited to tender.

Please email sarah.groom@sutton.gov.uk to express your interest and request a pre-qualification questionnaire.

It is the opinion of the London Borough of Sutton that TUPE shall apply to this Contract.

The Council shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender. The award of contract shall be based on the most economically advantageous tender submitted.

Deadline for expressions of interest and submission of a completed pre-qualification questionnaire is 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 28th April 2010.



LPF: The London Eye and Merlin

10 years of the London Eye and the influence of Merlin on the London attraction market and the Olympics.



An early evening LPF seminar, tour and demonstration to be held at:

The Theatre in the SEA LIFE London Aquarium, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7PB **on Tuesday 20th April 2010**

**RESTRICTED
NUMBERS**
BOOK EARLY TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT

CONTENT:

An early evening seminar which includes a tour of the SEA LIFE London Aquarium, a 4D show of the London Eye and a flight on the London Eye with wine and canapés.

The seminar itself will cover a history of the London Eye and an analysis of its financials, its performance and the related property issues of the attraction. There'll be a review of the London market - what is working and what is not and how Merlin are keeping Tussauds, The London Dungeon and its other attractions fresh and relevant for tomorrow's visitors. The seminar will conclude with an assessment of what are the real opportunities for Visitor Attractions during the 2012 Olympics.

SPEAKERS:

David Sharpe, Director for London Midway Attractions, Merlin Entertainments

David is arguably the most experienced operator of visitor attractions in London. After 25 years in the hotel industry he joined The London Eye Group at its inception, being brought in by BA to head operations prior to opening in 1999.

He is preparing for the Eye's 10th anniversary and is also responsible for Madame Tussauds, The London Dungeon and The SEA LIFE London Aquarium. He has visited several cities throughout the world advising them how to replicate the Eye and will talk about his experiences of this as well as his recent dealings in Vancouver with companies who wish to exploit the Eye for sponsorship and promotional opportunities in 2012.

PROGRAMME

6.00pm	Seminar registration and tour of the London Aquarium
6.30pm	Seminar introductions
6.40pm	Speaker presentation
7.20pm	Q&As
7.45pm	Drinks and canapés on the London Eye
8.30pm	Close
Host:	Merlin Entertainments
Venue:	The Theatre, London Aquarium, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7PB
Fee:	£45.00 + VAT LPF members £55.00 + VAT member guests £90.00 + VAT non members

The LPF takes no responsibility for the statements made by, or the opinions or views expressed by speakers or any other person at this event.

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leisure property news

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IN BRIEF

Southall regeneration a step closer

► A mixed-use scheme designed to help regenerate Southall town centre in west London has been given the green light by London mayor Boris Johnson. Plans, which were approved at a public hearing at City Hall, will see the Southall Gas Works site revamped and will include new recreational facilities, a hotel and a cinema. A town square, improved access to the Grand Union Canal, retail units and up to 3,750 homes also form part of the scheme.

North Kensington set for new leisure centre

► The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has started a search to find a location for the development of a leisure centre in North Kensington, London. Cabinet members met to discuss the proposals on 25 March, which aims to progress plans for a secondary school and a leisure facility, which would replace an existing complex. One of the proposals being considered is delivering the Kensington Academy on sports pitches and a car park at the council-owned existing leisure centre.

New PPS5 for the historic environment

► English Heritage (EH) has welcomed the new Planning Policy Statement for the historic environment (PPS5) launched by the government. The Statement on the Historic Environment was launched at the same time and provides the context for PPS5 and sets out how heritage contributes to a wide range of government objectives. EH believes that PPS5 brings a new, integrated approach to the historic environment.

Green light for Leeds Arena proposals

Construction work on new £18m development set to start by the end of the year

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the development of a new £80m entertainment venue in Leeds, South Yorkshire, have been conditionally approved by the local authority.

Leeds City Council's (LCC) plans panel has approved the proposed 13,500-capacity Leeds Arena, which will be sited on Claypit Lane and operated by SMG Europe.

'Super theatre' plans for the new venue will ensure that the furthest seat will be no more than 68m (223ft) from the centre of the stage - compared with 90-95m (295-312ft) at most conventional arenas.

LCC leader Andrew Carter said: "Being granted outline planning permission provides the council with a strong platform to finalise the design.



The furthest seat will be no more than 68m away from the stage

"We will soon be in a position to announce the preferred contractor to build the arena and are now well on target for construction to start by the end of the year."

Regional development agency Yorkshire Forward has agreed to commit £10m towards the scheme, which has

encountered opposition from neighbouring city Sheffield.

Sheffield International Venues, which is responsible for operating the Sheffield Arena, has expressed concerns that the new Leeds development could threaten the long-term viability of its neighbouring counterpart.

£10.3m funding for Aberystwyth

By **Pete Hayman**

Efforts to regenerate Aberystwyth over the next three years have been handed a £10.3m funding boost from the Welsh Assembly Government.

The town will receive £1.5m for the first year of a scheme to transform the town, which has been designated as a Strategic Regeneration Area.

Five main issues will be targeted as part of a fully-integrated plan led by the Welsh Assembly Government and Ceredigion County Council, including the seafront.

Welsh deputy minister for housing and regeneration



The town will be transformed

Jocelyn Davies said: "The programme will work to complement and add value to existing and planned activities which already contribute towards the regeneration of Aberystwyth and make the town a better place."

RGU set for campus revamp

Robert Gordon University (RGU) in Aberdeen has been given the green light to move forward with the redevelopment of its Garthdee campus.

Planners at Aberdeen City Council approved a masterplan for the work, which aims to provide the university with a new central point of arrival.

New buildings, which will offer 34,000sq m (365,973sq ft) of floor space, will be linked to the existing Faculty of Health and Social Care next to RGU: SPORT.

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IN BRIEF

Morrisons signs up to England 2018 bid

► More than 2 million shoppers' signatures are to be gathered by Morrisons after the supermarket was named as a partner of England's bid to host the 2018 World Cup. The new campaign aims to demonstrate the strength of public enthusiasm for England to be awarded the right to host the tournament, which will be decided by FIFA in December. Morrisons, which attracts more than 10 million shoppers each week, is set to call on people to show their support for the bid from 8 March.

Oldham AFC unveils synthetic surface

► Oldham Athletic Football Club has reintroduced synthetic grass at its Boundary Park venue – more than 20 years after it first installed a 'plastic' pitch'. Working in partnership with Rapid Turf Synthetic, part of the SGC Group, the 3G artificial surface has been installed to create new running areas for assistant referees along the side of the pitch. In addition to reducing maintenance costs at the venue, the surface will also create advertising opportunities.

English clubs dominate revenue league table

► Real Madrid has become the first sports team across the world to generate €400m (£363m) in revenue, according to research by business advisory firm Deloitte. The Football Money League has revealed that fellow Spanish club Barcelona has ousted Manchester United as the second biggest club in the world as a result of its on-field success. However, English clubs continue to dominate the list of the top 20 revenue-generating clubs, with Arsenal (5th) Chelsea (6th) and Liverpool (7th) also included in the Top 10.

npower secures Football League deal

Energy provider nets competition naming rights as part of three-year agreement

By **Pete Hayman**

Energy provider npower and the Football League have confirmed that a major new three-year sponsorship deal has been agreed, which will start from the 2010-11 season.

The power supplier will receive naming rights to the Football League's three competitions – the Championship, League One and League Two – as part of the deal.

Each of the 72 member clubs will also receive a grant from the npower Charity Fund towards a community initiative in the local area, while fans will be rewarded for switching their gas/electricity provider.

Football League chair Lord Mawhinney said: "npower's support is a huge boost to our



The Football League's three competitions are set to be rebranded

member clubs and represents the enhanced reputation of the Football League within the commercial marketplace.

"Like us, npower recognise the extraordinary attachment that Football League clubs have with people living in their local communities. This agreement

will provide real benefit to those people."

RWE npower chief executive officer Volker Beckers added: "We are committing a substantial amount to assist initiatives at the 72 clubs through a Charity Fund administered by npower and the Football League."

Racecourses to offer freebies

A number of racecourses across the UK are set to offer free admission to horse racing fixtures between 26 April and 1 May as part of a wider initiative to attract more people to the sport.

Part of the Racing for Change initiative, which was created by Racing Enterprises, the free entry scheme will target those who either infrequently or never visit racecourses.

Eight venues will be taking part in the scheme, starting with Wolverhampton and Towcester on 26 April; Sedgefield (27 April); Ascot and Kempton Park (28 April); Huntingdon (29 April); Doncaster (30 April) and Goodwood (1 May).

New brand identity for Glasgow

By **Pete Hayman**

A new brand identity for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games has been unveiled in a bid to generate increased revenue through sponsorship.

Launched at the city's Clyde Auditorium, which is scheduled to host weightlifting events during the Games, the brand has been created in accordance with terms of the Host City contract.

John Scott, Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2014 Organising Committee chief executive, said: "We now need to raise the revenue required to help stage a successful Games through selling the rights to the brand identity as sponsorship.

"I am confident that its distinct style, its inherent



It is hoped the new brand will help drive up sponsorship revenue

element of fun and flexibility – for both on and off line environments – will attract organisations wishing to be associated with the Commonwealth Games 2014 to become our sponsors."

The Games will take place between 23 July and 3 August. Details: glasgow2014.com



Having a skilled workforce will be increasingly important for the UK

Skills 'key to economic recovery'

Report calls for sustained investment in training

By Tom Walker

Investment in skills within the leisure industry is crucial if the sector is to emerge from the recession as fit for purpose, according to a report commissioned by the government.

The results of the first National Strategic Skills Audit, released by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, warns that if the economic recovery is to continue it is important that future skills development needs are correctly identified and prioritised.

If investment is not achieved, the UK economy runs the risk of increased skills shortages and under-employment.

The report reveals that the UK's growth in highly skilled jobs is already one of the lowest in the 30 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Also identified in the report is the number of people reported as 'not fully proficient' at their jobs. The figure has increased by 400,000 in the past five years – from 1.3m in 2005 to 1.7m in 2009.

TAG initiative reaches landmark

A group of young unemployed people have completed their Level 2 fitness qualification through the Transforming a Generation (TAG) charity.

The most recent patch of graduates means that TAG has reached the milestone of having 100 young people on its programme. Supported by a number of operators – including LA Fitness, Fitness First, Greenwich Leisure and

DC Leisure – TAG aims to create more than 1,000 new jobs across the country by the end of this year.

TAG aims to help young people to break what it calls the "lack-of-experience-so-can't-get-a-job-so-can't-get-experience" cycle by offering the chance to obtain a Level 2 Health and Fitness Instructor qualification, as well as receiving a four-month paid work placement.

Growth in the sector will aid economic recovery

It is crucial that we keep promoting the sector and be seen as a priority sector

The first national strategic skills audit, commissioned by the government, was released in March and focused on economic recovery and growth only being fully realised if there is continued investment in skills – something I have been talking about for a while now. The headline message seemed to be that investment in the right skills is key to economic recovery.

Since the recession began in 2008, employment in key occupations within sport and fitness has grown despite the economic slowdown. In fact, significantly, our sector has continued to see consumer spending in physical activity and health hold firm, which I would attribute to a greater public acceptance of the importance of health and well-being. Therefore, it is more imperative than ever to ensure that the professionals offering such services are fully competent and qualified.

Specifically, since the recession began, there has been a major increase in sport coaches, instructors and officials working in the sector. In fact, there has been a 41.1 per cent increase – that's 21,000 new jobs; more than any other occupation. This isn't a great surprise for me as we have always been a sector that has made an impact – this report gives that recognition. The growth just doesn't start and stop with sport coaches, instructors and officials – through the DWP Future Jobs Fund initiative, we have created a further 2,500 jobs at a community level working with key employers including TAG, Street Games, the Amateur Swimming Association, and the DKH Legacy Trust. This initiative is being delivered through our National Skills Academy, and I am delighted by our successful bid in phase two of the initiative, which will create a further 2,500 jobs.

There are challenging times ahead; public sector cuts will affect the sector. Funding is being focused on new industries such as low carbon economy and digital Britain. Therefore it is crucial that we keep promoting the sector; to be seen as a priority sector and not get squeezed out. That said we are working closely with sector employers on a number of initiatives, including 5,000 new apprentice places for this year, distributing £1.9m of funding that was brokered for wage subsidy for 1,400 apprentices through the Apprenticeship Expansion Programme.

So the message is clear: we are a growth sector. Active Leisure, Learning and Well-being is at the heart of society – education, economy, health and community – and it will not fulfil its potential in aiding economic recovery and improving the quality of life in the UK if its skills needs are not addressed.



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

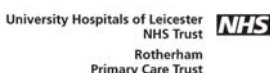
The BLF bursary, funded by Air Products, is available to exercise professionals who meet the following entry requirements:

- Level 3 or 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
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Location: London focussed

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sporta's mission is to be the voice for cultural and leisure trusts and social enterprises and raise awareness of their existence by representing members, promoting their work nationally and facilitating communication and best practice.

sporta is currently seeking a Chief Executive to lead the organisation and support the executive board to fulfil its governance function and implement sporta's strategic goals and objectives.

The role will include:

- Providing leadership, direction and administrative support to the executive board
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- Setting and managing annual budgets and resources.
- Identifying and securing new sponsors and funding sources

The successful candidate will be of graduate calibre and have a minimum of 5 years senior management experience and a background in the leisure and/or culture sector is not essential. You will be IT literate and have excellent communication, presentation and leadership skills along with a structured approach, solid time management and the ability to lead from the front. This role requires high levels of self motivation and the ability to deliver innovative business development plans.

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Location: Hertfordshire

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Location: Hertfordshire

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As to the role itself, it's a big job with some big challenges. Edinburgh Leisure is one of the UK's leading leisure trusts, with a turnover in excess of £25million and 700 employees delivering a great customer service 4.1 million times a year. Although a not for profit organisation, we've achieved double digit revenue growth every year for over a decade. Alongside the challenges lie some fantastic opportunities: working with a great culture and great people, the prospect of continuous vigorous growth and circa £70m of infrastructure investment in the next 5 years. Oh, and one further challenge from the incumbent: can you take it on to the next level?

For more information about us, visit www.edinburghleisure.co.uk
To apply, visit www.edinburghleisurejobs.co.uk or call 0131 548 2168. Closing date: Friday, 16 April 2010.

Edinburgh Leisure

Managing leisure and recreation facilities for the City of Edinburgh Council



Working for you

North Yorkshire Sport 

In partnership with Harrogate Borough Council
Department of Community Services

Coaching Development Manager

Grade: 7 Salary: £22,221 - £23,708 • Post No: LL88
Hours: 37 per week

Fixed term contract to 31 March 2011 (may be extended subject to continued Sport England funding)

Working within a small team you will manage the development of the local coaching support network within North Yorkshire.

You will focus on designing, implementing and co-ordinating a coaching strategy that will support coaches, increase participation and improve the quality of sport and physical activity in North Yorkshire.

You will be working closely with Sports Coach UK, National Governing Bodies for Sport and the eight Community Sport Networks within North Yorkshire, therefore a sound knowledge of Partnership working and the issues faced by rural activity deliverers would be an advantage.

As the postholder will have access to children they will need a Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau, the Council will issue the application form and pay the fee.

To apply, please visit www.harrogate.gov.uk/jobs

Alternatively, call the DCS vacancy line on 01423 556903.

Closing date for applications: 25 April 2010

Interviews: w/c 17 May 2010



Physical Activity Coordinator - Walking

£22,221 - £23,708 pa Ref: 26843

John Dryden House, Northampton

Fixed term until 31 March 2013

You will be promoting and increasing levels of physical activity amongst low and non-participant adults across Northamptonshire. The role involves direct delivery and partnership working with voluntary and statutory agencies, with a key focus on developing the Walking for Health Initiative. This post is subject to enhanced CRB clearance.

For an informal discussion, please contact Jackie Browne on 01604 236455.

Closing date: 12 noon, 23 April 2010.

For additional information about this role and to apply online or download an application pack, please go to www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/jobs

If you require an information pack in an alternative format, please contact 01604 237666.



Northamptonshire



Northamptonshire
County Council

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**Football
Foundation**



MANCHESTER FA LIMITED

Social Inclusion Coordinator

Salary £22,500 to £26,000

Contract Fixed Term Post until 31st October 2012

Manchester Football Association is seeking to recruit a Social Inclusion Coordinator for football to continue to implement a strategic community development programme that will use football as a tool to build a better future.

This project has three main aims:

1. To coordinate and support existing projects in Greater Manchester with a Social Inclusion theme
2. To identify gaps in provision and provide opportunities by targeting deprived and hard to reach communities that sit outside of existing Social Inclusion projects
3. To ensure a sustainable post exists for Social Inclusion beyond October 2012.

Specific areas of work will include:

- Developing competitions for under-represented groups.
- Helping administer and deliver tournaments on a regular basis, involving social inclusion projects and other partners working in deprived communities.
- Helping to develop exit routes and further partnerships (SSP's, local authority)
- Club Development and Workforce Development
- Race Equality & Social Inclusion

To apply you need to be of graduate calibre and have significant experience in sports development working with challenging young people and adults within community settings. You need to be passionate about and committed to the development of football at a local level and ideally have a knowledge of The FA's National Game Strategy.

Based at Manchester FA's headquarters at the Salford Sports Village, candidates should have excellent interpersonal, presentation, administrative, communication and computer literacy skills and have the ability to influence at all levels, establish partnerships and manage finances associated with projects. You need to have a current full driving licence and be able to work evenings and weekends.

For an informal discussion about the role please phone 0161 604 7625 and ask for Natalie Woodford

Applications must be made by CV addressed to Natalie Woodford (County Development Manager), Manchester FA, Salford Sports Village, Littleton Road, Salford, M7 3NQ.

For a job description please phone 0161 604 7620 (press option 2) or email info@manchesterfa.com

Alternatively a job description can be downloaded from www.manchesterfa.com

The closing date for CV applications is: Friday 23rd April 2010 at 12 noon. You must be available for Interviews on either: Tuesday 4th May and or Friday 7th May 2010.

Manchester FA is committed to equality of opportunity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

Sport Development Advisor

£31,500 - £34,500 Loughborough



The English Federation of Disability Sport's mission is to increase and sustain the participation of disabled people in grass roots, mainstream and elite sport. It does this by working with Sport England, National Governing Bodies of Sport and other partners, and with the 2012 Paralympics and Olympics around the corner what better time to be getting people passionate about sport.

The organisation is relocating to Sportpark at Loughborough University and is in the process of recruiting a new management team to lead the EFDS and deliver the Board's vision.

This role, within the partnership team, is core to the success of the organisation; working closely with National Governing Bodies of Sport building really effective partnerships and delivering high quality customer focused advice, support and consultancy that helps them to increase the range and scope of opportunities for disabled people.

Candidates will have an outstanding track record in sports development, understand the way sport operates at a national, regional and local level, and have experience of creating effective partnerships and an understanding of the current issues in the promotion and development of sport for disabled people.

For further information on this role and for details on how to apply please visit our advisors website, www.attenti.co.uk/efds or contact our consultants, Neville Wilkinson on 020 7422 0621 or Jen Knight on 020 7422 0623. Closing date for applications Tuesday 27th April 2010.



Centre Manager

mountbatten
watersports & activities centre

Mount Batten Centre, 70 Lawrence Road, Plymstock,
Plymouth Devon PL9 9S Tel: 01752 404567

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a Centre Manager to oversee our business by managing and developing the following core businesses:

- * Water Sports and Activities, including educational programmes
 - * Accommodation 23 rooms with 43 beds, with conferencing facilities
 - * Hiring out space for car and boat parking, pontoon access, hire of unit spaces to residential clubs
- Duties will entail working collaboratively with partners' agencies in developing and monitoring the centre's activities.

Educated to degree level in a Management discipline, with relevant work experience, you will have an in depth knowledge of a range of leisure and local businesses.

A friendly, enthusiastic and self-motivated individual, you will have leadership skills allied to experience of budget management, ability to deal with the public and use Microsoft Office packages.

You will also have the ability to achieve objectives, demonstrate initiative and make decisions as well as liaise with a range of national agencies in order to develop the hospitality and sports provision. You will possess excellent communication and problem solving skills and have the ability to work flexibly to meet the needs of the Centre.

Our contact details for further information are:
Email: enq@mount-batten-centre.com
www.mountain-batten-centre.com

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These are exciting opportunities to join one of the UK's largest and most successful providers of Health, Leisure and Community Services. Operating in excess of 80 leisure facilities nationwide, we are now looking to recruit Managers to ensure we continually develop and maintain high quality customer services, whilst enhancing customer participation and enjoyment:

CENTRE MANAGERS

Wycombe Sports Centre, Buckinghamshire Salary: £28000 - £31,000

The facility sits in the scenic countryside of the Thames Valley and Chilterns, an area of outstanding natural beauty, which provides excellent access to the M40. Wycombe Sports Centre is the largest of the three facilities within this busy contract, which is run in partnership with Wycombe District council.

The successful candidates will take overall responsibility for the effective management and operation of their centre, particularly ensuring that high standards of service and customer delivery are set and maintained. This position will allow you to develop your skills and reputation whilst enhancing safe and enjoyable usage of the facilities and increasing profitability, this will include responsibility for the your own financial forecasts and budgets.

We believe it is essential that you possess excellent communication and client liaison skills. You will be allowed the freedom to manage and develop your staff effectively to meet the customer and operational requirements. We want you to have your own developed, dynamic and responsive team that you can be proud of. It goes without saying that flexibility and a customer service approach is a necessity. It is probable that you will hold a degree or equivalent qualification. These sites have wet and dryside facilities and therefore relevant technical knowledge and ability would be required.

If you believe you have the knowledge and competencies required for this position, please apply on-line now at www.leisurecentre.com
Alternatively send a letter of application and full CV to: Sarah Moseley, Human Resources Administrator, Little Bowbrook, Walton Road, Hartlebury, Worcestershire, DY10 4JA. E-mail: recruit@parkwood-leisure.co.uk

Applications by: 23rd April 2010

All positions require a CRB disclosure. Parkwood Leisure is an equal opportunities employer

sport & leisure



DUTY MANAGER

£18,942 to £20,589 plus benefits
37 hours per week

Tonbridge Swimming Pool, rated excellent under QUEST, is a unique pools facility situated in the heart of Kent, committed to developing a quality team through training and development.

We are looking for a dynamic and customer-focused Duty Manager to join the management team of this busy facility. You will be responsible for the day to day management and act as a key-holder working a mixture of early, late and weekend shifts.

Reporting to the General Manager, the Duty Manager is a key player within the team driving continuous improvement in the management and operation of the Centre. The key focus for the successful candidate will be the delivery of a high standard of service to the customer. You should be quality driven, have sound operational and people skills, be flexible and prepared to deliver results.

This challenging role demands excellent communication skills and an ability to lead and motivate a team. You should have previous supervisory experience, preferably within a leisure environment.

For an application pack please contact 01732 876011 or email personnel.services@tmhc.gov.uk. For an informal discussion please contact Martin Guyton, Leisure Contracts Manager on 01732 876150

Closing date for applications: 23 April 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 Record Bureau.

www.tonbridgepool.co.uk



Duty Officer

22-24hpw, shift rota basis including some weekends.
Salary £14,519-£15,003 pa, pro rata.

Responsible for the day to day safe running of the centre, managing a team of Leisure Assistants.

Closing Date: Friday 16 April 2010

To apply please email a cover letter and your CV to Chris O'Neill, at email coneill@tandridgeleisure.co.uk.
Recruitment subject to satisfactory enhanced CRB check.

Sports Co-ordinator/Officer

16hpw. Salary circa £15,000 pa pro rata.

We are looking for an individual to join our cultural development team who can take the lead in developing our sports-based programmes and become an advocate and initiator for sports opportunities throughout the Tandridge district.

We are looking for a highly motivated person with a genuine passion for sport and developing sports opportunities for children and young people. You should be able to demonstrate good organisation and co-ordination skills and be an excellent communicator. Candidates with experience of coaching and sports co-ordination are desirable but this post may be ideal for a graduate or someone looking to start a career in sports development.

Tandridge Leisure hosts a coaching programme of sports courses for children and young people and regularly organises special partnership events such as badminton tournaments, swimathons, youth triathlon and organising the Tandridge team for the Surrey Youth Games.

Closing date: Monday 26 April 2010, interviews 6,7 May.
To apply please email a cover letter and your CV to Karen Hurrell, at khurrell@tandridgeleisure.co.uk.

www.tandridgeleisure.co.uk



www.wiltshire.gov.uk/jobsandcareers

Wiltshire Council

Where everybody matters

Duty Manager

Tidworth • £19,621 - £21,519 pa

Tidworth Leisure Centre are looking for a dynamic motivated individual to join their existing Duty Manager Management team. The ideal candidate will preferably have previous experience within both a Wet and Dry Leisure Centre and be able to demonstrate previous management experience.

You will assist the Centre Manager in the day to day operation and function of the centre and have specific responsibility for the management and delivery of the swimming lesson programme and associated activities.

The post requires you to work on a shift rota basis that includes Early Mornings, Evenings and Weekends therefore a flexible attitude to working hours is essential. Ref: TEL10/44

For an informal discussion about the post please contact Mr Graeme Scott, Centre Manager on 01980 847140.

If successful, you'll be required to apply for a Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

Our preferred method of application is online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/jobsandcareers

If this is not possible application packs can be obtained by contacting the Recruitment Team, Human Resources, Wiltshire Council, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JN. Tel: 01225 713295 (24 hour answerphone) quoting the reference.

Closing date: 23 April 2010.

Committed to equality of opportunity.
All applicants will be selected on their merits.

We promote flexible working patterns and will consider job sharing.



WALTHAM FOREST ACTIVATOR

Two Year Fixed Term Contract £21,000-£23,000

Do you want to help residents, sports and community groups in the Olympic Host Borough of Waltham Forest make the most of London 2012?

Leyton Orient Community Sports Programme and London Community Sports Network in partnership with the London Borough of Waltham Forest are looking for a person that will help increase the numbers wanting to get fit, take part in physical activity and sport by capacity building and developing community sports groups and clubs so that they can attract, sustain and retain residents and contribute to the legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games.

You will need to be dynamic and enthusiastic with at least three years community development and capacity building experience. You will also need to have an excellent understanding of voluntary sector issues and knowledge of sports-based interventions.

If you are interested please request an application pack from Jusnara Begum email jusnara.begum@locsp.org or call 020 8556 5973. Application Deadline: Friday 23rd April 2010 at 5pm



CLUB GINGER
HEALTH & FITNESS

CLUB GINGER is seeking to increase membership of its 1/4 of a million pound state of the art health and fitness centre and we are looking for an enthusiastic person to focus on sales & marketing.

We currently have around 200 members and aim to drive the club past 500 members by Q4 2010

The **sales & marketing executive** will develop and execute plans and promotions, building strong corporate relationships and selling on a face to face basis to ensure that club Ginger maximises its potential.

The position is on a part time basis.

CLUB GINGER HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTRE
1 The Archway, Newerene Street, Lydney, Glos GL15 5RF
01594 841315 andypersonaltrainer@msn.com

IPSWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Duty Officer £20,300 - £23,098 pa

Team Ipswich - Sports Services

You will be based at one of the Council's award winning Sports or Swimming Centres. Working on a three week shift rota, including evenings and weekends, you will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the facility whilst having specific responsibility for one or more of the key management functions. You must possess initiative, effective communication skills and a leisure related management / supervisory qualification. Experience of working in a similar environment would be a distinct advantage. This post is subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure.

An application pack can be downloaded by following the link to jobs@ibc from www.ipswich.gov.uk or by contacting Human Resources, Ipswich Borough Council, Grafton House, 15-17 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2DE. Tel: (01473) 432766. Email: recruitment@ipswich.gov.uk
Closing date: 27 April 2010. Interview date: 11 May 2010.

♦ The Council is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and welcomes applicants from all sections of the community. ♦ www.ipswich.gov.uk/vacancies



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for more details on the following jobs

Aquazone Coordinator

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Salary: 02L2 - 02L5 £13,624 - £16,016 p/a
Location: Cardiff, United Kingdom
Closing date: 09 Apr 2010

Male / Female Soccer Coaches

Company: Atlantic Soccer Factory
Location: United States

Female Fitness Consultant

Company: University of Liverpool
Salary: £15,719 - £18,117 pa
Location: Liverpool, United Kingdom
Closing date: 16 Apr 2010

Work with Underprivileged Children

Company: Camp America
Location: United States

Windsurfing Instructors

Company: Camp America
Location: United States

Rifle Instructors

Company: Camp America
Location: United States

Fitness Training and Maintenance Manager

Company: Urban Kings - The Art of Fighting
Salary: competitive
Location: London, United Kingdom

Visiting Teacher in Sport and Fitness

Company: South Thames College
Salary: £27.75 per Hour
Location: Wandsworth / Merton, United Kingdom
Closing date: 13 Apr 2010

Duty Manager

Company: Loughborough University
Salary: Grade 4 - £18,117-£21,565 per annum
Location: Loughborough, United Kingdom
Closing date: 14 Apr 2010

Casual Swimming Instructors

Company: Haileybury Sports Complex
Location: Hertford, United Kingdom

Membership Sales Consultants

Company: Fitness Industry Association (FIA)
Salary: £19k basic £27k ote
Location: London, United Kingdom



**UPDATED
DAILY**

Elite Sports Distance Learning Tutor

Company: Loughborough College
Salary: £22,901 - £27,891 p.a.
Location: Loughborough, United Kingdom
Closing date: 21 Apr 2010

Activity Manager

Company: Embassy CES
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom

Performance and Monitoring Officer

Company: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Salary: £29,601 - £31,761 (Scale PO1)
Location: Richmond, United Kingdom
Closing date: 21 Apr 2010

Fitness Instructors

Company: Strong Vibes
Salary: £10 - £12 depending on experience
Location: Windsor, United Kingdom

Waltham Forest Activator

Company: Leyton Orient Community Sports Programme
Salary: £21,000-£23,000
Location: London, United Kingdom
Closing date: 23 Apr 2010

Spa Manager

Company: Bioline Egypt
Salary: Full Package
Location: Sharm El Sheik, Egypt

Spa Director

Company: Fairmont - Cairo
Location: Cairo, Egypt

General Manager - North Lakes

Company: National Trust
Salary: £45,000 p.a.
Location: Cumbria, United Kingdom
Closing date: 18 Apr 2010

news & jobs at www.leisureopportunities.co.uk

Approval for new £5.7m Hampshire activity centre

HCC leader set to determine fate of Runways End outdoor adventure facility plans after council panel backing

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for a new £5.7m activity and adventure centre near Farnborough and Aldershot, Hampshire, have received the green light from councillors.

The scheme will now go before Hampshire County Council (HCC) leader Ken Thornber on 14 April after receiving the backing of the council's buildings, land and procurement panel.

Runways End Youth Activity Centre will provide day and residential outdoor activities for

schools, young people and adults from across the county, as well as further afield.

The centre – set to open in summer 2011 – will include an 8-acre (3.2-hectare) woodland adjacent to the Basingstoke Canal, a climbing and abseiling tower, high and low ropes courses, a caving system and an indoor multi-activity hall.

Plans also include an indoor bouldering facility for climbing, a BMX track, accommodation for up to 50 people and an amenities block for a large camping zone.



The outdoor facility is set to be able to cater for up to 50 people

RCP calls for smoking ban to cover all public parks

By **Tom Walker**

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) is calling for the UK smoking ban to be extended to cover public parks, play areas and outdoor swimming pools.

The institution wants the ban extended to protect children from being exposed to passive smoke, which it said is a 'major hazard' for young people.

According to RCP, more than 160,000 children each year



The ban could be expanded

suffer from medical conditions linked to passive smoking, costing the NHS an estimated £23.3m each year.

The RCP's report was welcomed by the chief medical officer for England, professor Sir Liam Donaldson.

He said: "Secondhand smoke is a serious public health concern which I highlighted in my 2002 Annual Report.

"This report by RCP aligns very well with the government's ten year vision for tobacco control set out in its new strategy for England, A Smokefree Future."

Council launches centre search

Plans for a new leisure centre and swimming pool in West Bromwich have moved forward after the local authority launched its search for a development site.

Local residents objected to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council's initial plans to build the complex on the Jesson playing fields in Carters Green.

CONTACTS BOOK

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