

London mayor calls for new Harry Potter attraction

By **Pete Hayman**

London mayor Boris Johnson has called on fans of the Harry Potter books to lobby for the development of a new theme park dedicated to the fictional wizard in the UK capital.

Writing in his column for the *Telegraph* newspaper, Johnson said that he "deeply and bitterly" disapproved of the new Harry Potter attraction that has been developed in Orlando, Florida, US.

The mayor urged young people and "their Potter-fiend parents" to write to Warner Brothers, Universal and author JK Rowling to bring a similar attraction to London.



Orlando's Harry Potter attraction is scheduled to open on 18 June

Johnson wrote: "I want to know why this Kingdom of Potter is not being built in the UK, and I won't be fobbed off with any nonsense about the weather. They built Eurodisney

in the Valley of the Marne, where it is at least as cold and drizzly as it is in London – and it has been a success.

"My point is that this Potter business has legs. It will run

and run, and we must be utterly mad, as a country, to leave it to the Americans to make money from a great British invention."

The Wizarding World of Harry Potter is scheduled to open at Universal Studios Orlando on 18 June, comprising a range of rides based on the tales of the fictional wizard.

The attraction will comprise three themed elements – Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey, a new ride system at the heart of Wizarding World, plus Flight of the Hippogriff and Dragon Challenge.

Plans also include a signature eating establishment offering traditional British cuisine.

Pure Gym announces two-year expansion scheme

Operator planning to launch 24 sites across the UK following £10m investment

By **Pete Hayman**

Health club operator Pure Gym has confirmed plans to open 24 UK sites over the next two years, following a £10m investment in the company.

A successful fundraising effort by Magenta Partners – led by principal investor and retail entrepreneur Tom Singh – will allow the operator to add to its existing five sites.

Pure Gym, which currently runs clubs in Sheffield; Manchester; Leeds; Edinburgh and Wolverhampton, offers



The low-cost operator aims to open 24 sites over two years

monthly memberships starting at £9.99 and provides customers with 24 hour access to its sites, seven days a week.

Two new clubs – Birmingham and Glasgow – are set to open shortly, while a further six sites are in the pipeline, with Aberdeen, Belfast and Derby among prospective locations.

Pure Gym chief executive Peter Roberts said: "We saw a big gap in the market for people that wanted to work out in a no frills environment without sacrificing the quality of the equipment they use.

"Our gyms have filled their memberships very successfully and we believe the time is right to roll this out across the UK."

New visitors' charter unveiled

UKinbound has launched a new charter designed to underline the help visitors can expect to receive from the UK industry in the event of travel disruption.

The development of the Visitor Assurance Charter comes after flights to and from the UK were severely disrupted by the volcanic ash cloud earlier this year.

The charter aims to reassure visitors that they will not be subject to inflated costs in the event of disruption.

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Jongleurs announces expansion plans

Comedy club chain set to open nine new UK locations as part of £2m investment

By **Martin Nash**

Comedy club chain Jongleurs is to invest a further £2m into its comedy and entertainment offering in 2010, with plans to launch nine new clubs nationwide later this year.

The new launch, which is the result of a franchise agreement with Momo Leisure, will see new clubs opening in Cambridge, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield and Newcastle. They will join an already established venue in Nottingham which opened in April this year.

Momo Leisure was founded in 2009 by David Elphick, head of training at Poppleston Allen, and Jez King, a former Regent Inns Executive and divisional managing director at Laurel.

Further expansion plans are already underway with Novus



Jongleurs is planning to continue its roll-out going into next year

Leisure, which opened the flagship joint venture at Sway in Covent Garden, London, in mid-May, with plans to open new clubs in Portsmouth, Croydon, Glasgow and Leeds.

John Davy, co-owner of Jongleurs, said "This fresh investment will help bring our unique offering to even more

customers and new audiences. The appetite for a complete comedy and entertainment experience is now stronger than ever."

By the end of this year, there is set to be a total of eleven Jongleurs clubs around the UK, with plans to continue the roll out programme into 2011.

UEFA set to implement new financial regulations

By **Pete Hayman**

Football clubs across Europe will no longer be able to spend more than they generate in revenue as part of new rules designed to ensure the sport's financial sustainability.

UEFA's Financial Fair Play concept – approved by the continental governing body's executive committee on 27 May – will force clubs to balance their books and operate within their means.

New regulations, which will come into effect for financial documents for a reporting period ending 2012, also aim to reduce transfer fees and salaries, as well as promote long-term youth development.

Clubs that fail to fulfil the 'break-even' requirements once the regulations come into effect

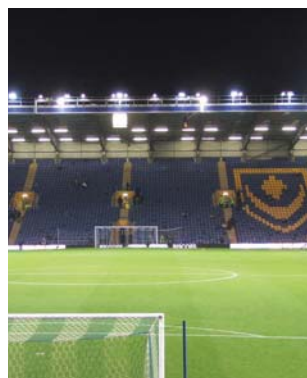


IMAGE: BEN HARDING/FLOKOR

The rules aim to protect clubs from future financial problems

could incur initial sanctions during the 2013-14 season, based on financial information from the previous two seasons.

UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino said: "The financial crisis has helped people become more concerned that something needs to be done – the spiral has to stop.

According to a UEFA survey of more than 650 clubs, more than 50 per cent were making losses each year, while 20 per cent were spending 120 per cent of their revenue.

The Football Association and Premier League have expressed their commitment to support UEFA's measures and said that the "vast majority" of the proposals fall into line with existing English regulations.

A joint statement said: "We recognise the difficult task undertaken by UEFA in this process and we have asked that certain issues be monitored so as to ensure these rules do not create unintended consequences such as preventing smaller clubs from having the opportunity to invest the resources required to compete at a higher level."

New wakeboarding site for Swansea Bay

Water-based facility set to be located at the heart of city's SA1 waterfront scheme

By **Pete Hayman**

GoWake – a new wakeboarding park in the heart of the SA1 development in Swansea, South Wales – is to open in time for this summer's tourism season.

Located in the city's 28-acre (11.3-hectare) Prince of Wales Dock, the venture is backed by the Welsh Assembly Government through its Single Investment Fund and by Associated British Ports.

The proposed cable-powered system at GoWake is capable of speeds of 25mph (40.2kmph).

A portable, straight-line cable system will be powered by an electric motor, with riders pulled across the surface of the water, using the resulting wake to perform manoeuvres and jumps. GoWake will operate on a year-round basis and is the



The Swansea Bay wakeboarding venue is due to open this summer

result of a collaboration between two watersports operators – Gower Kiteriders and Big Blue Experience.

It is hoped that the wakeboarding park will provide a new attraction for the region, and add to the Bay's existing complement of watersports.

Matt Barker-Smith of Gower Kiteriders said: "Active children become active adults, and by addressing the important issue of regular physical activity for good health we hope to invest in developing young peoples' participation – especially in outdoor sport."

ODA blows cold on Olympic Park's wind turbine

By **Martin Nash**

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has decided not to install a wind turbine on the Olympic Park site in east London.

The turbine had been proposed to the north of the site at Eton Manor as part of the ODA's target to deliver 20 per cent of the park's energy requirements from 2014, when the site is fully operational.

However, a number of factors – including new wider safety legislation applied to design elements of the turbine in question – have led to a



The ODA has opted against the provision of a wind turbine

rethink of the proposals. As a result, the preferred bidder's turbine supplier for the project has withdrawn from the project – citing a 'challenging delivery

timetable' in view of the new requirements – and the ODA has decided that it is no longer feasible for the turbine solution to move ahead.

The ODA remains committed to its sustainability targets and is now trying to identify alternative options for a renewable energy infrastructure across the Olympic Park.

Among these are the possible installation of photo voltaic solar panels at various locations around the site and a biomass gasification combined heat and power unit, which will be close to the energy centre site.

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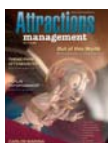
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IN BRIEF

Les Mills launches new training modules

► Fitness provider Les Mills has launched its new Advanced Instructor Module (AIM) training, which has been designed to boost standards in group exercise instruction. Certified instructors delivering the eight Les Mills fitness programmes in clubs across the world will complete a day-long session to learn enhanced technique training and coaching. An additional two-day module aims to develop coaching and connection, with instructors given the chance to present and receive feedback.

New operator for Daventry facilities

► Local authority-owned leisure facilities in Daventry, Northamptonshire, will be operated by a new charitable company, following SOLL Daventry's decision to withdraw. The town's leisure centre and sports park. The New Street tennis courts and pitches at Fishponds, Headlands and The Hollows are all owned by Daventry District Council and will be operated by the new company. SOLL Daventry decided to pull out of operating the venues due to "economic conditions" after three years in charge.

Milestone for Carshalton leisure scheme

► The development of a new £4.3m leisure complex at Carshalton College (CC), south London, has reached a milestone, following the completion of all external and ground works. Contractors are now set to move onto the final stage of the build process, which will comprise the internal fit out of the facility and is scheduled to be completed in August. The complex – a partnership between CC and Pulse – will boast a 70- station fitness suite and two dance studios.

Harlow Leisurezone set for June launch

New £25m leisure complex to finally open following delays in construction phase

By **Pete Hayman**

Harlow Leisurezone – a new £25m leisure complex being developed as part of the wider regeneration of the Essex town – is set to open its doors to the public on 23 June.

Facilities at the new centre will include a 25m swimming pool with seating for 300 spectators, a learner pool, an indoor tennis hall and a sports hall built to national club standard for badminton, basketball and trampolining.

A gym, three fitness studios, four squash courts and a health spa will also be on offer at the Leisurezone, as well as a lounge bar/restaurant, a daycare nursery and a café.

Abingdon-based contractor Leadbitter had been due to hand the complex over to the Harlow Gateway Partnership by Christmas 2009, before an issue with the installation of fire



Facilities at the centre include a gym and three fitness studios

dampers delayed the scheme. The partnership comprises Harlow Council; Harlow and District Sports Trust (HDST); the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Harlow Council leader Andrew Johnson said: "[Leisurezone] puts Harlow back at the forefront of sporting provision in the region and is a tremendous asset to Harlow."

HDST chair Pat Hay added:

"The sporting and leisure opportunities at Harlow Leisurezone are absolutely outstanding and it will be one of the best facilities in the country. Harlow residents will be able to enjoy so many more activities under one roof."

Harlow Town FC and the East of England Development Agency also support the wider £50m Gateway revamp scheme.

New fitness facility for Perth

Perth and Kinross Leisure has opened the new-look Rodney Fitness Centre in Perth, following the completion of work to revamp the facility.

Life Fitness has installed 28 pieces of equipment from its Elevation Series Engage cv range as part of the main fitness gym, which has also benefited from new lighting, paintwork and flooring.

Rodney Fitness Centre, which offers 'pay and play' or membership provision, also incorporates a strength fitness area and an aerobics studio with 40 classes a week.

William Penn scheme completed

By **Pete Hayman**

A new 25m swimming pool and 12m teaching pool have been unveiled at the William Penn Leisure Centre in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, to mark the completion of a major overhaul of the venue.

The scheme, which also included the creation of changing facilities and a poolside spectator area, has come in £2m over budget and two years late following groundwork problems and a legal dispute. Other facilities at the new-look William Penn Leisure Centre include a 80-station fitness studio and two dance studios within the Beaumonts Health Club; a



The facility boasts a 12m teaching pool for kids

sports hall; squash courts and a multi-use games area.

Hertsmere Leisure, which operates the facility on behalf of Three Rivers District Council, has relaunched the centre's Swim Academy Lesson Programme and will also run the National Plan for Teaching Swimming.

New leisure centre for Canvey Island?

Skanska hands council its plans for a multi-use sports and fitness complex

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the construction of a leisure centre in Canvey Island, Essex, have been unveiled by developer Skanska as part of the local Building Schools for the Future programme.

The group, which was appointed by Castle Point Borough Council to deliver new schools for the area, has also submitted a draft proposal to replace Waterside Farm Leisure Centre with a new facility.

Plans are currently at a conceptual stage but will include a 25m swimming pool, a sports hall, a fitness suite and an all-weather football facility with a combination of indoor and outdoor 3G pitches. A café and a crèche are also earmarked



The proposals include a 25m swimming pool and sports hall

as part of the development, which are due to be considered by the local authority.

Meanwhile, a £2.5m programme of improvements to local leisure facilities is now underway with a £136,000 scheme to allow The Paddocks,

Canvey Island, to become a wedding venue – subject to receiving the necessary licence.

Work will start on a £724,000 project to upgrade facilities at Runnymede Hall in July, while maintenance work is also scheduled for Woodside Hall.

IN BRIEF

Gosling unveils new PT partnership?

► A £4.7m fitness facility at Gosling Sports Park in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, has joined forces with Club Training to unveil a new personal training initiative for the summer. Gosling Lifestyle Facility, which boasts a 100-station gym, a wellness system and a weights area, will host the new partnership to provide a free trial personal training session for people of all ages and abilities.

New exercise advice for cancer patients

► Cancer patients should be encouraged to take part in physical activity both during and after treatment, according to new guidelines from the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), US. The college's recommendations have been published following a review by a 13-member panel of ACSM experts into the safety and benefits of exercising while receiving cancer therapy. Cancer sufferers previously advised to avoid physical activity are now being encouraged to take part in up to 150 minutes of exercise each week, including swimming, yoga and strength training.

New sports facility for Gloucester school

► A new fitness facility – equipped by Life Fitness – has been opened by former England footballer Sir Geoff Hurst at Pate's Grammar School in Gloucester. The facility has been created in a former empty room at the school and boasts 20 pieces of equipment, including 12 certified pre-owned (CPO) cv machines and eight strength units. It is hoped the sports facility will encourage students to stay fit, while providing equipment for curriculum-based activities at the school.

SLM installs reaction trainers for Watford club

By **Pete Hayman**

Sports and Leisure Management (SLM) has created a new Reaction Trainer zone at Watford Woodside Leisure Centre as part of a £23m refurbishment programme.

Escape Fitness has equipped the first-floor facility with four Reaction Trainers, which feature three vertical poles with sensors and lights to indicate targets that users punch to accumulate scores.



The new suite at the health club

The zone has also been fitted with Everoll Classic flooring to provide line markings for

exercises corresponding on scorecards and posters supplied by Escape.

Club members will be able to use the zone to workout by themselves or participate in SLM's new Punch workshops, which run six times a week and involves 30-minute classes using different techniques.

The £23m revamp is being carried out with its sister site, Watford Centre, while SLM has also installed a Reaction Trainer at Loughton Leisure Centre.

New fitness equipment for London's Reebok club

Reebok Sports Club at Canary Wharf, London, has upgraded its fitness offering with 40 pieces of new cv equipment from Life Fitness' Elevation Series Engage range.

The 100,000sq ft (9,290sq m) facility, which is one of the largest private members' clubs in Europe, has installed 14 treadmills, 10

cross-trainers and 16 Lifecycle exercise bikes as part of the revamp.

The new equipment also includes iPod connectivity and USB connectivity – designed to enable members to use Life Fitness' online services to create their own bespoke workouts and track progress.

IN BRIEF

Stadium awards shortlist revealed

► Five individuals have been shortlisted for the Executive of the Year accolade at the Stadium Business Awards 2010. Swansea-based Dr Terry Stevens of Stevens and Associates is among those shortlisted for the title, following his work on a number of projects over the past 20 years. Other nominees include Glenn Delve, group managing director at the Rose Bowl in Hampshire and Shane Chalmers, stadium management company head at Doncaster's Keepmoat Stadium.

Lottery award semi-finalists announced

► Ten community sports projects are in the running to receive a £2,000 cash prize after being named as semi-finalists in the National Lottery Awards 2010. The sport category is one of seven that comprise the awards. Among the sports projects to make the semi-final stage are Attock Community Sports and Cricket Club, Birmingham; Children's Able and Disabled Sport, Cheshire; and Breaking the Barrier, Devon. Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club, South Wales; Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex, London; the Lincolnshire Disability Inclusion Project; and Ready, Steady, Run in Rugby are also in the running.

England Netball invests £200k in Life Centre

► England Netball will invest £200,000 in Plymouth's new £46.5m Life Centre. The body is providing support as part of its capital investment programme to help the facility further its potential as a Regional and County Netball Centre. England Netball chief executive, Paul Clark, said: "Under our whole sport plan, England Netball was granted £800,000 of capital to invest in facilities."

Goals unveils first US football centre

New California complex includes 10 five-a-side pitches and one seven-a-side pitch

By **Pete Hayman**

Goals Soccer Centres has unveiled its first five-a-side football venue in the US, with the launch of a new facility in Los Angeles, California.

Opened by former US footballer Alexi Lalas, the new facility includes 10 five-a-side pitches and one seven-a-side pitch fitted with rubber crumb turf, as well as a clubhouse.

It is hoped the Goals Soccer Centre will help provide some of the first dedicated football facilities in California, with football second only to basketball in terms of participation within Los Angeles.

Goals Soccer Centres managing director Keith Rogers said: "We are confident that the



It is hoped the complex will increase participation in Los Angeles

Goals concept will be very successful in California. Soccer in California is growing at an astounding rate.

"Our centre opening coincides with the 2010 FIFA World Cup and we expect to benefit from the subsequent euphoria."

The opening of the company's first site in the US follows an announcement at the end of April that three new UK centres are scheduled to open during the current financial year, with plans to roll out six venues in 2011.

ODA completes London 2012 rowing venue project

By **Pete Hayman**

Work to improve rowing and canoe sprint facilities at Eton College Rowing Centre near Windsor for the 2012 Olympics – have been completed "on time and on budget".

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has revealed that Dorney Lake is the second venue to be fully completed ahead of the London Games, following the sailing facilities at Weymouth and Portland.



A new finish line bridge was built as part of the scheme

Improvements include a 50m (164ft) finish line bridge over the return lane, a cut-through

between the competition lake and return lane, and a bridge over the cut-through.

ODA chief executive David Higgins said: "The enhancements we have now delivered will create the best possible facilities for the world's best athletes to use in 2012.

"With venues at Eton Dorney and Weymouth and Portland complete, and the canoe courses at Broxbourne taking shape, we are making good progress across the project."

BCFC development plans handed planning boost

Bristol City Football Club's (BCFC) plans for a new 30,000-seat stadium at Ashton Vale were given a boost after councillors approved proposals for a new access road to the venue.

North Somerset Council's planning and regulatory committee unanimously voted in favour of the access plans, while the government has already said that it will not intervene in a decision to approve plans for the Populous-designed stadium itself, due to be completed in 2012.

A separate planning application, which has been submitted by Sainsbury's for the development of a supermarket on the site of BCFC's current Ashton Gate stadium, is set to be considered in July.

WWFC unveils Molineux revamp plans

Premier League club to increase stadium capacity as part of £40m development

By **Pete Hayman**

Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club (WWFC) have unveiled plans for a £40m revamp of Molineux stadium, which will increase the venue's capacity to 36,000.

The initial two-phase project which will be carried out over a three-year period, will see the Stan Cullis (North) and Steve Bull (East) stands replaced with new two-tier structures.

Stage One will comprise the construction of a new stand to replace the Stan Cullis (North) stand due to get underway at the end of the 2010-11 season and will feature a museum, a café and a club shop.

A family information centre, pitch-facing hospitality facilities and a large video screen also



An initial two-phase overhaul will be carried out over three years

form part of the proposed new stand in the first phase, which will extend into an open corner at the north east of the venue.

The second stage will involve the replacement of the Steve Bull (East) stand, which will be rebuilt over a two-season period between 2012-14 and is

due to be fully open in time for the 2014-15 season.

WWFC said plans are afoot for a third and fourth phase – comprising a new second tier on the Jack Harris (South) stand and a redeveloped Billy Wright (West) main stand, depending on supporter demand.

NTC opens new recreation sites

A number of new and revamped recreation facilities, including a new skatepark at Parks Leisure Centre, North Shields, have been unveiled by North Tyneside Council (NTC).

The skatepark, which was designed with the help of local skaters, includes features such as a rainbow grind.

Meanwhile, the area's first fully-staffed adventure playground is due to open later this summer in Shiremoor, while a further ten play sites have been improved.

Funding for the play improvements came via the government's Play Pathfinder scheme, which saw NTC allocated £2.5m over a two-year period.

Concerns over EPL clubs' wages



Deloitte warned that EPL clubs are spending too much on salaries

By **Pete Hayman**

Deloitte has raised concerns that English Premier League (EPL) clubs are spending too much of their revenue on wages, following the publication of its *Annual Review of Football Finance*.

During the 2008-09 season, the 20 top-flight football clubs posted a £49m increase in revenue – less than half of a £123m increase in wage costs.

Wage growth is expected to "outstrip" revenue increases yet again for the 2009-10 season and Deloitte's Sports Business Group warned that the trend cannot be sustained.

Deloitte's Sports Business Group partner Alan Switzer said: "We expect wages growth to outstrip revenue increases again in 2009-10. This will further reduce operating profitability, a decline that cannot continue indefinitely."

IN BRIEF

£200,000 Tinsley Park revamp complete

► Sheffield International Venues has completed a £200,000 overhaul of Tinsley Park Golf Course in Sheffield. Forming part of wider investment plans for the site, Tinsley Park has benefited from a renovated clubhouse and work to upgrade the public areas and changing rooms. Other improvements have included the creation of a new café and bar in the downstairs area of the clubhouse.

Red Knights takeover bid 'put on hold'

► A consortium of investors has shelved plans to launch a bid for Manchester United Football Club (MUFC) as it does not believe it would achieve a "fair value" for the club. The Red Knights has been looking to acquire the Premier League club from the Glazer family, but has expressed concern that "inflated value aspirations" would make its bid likely to fail. In a statement, the consortium said it remained committed to efforts to return ownership of MUFC to its supporters and reduce existing debt levels, but would only pay a "sensible" price for the club.

RCBC unveils two new football pavilions

► Two new football pavilions – at Smiths Dock Park, Normanby, and the renamed Mo Mowlam Memorial Ground, Dormanstown – have been unveiled by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC). The facilities, which were opened to the public on 29 May, were developed with the help of funding from the council and the Football Foundation (FF). Mo Mowlam Memorial Ground secured a £244,231 grant from the FF towards the £419,000 pavilion, while a £169,788 grant helped fund the £311,000 facility at Smiths Dock Park.

IN BRIEF

First Cape-branded restaurant opens

► Reading, Berkshire has seen the opening of pub group Barracuda's sixth Cape-branded pub and grill outlet. The site was formerly operating as Varsity, another of the company's brands, with the new Cape surroundings of chesterfield-style armchairs, high top bar stools, leather sofas, cosy booths and a South African-inspired menu being a radical departure from the large-format, student and promotions-led Varsity offer. The revamp, which has created 16 new full and part-time jobs, is part of Barracuda's ongoing £7m investment programme. This has seen the refurbishment and rebranding of more than 50 pubs and bars across the company's 220-strong portfolio in the past year. Reading's new Cape pub joins others in Stirling, Stockton Heath, Nottingham and St. Katherine's Dock and Aldermanbury in London.

BHA calls for government support

► British Hospitality Association (BHA) chief executive Bob Cotton has called for the new coalition government to act on pledges to support the UK tourism industry. In the organisation's annual report, Cotton said the industry had reason to be optimistic about the future under the Conservative and Liberal Democrat administration. However, he urged the coalition government to show "evidence" it was prepared to support the tourism industry through reduced regulation and increased investment. In his last annual report before leaving the BHA, Cotton said: "We look forward to evidence of a greater government belief in the value of tourism, with measures that will enable it to fulfil its potential as one of the principal economic drivers."

Operators set to receive music refund

Successful appeal by BHA and BBPA will result in PPL paying back license fees

By **Tom Walker**

Hotel, restaurant and pub operators are set to be able to claim refunds from Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL) following a successful appeal against recorded music tariffs.

Claim forms are now being sent to PPL-licensed properties after the Copyright Tribunal ruling in last October which stated that tariff increases dating back to 2005-06 had been "unreasonable".

Businesses which paid excess charges during the period are now set to claim a share of £15m, following the appeal by the British Hospitality Association (BHA) and British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA).

It is estimated future annual savings for the hospitality



Pubs and restaurants are most likely to benefit from the ruling

industry will be around £5m, with recorded music tariffs comprising CD players, televisions and radios.

BHA deputy chief executive Martin Couchman said: "This successful result demonstrates, once again, the importance of having a strong trade

association to defend the industry's interests."

BBPA chief executive Brigid Simmonds added: "We have fought long and hard for these reduced charges and refunds, so we want to ensure that pubs claim what they are owed in full."

Park Inn brand to be renamed

The Rezidor Hotel Group has announced that its mid-market Park Inn brand is to be renamed as Park Inn by Radisson with immediate effect.

Explaining the rationale behind the move, Kurt Ritter, president and CEO of Rezidor, said: "This new name is in line with our decision to strongly focus on the development of our two core brands.

"Park Inn is a young brand which we only launched in early 2003. The link with Radisson and its strength and reputation will allow Park Inn to grow faster and to be even more efficient. We are also confident that the new name will further increase brand awareness."

Taco Bell to debut in the UK



The fast food chain currently operates nearly 6,000 sites worldwide

By **Tom Walker**

Taco Bell, the Mexican-themed restaurant chain, is to open its first site in the UK.

The opening, at the Lakeside Shopping Centre in Essex, is scheduled for next month, with the restaurant offering a range of fast food such as tacos, burritos, nachos and quesadillas.

Taco Bell – part of the US-owned Yum! Brands group which also owns KFC and Pizza

Hut – has had a presence in the UK before. It opened outlets in London and Birmingham in the late 1980s but all had closed within a few years.

The company currently operates more than 250 restaurants outside the US and around 5,600 restaurants in the US. A spokesperson declined to comment on the potential size of the brand's UK rollout but said Lakeside was "the start of our plans for the UK".



The initiative aims to improve the treatment of hospitality staff

'Fair Hotels' campaign for Ireland

40 operators support scheme to support staff

By **Tom Walker**

More than 40 hotels across Ireland have signed up to a new campaign designed to encourage consumers to support businesses that promote the fair treatment of staff.

The Fair Hotels initiative, which was unveiled on 25 May at Liberty Hall Theatre in Dublin, will use the collective purchasing power of 850,000 workers to make an "ethical choice" about where they stay. Endorsed by the Irish Congress

of Trade Unions and confederations in 120 countries around the world, the campaign will see 61 events held at participating properties between 2010 and 2013.

A spokesperson for the Siptu union said: "More than 40 hotels across Ireland in which workers have collective bargaining rights have signed up to the campaign which will encourage trade unions and their members to use fair hotels for family holidays and breaks, conferences and meetings."

London expansion for Be At One

Cocktail bar chain Be At One has revealed plans to open eight new sites in London over the next two years after delivering strong financial results for the year ending 31 March 2010.

The group posted a 13 per cent increase in like-for-like sales at sites that have been open for more than a year, while profits grew by 17.5 per cent when compared with the previous year.

Be At One, which launched with the opening of its first bar in Battersea in 1998, currently operates nine sites across the capital and aims to open a further three this year, the first of which will be in Shoreditch. Another five new sites are scheduled to open in 2011-12.

Rhys Oldfield, one of the group's co-founders, said: "2010 is set to be another exciting year of growth for us."

Meeting the management challenge

Just over half of sector employers currently provide management training

In the recently published People 1st *State of the Nation 2010 Report*, a survey of more than 2,000 hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism businesses undertaken in March 2010 found that 26 per cent of those surveyed said they employed people who lack the required skills to do the job, compared to 19% in 2007. In 2009, 39 per cent of those who stated they had skills gaps in their workforce said that management skills needed improving. This is higher than the average across the whole UK economy (36 per cent), and an increase from 2007 (26 per cent). "Given their importance in terms of the future growth of the sector, the lack of managerial skills remains a concern," the report said.

The irony is, however, that just over half of sector employers currently provide management training, the majority of which is tailored and delivered on-the-job. Some 45 per cent of employers provide in-house, off-the-job management training, while 36 per cent use external training providers. Despite the increase in the amount of training it is still the quality of training that matters. Management training in particular needs to be tailored for the personal development needs of the individual. The IOH is helping in meeting this challenge through its suite of awards which not only provide a pathway to obtaining a full nationally-recognised qualification, but also allow individuals to focus on their own personal development needs.

A good example of this philosophy being put into practice (amongst many throughout the UK) can be found at Westminster Kingsway College in Central London, which is now offering the Institute of Hospitality's qualifications. The first 18-week course started in April, and has attracted employees who work in hotels, contract catering and private member clubs. The unitised management programme includes the study of marketing, human resources, finance, business strategy, communication, and problem-solving. Red Carnation Hotels and BaxterStorey are amongst the companies participating. "This is the chance for some of our selected managers to learn about all aspects of the hotel business," said Liz McGivern, HR director at Red Carnation Hotels. "If, in a recession, you have the courage to invest in training people to manage better it will be rewarded. When the focus is on bringing people back to your hotel then inspired management is at the heart of achieving this," she added.

For more information about the IOH's awards and qualifications, please contact awardingbody@instituteofhospitality.org



Institute of Hospitality
Formerly HEMA

PHILIPPE ROSSITER
is chief executive
of the IOH.

Leisure Opportunities
is a member
benefit of the IOH

IN BRIEF

Bletchley Park archives to go online

► A vast collection of hitherto unseen historical documents stored at the World War II code-breaking centre at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, is to be digitised and made available to the public online. Expected to take between three and five years, the collaboration between electronics company Hewlett-Packard and the Bletchley Park Trust will help to commit more than one million of the site's historic documents to digital format. The documents include communication transcripts, communiqués, memoranda, photographs and other material tracing and referencing some of the most significant events of the Second World War.

Havering Museum officially opens

► Havering Museum in London has officially opened. The former brewery was transformed with the help of a £990,000 HLF grant. It opened one day a week once building work was completed in February, but is now open Wednesdays to Saturdays. Wesley Kerr, chair of HLF's London Committee, said: "For the first time in six decades this important borough – in the heart of London, the heart of Essex, and the soul of Anglo-Saxon England – has a heritage hub. The independent museum will be run by Havering Museum Ltd, supported by Havering Borough Council. Objects in the museum are separated into themes including farming, transport and childhood and there are five pods telling the stories of Havering-atte-Bower, Hornchurch, Romford, Rainham and Upminster and their surrounding areas. It also has two permanent exhibition areas, a temporary exhibition and event space and a gift shop.

HLF announces £17m skills investment

Initiative set to create 800 placements in the heritage and museums sectors

By **Pete Hayman**

More than 50 training projects are set to benefit from a share of £17m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) as part of its Skills for the Future programme.

Launched in July 2009, the one-off funding initiative aims to support organisations across the UK to create training places over a five-year period, with grants ranging between £100,000 and £1m.

More than 800 placements are expected to be delivered as part of the investment, which is treble the amount originally set aside by the HLF and will support traditional conservation training. Among the projects to receive funding is Training the Curator, a British Museum-led programme that will receive more than £510,000 to train 15 people – at least half from ethnic minority backgrounds.



IMAGE: HERITAGE BLACKSMITH BUSINESSES - KIPP MATTHEWS/HLF

Training projects include schemes led by the British Museum

The Waterways Trust, Glamorgan Archives and the National Heritage Ironwork Group are also among the beneficiaries of funding from the HLF to create new training opportunities.

HLF chair Dame Jenny Abramsky said: "When the recession kicked-in last year we thought very hard about how the Heritage Lottery Fund could

make a difference to people's lives at a time of real need. The answer was an innovative and ambitious programme focusing on equipping people with practical skills to help them secure future employment."

Tourism and heritage minister John Penrose added: "This investment is a great way of giving people access to practical on-the-job training."

Heritage archive now online

More than one million photographs and documents relating to England's historic buildings and archaeological sites have been made available to the public online.

The information – amounting to 1.1m records and 82,600 images – is held by the National Monuments Record (NMR), English Heritage's (EH) public archive, and until now could only be accessed in person at the NMR's public search rooms in Swindon, Wiltshire.

Using a range of search terms, users can establish whether or not EH holds any items in its archive relevant to the topic in which they are interested. Searches can be made for a type of building or for an address.

V&A Dundee shortlist announced

By **Pete Hayman**

Six companies have been shortlisted as part of an international design competition to draw up plans for a landmark new building to house the proposed V&A at Dundee.

Located at Craig Harbour as part of city's redeveloped waterfront area, the attraction will host travelling and permanent exhibitions, as well as providing a resource for design and creativity.

Among the shortlisted design teams is Vienna, Austria-based Delugan Meissl Associated Architects, along with Kengo Kuma and Associates of Tokyo, Japan, and Snøhetta from Oslo, Norway. REX and Steven Holl Architects – both based in New



The museum is being developed by Design Dundee

York, US – and Sutherland Hussey Architects of Edinburgh are the other three teams in the running to be appointed.

The V&A at Dundee project is being led by Design Dundee – a partnership formed by V&A Museum, London; the universities of Dundee and Abertay Dundee; Dundee City Council and Scottish Enterprise.

Donington appoints new leaseholders

Worcestershire-based Adroit Group secures deal to operate motor racing venue

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

New leaseholders have been appointed at the Donington Park motor racing circuit, near Kegworth, Leicestershire.

Kevin Wheatcroft – son of the late owner Tom Wheatcroft – has signed an agreement with Worcestershire-based property investment specialist the Adroit Group in a bid to restore the circuit to its former glory.

Donington has been part of British motor racing for 80 years, but in recent times it found itself mired in operational and financial turmoil. When it was awarded the British Grand Prix ahead of Silverstone, it could not live up to expectations and ended up bankrupt in the process.

Adroit managing director David Broome said: "It is a big task and no one is under any illusions about that. We intend to bring the site back up to a



Watton (left), Broome and Wheatcroft (right) secure the new deal

world class standard. The entire site needs attention, while much of it will require a total overhaul – from the track itself to the medical centre, hospitality suites, phone, radio and PA systems, IT systems CCTV and general ground work.

"There is no magic wand, but through a calm, cautious, credible and sensible approach, we know that we have the experience, expertise and

commitment to bring the glory years back to Donington."

Wheatcroft added: "We feel that we have found the right people to move Donington forward into a new and exciting future.

"David and Steve [Watton, Adroit operations director] impressed us from the first time we met them and we have every confidence in their ability and vision for Donington."

IN BRIEF

Fun Fair Brewery acquires its first pub

► The Fun Fair Brewery Company has bought the freehold of the "Chequers Inn" near Nottingham. The acquisition, through property agents Christie + Co., is the company's first pub. The two-storey property – in the village of Elston – comprises a 35-cover main bar, a five-cover snug, 10-space car park, beer patio, a storage shed and three-bedroom owner's accommodation. The pub was reopened by its new owners on 4 June. The Fun Fair Brewery Company is owned by David Tizard and Abigail Cutts and was established in 2004 by Tizard at his former freehold public house, "The Wheel" at Holbrook, Derbyshire. Initially a 2.5-barrel microbrewery, it expanded to five-barrel capacity in 2006, when it was relocated to larger premises. The company's beers include Brandy Snap and Dive Bomber.

'Dinner in the Sky' at the Edinburgh Festival

► Festival in the Sky, a 22-seat table suspended 100ft (30.5m) above the ground, will offer visitors the chance to try a new dining experience at this year's Edinburgh Festival. The concept, which is being organised by marketing agency DADA Ventures, will be sited in the specially-created Sky Gardens at West Princes Street Gardens and will run between 1 and 31 August. A fully-heated dining table with weather-proof canopy is designed to offer unique views of the city and surrounding area, with each of the 22 seats able to turn on a 180-degree axis. DADA managing director Oli Norman said: "There's no doubt that 'Festival in the Sky' will be one of the biggest and most talked about attractions at the Edinburgh Festival this year."

Vue to open Dublin cinema

Vue Entertainment is to open a new multiplex cinema at the new Spring Cross development in Ballymun, Ireland.

The nine-screen site will form part of an €800m (£663m) mixed-use development project in north Dublin, led by Treasury Holdings and designed to boost the regeneration of the area.

A leisure offer – comprising restaurants, a bowling alley and a public library – is included in the scheme, with work due to get underway on phase one of the development in the middle of next year.

Aerial plans new rope courses

By **Pete Hayman**

Aerial Extreme plans to open two new urban high rope courses – one in Sheffield and one in Manchester.

The group already operates courses at Knowsley Safari Park, Merseyside; Willen Lake in Milton Keynes; the Trentham Estate in Staffordshire and Bedale, North Yorkshire.

According to Aerial Extreme, the new courses – at iceSheffield and the Trafford Centre – are due to be open in time for the summer holidays, with the Sheffield site to be opened first.

Aerial Extreme managing director Sinan Osman said: "We are bringing high ropes courses to the city, making it easier for



The new ropes course starts to take shape at iceSheffield

adventurers of all ages to experience this urban activity."

Mandy Parker, general manager of iceSheffield, added: "The course will be a great addition to the family fun activities available at iceSheffield and perfectly complement the sessions we already offer on the ice pads."

The future of regional tourism

What will happen to Regional Development Agencies (RDAs)?



KURT JANSON is policy director of Tourism Alliance

One of the key tourism issues to come out of the government's coalition programme is the uncertain future of the RDAs.

The future of RDAs is of considerable importance to tourism development and marketing since they were given statutory responsibility for tourism when they were created in 1999. Since then, they have been allocated around £2.2bn per annum, mostly through the "single pot" administered by the Department for Business Enterprise and Skills. Of this, around £40m per annum has been directly spent on tourism development and promotion (well over three times VisitEngland's budget).

This allocation has helped deliver considerable tourism benefits to the regions. However, the future of the RDAs is now under a cloud with the government stating that it will support the creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) – joint local authority-business bodies brought forward by local authorities to promote local economic development – to replace the RDAs.

The transition from RDAs to LEPs is not likely to be straight forward and there is a significant risk that the current level of tourism spending will not be maintained. If this expenditure is significantly reduced, then trying to achieve something approaching a seamless transfer of responsibilities and funding from RDAs to LEPs is shaping up to be one of the most challenging tasks for the sector and the Tourism Alliance.

'Payback' scheme for North Wales

Visitors to pay extra levy to contribute towards environmental projects

By **Tom Walker**

A new "visitor payback" initiative could see tourists contribute towards environmental projects in North Wales under plans mooted by Tourism Partnership North Wales (TPNW).

The organisation, which is responsible for the strategic development of the region's tourism industry, said the scheme would be based on a similar initiative launched in the Lake District in 1993.

Under TPNW's plans, visitors to North Wales will be asked to pay an extra amount in addition to their hotel bill or attraction admission fee – thought to be around £1.

TPNW regional strategy director Dewi Davies said: "We have eight million staying visitors a year in North Wales and 17 million day visitors. If each of those contributed only £1 each that would give us a very sustainable pot indeed."



Visitors to iconic venues will be asked to contribute towards eco projects

Conwy County Borough Council's portfolio holder for communities, Goronwy Edwards, added: "It really seems to work well in the Lake District and I feel it is something well worth exploring.

"There could be real benefits if hotels, caravan park owners and others could be persuaded to raise the levy."

Riddle steps aside as VisitScotland chief exec

By **Pete Hayman**



Riddle has held the CEO role since 2001

VisitScotland has revealed that chief executive Philip Riddle has stepped down from the role amid ongoing speculation regarding his future at the organisation.

A VisitScotland spokesperson said: "We can confirm that discussions are progressing in private with chief executive Philip Riddle concerning his position at VisitScotland. To give Mr Riddle space to conduct these discussions in the light of unhelpful media speculation, he will not undertake chief executive duties in the meantime."

Visit York unveils new information centre

Tourism agency Visit York has unveiled a new visitor information centre, following the completion of a £900,000 project to replace an existing facility.

The new Visit York Information Centre, which is housed within a Grade II-listed building on Museum Street, is designed to act as a gateway for visitors and residents to the city and surrounding region. York

Conservation Trust, regional development agency Yorkshire Forward, the City of York Council, and tourism agency Welcome to Yorkshire have supported the development of the new centre.

Facilities include an accommodation booking service, an exhibition space, an itinerary planning service and a shop selling locally-produced goods.



Feasibility Study – Expressions of Interest Rickmansworth

Three Rivers District Council wish to commission a feasibility study into the replacement of an existing clubhouse facility, used primarily for sailing and related activities on a local lake. The Council are inviting expressions of interest from suitably experienced companies to carry out the study on behalf of Three Rivers District Council and the club.

It is envisaged that a new clubhouse will be built close to the existing building and there will be other improvements externally. Areas to be considered in this study will include, but are not exclusively:-

- Organisation and operation of the facility.
- Community involvement and marketing.
- Design, technical and cost considerations of the building.
- Finance and project programme.
- Funding opportunities.

Interested parties are in the first instance advised to look at the Council's website for general information and particularly review the section about the Aquadrome.

The timetable for this study is likely to be:-

- Closing date for expressions of interest, 16th July.
- Interviews of shortlisted companies, end July.
- Appointment of selected company, mid August.
- Completion of study, mid October.

Expressions of interest in the first instance should be directed to either Chris Hope or Alan Head at the Council, contact details as below. Submissions need to include company details, relevant experience including examples of similar projects, key personnel including their qualifications and the likely basis of charging for such a study.

Chris Hope chris.hope@threeivers.gov.uk 01923 727140
Alan Head alan.head@threeivers.gov.uk 01923 727217



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Operational Control of 1 Palace Street and Abercrombie House Gymnasium and Fitness Facilities

Innovative and progressive, qualified Corporate Fitness Management Companies are invited to take part in a PQQ (Pre-Qualification Questionnaire) exercise for the following service: The provision of managing in-house gym/fitness facilities at the Department for International Development, in both 1 Palace Street, London and Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Scotland. The contract will be initially for three years, reviewed annually, commencing in early October 2010 with the possibility of a further 2 year extension.

There are approximately 1000 and 600 employees on each site (including other government department staff), respectively. Each site has a gymnasium and small fitness studio. Both sites are fully equipped and have been in operation for a number of years. Funding will be fully generated through staff membership/class fees. The gym's current opening hours are from 07.30 to 19.30 Monday through to Friday. We are very interested in examining flexible and innovative ways of supporting both facilities. Variant bids will be welcomed at ITT stage to allow for different costing models.

It is anticipated that suppliers who are short listed as a result of the PQQ process will be invited to tender in late June/early July 2010.

The PQQ and supporting documentation can be found at the following: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Procurement/Current-contract-opportunities1/>

If you have any issues accessing this information, please contact Mark Monaghan (m-monaghan@dfid.gov.uk) quoting reference no. PO5314. This information will be available for download up till 12.00pm (noon) on Friday June 18 2010.

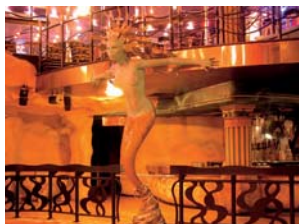
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IN BRIEF

Council approves Tooting hotel plans

► Plans for the development of a new 80-bedroom hotel in Tooting, south west London, have been given the green light by planners at Wandsworth Council. The scheme, which will be located on Tooting Broadway, includes a two-storey roof extension of the town's former Woolworth's building, with the ground floor retaining a private retail outlet. A corner section will provide the hotel reception.

Future of Bromsgrove stadium decided

► Bromsgrove Sporting Ltd – a not-for-profit organisation – has been offered the lease on the town's Victoria Ground by Bromsgrove District Council (BDC). The decision follows an extensive review of two proposals for the future use of the ground, which is currently used by Bromsgrove Rovers Football Club (BRFC) as its home ground. BDC's cabinet has now approved Bromsgrove Sporting's bid, which said BRFC can continue to use the Victoria Ground for fixtures, while also enhancing local opportunities.

Council seeks views on Eastbourne future

► Eastbourne Borough Council has unveiled a new consultation to allow local residents to have their say on how the East Sussex town will develop in the coming years. A proposed Area Action Plan drawn up by the council will provide a blueprint to shape the future regeneration of the town in the next 16 years and includes a number of proposals, including ways to develop the local evening economy.

WBC selects Orford Park contractor

Galliford Try to deliver second phase of £30m Warrington regeneration scheme

By **Pete Hayman**

Warrington Borough Council (WBC) has announced that Galliford Try has secured the main contract for the £30m second phase of the Orford Park regeneration scheme.

The development will include a sports village with swimming pools, a health and fitness suite and a sports hall, as well as a library and a Diploma Centre for 14-19-year-olds.

Orford Park will transform around 50 acres (20.2 hectares) of a former landfill site and enhance facilities in adjacent parklands, with work due to be completed in early 2012.

It is hoped the scheme will provide lasting benefits to the local community, which is among the top 7 per cent most disadvantaged areas in the UK.



The regeneration scheme aims to transform a former landfill site

Orford is also a designated Health Improvement Zone.

WBC is leading the scheme alongside a number of organisations, such as NHS Warrington, Warrington Disability Partnership and the Orford Neighbourhood Project.

Sport England, North West Region, the Football Founda-

tion, the Northwest Regional Development Agency and the Big Lottery Fund are funding the complex.

WBC leader Ian Marks said: "This project will create a fantastic facility that will be of great benefit to the people of Orford and Warrington in so many ways for many years."

£5m rise in 2012 building costs

By **Pete Hayman**

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has announced the 2012 Games remains "within budget" despite an £5m increase in build and infrastructure costs.

According to the latest *London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Economic Report*, the anticipated final cost is now at £7.267bn from £7.262bn identified by a previous study.

The ODA said the increase is less than 0.1 per cent and remains within the £8.1bn available for increases forecast in areas such as transport and Olympic Village infrastructure.



IMAGE: ANTHONY CHARLTON/ODA

The 2012 construction project has remained "within budget"

Sport and Olympics minister Hugh Robertson said: "This report clearly shows that we are on track to host a Games that inspires a whole new generation of young people to take up sport."

Belfast scheme 'not shelved'

A multi-million pound redevelopment project in Belfast has not been put on ice, despite media reports to the contrary.

The confusion appears to come from the fact that in autumn 2007, the Department of Social Development (DSD) had agreed that £110m would be needed this financial year to fund the project.

However, the DSD has not needed to spend the money this year as the project is not as advanced at this stage as was originally envisioned.

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Securing INSPIRED work experience

More work needs to go into making sure our sector is seen as a great career opportunity



RHONA MENNIE is senior customer relationship manager of Springboard UK

It is a startling statistic that 40 per cent of those who undertake work experience in hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism do not follow up on a job in the industry as a result of that experience. So what is going wrong, what is being done to remedy the situation and what needs to be done going forward?

Work experience is the single most important influencer in a young person's career choice. If the experience is poor, then the short-sighted employer may well say goodbye to motivated potential recruits who will turn to another company – or indeed industry – for their career choice. Insufficient care taken to

plan and deliver inspiring work experience, leaving the person feeling undervalued, is damaging to that individual, the company and to the image of the wider industry. The need to create consistency and high standards of work experience across the industry led to the publication in January 2008 of Springboard's INSPIRE guidelines for employers, a step-by-step guide to delivering quality work experience. A quality kite mark indicates those companies that commit to high standards of work experience – be it taster day, secondary school work experience, Further Education extended work experience or the year-long undergraduate work placement. Springboard works with employers to link up with students seeking excellent placements, the objective being to ensure an increasing number of students enjoy a well structured experience with the prospect of career opportunities down the line.

INSPIRE has been endorsed by the National Council of Work Experience, the organisation that promotes, supports and develops quality work experience for the benefit of students, employers and the economy. It is developing links with Business in the Community's new initiative, Work Inspiration, a national, business-led campaign to improve the standard of work experience offered by employers across all industries.

So the foundations are in place and the momentum is increasing. Word, however, does need to spread further. More employers within our industry need to make their commitment to providing great work experience. Then there is that all-important audience of students whose career paths may be defined by that first taste of industry life. Add to this list the teachers, lecturers and parents who can point the students in the right direction – they need to be aware of what inspiring work experience can do for their young people.



DLL will implement the initiative across its 78 UK health clubs

Swimming scheme for David Lloyd

Club operator teams up with ASA to adopt NPTS

By **Pete Hayman**

The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) has announced that David Lloyd Leisure (DLL) has become the latest company to adopt the National Plan for Teaching Swimming (NPTS).

DLL will implement the plan alongside the national governing body's Award Scheme across its estate of 78 UK clubs, and was one of the first operator's to form a business partnership with the ASA seven years ago. The NPTS is designed to provide a

comprehensive teaching programme for people of all ages, with participants able to take part in training elements of water polo and rookie lifeguard courses alongside learning to swim.

DLL head of family and programming Sarah Hobbs said: "The teaching programme is excellent and provides children with the opportunity to learn and love swimming and other water based activities. We have fantastic facilities for learning to swim and can offer both indoor and outdoor swimming."

Premier unveils new fitness courses

A new fitness apprenticeship scheme, which is designed to allow employers to access government funding, has been launched by Premier Training International (PTI).

The new apprenticeships will integrate the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM) Certificate in Personal Training and the OPT Model, a training programme based on scientific research.

Designed to enable personal trainers to work towards individual needs and goals, it is hoped candidates will be able to develop training programmes scientifically proven to deliver results. Candidates will be provided with qualifications recognised in the UK, Europe and the US through PTI's partnership with NASM as part of the six-month apprenticeship programmes.

Steele appointed RFU chief executive

Former Northampton Saints fly-half to replace outgoing CEO Francis Baron

By **Tom Walker**

UK Sport chief executive John Steele has been selected to replace Francis Baron as the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) chief executive.

Steele – a former Northampton Saints and England A player – is set to join the national governing body in the autumn, with a date yet to be confirmed.

An executive recruitment panel, comprising members of

the RFU's management board, appointed Steele following Baron's decision to step down after 12 years in the role. Baron will leave on 4 July.

Martyn Thomas, chair of the RFU board, said: "Nobody was able to match his unique combination of a background in and knowledge of rugby and a high profile. He's the right man to take the RFU forward in its next stage of growth."



Steele takes up the role in July

IMAGE: SARAH WINTERLOO

PEOPLE SHORTS

- DC Leisure Management has appointed Richard Cowley as its new group health and wellbeing manager to help push forward efforts to tackle issues such as obesity and heart disease. Cowley – former general manager at the Sam Jones Health Club in Sheffield – has been tasked with developing programmes to assist DC Leisure and local authority clients to meet government health targets.
- Clive Henderson, national chair of the Inland Waterways Association, has been elected to chair the British Waterways Advisory Forum from 3 November. Henderson will replace current chair Nigel Stevens at the helm of the advisory group, which is designed to represent all waterways interest groups and advise British Waterways on strategic issues.

New operations director for Pure Gym

Budget health club operator Pure Gym has named Iain Watson as its new group operations manager as it looks to expand its UK portfolio over the next two years.

Watson – former general manager at Total Fitness and JJB Sports Leisure – will be responsible for ensuring the smooth roll-out of 24 new clubs across the country.

A successful bid to raise £10m by Magenta Partners – led by Tom Singh, principal investor – will enable Pure Gym to build on its portfolio of five clubs.



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Further Information: Dr Nicola Bolton
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Chronic Respiratory Disease Exercise Instructor Course

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

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

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

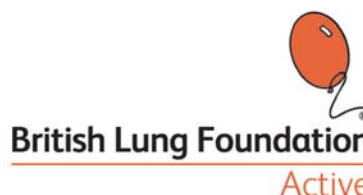
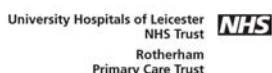
The BLF bursary, funded by Air Products, is available to exercise professionals who meet the following entry requirements:

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

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

For more details or an application pack please log on to www.lunguk.org/supporting-you/blf_active or contact Danielle Smreczak using the details below

e: exercise@blf-uk.org
t: 0207 688 5618
w: www.lunguk.org



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CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Sales & Marketing Director

Salary: c£70,000 + benefits inc bonus

Hartlebury, Worcestershire

Parkwood Leisure has revenues of £65m per annum and manages over 80 leisure facilities. The company now wishes to appoint a Sales and Marketing Director to join our successful management team based at the company's Head Office in Hartlebury. This is an exciting opportunity for a highly motivated individual to progress their career to the next level.

You will report directly to the Chief Executive and sit on the Divisional Board of Directors. Through the management of the Business Development and Marketing functions you will ensure that the organisation's strategic targets are met and we are successful in winning additional business. This will require you to identify opportunities, forge new relationships and present

a professional and positive image of the Company to ensure competitive success. You will also ensure that our marketing functions are meeting the needs of our customers and clients.

This is a new post and we are looking for someone exceptional; an individual that has charisma, intellect and a clear vision to succeed. Demonstrating your ability to be a leader, as well as having professional competencies you will be commercially minded. Knowledge of the support services sector is important, as is an awareness of the issues in a leisure related business. You will be educated to a good first degree standard. A Sales or Marketing qualification, and/or an additional relevant Management qualification would be advantageous.

If you feel you have the skills and competencies required to make a success of this position, please send a letter of application and full CV, stating your current salary to: Samantha Holloway, Human Resources Manager, Parkwood Leisure, Little Bowbrook, Walton Road, Hartlebury, Worcestershire, DY10 4JA.

Alternatively Email: recruit@parkwood-leisure.co.uk or visit our website and apply on line.

Applications to be received by: 4th July 2010

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NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

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- Including attractive basic salary, car, pension and bonus

Reporting to the Director of Development, you will be responsible for the project management of all aspects of winning new partnership agreements within the local authority leisure sector. We are looking for a self-motivated, enthusiastic and energetic person to help us build on our success and assist in the achievement of our growth potential.

Responsibilities will include:

- Communicating with prospective clients at all levels, presenting a good image of SLM as a prospective partner.
- Assessing new business opportunities.
- Completing tender submissions and new business proposals.
- Assist the Director of Development with the production and delivery of new business strategy and marketing activity.

The successful candidate will have a thorough understanding of the Local Authority market and the needs of clients. You will be I.T. literate, enjoy paying attention to detail, have good organisational skills and be able to work under your own initiative. Additionally, you will have good people skills and enjoy promoting the Company to new clients. Whilst the work is based from Head Office, the post holder will undertake a good deal of travel and therefore work in a flexible manner to meet the needs and demands of the role.

For further details, please ring Andy on 07785 296204. If you would like to apply for this post, please send your CV by post to: Andy Haworth, Director of Development, SLM Ltd, 3 Watling Drive, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 3EY. Alternatively, email your CV to: andyhaworth@slm-ltd.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 28th June 2010

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Duty Manager / Games Coach

Company: Motcombe Park Sports Club
Salary: £15,022 - £18,371
Location: Dorset, United Kingdom

Sports Facilities Manager

Company: Ackworth School
Salary: £16,000 - £20,000
Location: Croydon, United Kingdom
Closing date: 16 Jun 2010

Partnership Development Manager

Company: Woodcote High School
Salary: see details
Location: Croydon, United Kingdom
Closing date: 16 Jun 2010

Sports Facilities Manager

Company: Ackworth School
Salary: £16,000 - £20,000
Location: Pontefract, United Kingdom
Closing date: 16 Jun 2010

Community Sports Coach (Netball)

Company: Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust
Salary: Scale 5 (£19,816 - £21,732) per annum
Location: Wigan, United Kingdom
Closing date: 16 Jun 2010

Sports Centre Manager

Company: Richmond upon Thames College
Salary: £27,660 - £29,358 per annum
Location: Twickenham, United Kingdom
Closing date: 18 Jun 2010

Partnership Officer (Sport)

Company: Cheshire & Warrington Sports
Salary: up to £23k
Location: Cheshire, United Kingdom

Become a Personal Trainer

Company: Premier Training International Ltd
Location: United Kingdom

Become a Nutritional Therapist

Company: Premier Training International Ltd
Location: United Kingdom

Business Support Officer

Company: University of East London
Salary: £23,591 to £26,143
Location: London, United Kingdom
Closing date: 20 Jun 2010

Physical Activity Manager

Company: Aylesbury Vale District Council
Salary: £34,260 - £37,056 per annum
Location: Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom
Closing date: 21 Jun 2010

Instructors

Company: Kieser Training
Location: London, United Kingdom

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Salary: £16,500 - £20,000
Location: Bexley/Dartford, United Kingdom
Closing date: 25 Jun 2010

Fitness Professional

Company: Future Fit Training
Salary: up to £30k
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom
Closing date: 25 Jun 2010

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Salary: £16,500 - £20,000
Location: Lewisham, United Kingdom
Closing date: 25 Jun 2010

Senior Consultants

Company: Scott Wilson Group
Location: Warrington, United Kingdom

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Salary: £17,000 - £20,000
Location: Nottingham, United Kingdom
Closing date: 30 Jun 2010

Assistant Regional Director

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Salary: c£42,000
Location: Exeter, United Kingdom

Managerial positions

Company: Holmes Place
Location: Poland, United Kingdom

Team Personal Trainer

Company: Profile Health & Fitness
Location: London, United Kingdom

Swimming Teacher

Company: Rossendale Leisure Trust
Salary: £9,2113 per hour
Location: Rawtenstall, United Kingdom
Closing date: 09 Jul 2010

Trainee Personal Trainer / Fitness Instructor

Company: The Training Room
Salary: £20K-£30K
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom
Closing date: 01 Mar 2011

Full Time Fitness Instructor

Company: Eden Hall Day Spa
Salary: £7.50 per hour
Location: Nottinghamshire, United Kingdom

Part / Full Time Life Guard

Company: Eden Hall Day Spa
Salary: £6.80 per hour
Location: Nottinghamshire, United Kingdom

Membership Co-ordinator

Company: Rockcliffe Hall
Location: Darlington, United Kingdom

Spa Therapists

Company: Sofitel Hotels
Location: London, United Kingdom

Practitioners/Specialist Therapists

Company: Chiva-Som
Location: Thailand

Massage Therapists

Company: Steiner One Spa World
Location: Worldwide

Beauty Therapists

Company: Steiner One Spa World
Location: Worldwide

Personal Trainers

Company: Steiner One Spa World
Location: Worldwide

Spa Receptionists

Company: Steiner One Spa World
Location: Worldwide, United Kingdom

General Manager

Company: National Trust
Salary: £45,000 p.a.
Location: West Sussex, United Kingdom
Closing date: 18 Jun 2010

Sales and Marketing Manager

Company: University of Birmingham
Salary: Starting Salary £27,183 pa
Location: Birmingham, United Kingdom
Closing date: 18 Jun 2010

Commercial Partnership Development Officer

Company: National Trust
Salary: £28,714 - £31,042 pa
Location: Exeter, Devon, United Kingdom
Closing date: 21 Jun 2010

Beauty Therapists

Company: Sopwell House
Location: St Albans, United Kingdom



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

(South West Region)

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A sound knowledge of sports development principles and practices is essential, as is experience of sports development work within the education and/or local authority sectors. Applicants should be aware of the national initiatives promoted through the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England.

Good IT skills, experience of operating Microsoft Office, and the ability to communicate effectively in a variety of circumstances are all required. An appropriate leisure or teaching qualification is desirable. Applicants should have an interest, but not necessarily a background, in golf.

Application packs can be obtained through www.golf-foundation.org
Completed application forms should be returned to: The Golf Foundation,
The Spinning Wheel, High Street, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 8BP

Closing date: Friday 2nd July Interview date: Thursday 22nd July

The Golf Foundation is an equal opportunities employer. Applications from women, the disabled and ethnic minorities who have relevant experience are encouraged as these groups are currently under-represented in the organisation. Alternative formats for this advert will be made available on request.



Principal Sports Development Officer (CRB) - 2 Posts

Children, Young People and Families/Active Lifestyles

Post No. 1047362, 1047363

Grade 11 (scp 45-48) £38,042-£40,471 Hours: 37

In Hull we are committed to using sport to improve the quality of people's lives and help them lead more active lifestyles. We are seeking 2 highly motivated, energetic and experienced individuals who will be responsible for leading the development and implementation of sport and active lifestyle programmes and who will contribute to the future strategic direction of sport across the city.

"Hearty Lives Hull" is a programme which is jointly funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF), Sport England and Hull City Council in partnership with NHS Hull. The programme is focused on increasing levels of physical activity across the city. The posts will lead a multi-disciplinary team, working with key partners to make Hull a more active and healthy city.

Key requirements include:

- senior level experience, strong background/ track record in sports development
- highly motivated and enthusiastic
- strong partnership working skills,
- specialist skills in predicting and driving change in a rapidly changing environment
- relevant degree level qualification
- high level communication and inter personal skills
- the ability to negotiate key targets and actions with a range of partners and providers

Closing Date: 5 July 2010 Interviews: 19, 20 or 21 July 2010

For an informal discussion please contact Rachel Roberts on (01482) 616347 or 07711 439321 (not available 10th-20th June)

For further information and to apply, please visit www.hullcc.gov.uk/jobs or call 01482 300300 (Monday to Friday 8am-7pm and Saturday 9am-1pm).

The Council is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all employees and volunteers to share this commitment. Hull City Council is fully committed to achieving fairness and equality in employment and seeks to achieve a workforce which reflects the diversity of the community it serves



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For an application form telephone 01706 242312
or e-mail your name, address, and the post title to
anne.hickinbottom@rltrust.co.uk

Closing Date: 9 July 2010

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news & jobs at www.leisureopportunities.co.uk

Camelot records 10-year high in good causes funding

National Lottery operator reports £171m increase in returns to good causes, as overall sales reach £5.5bn

By **Tom Walker**

National Lottery operator Camelot Group has announced its second best sales performance since the lottery's launch in 1994.

In the year to 31 March 2010, the first full financial year of its third lottery licence, Camelot's total National Lottery sales across all channels rose to £5.5bn – a £302.7m (5.9 per cent) increase on the previous year's figure of £5.2bn – which has resulted in the best returns to the good causes in a decade.

The total figure of £1.5bn is a rise of £170.8m (12.4 per cent) on 2008/9's returns of £1.4bn, with lottery players now having helped to raise more than £24bn for the good causes in total. This equates to in excess of 330,000 individual lottery awards to date.

Dianne Thompson, Camelot's CEO, said: "This has been an exceptional year for Camelot. Our outstanding sales performance and returns to the good causes have consolidated our position as one of the world's leading lottery operators."



ORIGINAL IMAGE: iStock © ZENTILIA

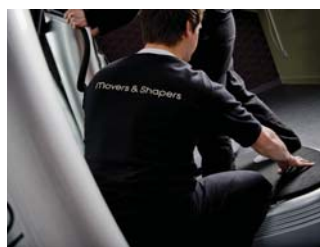
The National Lottery contributed £1.5bn to good causes in 2008-9

First in-store London site for Movers and Shapers

By **Tom Walker**

Fitness operator Movers and Shapers has opened its first in-store location with the opening of a personal training studio in Fenwick Bond Street in Mayfair, London.

The company, which now operates five sites in the capital and a further three nationwide, will offer Fenwick customers the chance to take part in bespoke personal training sessions while



The company now has five sites

shopping. Movers and Shapers is one of a number of lifestyle services located at the department store, and offers users

Fitbug and Power Plate kit.

The concept, which offers two 30-minute instructor-led sessions a week, aims to open sites in more than 100 new stores and is designed for people too busy or unwilling to spend time at a regular health club.

Jill Strieder, managing director of Fenwick Bond Street, said: "We aim to gather all the most innovative, highest quality elements under one roof, right in the heart of Mayfair."

First phase of Lakeland ready

New facilities have opened at a leisure centre in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, after work on the first £1.3m phase of a wider refurbishment of the venue was completed.

Lakeland Forum now boasts a new entrance, an enhanced reception area, a viewing gallery overlooking the 25m, six-lane swimming pool.

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