

£36m sports complex opens at University of Surrey

By **Pete Hayman**

A new multi-million pound sports facility – Surrey Sports Park – has opened its doors to the public at the University of Surrey, Guildford, after nearly two years in development.

Facilities include an eight-lane, 50m swimming pool – the first of its kind in the county, which boasts a moveable boom to create two smaller 25m pools and a moveable floor.

A 700sq m (7,535sq ft) health and fitness centre, equipped with 120 stations of Life Fitness machines and free weights; three multi-purpose sports halls; six squash courts and a climbing wall are also on



The new Surrey Sports Park was built by Wilmott Dixon Group

offer, as well as three exercise/dance studios.

Outdoor facilities comprise three artificial turf pitches; ten football/rugby pitches; two-small sided sports pitches;

two cricket squares and eight floodlit tennis courts, as well as a two-lane, 60m sprint track.

Surrey Sports Park will be available to students and the local community, while also

providing a training base for a elite sports clubs – including Harlequins rugby team and Surrey Storm netball team.

Jason Harborow, chief executive of Surrey Sports Park, said: "The sports park isn't just about top class athletes however; this is a facility for the entire local community.

"We have expanded on what was already a broad programme of dance and exercise classes that we ran in the original university facilities and are confident that the programmes will achieve even greater interest."

For more on the new Surrey Sports Park, see *Sports Management* Q1 2010, p. 29

MCC launches developer search for Lord's facelift

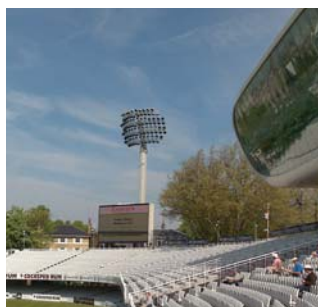
Cushman and Wakefield appointed to secure company for major redevelopment

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for a major revamp of Lord's cricket ground in London have moved forward after Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) launched its search for a development partner.

The club has appointed London-based property adviser Cushman and Wakefield to lead the search for a company that can deliver its Vision for Lord's at the St John's Wood venue.

MCC proposals for the 16-acre (6.5-hectare) site, which have been drawn up by



The MCC aims to secure Lord's status as the 'home of cricket'

architects Herzog and de Meuron, will see the seating capacity increase from 28,500 to around 37,000.

A cricket academy; a Lord's museum and library; shops and space for exhibitions are also planned, along with an increase in playing area at the Nursery End to allow competitive games to take place and a residential development.

Subject to receiving planning permission, it is hoped that construction work can start on site after Lord's is used to stage archery events at the 2012 Olympics. Meanwhile, Cushman and Wakefield is due to draw up a shortlist of prospective partners this summer.

Fort William scheme pulled

Fort William Waterfront (FWW) – the company behind plans to transform the Scottish town's waterfront – has withdrawn from the £80m project as a result of the economic downturn.

FWW was selected by Highland Council to lead the mixed-use project in October 2007, but has now advised that it cannot proceed as it had not been able to secure the necessary funding to progress the development.

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Bristol leisure complex plans progress

Local council confirms funding now in place for £27m Hengrove PFI development

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for a new £27m leisure centre in Bristol have taken a step forward after the local authority confirmed that funding was now in place for the scheme.

Bristol City Council (BCC) and Bristol Active Limited (BAL) now expect to start work on Hengrove Leisure Centre this summer – delivered through a private finance initiative (PFI).

Facilities are set to include a ten-lane, 50m swimming pool with adjustable floor; a learner pool with adjustable floor and a 150-station fitness suite with free weights area.

A spa area – featuring a hot tub, a sauna and steamroom; a four-court sports hall; an aerobics studio; changing facilities; a crèche and a café



The centre will boast a 50m swimming pool and 150-station gym

are also earmarked as part of the Hengrove development.

Parkwood Leisure will run the facility on behalf of BAL as part of a 25-year agreement, while Kier Western has been appointed to deliver the LA Architects-designed centre.

A BCC spokesperson said: "The announcement means that

another key milestone to deliver the city's and region's most exciting and prestigious new swimming pool and leisure complex has been reached."

Initial works to provide road access and utilities for the complex – due for completion in February 2012 – have already been carried out.

Administrator reveals Portsmouth's £119m debt

By **Pete Hayman**

Portsmouth Football Club's (PFC) administrator has revealed that the troubled Premier League club currently owes nearly £120m – far more than was previously thought.

PFC, which has been relegated to the Coca-Cola Championship, entered administration in February with estimated debts of £70m and facing the prospect of being wound up due to unpaid tax.

However, Andrew Andronikou of accountants UHY Hacker Young has now laid bare the full extent of the club's problems, with more than £38m owed to previous owners alone.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), which brought the winding-up petition against the

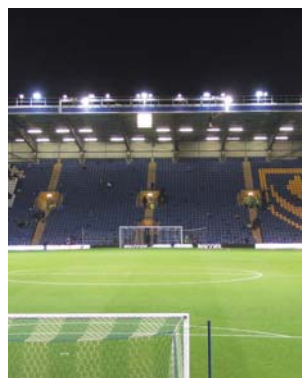


IMAGE: BEN HARDING/FLOCCER

The club's debts are greater that was previously thought

club, is owed £17.1m; a number of agents and scouts are owed nearly £9.8m; and unpaid transfer fees total £17.3m.

Meanwhile, £1.86m is owed to players – some of whom have left PFC; outstanding image right payments amount to £3m, while trade creditors are owed £4.4m.

A letter published by Andronikou also reveals that previous owner Balram Chainrai is owed £14m, while an additional £14m owed by other clubs will go straight to institutions that advanced cash to PFC.

Andronikou aims to lift the club out of administration by June and hopes to secure a Company Voluntary Arrangement; an offer for which will be made at a meeting of creditors on 6 May.

Elsewhere, Southend United Football Club is reported to have fended off a winding up petition after settling an unpaid tax bill with HMRC.

US-based investment group Club 9 Sports is poised to invest in Sheffield Wednesday Football Club (SWFC) after "structuring" a deal with the Coca-Cola Championship club.

Green light for £40m Falkirk hotel plans

New 200-bedroom property to be developed at Glenbervie House Hotel in Scotland

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for a new £40m development at Glenbervie House Hotel near Falkirk, central Scotland, have been approved by the local authority.

The Aurora Hotel Collection has been handed full planning consent for the scheme by officials at Falkirk Council, which aims to generate an additional £15m each year for the local economy.

Plans include the development of a new 200-bedroom hotel; a spa; leisure and recreation facilities and a grand ballroom, which will be capable of accommodating more than 1,000 guests for gala dinners.

The ballroom will also be able to be divided into three smaller suites – each equipped with their own facilities, while a



The local authority has approved the multi-million pound scheme

new auditorium for 600 guests and 16 smaller meeting rooms are also planned.

Facilities at the three-storey Glenbervie Spa will include a 22m (72ft) indoor ozone pool; internal and external roof hydro pools and water facilities; a dry sauna and a wet sauna.

Aurora chief executive Stephen McLeod said: "The entire project will be unlike anything on offer in the Falkirk or Central Scotland area and it will create many local jobs, in addition to attracting people and further investment to the Falkirk area."

Work starts on £5.5m Durlston Castle restoration

By **Pete Hayman**

Dorset-based firm Greendale Construction has started work on a £5.5m scheme to restore a historic Grade II-listed castle near Swanage.

Durlston Castle, situated at the heart of Durlston Country Park and National Nature Reserve, will be returned to full public use as a visitor centre.

The castle – due to reopen in summer 2011 – will provide an eastern gateway to the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, as well as visitor services for the 280-acre (113-hectare) park.



IMAGE: ROY EGGE/STON

The castle will offer an eastern gateway to the Jurassic Coast

Architects Long and Kentish are behind designs for the castle, which will boast exhibitions and displays; a gift shop and catering facilities.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has contributed £3.1m towards the project, along with Dorset County Council (DCC), the South West Regional Development Agency and the Friends of Durlston.

DCC countryside ranger service manager Hamish Murray said: "The newly restored castle will be a great asset to the whole area."

Greendale Construction director Robert Hooker added: "The Durlston Project is an interesting challenge involving both traditional and modern construction processes."

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IN BRIEF

Council launches Bromsgrove leisure poll

► Local residents in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, are being invited to have their say on the future of the town's leisure provision as part of a council consultation exercise. Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) will use comments to help shape the town centre regeneration project, which is being delivered in partnership with Worcestershire County Council. BDC aims to find out what residents think about the town's current leisure services and future needs as part of the consultation, with results due to be published in early summer.

New IOW running groups launched

► A new running network, designed to encourage people of all ages and abilities across the Isle of Wight (IOW) to become more active, has been launched. Forming part of the national Run in England initiative, Isle of Wight Council has unveiled the new scheme after training a total of 23 local runners to act as run leaders. UK Athletics helped the council to train the new leaders, which will help to offer flexible sessions that enable people to run, jog or walk at their own pace in a number of various island locations.

Council to help run Swindon facility

► Swindon Borough Council has confirmed it has agreed to work alongside trustees of the town's Highworth Recreation Centre in a bid to secure its future. Highworth Recreation Trust asked the council to intervene after fears were raised about the facility's finances. Highworth Recreation Centre, which is registered as a charity, is a joint venture between SBC and the Centre Management Committee, in partnership with the trust.

Study reveals static stretching risks

University of Limerick research claims pre-exercise stretches can be detrimental

By **Tom Walker**

Static stretching performed before workouts or sport can be detrimental to performance, and even harmful, according to a new study.

Kieran O'Sullivan, of the University of Limerick, Ireland, told *Leisure Opportunities* that doing static stretching just before performing in a match or before exercising is a bad idea, as it could significantly reduce performance.

"Many people might accept this risk if this was associated with a reduced risk of injury," said O'Sullivan. "But there is actually no evidence that stretching just before exercise reduces the likelihood of injury. Instead, just before exercising we should do a warm-up including some aerobic exercise and some sport-specific drills that mimic the sport or activity we are about to perform."



The study suggests stretching does not reduce the risk of injuries

O'Sullivan went on to say that if static stretching has any benefit, it has been shown to improve flexibility.

"This effect is demonstrated in a number of studies, and is likely to require several weeks of stretching to have a significant effect in the medium-term," he said. "I would compare static stretching to a weight-training programme. An athlete may wish

to improve muscle strength, but nobody would suggest doing a weights session just before a match as it depletes energy reserves, and reduces performance short-term.

"Similarly, if static stretching is being used to improve flexibility this should be practiced at times other than just before exercise e.g. after exercise and as part of an ongoing exercise programme."

Fitness First re-opens first club

Health club operator Fitness First has reopened its first ever club in Bournemouth following a £200,000 refurbishment.

New features include a dedicated spin studio, a large sauna and steam room, monsoon showers, free DVD hire and a bar.

Fitness First managing director John Gamble said: "By making clubs an inviting place to workout, as well as offering a host of other services and benefits to members, we hope people will visit more regularly and see the positive effects to their health."

£13m Rushden scheme deferred

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the new £13m Manor Park Leisure Centre in Rushden, Northamptonshire, have been deferred by East Northamptonshire Council (ENC).

The council's development control committee has ruled that further time is needed to negotiate on the exterior design of the planned complex.

Concerns have also been raised about the travel plan for the scheme, while internal modifications are required to cater for theatrical productions.

Working alongside Rushden Town Council, ENC's plans for the centre feature a six-lane, 25m swimming pool, a learner pool and a fitness suite.



Plans will require alterations following the council's decision

Leisure water facilities; dance and exercise studios; and a six-court sports hall also form part of the FaulknerBrowns Architects-designed proposals.

The proposed venue is set to replace the town's existing Splash Leisure Pool and Pemberton Centre, with ENC contributing up to £11m.

Public display for Donyngs proposals

Redhill leisure centre set to undergo £3.4m refurbishment under RBBC scheme

By **Pete Hayman**

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council (RBBC) are inviting local residents to have their say on detailed proposals for a £3.4m refurbishment of a Redhill leisure centre.

The council and operator Nuffield Health are behind the proposed upgrade of Donyngs Recreation Centre, which will see more than £320,000 spent on new gym equipment alone.

The venue's gym will increase in size by 30 per cent and will be moved to accommodate new equipment, while a children's fitness gym, a physio room and a Health MOT room are also planned.

Other plans include upgrading existing fitness facilities to



The leisure centre is set to benefit from an enlarged fitness suite

provide an extended dance and exercise studio, while the swimming pool is set to be refitted and improved.

A revamped reception area and soft play areas also form part of the scheme, in addition to renovation work to the main

changing rooms and improvements to the building's exterior.

Plans have been put on display in Donyngs Recreation Centre's foyer as part of a two-week consultation process, with feedback to be passed onto the project's design team.

IN BRIEF

£2.7m to be invested in Leeds leisure centres

▶ A £1.9m refurbishment plan of Aireborough Leisure Centre in Guiseley has been submitted to Leeds City Council (LCC). Plans include village-style changing rooms, new changing cubicles, a revamp of the pool hall, a new reception and an enlarged Bodyline gym. LCC's Graham Latty said: "This report should make pleasing reading not only for the people of Guiseley and Rawdon but the whole of North West Leeds."

UEA Sportspark sees increased turnover

▶ Sportspark, the University of East Anglia's (UEA) multi-million pound sports facility, has seen a 12 per cent increase in annual turnover to nearly £3m. According to the *Norwich Evening News*, the 10-year-old facility is planning to develop a gymnastics centre, expand the four-pitch SoccerPark and build an additional 25 metre pool. Mr Nicholls, director of PE and sport, was quoted as saying: "The university and county motto is 'do different', and Sportspark is a prime example of this approach."

Phase one of Farnham scheme nears finish

▶ Waverley Borough Council in Surrey has announced that the first phase of a £5m scheme to transform Farnham Sports Centre is due to be completed in May. Poor weather conditions at the start of the year caused slight delays to the project, but it is now expected that the centre's new 90-station gym, enlarged reception and revamped swimming pools will open in May. The council has also confirmed that a "coffee house-style café" has been added to the centre's facilities, with the new reception's layout altered to accommodate the change.

New outdoor gym concept launches in Edinburgh

By **Pete Hayman**

A new gym concept, which sees instructors guide participants on a full-body workout using the Edinburgh cityscape, has been launched in Scotland.

Rat Race Urban Gym will make use of the natural and man-made environment to form a circuit that will allow people of all fitness levels to receive a 'unique' workout.

Classes will run on Monday and Wednesday evenings to



City locations will form a circuit

provide a number of aerobic, resistance and conditioning exercises, starting and finishing

from a central hub on the city's Castle Terrace.

Hour-long sessions will incorporate 3km (1.9-mile) of running and jogging around the city, broken up with 'rat stops' – using the urban environment rather than traditional gym equipment.

The concept has been developed as a result of the popularity surrounding the annual Edinburgh Rat Race – part of the international Rat Race Urban Adventure Series.

North Somerset facility in management buy out deal

The Health Club in Clevedon, North Somerset, has been bought by personal trainer Mike Neck and club general manager Jonathan Hughes.

The pair will take over the running of the club and have already outlined their plans for a refurbishment of the club, which is housed in a Grade II-listed building.

The revamp will include a newly mirrored class studio, an upgrading of resistance equipment, new therapies and an extension to the current mezzanine floor.

The mezzanine extension is set to host a new cardiovascular section and will offer views over the town of Clevedon.

IN BRIEF

Naked Chef expands Italian chain

► Jamie Oliver is to open his first 'Jamie's Italian' restaurant in the North West at the Liverpool ONE retail complex. The 6,251 sq ft (581sq m) restaurant, trading on the ground floor with a mezzanine, will open in June. There are currently nine Jamie's Italian-branded restaurants in the UK, with a further four scheduled to open by the end of June – Liverpool; Leeds; Covent Garden, London; and Glasgow

Cadbury's planning new café chain

► Chocolate maker Cadbury is planning to open around 60 cafes across the UK under the Cadbury Cocoa House brand. The move, which would see the outlets serving hot chocolate, afternoon tea and Cadbury-themed items, is still in the development stages but a deal to open the cafes was signed in January – before American food giant Kraft bought the company in a £11.5bn hostile takeover. Kraft is said to have given the proposal its support but is not said to be backing it financially.

Tourism industry facing '£250m VAT bill'

► Chartered accountant Grant Thornton has warned small and medium-sized companies in the UK's tourism and travel sectors could be facing a backdated VAT bill running up to £250m. The warning follows a First Tier Tax Tribunal which last month ruled that Med Hotels had lost its appeal against a £7m VAT bill. The VAT is due under the Tour Operators Margin Scheme – an administrative simplification to European Union VAT law. Without it, traditional tour operators would have to apply the normal VAT rules and potentially have to register for VAT in most EU countries.

BHA publishes 'hospitality manifesto'

Organisation issues five priorities for an incoming government to help the sector

By **Martin Nash**

The British Hospitality Association (BHA) has prepared a manifesto of its own ahead of the May General Election to set out what it would like to see a future government doing for the hospitality industry.

Representing more than 40,000 member establishments, the BHA has identified five main requirements of which every party takes office.

The first is to issue a commitment to take hospitality and tourism seriously. The BHA said that, since the industry is affected by the actions of almost every government department, it wants to see the Department for Culture, Media and Sport – if it retains responsibility for the industry



The BHA is calling for more support for investment in the sector

– to act as an effective communicator with those departments when new regulations are being discussed.

Support for investment is also a priority, with the BHA viewing the withdrawal of Hotel Buildings Allowance and the introduction of an 'unsatis-

factory' new capital allowances scheme as being particularly damaging. It wishes to see changes to make capital allowances better suited to new hotel development and the introduction of Tourist Growth Zones in resorts with tax breaks to help with regeneration.

Chain plans new Glasgow hotel

Whitbread has acquired a site on West Nile Street, Glasgow, for the development of its latest Premier Inn hotel in Scotland.

The agreement with ING will see a vacant former office block converted into a budget hotel in a deal worth around £10.5m.

It will be the first office-block-to-hotel conversion project in Scotland to benefit from the Business Premises Renovation Allowances Scheme, a government initiative that has been designed to encourage the conversion and renovation of empty properties in key urban areas.

The 210-room hotel is set to create 50 local jobs when it opens.

New hotels for Hilton subsidiary



The group is poised to open three new properties across the UK

By **Tom Walker**

Hampton Hotels, a division of Hilton Worldwide, has opened three new hotels in the UK.

Located in Birmingham; Braintree, Essex and Shrewsbury, Shropshire, the converted properties are owned by Osborn Securities and managed by Hilton Worldwide.

The move increases the UK Hampton by Hilton estate to five – with the three new

openings joining existing Hampton hotels in Corby, Northamptonshire and at Liverpool's John Lennon airport – creating more than 500 additional rooms.

The first of the three to open – on 16 March – was the 90-room Hampton by Hilton Birmingham Star City, which is about two miles from the city centre and is surrounded by an entertainment complex carrying the same name.

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Volcano shows need to target domestic market

The Icelandic ash cloud has helped highlight the importance of UK 'staycations'

It's an ill wind... particularly when blown from an Icelandic volcano. But there's a lesson to be learned from it. London hotels – and those in the provinces – gearing themselves for a busy April saw forward bookings compromised and large-scale conferences wiped out. The cost to the UK sector is estimated in the millions.

Although hotels gained because some British people transferred their overseas holiday or event arrangements to Britain, such examples don't mitigate the large scale damage caused. In the short term, this will be quite significant. Certainly, immediate travel plans have been disrupted and people will be reluctant to commit themselves to air travel if there is even a remote chance of not being able to return on schedule. But in the long-term, this may be seen as a temporary, if expensive, blip.

There is, however, a lesson to be learned: domestic holiday and business travel (at £21bn) is bigger than the incoming visitor market (£16bn); indeed, in many regions of the country, the domestic market is vastly more important. Only London, which earns more than £8bn from overseas visitors, depends more on the inbound tourism market.

The message, therefore, is to redouble our efforts to encourage more British people to stay at home for their holiday. This is where the work of the national tourist boards is so vital and where more funding should be directed in order to take advantage of the opportunity which the volcano has presented.

The events following the eruption show how vulnerable one sector of the market is. Certainly, the inbound tourism market is vitally important and the numbers have grown at a faster rate than the domestic market which, in fact, has more or less stood still in the last few years.

Indeed, income from domestic travellers on holidays lasting more than one night in Britain hardly moved between 2006 and 2008 but then increased by five per cent to £22.2bn in 2009. There is potential for further growth and, although UK residents spend more than £40bn on day trips, we have a long way to go to encourage more people to stay overnight.

So it's time, surely, to learn the lesson that the volcano has taught us: to redouble our efforts to encourage the British holiday and business traveller to spend more time in Britain this year – as well as in the future.



BOB COTTON is chief executive of the BHA. *Leisure Opportunities* is a member benefit of the BHA, for your free copy call 01462 471932



The Michelin-starred chef will transform the property's restaurants

London eateries to be rebranded

Chef Tom Aikens to 're-fresh' Somerset House's offer

By **Tom Walker**

Two restaurants at London's Somerset House will be rebranded prior to their relaunch this year, following the introduction of Michelin-starred chef Tom Aikens.

The River Terrace Café has been completely redesigned and will be renamed as Tom's Terrace, while the Admiralty Restaurant will become Tom's Kitchen at Somerset House.

Tom's Terrace will offer informal al fresco-style dining with the menu offering dishes such as a tasting board, grilled

paillard of chicken and smoked Loch Duart salmon.

Tom's Kitchen at Somerset House will be a more formal concept and will be the second Tom's Kitchen venue in London. The first one, on Cale Street in Chelsea, opened in April 2003 and secured its first Michelin star the following year.

Jerome Ibanez, Somerset House's general manager, said: "We've been looking to re-fresh our restaurants at Somerset House for some time.

"With Tom we have found a partner who can deliver this re-fresh with style."

IHG announces UK expansion plans

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) has announced its plans to open 36 new properties across the UK during the next three-to-four years.

The hospitality operator – owner of the Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn and InterContinental Hotels and Resorts brands – said that it would create 3,500 jobs and help boost the economy.

IHG chief executive Andy Cosslett said: "Hotels provide

a quick and flexible way to get people back into work and provide a much-needed stimulus to the economy.

"We're playing our part with 3,500 opportunities in the next three years, but a commitment from the government to support tourism would mean we could create even more jobs."

IHG currently operates more than 4,400 hotels in 100 countries worldwide.

Florence Nightingale museum to reopen

South Bank attraction scheduled for 12 May relaunch following £1.4m renovation

By **Pete Hayman**

London's Florence Nightingale Museum is due to reopen on 12 May following the completion of a major £1.4m revamp of the South Bank attraction.

Located within the grounds of St Thomas' Hospital, the museum has been transformed ahead of the 100th anniversary of the iconic nurse's death.

Three pavilions explore the story of Nightingale – focusing on her Victorian childhood; the Crimean War and her later years as a campaigner for health reform, while examining wider profession of nursing.

The museum is also located at the site where the inaugural Nightingale Training School for Nurses was established.

Interactive features – such as touch-screen exhibits – have been installed, while a creative programme of free arts



The museum is dedicated to the life of nurse Florence Nightingale

activities for young people will also be implemented.

Florence Nightingale Museum director Caroline Worthington said: "This is a special year for Florence and the new museum is a very fitting tribute to someone who has contributed so much to modern day nursing.

"Florence has inspired so many men and women to join

a profession which we all rely on, and it is fascinating to see that the issues she tackled, such as hospital hygiene, caring for soldiers and the training of nurses are still hugely relevant."

Funding for the £1.4m scheme was provided by The Wellcome Trust and the Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, as well as charity funding body, the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Preston football museum closes

Efforts to retain the National Football Museum's (NFM) galleries in Preston, Lancashire, have failed after trustees were unable to reach agreement with the local authority.

The attraction did not meet Lancashire County Council's requirements to enter into a partnership that would have enabled the galleries to remain open beyond 30 April.

NFM's research facilities and the National Football Collection will stay in Preston, with a new home for the museum currently being developed at Manchester's Urbis centre.

However, trustees have not ruled out talks on establishing a new NFM in Preston after the relocation to the Urbis centre.

Weston rides nearing completion

By **Tom Walker**

The design and build of eight rides that will be installed at the redeveloped Grand Pier in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, are nearing completion.

The bespoke rides – supplied by Stroud-based ride manufacturer Gravitron – are part of a £3m contract that was secured by the company when the 106-year-old pier was destroyed by a fire in 2008.

The Grand Pier's new flagship ride will be a 300m (984 ft)-long go-kart track on two levels – one of the largest of its type in the world – with 22 electric karts, two of which will be twin-seaters. The karts will be capable of travelling at speeds of up to 70 mph (113kmph).



The Grand Pier will reopen in July after a major renovation

Also being installed are a 12.5m (41 ft)-high twin slide helter-skelter, dodgems, a ghost train, a 'crazy house' with 36 fun obstacles and a 'groovy house' containing a psychedelic, three-dimensional light show.

There will also be two electric trains, each able to carry up to 32 passengers along the 400 metre (1,300 ft) pier.

IN BRIEF

IWM to 'tweet' Battle of Britain celebrations

► Imperial War Museum (IWM) Duxford has launched a new campaign using Twitter as part of plans to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. The attraction will use the social network website to enable 'tweeters' to experience how RAF Duxford operated during the historic Second World War battle, with tweets sent at the exact time and date events occurred. The Twitter campaign will provide visitors with an insight into how the battle was co-ordinated, and how events gathered pace as the German Luftwaffe threatened British airspace in 1940.

VGC backs Barry heritage centre plans

► Plans for the development of a new Vale of Glamorgan heritage centre in Barry, South Wales, have been supported by the local authority. The Vale of Glamorgan Council's (VGC) cabinet has resolved to explore the options and related costs for the scheme, which has been put forward by the Vale Heritage Centre Coalition (VHCC). Under the proposals, the VHCC hopes to receive a share of the £9m available through the Barry Town Regeneration Project to help towards the development.

£300k extension for Oxford museum

► The Vale and Downland Museum in Wantage, Oxfordshire, is to receive a £300,000 extension. The Vale of White Horse District Council approved plans for the two-storey extension, which will include a library, kitchen and archive room to replace current facilities housed in the adjacent Legges Cottage. The museum is not renewing its lease on the cottage due to its poor condition.

IN BRIEF

£500,000 upgrade for Erskine pool

► Work has started on a £500,000 project to revamp a swimming pool in Erskine, Renfrewshire, as part of the local authority's wider £92m investment programme. Erskine Swimming Pool will include a new changing village, a poolside sauna, a vanity area and a reception and viewing area as part of the renovation, which is due for completion by June. The scheme will form part of Renfrewshire Council's Building Better Communities initiative, which will see the creation of sports hubs at Linwood Sports Centre (£24.1m) and the Lagoon Leisure Centre in Paisley (£7.1m).

New adiZone opens in Gravesham

► A new adiZone – an outdoor multi-sport gym facility developed by sportswear company Adidas – has been unveiled by Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) in Gravesend, Kent. Located on the town's riverfront, the permanent installation boasts facilities for basketball, football, tennis and climbing. Initially installed within London 2012 host boroughs, the adiZone concept is now being rolled out across the country, with the Gravesend site the first in south east England.

Smith steps down as SFA chief executive

► Scottish Football Association (SFA) chief executive Gordon Smith has resigned from the position after a three-year tenure. In a statement, Smith revealed that a number of different factors – including family illness – were behind his decision to leave. Smith said: "There are external factors that need my attention. Stepping down, though, is something I have considered for some time."

Cricket chiefs to revisit T20 overhaul?

Working party reportedly working on plans to transform the domestic structure

By **Pete Hayman**

England cricket chiefs are set to revisit proposals for city-based Twenty20 franchises as part of wider efforts to transform the domestic structure.

According to the *Telegraph*, a new working party comprising the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and county sides who currently own Test-standard venues has already convened for the first time.

The newspaper reports that the group has commissioned Deloitte to draw up a paper to be submitted to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) over the coming weeks.

Proposals include a franchise league incorporating nine teams based at each of the Test



A franchise-based format similar to the IPL is being mooted

venues – similar to the Indian Premier League (IPL).

A source told the newspaper: "The group is looking at the whole domestic structure and part of that will be Twenty20 cricket. We will also look at the bidding system in terms of how

that operates and whether the model we have at the moment is the best model or not."

It is believed the franchise format would encourage new investment to help larger grounds to sustain long-term development plans.

Manchester United declared 'most valuable' club

By **Pete Hayman**

Manchester United Football Club (MUFC) has been named as the world's most valuable football club by US business magazine, *Forbes*.

The club is said to be worth US\$1.84bn (£1.2bn) – more than US\$500m (£325.2m) ahead of second-placed Real Madrid, which has been valued at US\$1.32bn (£858.6m).

Arsenal, Liverpool and Chelsea also form part of the



MUFC is worth around £1.2bn

Forbes list of the world's top 20 most valuable football clubs, although Manchester City and

Newcastle United have seen their worth decrease.

The data used to compile the list includes income from the sale of broadcast rights, tickets and merchandise, as well as sponsorship agreements. Player transfer sales are not included.

However, the *Forbes* study contrasts with a study published by Deloitte in March, which revealed Real Madrid as the first sports team to generate €400m (£346m, US\$532m) in revenue.

Goals' expansion plans for 2010 remain 'on track'

Goals Soccer Centres has revealed that its plans to expand its UK portfolio remain on track, with three new sites due to open during the current financial year.

The football centre operator has unveiled sites at Liverpool and Eltham, London, during the first quarter of 2010, with work underway at Portsmouth, Ipswich and Gillette Corner, London.

At the group's annual general meeting on 27 April, chair Sir Rodney Walker revealed that work is due to start on three new five-a-side football facilities, while the first US Goals Soccer Centre – under development at South Gate Park, Los Angeles – will open in July.

US-based owners to sell Liverpool FC

Tom Hicks and George Gillett Jnr appoint Barclays Capital to advise on club sale

By **Tom Walker**

Liverpool Football Club (LFC) has been put up for sale by US-based owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett Jnr, after Barclays Capital was brought in to advise on the process.

Martin Broughton has been named chair of the Premier League club in order to oversee the formal sale process, with "numerous" parties already said to be interested in acquiring the club.

In a joint statement, Hicks and Gillett said: "Owning Liverpool Football Club over these past three years has been a rewarding and exciting experience for us.

"Having grown the club this far we have now decided together to look to sell the club



Hicks and Gillett Jnr bought the club for around £470m in 2007

to owners committed to take the club through its next level of growth and development."

Broughton added: "My aim is to try and ensure that we find new owners able to build on the club's recent improved financial performance to help deliver sporting success."

Gillett, who agreed a deal to sell his majority stake in the National Hockey League (NHL) club, Montreal Canadiens, last year, bought LFC with Hicks in 2007 but has faced criticism from fans over the failure to deliver a new stadium and the club's current debt levels.

Clubs unite for player campaign

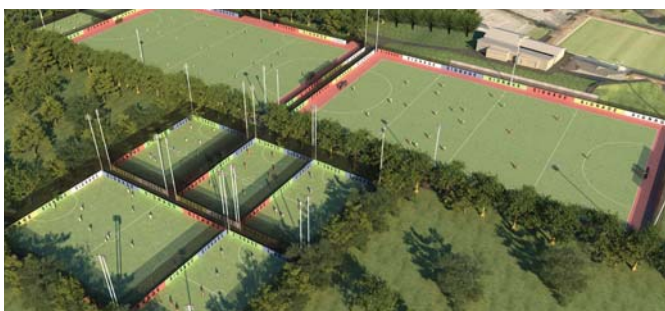
A new campaign – Protect Football's Future (PFF) – has been unveiled in a bid to help safeguard youth development schemes operated by clubs outside the Football League (FL).

Cambridge United; York City; Mansfield Town; Rushden and Diamonds; Oxford United and Wrexham have united to launch PFF, which wants current youth funding policies altered.

Current rules mean that a club relegated from the FL immediately lose half of its youth development funding, before the rest is withdrawn after a further two years.

The existing rules also mean that clubs can't protect registered players.

New complex to open at NICSSA



The new £2.4m centre will boast a number of 3G artificial pitches

By **Pete Hayman**

A major new £2.4m multi-purpose sports facility is set to open at the Northern Ireland Civil Service Sports Association's (NICSSA) Pavilion Complex at Stormont in July.

PlayBall at the Pavilion will incorporate a multi-use artificial pitch and an international-standard water-based hockey pitch, as well as 3G pitches for five and seven-a-side football.

Team training facilities, changing rooms, conference and function suites and a catering service also form part of the NICSSA proposals, which have benefited from more than £1.2m funding contributed by Sport Northern Ireland.

The complex is designed to provide local clubs, youth groups and schools with state-of-the-art sports facilities, while being available to NICSSA members and the public.

IN BRIEF

Council unveils Jarrow pool consultation

► South Tyneside Council is inviting local residents to have their say on plans for the development of a new swimming pool in Jarrow. Under the council's plans, the four-lane, 25m pool facility would be used by schools, swim teams and other groups, and not as a community pool with open access. inspiredspaces – set up by construction group Carillion and joint venture partners under the Building Schools for the Future initiative – has identified four options for the scheme.

Scottish fans call for football improvement

► New research carried out by Supporters Direct has revealed that the majority of Scottish fans are unhappy with the current league structure in Scotland. More than 1,300 supporters of clubs at all levels of senior football in Scotland participated in the study, which found 96 per cent would rather not play opponents four times a season. According to the results of the study, more than 80 per cent prefer to play teams twice in a season, while a further 13 per cent would back playing teams three times a season.

London secures 2011 badminton event

► London will stage the 2011 Badminton World Championships, following a decision by the Badminton World Federation. Wembley Arena will play host to the tournament between 8-14 August 2011, which is held annually except in Olympic years and will take place in Paris this year. Badminton England chief executive Adrian Christy said: "Plans are already in development to ensure that we stage one of the best, if not the best, World Championships to date."

IN BRIEF

Football40 set for London launch

► Football40 – a new concept labelled as the sport's answer to Twenty20 cricket – will stage its first major tournament on 30 May with the London Legends Cup. The format has been specifically designed for the legends market, with teams comprising 11 players on each side competing over a 40-minute game and including unlimited substitutions. Former Premier League referees Dermot Gallagher and Steve Dunn are set to officiate at the London Legends Cup, which will be played at West Ham United Football Club's Upton Park ground in London.

£300,000 to boost Scottish arts scheme

► The Scottish Government has announced £300,000 will be allocated to a grants scheme designed to support business sponsorship of the arts during 2010-11. The New Arts Sponsorship Grants Scheme offers match-funding for first-time arts sponsors or firms that have not sponsored arts projects for at least three years. Scottish culture minister Fiona Hyslop said: "Despite the economic climate, attendances at cultural events and arts venues are holding up well."

Ultrabody secures énergie detox deal

► The franchisee of the énergie Fitness for Women club in Belfast, Northern Ireland, has introduced a new revenue stream by launching a detox programme. The club's owner, Saima Akram, says around 50 members have taken up the programme since it launched in January, equating to 20 per cent of the club's 250 members. The 30-day programme uses products from supplier Ultrabody, with 30 sachets retailing for £16.95.

Manifesto sets out cultural benefits

Arts bodies claim sector missing out as £2.2bn of grants redirected to 2012 Games

By **Pete Hayman**

A manifesto outlining the social and economic benefits of continued investment in the culture and heritage sectors has been unveiled by a number of leading organisations.

Cultural Capital: A Manifesto for the Future calls for spending to be maintained on both sectors in order to ensure a lasting legacy is provided by the 2012 Olympics. According to the document, the arts and heritage sector has already seen £2.2bn of National Lottery income redirected towards the 2012 Games, with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) losing out on £161.2m.

The manifesto claims that total cultural spending amounts to just 1 per cent of the NHS'



The manifesto calls for more funding across the UK's arts sector

total budget, while the UK's cultural economy is the largest in the world relative to GDP.

Increases in London theatre box office receipts and the success of Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture – which led to a 27 per cent increase in visitors to the city

and generated £800m for the local economy – are also used as examples to highlight the sector's importance.

Arts Council England; English Heritage, the HLF and the Local Government Association are among the organisations involved in the campaign.

Ofcom orders Sky to cut prices

Media regulator Ofcom has ordered digital satellite broadcaster Sky to slash the wholesale cost of sports channels after a probe into the pay television sector.

Wholesale standard definition versions of Sky Sports 1 and 2 must be sold to other cable operators at a price determined by the regulatory body under the new measures.

Sky Sports 1 and 2 will have to be sold at a wholesale price of £10.63 each on a standalone basis – a 23.4 per cent decrease on the current price – while service bundles for both channels have been reduced by 10.5 per cent.

RFU targets black market tickets



The national governing body is clamping down on unofficial sales

By **Pete Hayman**

Clubs, constituent bodies, schools and individuals have been hit with sanctions as part of the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) bid to reduce unofficial ticket sales.

The national governing body has revealed it has taken action after uncovering 17 cases of ticketing terms and conditions for international matches at

Twickenham being broken in 2009. Sanctions will be applied from 1 September for the misuse of tickets, which includes the sale of England tickets on internet auction websites and have been determined by the severity of each case.

Among the sanctions is a suspended 10 per cent reduction in ticket allocation for England international fixtures.

Chevin Park Hotel revamp progresses

New Sonas Spa treatment room created as part of first phase of £1.2m scheme

By **Tom Walker**

Crerar Hotels has completed the first phase of a £1.2m revamp of its Chevin Country Park Hotel and Spa in Otley, West Yorkshire.

The first phase, costing £500,000, included the refurbishing of the hotel's 22 lodge cabin rooms, the opening a new Sonas Spa treatment room and creation of three new self-catering log cabins in the hotels grounds.

A further £700,000 will be invested in the coming months to expand the existing leisure club, create a destination Sonas Spa, a further nine executive bedrooms and to refurbish the existing Woodlands Suite function space.



The hotel will now benefit from a further £700,000 investment

Chevin Country Park Hotel and Spa general manager Enda Rylands, said: "The hotel has undergone a real transformation. Along with the newly refurbished lodge rooms, the Sonas Spa is a great addition."

The property's new Sonas Spa will provide visitors with a full range of holistic and therapeutic treatments, which are supplied by Decl  r and include Indian head massages, hot stone and aromatherapy.

The Clearing Spa launched at The Cornwall Hotel

By **Tom Walker**

Part of the Bespoke Hotels group, which manages hotels in the UK, The Cornwall Hotel Spa and Estate opened in February 2010 south of St Austell at Tregorrick in the UK.

Set within 43 acres (17.4 hectares) of Victorian parkland and woodland, with sandy beaches nearby, the historic estate was uninhabited for more than 40 years before its restoration and reopening.



The Clearing Spa is housed in former 19th century stables

The Clearing Spa is located in converted 19th century stables, adjacent to a walled

garden. With five treatment rooms, therapies include a range of exclusively-designed treatments and have been created by products house Aromatherapy Associates.

One of the signature features of the luxury hotel is a collection of original art work by the artist Robert Lenkiewicz.

The hotel has organised a permanent hanging of five portraits, including two self-portraits, supplied by a local private collector.

IN BRIEF

Teen spa-ing at Armthwaite Hall

► A new range of treatments especially designed for under-18s has been introduced at Armthwaite Hall Country House Hotel and Spa in the Lake District, UK. Called Sweet Spa-Teen, the treatments include a back massage and skincare lessons. Two ranges are available – Mini Teen Spa for 12-14 years old and Teen Spa, from 14 to 18 years old.

ISPA unveils certified spa supervisor scheme

► ISPA has revealed further details about its Certified Spa Supervisor (CSS) programme. A voluntary certification for both spa supervisors and managers, the scheme has been developed in order to provide education and resources for supervisors who may be new to their positions, or for those who are seeking additional education and recognition. Once achieved, the CSS designation signifies an understanding of basic supervisory skills and indicates to employers that the candidate has a strong commitment to continued education. There are two ways to apply for the programme and, under both plans, candidates need to complete the ISPA Supervisory Skill Builders series, with their manager signing the series completion acknowledgement.

The Connaught and Amanresorts' team up

► The Connaught, the historic hotel located in London's Mayfair, has launched a spa in its new West Wing as part of a collaboration with Amanresorts. The spa combines the Asian-inspired aesthetic of Amanresorts with a range of other influences. Treatments are based on traditions of China, Thailand, India and the US.

Leisure-net Solutions releases headline findings

Leisure-net Solutions has released the headline findings from its first spa sector call-focus survey, which will be unveiled in full at the Spatec Europe event this month.

In nine out of 10 cases, the person answering the phone had all the information that was required. However, only 8 per cent of the time

was the caller actually asked if they wanted to make a booking. Leisure-net also sent email enquiries to 40 spa operators, which elicited a much poorer response. Many didn't respond at all and those that did omitted vital information.

The research took place throughout February 2010 and around 50 spas were contacted.

IN BRIEF

Landscape exhibition for Welsh park

► Four centuries of the Welsh landscape, interpreted by internationally recognised artists, has been put on show at Oriol y Parc, the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's gallery and visitor centre in St Davids. Entitled *The Changing Landscape*, the exhibition will include objects from the art, natural history and industry collections of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales. Bryony Dawkes, partnership projects curator for National Museum Wales said: "The works will explore the impact of natural process and human intervention on the landscape around us."

ACE publishes new RFO framework

► Arts Council England (ACE) has unveiled its new framework for how the funding agency plans to work with the art organisations it supports on a regular basis. The Relationship between Arts Council England and regularly funded organisations (RFO) is designed to provide greater clarity in how it plans to work with groups in order to the arts across the country. An extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders was held last year to help shape the framework, which includes processes due to come into effect from 2011-12.

Basingstoke set for new Discovery Centre

► Basingstoke Library is set to be turned into a Discovery Centre under £1m plans given the green light by Hampshire County Council (HCC). The library closed on 26 April in order to allow work to get underway on the scheme, which was approved by HCC's buildings, land and procurement panel. The facility will open in late 2010 – offering a range of improved services.

Gwyn Hall restoration moves forward

£9m project to transform historic Neath venue into new arts and cultural facility

By **Pete Hayman**

The next stage of a £9m scheme to transform the Gwyn Hall in Neath, South Wales, is set to start after construction company Morgan Ashurst was selected to carry out the work.

An arts and cultural venue is planned for the historic venue, which will feature a ground floor theatre with retractable seating for a range of functions, a cinema and a café.

Cardiff-based Holder Mathias Architects drew up designs for the new-look venue, which aims to provide full access for people of all abilities and ages and will provide a major arts facility for the local area.

The refurbishment of Gwyn Hall comes more than two



The new Gwyn Hall has been designed Holder Mathias Architects

years after the Grade II-listed building was severely damaged by fire amid a similar £4m redevelopment project.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council also revealed that a special event is due to be held to allow local firms to

meet the Morgan Ashurst team set to deliver the scheme.

Council leader Ali Thomas said: "The council made a commitment last year to re-build the Gwyn Hall, which has been at the heart of the community for many years."

Study reveals audience boost for London theatres

By **Pete Hayman**

New research published by the Society of London Theatres (SLT) has revealed 83 per cent of theatre-goers believe ticket prices represent 'good value'.

Conducted in partnership with Ipsos MORI, The West End Theatre Audience found that three quarters of theatre audiences thought performances were 'very good'.

According to the study, theatre-goers made an average



The research reveals theatres offer good value for audiences

of 6.4 visits to shows during 2008, while the portion of tickets booked online increased

from 17 per cent to nearly half in the last 12 months.

SLT chief executive Richard Pulford said: "This report will be required reading for anyone working or interested in London theatre."

The survey was carried out among audiences of 37 shows, with fieldwork taking place between June and December 2008. The results follow the announcement that 2009 saw audience numbers increase for the seventh year in a row."

New digital cinema facilities for Edinburgh arts venue

New digital cinema facilities are to be installed at Edinburgh's Festival Theatre after the venue received a £245,000 Scottish Government grant.

Operator Festival City Theatres Trust will provide equipment to allow the venue to host premieres, in addition to 35mm films, and will create Scotland's largest digital cinema.

The installation is due to be carried out in time for the start of the Edinburgh International Film Festival between 16-27 June. Scottish culture minister Fiona Hyslop said: "This project will put Edinburgh firmly in the spotlight as a venue for movie premieres, and enhance Scotland's digital cinematic offering."

Six parks to share £13m HLF funding

Three London parks among locations set to benefit from Lottery-funded schemes

By **Pete Hayman**

The Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) and Big Lottery Fund (BIG) have announced that six parks across England will be awarded a share of £13m towards restoration schemes.

Parks in London; Darlington; Oldham and Stoke-on-Trent have received grants under the Parks for People initiative, which has seen more than £150m invested since 2006.

Victoria Park in Tower Hamlets, London, has been awarded the largest share of funding, with a £4.5m grant towards restoration work on four of its most iconic features.

The Burdett-Coutts Fountain; the Chinese Pagoda; the Dogs of Alcibiades and the Old English Garden are all set to be revitalised, while new training



London's Bishop's Park is one of the parks to net Lottery funding

and volunteering opportunities are in line to be introduced.

Bishop's Park and Fulham Palace Grounds in west London has received £3.64m, while Dunwood Park in Oldham secured nearly £1.1m.

Burslem Park in Stoke-on-Trent has been handed nearly £2.1m; Horniman Gardens in

Forest Hill, London, has been awarded £907,000 and Darlington's Brinkburn Denes Park will net £878,500.

HLF chief executive Carole Souter said: "Now the clocks have gone forward, it's the perfect time to get out and enjoy our many wonderful public parks."

IN BRIEF

South Downs National Park status takes effect

► Designation of the new South Downs National Park – stretching across Sussex and Hampshire – has come into effect as of 31 March. Environment secretary Hilary Benn announced that the 1,600sq km (618sq mile) area between Beachy Head, East Sussex, and St Catherine's Hill near Winchester, Hampshire, would become a National Park in November 2009. A new national park authority – the South Downs National Park Authority – has been established and will meet for the first time on 20 April, a year before it becomes fully operational.

£1.9m grant for South Pennines scheme

► Pennine Prospects has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant worth nearly £1.9m towards plans to bring the story of the Watershed Landscape to life. Funded through the HLF's Landscape Partnership Scheme, the grant will aid landscape restoration, access improvements and heritage projects. A community archaeologist and an interpretation officer will be appointed as part of the plans.

CLA issues countryside election call

► The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) has outlined the policies that need to be considered by a future government to safeguard rural communities. In a manifesto for the forthcoming general election, the organisation has set out how the government can help the countryside meet the main challenges facing communities. The upgrade of nearly 10,000 miles (16,093km) of public rights of way to account for landowners' needs and improved tax rules for tourism companies are among the CLA's policies.

Blaenavon secures £2.47m National Lottery grant

By **Tom Walker**

UNESCO's Blaenavon World Heritage Site, South Wales, has received £2.47m for conservation and restoration work.

The money comes as part of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Scheme, created by 130 different organisations led by Gwent Wildlife Trust and Torfaen County Borough Council to cover about 40sq km (15.4sq m) around Blaenavon.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) will contribute 60 per cent of the funding, which will be spent over the next three years on projects including the conservation and restoration of historical features such as the Pwll Du tramway tunnel.

The Welsh Assembly Government, the Heads of the Valleys programme, Valleys



The Big Pit Museum, one of the heritage attractions in Blaenavon

Regional Park, the Environment Agency and the Countryside Council for Wales will provide the remainder of the funding, which will go towards wetlands and grasslands – a move aimed at promoting the return of Welsh mountain ponies and traditional breeds of cattle.

Torfaen council's chief officer, Christina Harhry said: "Forgot-

ten Landscapes will significantly improve the World Heritage Site and its landscape setting."

HLF has already made a number of awards in the area, including funding for Big Pit – the National Mining Museum of Wales (£5.4m); St Peter's Church (£104,500) and the St Peter's School World Heritage Centre (£1.3m)

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IMAX scheme takes step forward

Four proposals receive residents' backing for major waterfront scheme

By Pete Hayman

Bournemouth Borough Council (BBC) has approved recommendations to draw up a planning brief for the redevelopment of the town's IMAX site.

The council's cabinet backed proposals to take the scheme forward on 28 April, after it was revealed that four out of the seven options put forward for the waterfront site had received the "overall support" of local residents in a council survey.

Tropical gardens; a water park; an interactive arts, museum and entertainment scheme; and a performing arts space are among ideas backed in the council survey.

More than 3,500 people took part in the council research. Plans for a spa; boutiques and bistros; or a family play park did not receive much support as standalone plans.



The council aims to revitalise the IMAX site

BBC leader Stephen MacLoughlin said: "The council bought the head-lease of the building, but we aren't able to subsidise any attractions in its replacement. It's likely, therefore, that any developer will need to include some more profitable facilities."

WBC Sea Change project bidders announced



Fleetwood's Marine Gardens are included

Wyre Borough Council (WBC) has revealed the five firms that have been shortlisted for a £1.6m Sea Change project to develop a new coastal trail between Fleetwood and Cleveleys, Lancashire.

More than 50 firms have been whittled down to five – Sweden-based White Arkitekter; BCA Landscapes; LDA Design; McChesney Architects; and Grit and Pearl.

WBC's plans include an architectural structure at Rossall Point to act as a visitor destination, while the Marine Gardens in Fleetwood are also in line for an overhaul.

Work underway on £5m Bexhill seafront project

A groundbreaking ceremony has been held to mark the start of work on the £5m Next Wave scheme in Bexhill, which is set to transform the town's seafront.

Preparatory work is now underway ahead of construction work, which is scheduled to commence by the end of

the month and will initially focus on the West Parade promenade.

Funded by Rother District Council and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), the seafront development aims to improve facilities for residents and visitors.



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King's Cross square architect named

Stanton Williams chosen to design new public space as part of station renovation

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans drawn up by architects Stanton Williams have been chosen for a new public square as part of Network Rail's £500m redevelopment of King's Cross station.

The London-based firm was selected after holding off more than 100 architects and urban design practices who submitted designs for the project, which will create one of the capital's largest public squares.

Network Rail has set aside around £6m for the 7,000sq m (75,347sq ft) public square, which is due for completion in 2013 and will be able to accommodate up to 100,000 rail passengers each day.

Stanton Williams will work with architect John McAslan and Partners and contractors Vinci, Kier, Arup and Carillion as part of Network Rail's King's Cross project team.



IMAGE: NETWORK RAIL

The square will provide a new open space in front of the station

Alan Stanton of Stanton Williams said: "The design will address the challenge of integrating the legacy of existing structures on the site to create an environment which functions seamlessly for the public and makes an important contribution to the regeneration of the surrounding area."

Victoria Pender, Network Rail group director and judging panel member, said: "Network

Rail's redevelopment of the station will transform King's Cross and provide a wonderful gateway to London for everyone who uses the station."

Rachel Stopard, Camden Council director for culture and environment, added: "The new square will not only form an integral part of the redevelopment of King's Cross, making it one of the largest public squares in London."

Preston scheme handed backing

By **Pete Hayman**

A proposed £700m scheme to transform Preston city centre, has received the support of Lancashire County Council's (LCC) three main party leaders.

According to the *Lancashire Evening Post*, an open letter from Conservative council leader Geoff Driver, Labour's Jennifer Mein and Charlie Briggs of the Liberal Democrats have signalled their backing for the Tithebarn development.

The newspaper quoted the letter as saying: "The development would be located in Preston city centre, a highly sustainable location, where strong rail and bus networks are already in place, a new



Plans are subject to an inquiry

transport interchange is planned, with green travel plans limiting the impact of new car-borne traffic."

A new cinema, cafés, bars and a new bus station are included as part of the project, which was approved by Preston City Council but will now be subject to a public inquiry.

Council backs Chatham plans

Medway Council has approved plans for the latest phase of a scheme designed to transform the centre of Chatham, Kent.

The council's cabinet backed proposals setting out the development opportunities that will lead to the town's High Street and Best Street areas being revamped.

A masterplan for the town centre regeneration outlines plans for the construction of new retail space, as well as an extension to the town's Central Theatre in order to provide new backstage facilities and a café.

IN BRIEF

Dorset developer seeks more time

► The Trevor Osborne Property Group, has applied to extend its planning permission for a major leisure project in Bournemouth, Dorset. Restaurants, a casino and rooftop gardens are being proposed as part of the Pavilion Gardens scheme at Westover Road, which has been held up due to unforeseen circumstances. Ongoing negotiations over a land swap between Bournemouth Borough Council and the Meyrick Estate, which owns the site, have prevented work from starting on the scheme.

Portsmouth greyhound venue closes

► A greyhound racing stadium in Portsmouth, Hampshire, has closed in order to make way for a major regeneration scheme after the venue's lease was not renewed. Site owners South East England Development Agency and Tipner Regeneration Land are proposing a mixed-use scheme near the M275 motorway. The venue was bought by the two groups from the Greyhound Racing Association two years ago before being leased back for a fixed period that expired on 1 April 2010.

Living Legend homes plans dismissed

► The States of Jersey's planning and environment department has rejected plans for a new housing project on the site of the Living Legend attraction in St Peter. Revised proposals submitted by site owner, the Lewis family, in January, would have seen the tourist attraction demolished in order to make way for 65 new homes. Initial plans for the Living Legend site, which boasts a karting complex and two adventure golf courses, were first mooted in summer 2008 due to a fall in tourism.

Management and Operation of Stratford Park Leisure Centre

Stroud District Council is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitable organisations to manage, operate and maintain the following leisure facilities:

STRATFORD PARK LEISURE CENTRE (at Stratford Road, Stroud) is a sports facility that includes a 25 metre indoor swimming pool, a 55 yard open air pool, 6 badminton court sports hall, fitness studio, health studio, café/bar, function room, squash courts, dance studio, all weather pitch and tennis courts ; and

DURSLEY POOL (at Castle Street, Dursley) is a sports facility that includes a 25 metre indoor swimming pool and a Shokk Youth Gym.

Bidders will be invited to propose solutions to manage, operate and maintain the Stratford Park Leisure Centre only. The Council will also invite variant bids solutions to manage, operate and maintain both the Stratford Park Leisure Centre together with the Dursley Pool facility. They will also be invited to submit a further optional variant bid offering to provide proposals for capital investment in relation to the Stratford Park Leisure Centre (in addition to the requirements to deliver the capital requirements defined and set out in the Council's condition survey).

The contract is expected to be for 10 years with a break clause exercisable by the Council or the Contractor after 7 years. If the break clause is not exercised by either party then the Council has the option to extend the contract for up to an additional 3 years beyond the initial 10 year term.

It is expected that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 ("TUPE") will apply to the award of the contract and that staff may transfer to an incoming provider. Bidders are expected to seek independent legal advice on the application of TUPE in these arrangements.

Bidding organisations must complete a Pre Qualification Questionnaire and demonstrate a dynamic and proven successful track record in the operation of a leisure facility in order to be included on the Council's tender list. The successful bidder will be selected through a competitive dialogue process.

Interested organisations can request an information pack and pre-qualification questionnaire from:
Ray Figg, Head of Cultural Services,
Telephone: 01453 754407 or ray.figg@stroud.gov.uk

The closing date for the return of completed questionnaires is 13.00 on Tuesday 8 June 2010.



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New trust to run Peterborough venues

Key Theatre among council-owned cultural facilities to be operated by Vivacity

By **Martin Nash**

Peterborough City Council (PCC) has announced that a new trust will take over responsibility for the operation of culture and leisure venues on 1 May under a 25-year deal.

Trust officials have already launched the new 'Vivacity' brand in a bid to encourage more people to use the facilities, which include sports centres, the Key Theatre and Peterborough Museum.

The trust is applying for charitable status that will exclude it from business rates and to secure other financial benefits, including access to funding sources not open to the council.

Existing cultural and sport service staff members have transferred into the new trust, with employment and pension conditions set to be protected



The council hopes that the move will increase use of the venues

under Transfer of Undertakings regulations.

Trust chair Shelagh Smith said: "Recent reports indicate that many councils expect budget cuts in discretionary services such as libraries and sports facilities.

"However, our business plan has been designed to identify new sources of funding so

that we can improve cultural services and to give local people more opportunities to enjoy cultural and leisure activities in Peterborough."

Vivacity will be run by a board of six. The six members include Shelagh Smith, a lawyer and Richard Astle, director of the Greater Peterborough Partnership.

Ladbrokes to make French move

By **Pete Hayman**

UK-based bookmaker Ladbrokes has revealed that it has secured a conditional joint venture agreement with France-based broadcaster, Groupe CANAL+ (GC).

The company will now make its first move into the French market as part of the agreement, which will see the launch of an online betting and gaming service regulated by the national government.

It is expected that the new service, which will adopt a brand name to reflect its association with GC, will be unveiled later in 2010.

John O'Reilly, managing director of remote betting and



The UK-based bookmaker has agreed a deal with CANAL +

gaming for the UK-based bookmaker, said: "Canal+ is a brand that is synonymous with sport in France. We believe that there is an opportunity to build a good business in France over time as the market and regulation develop."

Camelot to be sold to OTTP

Canada-based Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTTP) is set to acquire National Lottery operator Camelot in a deal worth around £389m.

Completion of the purchase is subject to the approval of the UK lottery regulator, the National Lottery Commission, after Camelot shareholders agreed to sell their holdings to OTTP.

OTTP – known colloquially as Teachers' – is the independent group currently responsible for administering the pension fund of 289,000 active and retired teachers.

IN BRIEF

Praesepe unveils bid for bingo operator

► Bingo hall operator Beacon Entertainment is set to be acquired by Praesepe after the gaming group announced that it had secured a conditional agreement. The AIM-listed Praesepe – which currently owns 54 sites across the UK – is set to pay around £5m for a maximum of nearly 67m for Beacon, as well as assuming £40m worth of existing bank debt. PricewaterhouseCoopers advised Beacon Entertainment as part of the deal, which is currently under the ownership of a consortium of UK banks.

Downturn hits 888 Holdings revenues

► Online gaming operator 888 Holdings has reported a 6 per cent drop in total operating income for the year ending 31 December 2009 as a result of the downturn. Casino revenue declined by 11 per cent to US\$118.7m (£77.9m) and poker revenue fell by nearly 28 per cent to US\$51.6m (£33.8m). However, the company's new Dragonfish B2B division performed well and secured a number of partnership agreements during the year.

Marston's sees positive half-year trading

► Marston's has reported a 1.4 per cent increase in like-for-like sales in its managed pubs business for the 26 weeks ending 3 April 2009. Like-for-like food sales at its Inns and Taverns division grew by 2.5 per cent, while Easter trading was "slightly ahead" of figures for the same period last year. However, the group's tenanted and leased pubs business – Marston's Pub Company – posted a decline of 4.6 per cent in like-for-like profits; compared with a 4.9 per cent drop reported in January.

Robin Hood - not just a villain

Release of blockbuster set to generate tourism revenues



PATRICIA YATES
is VisitBritain
director of
strategy and
communications

Robin Hood – the Britain-based film epic starring Russell Crowe as the outlaw – will be released nationwide on 12 May. VisitBritain and Universal Pictures, along with other key tourism agencies and local authorities, have come together in a partnership to maximise exposure for the film and its great British filming locations.

The outlaw is an internationally recognised icon and our research shows 40 per cent of potential visitors would be 'very likely' to visit places that have been used as film locations.

This film was entirely filmed in Britain and catches the real essence and feeling only British locations in particular could achieve. One scene from the new epic adaptation was filmed on location in the East Midlands along with other locations around Britain such as Pembrokeshire and the Ashridge Estate in Hertfordshire.

Leading up to the film's release we have hosted a number of successful press trips for foreign correspondents for worldwide media. They experienced everything Nottingham has to offer, from Nottingham Castle and the Robin Hood Exhibition to a trip to Sherwood Forest to meet the Sheriff and a chance to do some archery Robin Hood style!

We will be undertaking extensive marketing around the world to help promote Britain as a destination, while you can also look at our other film partnerships and how you can work with us in the future by going to: www.visitbritain.org/aboutus/marketing/brandpartnerships/film.aspx

London figures return to growth

Overseas leisure visitor numbers increased by 7 per cent during 2009

By **Pete Hayman**

The number of overseas leisure visitors to London increased by 7 per cent to nearly 7 million during 2009, according to provisional figures from the International Passenger Survey (IPS).

Despite a 19 per cent fall in business tourism numbers, the figures published by tourism agency Visit London revealed that more than 14 million international residents visited the capital last year.

Compared with findings for 2008, leisure visitor spend increased by nearly a quarter to around £4bn while total expenditure grew by 3 per cent to £8bn.

Many primary markets – Germany (34 per cent), Spain (27 per cent) and France (19 per cent) – increased, while the US market saw its first growth for two years.

Visit London chief executive officer Sally Chatterjee said: "2009 was an incredibly



Overseas visitors are returning to London

tough year for the industry in London but the provisional IPS figures reveal, for the first time, that there are signs of recovery.

"London has continued to outperform the rest of the UK and we believe it is crucial to continue with our proactive promotion of the capital."

New tourism body launched for north west

By **Tom Walker**



VEC aims to promote NW England tourism

A new regional committee has called for businesses to help shape the agenda for tourism in the north west of England.

The Visitor Economy Commission for England's Northwest (VEC) has urged companies and individuals to get involved in the creation of a new regional strategy.

As part of its plans, VEC has published its first white paper in which it presents the first in a number of strategic sector issues that the commission is planning to look at over the coming year.

New tourism role for Swansea Metro staff

Hosts working on Swansea's new Metro transport system have been trained to offer information about local attractions.

On-board customer attendants have undertaken training sessions led by the Swansea Council's tourism and marketing team in a bid to provide tourists with details about local amenities, facilities and places to visit.

The council is working with operator First Cymru and training provider Gallu to enhance Swansea's visitor experience.

Swansea Council's strategic manager for tourism, marketing and events, Frances Jenkins, said: "The transport links to and within Swansea Bay play a fundamental role in the overall visitor experience of the destination."



The museum's customer-facing workers took part in the initiative

Customer training for IWM staff

Tutoring forms part of bid to boost visitor experience

By **Tom Walker**

The Imperial War Museum (IWM) in London has completed a training initiative which saw all 200 customer-facing staff take part in customer service tutoring.

The training is part of the museum's strategy to improve its customer experience and included modules on major incident training, safeguarding children, disability awareness, diversity and retail operations.

The training was delivered in partnership with awarding body EDI, which offers

work-based learning qualifications in the heritage sector

IWM director general Diane Lees said: "Our priority is to ensure that each and every visitor to the museum has a meaningful, involving and engaging experience.

"By tailoring the training to the needs of the business, we can offer a programme that is relevant and engaging, ensuring staff are as skilled and motivated as possible.

"With accreditation, staff have confidence the certificate will benefit them throughout their career in the cultural sector."

Gateshead apprentices secure jobs

Apprentices in Gateshead have been offered full-time positions at the council-owned leisure facilities after completing a local scheme.

Gateshead Council revealed that 12 young people have landed jobs as result of competing apprenticeships, with ten now working at the newly-refurbished Gateshead Leisure Centre.

The remaining two have been offered positions at

other facilities in the borough, with each candidate having received training and qualifications in a range of sport and leisure disciplines.

Gateshead Leisure Centre manager Brian Hewitson said: "I'm delighted to be working with young people who successfully completed an apprenticeship. I joined the council in a similar way and have been supported to forge a great career."

Assessing the skills of the sector

Annual research is vital to identifying how the industry can raise performance

Government agenda continues to emphasise skills as a key driver to raise performance in the economy and our employers have a vital chance to contribute to this through our research we produce.

Each year, we conduct research into the sector to understand the latest barriers and limitations it faces and the skills needs of our employers. The results of these activities, together with data from government national statistics, are now published annually through a Sector Skills Assessment report which in turn, is used to inform skills policy and practice.

This provides employers with a unique forum to express the skills and productivity needs that are pertinent to their organisation and the sector, and gives employers a greater dialogue with government and devolved administration departments across the UK, a greater impact on policies affecting skills and productivity, increased influence with education and training partners and helps us to lobby for substantial public investment for qualifications, skills and training in the sector.

We all know management skills are particularly a problem within the sector; however through the Sector Skills Assessment research we add tangible evidence. The lack of management skills presents a barrier to improving the quality of jobs and business performance within the sector and it is vital that, through our specific programme of management and leadership, and working with employers and key partners, we address it. More evidence suggests that the work on the UK Coaching Certificate may be having a positive impact, as the level of qualified coaches appears to be improving although half remain unqualified in the sport they coach.

The sector skills assessment provides an overview of the sector and the workforce within it, explores the drivers and impact of the current economic climate, examines performance and the impact on skills and current sector solutions available.

There is always an opportunity to contribute and through the sector skills assessment, and as a result, sector employers have a direct route to government – that has committed to listening to employer demand through SSCs whatever party is in power.

The sector skills assessment reports can be found on our website now and you can contribute to our current Working in Fitness survey 2010 online at www.skillsactive.com/wif10



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STEPHEN STUDD is chief executive at SkillsActive.

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

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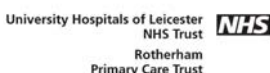
The BLF bursary, funded by Air Products, is available to exercise professionals who meet the following entry requirements:

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- 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.

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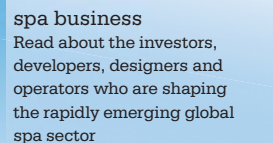
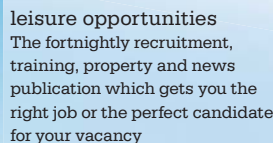
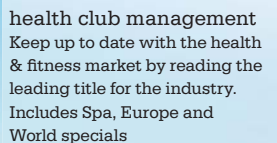
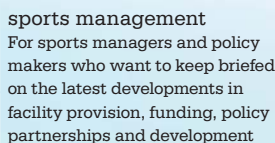
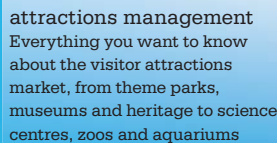
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18 MAY 2010
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Our publications feature up to the minute news, profiles, interviews and reports, plus the latest industry opinions and issues debated as they happen – in every sector of the leisure industry



Alternatively call our subline +44 (0)1462 471915 or fill out the form below and fax back to +44 (0)1462 433909

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South Northants and Daventry School Sport Partnership

Road School, DCSF Sports College
Stratford Road, Road, Northampton. NN7 2LP
Tel: 01604 862125 Fax: 01604 863912
Email: roadeschool@btconnect.com
Headteacher: Mr Ross Parkinson MA



Assistant Partnership Development Manager

Payscale; Scale 8 (Pts 32 – 34: £27,052 – £28,636) The salary will be Pro Rata
Fixed Term Contract to 31st August 2011
(may be extended subject to continued PESSYP Funding)
Term Time (38 weeks) plus six weeks 37 hours per week

Required as soon as possible. An enthusiastic, well motivated and qualified manager to assist in the continued development of a successful rural School Sport Partnership as part of the National PE & Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP).

The Assistant PDM will work alongside an experienced PDM to manage a large partnership comprising 11 secondary schools, including the host Sports College, and 94 primary schools across two local authority districts.

This post would suit someone from a sports development background who has the required experience, skills and knowledge.

Applicants are invited to telephone Duncan Tucker, Partnership Development Manager, on 01604 863715 for an informal conversation relating to the post prior to submitting an application.

Please contact the 24 hour vacancy line on 01604 861188 or visit the school's website www.roadeschool.northants.sch.uk for an application form and information pack.

Only applications on the standard application form will be accepted and this should be forwarded to Mrs A. Duckett at the above address. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All offers of employment are subject to the successful candidate undertaking identity and enhanced Criminal Record Checks. Road School seeks to meet general and specific duties of the disability equality scheme. We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sectors of the community.

Closing date for applications: Friday 21st May 2010

Interview date: week beginning 24th May 2010

North Country Leisure Sport & Physical Activities Coach

Based in Alnwick

£17,334 per annum

(plus leased car and access to pension scheme)

37 hours per week (temporary contract until August 2012)

We are seeking an experienced sport & physical activities leader/coach to lead and deliver a programme of physical activity to meet the needs of women, girls and 50+. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB Disclosure.

For an application form Tel: 01434 613203, email jobs@northcountryleisure.org.uk or www.northcountryleisure.org.uk
Return by Friday 21st May, 2010.

We welcome applications from all sections of the community.



NorthCountryLeisure is supported by Northumberland County Council
Registered Charity No. 1075009



Full time CLUB MANAGER

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Salary: Competitive



EAST GLOS CLUB

TENNIS • SQUASH • HOCKEY

Owned by its 1,000 members, the East Glos Club is the premier tennis, squash and hockey club in Gloucestershire.

Reporting to the Club Chairman, the Club Manager is responsible for all aspects of operations to ensure that facilities and services fully satisfy members' expectations.

The successful candidate will be of graduate calibre and have a minimum of 5 years management experience ideally in the leisure or private club sector. Self-motivated, you will be customer focussed with excellent communication and leadership skills. You should demonstrate a structured approach, solid time management and the ability to work with an Executive board comprising volunteer members.

**For a detailed Job Description and Person Specification, and to apply online visit us at www.eastglos.co.uk/jobs.
Closing date for applications is 15 May 2010.**

EG is an Equal Opportunities Employer

www.eastglos.co.uk

WHITBY LEISURE CENTRE

Assistant Manager

£22,221 - £23,708 per annum

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an Assistant Manager at Whitby Leisure Centre, a wet and dry facility within the beautiful old town of Whitby set between the coast and the stunning North Yorkshire Moors.

You must have relevant experience of working in the leisure industry and hold a recognised leisure management qualification along with a RLSS NPLQ qualification and first aid at work certificate.

As well as the above qualifications we are looking for someone with excellent organisational and customer care skills including knowledge of customer focused quality systems such as QUEST.

Duties include marketing of the facility and its programme, responsibility for co-ordinating the activities and specialisms of the Duty Manager team, assisting in promoting and developing events at the facility, deputising for the manager wherever necessary. The Assistant Manager post will be subject to Criminal Records Bureau checks

If you require further information please contact Chris Storer, Centre Manager, Whitby Leisure Centre, Tel (01947) 604640.

Application packs are available from any Customer First Centre or by contacting Customer First, telephone 01723 232323 option 4, e-mail customer.first@scarborough.gov.uk or job.vacancies@scarborough.gov.uk

Vacancy details are also available from www.scarborough.gov.uk and www.oneplacenorthyorks.com

Application forms should be returned to Human Resources, Town Hall, St Nicholas Street, Scarborough, YO11 2HG in an envelope marked "Private and Confidential Application for Post TC101, Assistant Manager (WLC)."

Closing date: 12 Noon Thursday 27 May 2010

**Scarborough
Borough Council**



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

A great place to live, work & play

We have a vacancy for an enthusiastic, conscientious and motivated team member to join our prestigious Sports Centre. This swimming pool and fitness suite facility is set in the private grounds of St Mary's School in Calne which opens its doors to community members during peak times. Other facilities include a dance studio, therapy suite, outdoor tennis courts and astro turf pitches.

ST MARY'S



**SPORTS CENTRE
CALNE**

Facility Officer Operations

£16,265 - £19,091 pa Full-time

You must have sound knowledge and experience in the day to day operations of a wet and dry leisure facility. Communication skills are also essential, as is the ability to respond to customers.

It is essential that you have a leisure related qualification or the relevant operational experience. National Pool Lifeguard Trainer Assessor Qualification desirable.

Further details and an application form are available on request from the Sports Centre Office on 01249 857335 or via e-mail to: lhalk@stmaryscalne.org

The successful applicant will be required to undertake a criminal records check via CRB.
Closing Date: May 31st 2010

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Principal Physical Activity Development Officer

£27,849 - £30,011 per annum Closing date 12 noon: 14 May 2010

Bury Leisure Services (Sports Development) are seeking an experienced individual to work as part of the sports development management team and support the development of a new Bury Sports and Physical Activity Strategy and SPAA Visioning Plan. You will manage the Physical Activity Section within the sports development team to ensure the service meets its key performance indicators.

You will also lead the implementation of the Health and Physical Activity agenda linking with sport, community, health and social care partners to increase participation as part of a health lifestyle.

Bury Sports Development were identified as an 'Excellent' service through its latest Quest Inspection. If you want to join an excellent team and feel you meet the criteria contained within the person specification, then apply through the council jobs section.

For an informal discussion about the post you can speak to Jackie Veal - Sports Development Manager on 0161 253 5388.

Hours of work are 37 per week worked in accordance with service requirements and the Council's flexitime policy.

An enhanced CRB is required for this post.
Previous applicants need not apply.



Recreation and Health

Recreation & Sports Development Officer (RH0004) £20,500 per annum (Grade 5) 12 month fixed-term contract

Do you have a passion for sport and physical activity? An exciting opportunity has arisen for a motivated and enthusiastic individual to promote recreation, sport and physical activity within the Cherwell District on a 12 month fixed-term contract.

You will be jointly employed by Cherwell District Council and the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership. Your main focus will be working with our partners to increase the opportunities for young people to participate in sport and physical activity. You will also be required to establish pathways for leaders and volunteers to develop and work within community groups and clubs.

You should have experience of working within sports development, working with sports clubs, schools and county sports partnerships. In addition, some experience of managing sports coaches and a good knowledge of sports initiatives would be an advantage.

You will be required to work some evenings and weekends, hold a full driving licence and have access to a car.

For an informal discussion please contact Sue Pearson, Senior Recreation and Sports Development Officer on 01295 221718.

For more information, download an application pack or to apply for the post visit cherwell.gov.uk/jobs

Our preferred method of application is online. If you don't have access to the internet contact us on 01295 221528 quoting the relevant reference number.

Closing date: 14 May 2010.

Interview date: 27 May 2010.

Committed to equal opportunities

We positively welcome applications from all sections of the community



Cherwell

DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

www.cherwell.gov.uk

SPORT AND LEISURE STATISTICS FORECASTS FOR THE SPORT AND LEISURE INDUSTRIES

The Sport Industry Research Centre publishes two annual reports, Leisure Forecasts and Sport Market Forecasts. These reports provide valuable insight into future market trends.

Both publications are essential references for industry practitioners, consultants and researchers. The Sport Market Forecasts are produced in conjunction with Sport England.

To find out more please visit

www.shu.ac.uk/ad/sportandleisure

Or contact Susie Shaw

Phone 0114 225 5919 Fax 0114 225 4341

Email s.shaw@shu.ac.uk



Love sport? Love sales?

Senior Account Manager Hitchin Herts (30mins Kings X)

We're looking for an energetic, dynamic media sales professional to take responsibility for the sale of advertising and marketing services on **Sports Management** magazine, as well as its website and ezine.

Our ideal candidate will have a great track record in media sales, be passionate about sport and will enjoy taking the lead in developing business and building on our successes to date.

We offer a great package with a basic salary, commission and bonus, as well as subsidised health club membership and bonus holiday plan.

Sports Management is published by The Leisure Media Company, the leading business to business magazine, web and directory publisher. The company, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, publishes a range of titles for professionals working in all areas of the leisure industry. See our website for more details.

Apply on email, enclosing your cv to lizterry@leisuremedia.com
Please include the words 'job application' in your subject line.



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Leisure Centre Manager

Company: Trafford Community Leisure
Salary: scale up to £26,765
Location: Manchester, United Kingdom
Closing date: 07 May 2010

Guidance Assessor

Company: YMCAfit
Salary: £26,614 per annum
Location: London, United Kingdom
Closing date: 07 May 2010

Healthy Lifestyles Officer

Company: South Somerset District Council
Salary: £20,198 - £22,958
Location: Somerset, United Kingdom
Closing date: 07 May 2010

Activity Instructor (Running and Walking)

Company: Walsall Council
Salary: £17,161 - £19,126 pa
Location: Walsall, United Kingdom
Closing date: 07 May 2010

Swim Well Manager

Company: Trafford Community Leisure
Salary: £18,000
Location: Manchester, United Kingdom
Closing date: 09 May 2010

North West Business Development Manager

Company: The National Skills Academy for Sport & Active Leisure
Salary: £35,000
Location: Manchester, United Kingdom
Closing date: 10 May 2010

Multisports Programme Manager

Company: Greenhouse Schools Project
Salary: starting at £32,200
Location: London, United Kingdom
Closing date: 14 May 2010

Active Communities Development Officer

Company: Nottingham City Council
Salary: £24,646 - £26,276 per annum
Location: Nottingham, United Kingdom
Closing date: 14 May 2010

Sports Development Manager

Company: Jags Sports Club
Salary: £24,000 (+/-)
Location: London, United Kingdom
Closing date: 17 May 2010



**UPDATED
DAILY**

Strategic Manager (Performance Sport)

Company: Loughborough University
Salary: Grade 7 £36,715-£43,840
Location: Loughborough, United Kingdom
Closing date: 17 May 2010

Activity Manager

Company: Embassy CES
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom
Closing date: 20 May 2010

Children's Activities Co-ordinator

Company: The Hawthorns School
Salary: £18,000-£20,000 depending on experience
Location: Surrey, United Kingdom
Closing date: 24 May 2010

Spa Therapists

Company: Sir Christopher Wren's House
Location: Windsor, United Kingdom

Spa Therapist / Receptionist

Company: Sofitel Hotels
Location: London, United Kingdom

Chief Executive of Zoological Society

Company: Bristol Zoo
Salary: £80,000, negotiable
Location: Bristol, United Kingdom
Closing date: 28 May 2010

Visitor Experience Manager

Company: Bowood
Salary: c.£30,000
Location: Calne, United Kingdom
Closing date: 07 May 2010

news & jobs at www.leisureopportunities.co.uk

Developer unveils updated Chelsea Barracks plans

New multi-million pound 'neighbourhood' to boast sports facility and public art under Qatari Diar-led scheme

By **Pete Hayman**

A new masterplan for a major redevelopment of the 12.8-acre (5.2-hectare) Chelsea Barracks project in Westminster, London, has been revealed.

Middle East-based developer Qatari Diar is behind the multi-million pound proposals – drawn up by Dixon Jones architects; Squire and Partners; and Kim Wilkie Associates.

A community sports facility, public art and a medical centre form part of the residential-led scheme, along with some of the

first gardens to be created in Central London for more than 100 years.

The former Garrison Chapel may also be retained to form a "beating heart" to the proposed neighbourhood development, which is not set to be gated in order to link in with existing local communities.

A new masterplan was drawn up after Qatari Diar's earlier proposals for the site – designed by Rogers Stirk and Partners – were withdrawn in the wake of criticism from the Prince of Wales.



The proposals are designed to link in with existing communities

Hornsey Town Hall set for major transformation

By **Pete Hayman**

Hornsey Town Hall is set to be transformed into a major new arts centre in Crouch End, London, under proposals submitted by Haringey Council.

Plans for the renovation of the Grade II*-listed building, which was initially designed by Reginald Uren and opened during the 1930s, have been drawn up by architects John McAslan and Partners.



A new arts complex is planned

Capita Symonds has been appointed to project manage the Hornsey Town Hall revamp, which will see the building's

assembly room transformed into a two-screen arthouse cinema and a flexible performance and music space.

Recording studios; creative studios for artists and designers; a bar and café; and youth facilities are also planned, along with a rooftop terrace.

The area surrounding the building will also be revamped to offer outdoor courtyards as part of the scheme, which will be part-funded by the council.

Devon museum future secured

Administrators acting on behalf of Morwellham Quay mining museum near Tavistock, Devon have agreed a deal to safeguard its future.

Simon and Valerie Lister have bought the business and assets of the Morwellham and Tamar Valley Trust, which was placed into administration in September 2009.

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