

Cost of London's Olympic venues continues to climb

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

The government has admitted that the cost of certain London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic venues has increased by as much as £196m, but insists that preparation for the Games is "on track and on budget".

According to the government's *Olympic Executive Annual Report*, the cost forecast for the Olympic stadium – one of five permanent venues at the east London site – has risen to £547m, an increase of £22m since July 2008 and £51m since 2007.

The cost of the aquatics centre has also increased to £251m (the 2007 forecast was



The cost of the aquatics centre has increased by £5m to £251m

£214m), and the velodrome from £80m to £105m; nearly a third of the original cost.

Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) chair, John Armitt, said: "We are managing the budget

as an overall envelope. Where there are cost pressures in some areas, such as on venues, we are working to offset these by making savings in other areas, such as the clean up of

the site and certain infrastructure projects.

"Work continues to make good progress on site and at this point we are not asking for any more contingency."

In January, following a shortfall in private sector funding, £394m was allocated to the development of the Olympic Village and media centre from the Olympic Funders' Group contingency, the part of the budget designed to guard against risks outside the control of the ODA.

The ODA's programme contingency has also provided £67m, but the government insists that the £9.3bn overall budget remains the same.

Pontin's owner unveils £50m development plans

Scheme is part of the company's vision for the future of its holiday centres

By **Pete Hayman**

Ocean Parks has revealed plans to invest £50m in the development and refurbishment of Pontin's holiday centres across the UK.

The initial stages of the development scheme will see the refurbishment of all entertainment, catering and bar facilities to coincide with the launch of improved entertainment programmes and menus.

Holiday centres at Brean Sands near Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset and Prestatyn Sands



Pontin's centres across the UK will benefit under the plans

in Denbighshire, North Wales, will undergo a complete accommodation refurbishment, subject to planning approval.

Pontin's sites at Camber Sands, Sussex and at Southport, Merseyside, will be redeveloped in line with the company's vision of the future of integrated holiday centres. The Pakefield Holiday Centre in Suffolk will also be doubled in size as part of the plans.

Ian Smith, chief executive of Ocean Parks and Pontin's, said: "We are tremendously excited about the investment planned for the development of our Pontin's Holiday Centres and the employment and tourism revenue that will be generated."

JJB receives bids for clubs

JJB Sports has been approached by a 'number of non-binding indications' of interest for its chain of health and fitness clubs.

The group's share price soared by up to 70 per cent following reports that the chain could be sold for £55m.

However, JJB Sport said: "There can be no certainty that any of these indications of interest will result in a transaction or as to the terms of any such transaction."

CONTACTS

THE LEISURE MEDIA COMPANY

Portmill House, Portmill Lane,
Hitchin, Herts SG5 1DJ, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1462 431385
Fax: +44 (0)1462 433909
e-mail: please use contacts'
fullname@leisuremedia.com
Subscriptions
Julie Albone 01462 471915
subs@leisuremedia.com

Editor

Liz Terry 01462 471918

Managing Editor

Tom Walker 01462 471934

Journalists

Caroline Wilkinson 01462 471911

Pete Hayman 01462 471938

Helen Patenall 01462 471934

Sarah Todd 01462 471927

Designer

Ed Gallagher 01905 20198

Internet

Dean Fox 01462 471900

Tim Nash 01462 471917

Sales Team Manager

Annie Lovell 01462 471901

Account Managers

Recruitment, training, tenders

Paul Thorman 01462 471904

Simon Hinksman 01462 471 905

Anthony Ward 01462 471 914

Julie Willmott 01462 471 916

Emma Matthews 01462 471907

Attractions recruitment

Rebekah Scott 01462 733477

Property desk

Simon Hinksman 01462 471 905

Spa Opportunities

Emma Matthews 01462 471907

Rebekah Scott 01462 733477

Financial Controller

Sue Davis 01395 519398

Financial Administrator

Denise Gildea 01462 471930

Circulation Manager

Michael Emmerson 01462 471932

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NEWS FEATURE

Are we ready to change lives?

Change4Life, the physical activity strand of the government's £75m social marketing campaign to encourage healthier lifestyles, is starting to generate public interest. However, as families consider flocking to their local gyms *Caroline Wilkinson* investigates whether the health and fitness industry is prepared for the new 'unhealthy' members

RICHARD MILLARD sports development, DC Leisure

The Change4Life campaign is a very positive step towards improving the health of communities. This is the first time that this type of 'joined up' campaign has been implemented, with different agencies working together for a common goal.

DC is working closely with its local authority partners and PCTs to maximise the benefits and opportunities it provides. One of the key challenges is ensuring that details about the facilities and what's available is clear and accessible, so that potential customers who have shown interest and investigated the website are able to find the information they need quickly and easily. I think it is better now, but all parties could and should have been more prepared and quicker setting this up.

Our centres have started to see people coming in as a result of the advertising, although we do not anticipate a huge influx of people overnight. I believe that Change4Life will be a success because it has longevity and will grow and gather momentum as general awareness increases.

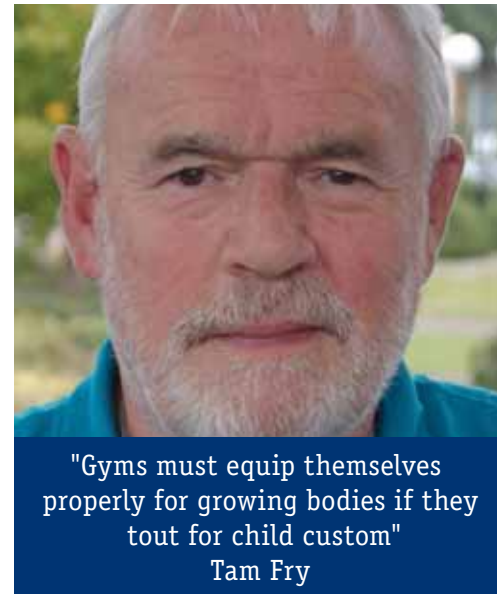
TAM FRY honorary chair, Child Growth Foundation, and board member of the NOF

The campaign is the only anti-obesity initiative made by this administration that the National Obesity Forum (NOF) has time for.

Having watched Whitehall dither around for years trying a bit of this and a bit of that, we finally see a campaign that a team must have worked on for some time. However, by partnering itself with a food and advertising industry which largely caused the epidemic in the first place, government is taking a risk. Can both sides work in partnership?

The forum's view is that by chipping in £200m to help Change4Life succeed, the food industry is self-interested rather than altruistic. It fears legislation if the campaign fails and it surely will if children, particularly, continue to be enticed into eating processed and less than healthy food.

On the other hand the forum welcomes the fitness industry's involvement in supplying the other half of the equation - exercise. As long as



"Gyms must equip themselves properly for growing bodies if they tout for child custom"
Tam Fry

Fitness Industry Association (FIA) members behave responsibly we will not have an unkind word to say about them. We will, however, if gyms tout for child custom but fail to equip themselves properly to cater for growing bodies. They should never be allowed to work-out on machinery designed for adults. Just reducing entrance fees – or even offering children-free membership – is not enough.

VICTORIA BRANCH marketing manager, Leisure Connection

The FIA is playing a pivotal role in communicating the elements of this campaign and it continues to be the conduit between the industry and DH. We look forward to receiving clear information about industry initiatives and would be great if we get a focal point - such as a launch event and an awareness week to hook onto.

Our trainers are very cautious with new members. If anything at all crops up - whether it's high blood pressure or a member is obscenely overweight we always recommend they consult with their GPs before starting on a full exercise programme. In the meantime, our teams do recommend that members undertake some light exercise to gently ease them into physical activity.

Anglesey development plans get approved

The £100m leisure development is expected to provide a boost in tourism revenues

By **Pete Hayman**

A new £100m retail and leisure complex is set to be built at Ty Mawr on Anglesey, North Wales, after councillors gave the green light to plans submitted by developer Ynys Môn Estates.

Plans for the 55-acre (22.3-hectare) development near Llanfairpwll, which include a Cineworld multiplex cinema and a ten-pin bowling alley, were originally rejected by Anglesey Council in December.

However, because the council's decision went against the recommendations of planning officers to approve the scheme, a one-month cooling period was introduced.

The Ty Mawr project also includes a health and fitness centre, restaurants and cafés.



The scheme includes a fitness centre, a cinema and bowling alley

The complex has been designed to reflect the heritage and culture of Anglesey, with water features and a nature park incorporated into the plans.

A spokesperson for Ynys Môn Estates said: "This is a unique destination which will

add to the attraction of the island for visitors and tourists.

"Given the tourism sector already makes up one fifth of Anglesey's economy, this project will provide a great boost in revenues and add to the appeal of existing tourist attractions."

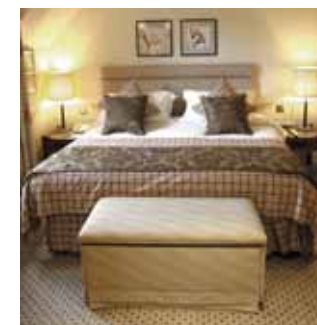
UK hotels face toughest trading for 17 years

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

UK chain hotels are facing the most challenging trading conditions in 17 years, according to TRI Hospitality Consulting.

The firm predicts that hotels in London will experience a 10 per cent drop in RevPAR this year, followed by a further 0.5 per cent dip in 2010.

RevPAR is expected to decrease by 8 per cent elsewhere in the country in 2009 and by a further 2 per cent in 2010. This scenario is based on the UK economy contracting by 1.7 per cent this



UK RevPAR is expected to drop between 8 and 10 per cent

year and 0.2 per cent growth in 2010.

The number of inbound visitors, which accounts for more than 50 per cent of

London hotel overnight stays, is estimated to have decreased by 2.7 per cent in 2008 and is expected to drop by a further 0.7 per cent this year, according to VisitBritain.

Jonathan Langston, managing director of TRI Hospitality Consulting, said: "VisitBritain's forecast might seem modest in the light of the widespread global downturn.

"Yet, if it continues, the low value of sterling against most major currencies may have a moderating effect on anticipated reductions in inbound tourism."

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IN BRIEF

£5.5m refurbishment for Dulwich Centre

► A £5.5m revamp at Dulwich Leisure Centre has been approved by Southwark Council. The refurbishment includes a new entrance, a pool area, a fitness suite, wet and dry changing areas and improved disabled access. The project is part of the council's Leisure Investment Programme, and other facilities in the borough are set to benefit. The first phase of work, which will begin within the next three months, is expected to be completed by Christmas, with work on the gym refurbishments afterwards.

Winsford centre to be used for GP referrals

► The £10.8m Lifestyle Centre in Winsford, Cheshire – scheduled to open at the end of February – could be used as part of a patient referral scheme. Vale Royal Borough Council, which will operate the site, works with the Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust to provide leisure facilities for patients prescribed fitness programmes by GPs and half-rate prices. The centre will include an events hall, a 25m swimming pool, a teaching pool, squash courts, a dance studio and a health and fitness club.

Health improvement scheme launched

► A scheme to encourage gradual health and lifestyle improvements in Lincolnshire has been launched. Twenty-six qualified specialist health trainers will work with members of the public to boost their wellbeing. Individuals will be given six sessions with a health trainer, ranging from face-to-face sessions, a phone call to accompanying them to a new activity. The scheme is being funded by NHS Lincolnshire.

£2.6m upgrade to first YMCA facility

Central YMCA has relaunched following its a six-month redevelopment programme

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

Central YMCA Club, in London, is being relaunched following a six-month £2.6m redevelopment programme.

The 116,000sq ft (10,776sq m) club, which first opened on Tottenham Court Road in 1974, now features an expanded CV zone, a new free weights and cycling studio as well as more exercise rooms, a GP referral zone and changing facilities.

There is also improved disability access to the club's 25m swimming pool, with the installation of a new hoist and accessible lift, and the introduction of three treatment rooms for holistic therapies.

The improvements have been designed by Cheshire-based Pozzoni, while the new fitness equipment will be supplied by Technogym, Precor and Keiser.

"The changes are dramatic and significant, both in scale



The improved gym is supplied by Technogym, Precor and Keiser

and scope," said Barry Cronin, the club's executive director.

"The outcomes will benefit every member; offering more to those who come here for their regular work-outs, as well as enabling us to meet the high demand for places on our healthy lifestyle, medical referral, community and kids' activity programmes."

Gerry Sutcliffe, minister for sport, added: "More people

understand why sport matters, and increasingly people with busy lives need facilities close at hand that they can use to stay healthy.

"Nationally, YMCA is the largest voluntary sector organisation, providing help to over half a million people each year through its range of health and fitness programmes."

For more information: www.morethanjustagym.co.uk

Harper's Wyboston gym reopens

By **Tom Walker**

Leisure Connection has opened a Harpers-branded health club at a leisure centre in Wyboston, Bedfordshire, after completing a £0.5m revamp at the site.

The new private health club at Wyboston Health and Fitness, managed by Leisure Connection, features equipment from Technogym and Star Trac as well as range of NXT spin bikes and a boxing zone.

The gym has been designed based on a layout system, with designated areas for different exercises or group classes.

The club has been divided into areas for spin, CV, personal training, cables, boxing and entertainment for equipment



The gym is divided into six areas for exercises and classes

with entertainment technology. The gym also includes Power Plate vibration machines and the new Precor Adaptive Motion Trainers.

The facility is the latest gym refurbishment by Leisure Connection as part of its rebranding programme of all Harpers gyms across the UK.

Hounslow to get two new leisure hubs

Four existing centres are to be redeveloped, two of which will feature libraries

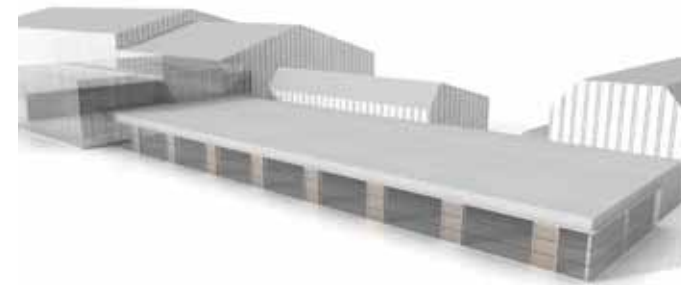
By **Helen Patenall**

Hounslow's health and fitness offering is to be transformed with the redevelopment of four existing facilities into new leisure hubs.

Since being appointed by Hounslow Council last year, registered charity Fusion Lifestyle has made public its improvement proposals for the borough's community sport and active leisure services.

Two leisure and library hubs will be assembled at Isleworth Recreation Centre and Feltham Airparks, while Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre and New Chiswick Pool will face refurbishment.

Council leader Peter Thompson said: "The combined



Construction on the four centres is expected to begin this summer

leisure and library 'hubs' will pull together community facilities, and by adding a shared café and social areas, will create a variety of spaces where all members of the community can enjoy a variety of activities."

Proposed leisure facilities include changing villages, enlarged gym facilities and exercise studios, the resurfacing of multi-sport pitches and new crèches and improved entrances. Work on all four centre will start this summer.

Reading gets new and improved fitness facilities

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

An indoor cycling centre has been opened at Palmer Park Sports Stadium in Reading as part of a £380,000 investment in health and fitness provisions by the borough council.

The funding has also been put towards a revamp of Meadway Sports Centre's gym (£200,000), which now offers 35 stations of Matrix CV and strength equipment, and a £50,000 gym upgrade at the



Cycling centre: cost £380,000

Arthur Hills Pool and Fitness Centre, also equipped by Matrix. The Myride Cycling Centre

offers 20 Matrix Tomahawk S Series bikes worth £30,000 and 16 Myride console screens.

The new facility is complemented by the stadium's separate 37-station gym, 460m velodrome and floodlit pitches.

Spencer Fanstone, operations manager for Reading Sport and Leisure, said: "The Indoor Cycling Centre will provide an alternative way to keep fit and the MyRide consoles are a great motivational tool [for non-cycling club members]."

IN BRIEF

Huntingdon revamp enters second phase

► Huntingdonshire District Council has begun the second phase of a £1.5m redevelopment of Huntingdon Leisure Centre. The centre, in Cambridgeshire, is undergoing a revamp which has already seen a new mezzanine floor being created across two existing sports courts. The new space houses an fitness suite and soft play area. The second phase will result in the introduction of spa facilities, which will include a crystal steamroom, a floral steamroom, a herb sauna and a relaxation area, as well as two treatment rooms offering holistic therapies.

UK Fitness Network has now launched

► The UK Fitness Network (UKFN), which offers members access to not-for-profit leisure centres all over the country, was officially launched on 1 February. Following on from the success of the London Fitness Network, which joined up public leisure facilities in the capital, the national network will offer more than 7,000 members access to 120 clubs and leisure centres nationwide. The UKFN is working with the Fitness Industry Association to expand its partner membership to the trusts in '09.

North Herts Leisure Centre opens PT zone

► North Herts Leisure Centre, operated by Stevenage Leisure, has opened a dedicated £8,000 personal training facility adjacent to the centre as a means of increasing secondary spend. The 18sq m (193sq ft) facility offers a Matrix Functional Trainer and Tomahawk S Series Bike as well as a stability ball, bunch ball and exercise bench. Personal Training sessions cost £30 an hour or £20 every half an hour.

GO Active health and fitness campaign is launched

The Get Oxfordshire Active (GO Active) project has been launched as part of an effort to increase participation in physical activity.

The three-year project aims to get people over 16-years-old to do moderate exercise for 30 minutes at least three times a week. The first GO Active campaign events include the

Million Calorie Burn Challenge, which will see all three of Oxford City Council's Aspires Fitness Suites offer dedicated equipment for customers to take part in the challenge.

GO Active has received a total of £1.4m, including a £635,490 grant from Sport England's South East Regional Sports Board.

IN BRIEF

New £3m swimming pool for Ivybridge

► A new multi-million pound swimming pool is being proposed for Ivybridge Leisure Centre in Devon. The *Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette* reported that design consultant New Horizons has submitted three options to South Hams Council at the end of January. The centre is operated by Tone Leisure on behalf of the council. The two will be working in partnership on the project, and the council has earmarked £1m for the scheme – estimated to cost around £3m. All three options include a new 25m, six-lane swimming pool and will lead to the loss of an outdoor pool.

NICE offers guidance on getting kids active

► The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued its guidance on promoting physical activity, active play and sport for young people. NICE recommends that a five-year national campaign be launched to promote physical activity among children and young people. Recent NICE research showed just 45 per cent of teenage girls and 68 per cent of boys were reaching the recommended target of 60 minutes of moderate exercise a day.

SNP attacked over free swimming

► Scottish Labour has decried the Scottish National Party for failing to provide school children with 'free, year-round access to council swimming pools'. The party's sport spokesman, Frank McAveety, said: "The Scottish government needs to start taking sport seriously. It is really important that we encourage young people to adopt healthier lifestyles and swimming is a great activity."

Middleton Arena opens in Rochdale

New £15m sport and entertainment centre to be managed by cultural trust

By **Tim Nash**

Middleton Arena, a new £15m sport and entertainment centre has opened in Rochdale.

The 7,300sq m (78,600sq ft) facility offers a 25m swimming pool and a separate teaching pool with spectator seating, a four-court sports hall, a 90-station gym with exercise and fitness studios, squash courts and a 500-capacity performance and concert hall.

Managed by the Rochdale Boroughwide Cultural Trust, Link4Life, the project was the result of a deal agreed between Rochdale Development Agency and Rochdale Borough Council with Tesco. Councillor Peter Williams, chair of Middleton Township



The Middleton Arena includes a sports hall and a 90-station gym

Committee at Rochdale Borough Council said: "The Arena is fantastic news for local people; the new facilities will encourage residents to be fit and healthy and provide a first

class entertainment venue for the region."

Craig McAteer, managing director of Link4Life, said more than 7,000 people had visited the arena on its opening weekend in January.

Temporary swimming pool installed in Lambeth

By **Pete Hayman**

A temporary swimming pool has been installed in an old school hall in Lambeth, South London, as part of an initiative designed to ensure every child in the area will learn to swim.

The 12m x 10m (39.4ft x 32.8ft) pool has been set up at the Lilian Baylis School, and will be made available to other local schools and the local community, free of charge.



The facility will be free to use

It is expected that 1,000 children will have access to the 0.9m (3ft) deep facility, which

is similar to a leisure centre swimming pool and is the first of its kind to be opened in the capital.

Lambeth is just one of a number of areas that will host the pool during the 2008-09 academic year as part of the Pools in Schools initiative, led by Total Swimming, the company formed by Olympic bronze medallist, Steve Parry.

The scheme is supported by the the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA).

Surrey centre reopens after £1.7m refurbishment

The Arena Leisure Centre in Camberley, Surrey, has re-launched following the completion of a £1.7m refurbishment.

Funded by the Surrey Heath Borough Council (£1.4m) and the centre's operator DC Leisure (£300,000), the project included an extension of its Kinetika gym which has increased the number of stations from 89 to 120.

The aerobics studio was also increased in size by 50 per cent and a dedicated cycling studio with 20 exercise bikes has been added, as well as a new steamroom and upgraded changing facilities.

London's grassroots nets cash boost

LDA funding forms part of London mayor's commitment to increase participation

By **Pete Hayman**

London mayor Boris Johnson has pledged to invest £15.5m in grassroots sports as part of a bid to improve health and wellbeing in the capital.

The funding is being provided by the London Development Agency (LDA), with the mayor exercising his statutory power for the first time to direct the cash from the agency's budget over the next three years.

It is part of Johnson's commitment, made at the Beijing Olympics last summer, to increase participation in sport and to end health inequalities, as well as attempting to tackle growing levels of obesity and to help motivate Londoners to stay healthy.



£15.5m will be invested in the capital as part of the 2012 legacy

The investment is also designed to underpin the delivery of the mayor's Olympics Sports Legacy Plan in partnership with Sport England and sports governing bodies.

Johnson said: "The success of the 2012 Games must not just be judged on the regeneration

benefits of the new homes, jobs and skills that will be delivered by this.

"In years to come we must be able to look back and see how we used this once in a lifetime opportunity to massively increase sporting participation and activity in the capital."

£50m sporting base for Tring?

Plans to establish a new £50m sporting base in the Hertfordshire town of Tring have been submitted to Dacorum Borough Council.

The project, which is being led by Tring Sports Forum, would house the town's football clubs and feature a swimming pool and an athletics track.

According to local paper, *The Gazette*, Tring School would also move to the new centre and the secondary school's current land would be sold for housing to help finance the scheme.

The Tring Sports Forum includes representatives of local sports clubs and is led by Mayor of Tring Mike James.

England confirms World Cup bid



England is hoping to stage the event for the first time since 1966

By **Tom Walker**

England, Australia and Japan are among a number of countries that have officially declared their interest in hosting the 2018 or 2022 World Cup.

FIFA, the international football federation, has received more than 10 declarations of interest, including joint bids from Spain/Portugal, and Holland/Belgium.

The host of the 1994 tournament, United States, has also expressed its interest in holding the 2018 World Cup, as have South Korea, Qatar, Russia, Mexico and Indonesia.

Andy Anson, CEO of the England 2018 bid, said: "Our intentions have been well known for some time but there's a sense of excitement in the fact that we're now an official bidding nation."

IN BRIEF

£0.5m upgrade for Gurnell Leisure Centre

► Gurnell Leisure Centre in Ealing, London, is set to be transformed thanks to a £0.5m investment. The facility, run by sports trust Greenwich Leisure in partnership with the London Borough of Ealing, will benefit from a new health suite and refurbished wet changing rooms. The project follows a gym refurbishment at the site in 2007. Work will be carried out in phases to ensure minimal disruption, and is set to be completed in October.

Bangor Swimming Pool re-opens

► Bangor Swimming Pool in Gwynedd, North Wales, has reopened following work to disinfect the centre's shower system after routine tests revealed elevated levels of legionella bacteria last week. The pool, which is run by Gwynedd Council, was re-opened to the public on 27 January, more than a week after it closed as a precautionary measure.

£200,000 shortfall for Thirsk pool

► A £607,000 upgrade of the Thirsk Swimming Pool complex in North Yorkshire is £200,000 short of its target. The *Darlington & Stockton Times* claimed that Hambleton District Council hopes that Sport England will foot the remainder of the bill for the project – which includes an extension to the centre's fitness suite and the installation of better changing rooms. The council's facilities manager Steven Lister was quoted by the newspaper saying: "We are trying to improve the facilities for the local community. We hope that by doing so we'll increase participation among the elderly and the disabled."

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

**More People,
Better Skilled,
Better Qualified.**

DID YOU KNOW?

There are around 662,000 people working in the sport and active leisure sector, and with the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games on the horizon, it's one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK. With that amount of people, the sector's employees could fill Wembley Stadium seven times over.

Between 1999 and 2004 employment in the sector soared, growing at three times the rate of the UK economy, which makes sense as over the last 10 years the sector has outperformed the UK economy as a whole. In fact, the total output for the sport and active leisure sector equalled £8.6bn in 2004.

Sport England's *Active People 2 Survey* (England only) estimates that around 8.8 million adults in England regularly take part in sport and active recreation – that's 21 per cent of the country's population.

So, with a sector that has more than one in five of adults engaging with it, it's crucial to ensure more people with the right skills and qualifications are working in it.

THE VISION

As the Sector Skills Council for Sport and Active Leisure, SkillsActive brings together employers, government, stakeholders and training providers to ensure a single industry voice and an employer-led skills agenda across the UK.

Fundamentally, the principle of enhancing people's lives and wellbeing remains at the core of what we strive for as a sector; and SkillsActive has the responsibility to deliver the workforce for the nation's well-being.

Through its Sector Skills Agreement process, SkillsActive was able to make

PHOTO: PANATHLON CHALLENGE



definitive statements about the size and scope of the sector along with the common skills needs and shortages pervading the sector. And through that direct engagement, employer input and demand has directed SkillsActive's many innovative solutions to address the sector's needs.

ENGAGING THE SECTOR

GETTING MORE PEOPLE AND KEEPING THEM

The Apprenticeship way

Apprenticeships are a great way to recruit people into the sector; they are designed by employers for employers and are tailored to meet specific sector needs. As employees, apprentices work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills and off-the-job apprentices receive training with a local college. Apprenticeships can improve an organisation's productivity and profitability, and are an effective means of directly filling skills gaps. Working directly with employers, three Apprenticeship frameworks have been developed for the sport and active leisure sector: the Young Apprenticeship in sports management,

leadership and coaching – aimed at 14 to 16 year-olds; traditional Apprenticeships designed for 16 to 25 year-olds in sport, fitness, the outdoors and playwork respectively; and AASE, the Advanced Apprenticeship In Sporting Excellence, a programme that is flexible enough for budding sportsmen and women to take while training to become a professional – or to represent Great Britain on the world sporting stage.

"When I set up the business three years ago one of my aims was the development of young coaches. Through my involvement with the Young Apprenticeship I have been delighted with the students who have attended classes. They have hopefully gained experience that they would not have had and I have potentially gained two well trained coaches for the future, I am delighted."

Paul Brooker, franchise owner, Little Kickers.

Specialising early

Part of the education reform, the Diploma in Sport and Active Leisure is a new qualification for 14 to 19 year-olds of all



abilities. It has been designed, with the help of employers, to meet the skills needs of the sport and active leisure sector, and will prepare young people in England for higher and further education as well as the world of work in an innovative and exciting way, ultimately producing the high calibre of young people that employers need to meet business objectives within the sector.

Alongside employers, universities and colleges have been involved in the development of the diploma in a bid to create what has the potential to become the flagship qualification for all 14 to 19 year-olds wanting a career in the sport and active leisure sector.

"Premier Sport is delighted to be a national employer champion for the Diploma in Sport and Active Leisure. Our mission statement: to provide opportunities to many by becoming the leading provider of primary school sport in the UK, is the reason why it was important for us to become a champion. It allows us to provide this opportunity to the next wave of coaches, young adults looking for a career pathway in coaching, or even developing a business on the back of the skills they learn. Not only does this have an impact on their lives, but it impacts the lives of the thousands of children they will teach as well – a perfect loop."

David Batch, CEO, Premier Sport.

TRAINING FOR IMPACT, DELIVERING EXPERTISE Recognition for the outdoors

People who enjoy being on Britain's mountains can now take a step closer to



Winter Mountain Leader Award
gains national status

"Gaining SCQF status gives us a powerful external endorsement of our award for the organisations which use it as the nationally accepted benchmark."

Mary Matthews, chair, Mountain Leader Training Scotland.

safety, thanks to new national recognition of a qualification aimed at those who lead walking groups in hills and mountains under winter conditions. Last year, the Mountain Leader Training Scotland, Winter Mountain Leader Award gained a place on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF), giving it national recognition in terms of the level of competence and knowledge required.

Traditionally outdoor professionals have not been valued for the learning and training that they undertake, therefore it's significant that the Award is recognised at level 9, which is comparable to a university degree.

This national recognition has given outdoor instructors credibility; and in a sector where safety is paramount, recognition and robustness of qualifications is vital. The SCQF Partnership wanted to assist employers to understand and use the SCQ Framework so SkillsActive was offered the opportunity to have an industry recognised qualification credit rated and levelled. Employers now know that individuals who have the MLTS Winter Award have achieved a certain level of learning, and employees are using the levelling to inform job reviews and to build credits to become a chartered teacher.

Pioneering activepassport

Encouragingly, the National Employer Skills Survey suggests that around 75% of organisations had funded or arranged training for staff; however there has been a need for clear, consistent data capturing on training. The activepassport was developed as an innovative solution to record all staff training and development. It is a unique web-based resource that records and verifies training and qualifications as well as personal and professional achievements. The activepassport is sufficiently flexible to work for either small businesses or large companies across the sector, and it promotes a culture of workforce development. It provides a cost effective solution for supporting and managing an individual's training programme, whether they are paid staff or volunteers.

"Building more swings and roundabouts will do little to improve the play opportunities of our children and young people if we don't have a skilled workforce to support this investment. It will be essential to include play in children's workforce development strategies and the activepassport provides a simple and innovative tool that will appeal to many."

Lindsay Newton, head of development, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council.

GIVING THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT

Management solutions

Consultations have shown that leader's in the sport and active leisure sector struggle to access leadership programmes that support their own, and the development of their business. The Audit of Skills Needs* reveals that management skills are the third most common skill identified as lacking amongst those with skills gaps. As a direct result the Action Learning Programme was developed to address leadership development for small and medium size businesses. The programme is an extensively used process that helps senior managers and leaders to solve business issues using the collective wisdom of a supportive group, which includes people from outside the sector.

"The Action Learning Programme responds to need and allows managers to learn from other businesses and industries. We were able to promote the opportunity to the sector as we led on the development of the programme on behalf of all Sector Skills Councils. As leadership had been identified as a key development area for the region, we were able to broker the funding solutions to address those needs and build on past successes and experiences."

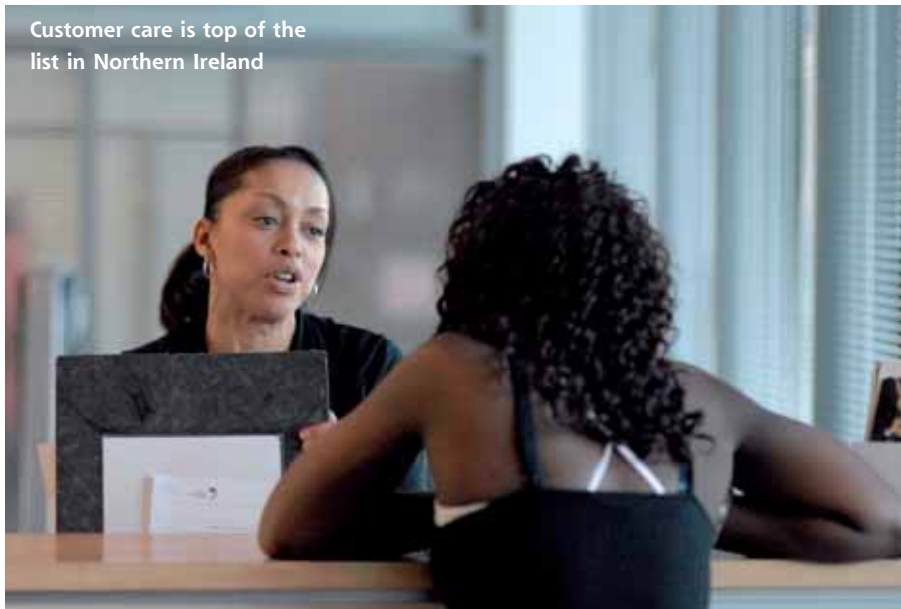
James Emmett, South East regional partnership manager, SkillsActive.

* National Report: Audit of Skills Needs: Sports, Fitness and the Outdoors - October 2008, SkillsActive and Sport England.

Tailor-made training

Working locally with employers, a Health and Fitness Learning Hub Programme was developed in the Armagh, Belfast and Lisburn Council areas in Northern Ireland. The Programme brought an opportunity for employers to collectively identify and

Customer care is top of the list in Northern Ireland



agree tailor-made training for their staff – a direct response to the Sector Skills Agreement research in Northern Ireland.

Specifically, employers agreed that providing leisure centre reception staff with enhanced customer care and communication skills was a priority. Following a proposal bid process, SkillsActive and the South Eastern Regional College brokered a training package to meet the skills, knowledge and understanding of customer management provision to 'front of house' public sector leisure centre staff. To date, three customer care training packages have been delivered onsite in local leisure centres.

"Matching supply with demand has been identified as a major requirement for leisure centres and the development of the Learning Hub concept, within our sector, provides a vehicle to address the skills and productivity agenda throughout the sector."

Paul Lyness, head of leisure services, Ballymoney Borough Council.

FINDING THE FUNDING Funding for fitness

Consultation with fitness employers in Wales revealed a skills shortage in higher level fitness instructors. As a direct result, funding was brokered from the Welsh Assembly Government to provide bursaries to further train and qualify fitness instructors from level 2 to level 3.

"The upskilling of our instructors to level 3 has made a big difference to the service that we offer across our local authority facilities. Our instructors have a better knowledge base, but most importantly their motivation has increased and we are now

exploring the opportunities for personal training within our centres. The fact that the training has been subsidised by the Welsh Assembly Government has meant that we have been able to train more staff, and this has been fortunate given the impact of the current economic climate."

Julie Collings, leisure services marketing and development officer, County Hall.

Addressing the coaching need

Research undertaken by sports coach UK indicates that there are approximately 1.2 million coaches in the UK. This research also showed that around half of these coaches do not hold an up-to-date qualification for the sport in which they coach. With participation in sport increasing it is vital that the sport and active leisure workforce has the right people in place. An immediate solution was to unlock funding that would help to alleviate some of the barriers faced by coaches, and ensure that the UK has a pool of qualified coaches to deliver ambitious participation targets. To date over £1m has been brokered for subsidised bursaries for sports coaches in London, the South West and Yorkshire and the Humber.

"The SkillsActive bursary scheme encouraged a group of nine members of our club to attend a UKCC level 1 course. This is excellent for the club as it will bring new ideas into the mix and possibly a fresh approach to parts of our coaching programme. Additionally, the influx of freshly qualified coaches who are keen to put their newly learnt skills into practice will enable the club to lay on more coaching in many



London's canoeists benefit from qualified coaches

"This experience will aid the future development of the club, benefiting members at all levels, as well as enabling us to continue to pursue one of our aims of introducing people to the sport." *Karen Shaw-Wilson, chair, Regents Canoe Club.*

different areas. Finally, our new broad base of formally qualified coaches may encourage our casual coaches to take the leap onto the coaching ladder and gain formal coaching certificates. This experience will aid the future development of the club, benefiting members at all levels, as well as enabling us to continue to pursue one of our aims of introducing people to the sport."

Karen Shaw-Wilson, chair, Regents Canoe Club.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST Get Set Go

Twenty four percent of people working in the sector do not have a level 2 qualification, which is equivalent to five GCSEs grades A*-C. As a result, literacy and numeracy skills are key areas for employers to tackle. Keen to address these skills needs as part of their core work, Positive Futures and the Amateur Swimming Association worked with SkillsActive to develop Get Set Go, a workforce development and careers planning tool for the sport and fitness sector. The tool brings together literacy and numeracy assessments and practice tests with career planning, and helps put into context the relevance of these essential skills to those working in sport and fitness. It is the first of its kind for the

sector based on the adult literacy and numeracy curriculum.

"This is a much needed development that will support the sport and coaching workforce in ensuring that they have the necessary skills and information to follow their chosen career pathway."

Spencer Moore, head of workforce development, Amateur Swimming Association.

Gaining support for training

Train to Gain is a government funded service for employers designed to help them identify training needs, high quality training solutions and funding opportunities in England. Historically there has been limited uptake of the service among South West employers in the sport and active leisure sector, and as a direct result of working in partnership with Business Link and the LSC, SkillsActive appointed its very own Train to Gain broker.

"Barry's appointment is crucial for sport and active leisure in the South West. He is able to speak the language of our employers and understand and match up their needs to funded training provision. It's very early days for the project, but we are getting a significant amount of interest from governing bodies of sport and leisure centre operators. Barry is currently working

with the RFU in the South West using Train to Gain to support the skills development of the management teams in key clubs throughout the region."

Adrian Cable, South West regional development manager, SkillsActive.

SHAPING THE FUTURE

"Over the past five years we have worked to establish a coherent and integrated framework for the sector to support its business and professional development. The skills agenda is central to that development and our role is to provide the tools to facilitate this. We bring together a unique range of government priorities – health, social welfare, education and sport within that agenda.

"A key tool is the development of our National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure. With the launch of the Academy, we can provide a totally new offer to the sector and to government in England, with a real capacity to deliver change. In particular we will increase the capacity to deliver the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, the 2014 Commonwealth Games and a lasting sporting legacy for not only London and Glasgow but each and every community across Britain."

Stephen Studd, CEO, SkillsActive Group.

"Since opening its doors to the public, the Academy has already shown positive signs of great working relationships with employers and partners. The Academy will grow to become a vital tool for learners."

Mark Lavington, HR manager, PGL.

SkillsActive
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For more information visit:
www.skillsactive.com



More level 3 fitness instructors for Welsh gyms

IN BRIEF

Figures reveal slump in racecourse crowds

► New figures released by the Racecourse Association (RCA) have revealed a 2 per cent decline in the number of people attending horse racing events across the UK during 2008. The loss of August's York Ebor festival and an entire day of the Cheltenham Festival, together with poor attendances for 59 new all-weather winter evening fixtures, has contributed to an 8 per cent decrease in average attendances to 4,017 per meeting. Stephen Atkins, chief executive of the RCA, said: "2008 was, as expected, a difficult year and the second half of the year showed the effects of the downturn in the UK economy."

Glastonbury to avoid Olympic clash

► Michael Eavis has decided to give Glastonbury Festival a miss in 2012 to avoid competing for services with the organisers of the Olympic Games. The event's boss told the *Western Daily Press*: "We've got the Olympics in 2012 so they'll need all the loo and all the security and all the trains. It's a job to get enough trains now and we need more trains because we're trying to increase the public transport to Glastonbury. So we have decided to take 2012 off."

888 posts increase in gaming revenue

► Gaming company 888 has reported a 21 per cent increase in total income for the 12 months ending 31 December 2008, despite seeing a drop in figures for the last quarter of the year. The company has blamed poor exchange rates and uncertain economic conditions for an 8 per cent decrease in income during the last three months of 2008, compared with the previous year.

Leicester music venue forced to close

The venue, which has hosted big-named bands, has been placed in administration

By **Pete Hayman**

An iconic live music venue in Leicester, which has hosted some of the biggest names in the music industry, has closed its doors to the public after it ran into financial difficulties.

The Charlotte, which is owned by pub company Punch Taverns, has staged gigs by Oasis, Radiohead and the Stone Roses during its illustrious history, but has now been forced into administration.

A spokesperson for Punch Taverns said: "We recognise that it is an important part of Leicester life and we remain committed to its future."

"Unfortunately our former licensee's business has gone into administration, so matters are currently in the hands of practitioners."

"Once we know the position from their point of view, we will be able to take steps to



Owned by Punch Taverns, the pub may be re-let in the future

re-let the pub and re-open it. We would ideally like to keep the pub as a live music venue and would be keen to hear from local entrepreneurs who may be interested in talking to us about the future of the pub."

It had been hoped that another Leicester venue, arts centre De Montfort Hall, may be able to help out as The Charlotte faced closure but the manager, Richard Haswell,

revealed that nothing could be organised in time.

He said: "If asked, we would do anything we could but it really wasn't up to us. It was up to The Charlotte itself to ask and I'm fairly sure they haven't done that."

"The news to date isn't that good. The offer remains as to what we can do to help. It would be very bad news if the venue closed."

Cineworld in digital upgrade

Cinema operator Cineworld has signed a multi-million pound agreement with NEC Europe to double the number of digital screens in its portfolio.

The company's deal with Munich-based NEC is to acquire seven digital projectors at a cost of around £4m. Cineworld plans to have 148 digital screens fitted and operational by April this year. Cineworld will boast the largest 3D estate in the UK as a result of the deal, capitalising on the 13 3D films scheduled for release in 2009.

Legal challenge for arena decision

By **Tom Walker**

Property developer Montpellier Estates is to take legal action against Leeds City Council (LCC) after losing out in the race to build a new multi-million pound entertainment arena.

In November, LCC's executive announced that the new 12,500-seat venue would be built by the council itself on a 5.1-acre (2.06-hectare) site at Claypit Lane, which is part-owned by Leeds Metropolitan University.

Proposals for the new arena put forward by two developers, including Montpellier Estates, were adjudged to be too costly, and Montpellier Estates has now issued proceedings against



The site of the proposed multi-million pound arena

the council to obtain information surrounding the decision which it says it is entitled to.

A spokesperson for Montpellier Estates said: "I can confirm that it we have issued proceedings against Leeds City Council in connection with the competition to award a contract to develop the Leeds Arena."

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IN BRIEF

Pub operators report continued sales growth

► Three UK pub operators have reported continued sales growth over the Christmas and New Year period despite the economic downturn. Mitchells and Butlers (M&B) revealed, ahead of its annual general meeting, that it had recorded a 1 per cent increase in like-for-like sales for the 17 weeks to 24 January. Meanwhile, Fuller, Smith and Turner announced a 4.5 per cent rise in the 10 weeks to 24 January, increasing its like-for-like sales growth to 2.7 per cent for the current financial year to date. JD Wetherspoon also reported an increase in like-for-like sales, with figures up by 2.6 per cent for the first 12 weeks of the second quarter.

Travelodge to build on its first residential site

► Travelodge is planning to develop a £5.5m hotel in Greenwich, London, on a site previously designated for residential use after original plans for the site collapsed. The site was purchased by developer City & Suburban Homes with the view of building 14 flats but, despite planning permission having been granted, the buyer pulled out leaving an opportunity for the group to build a 97-room hotel.

MCH launches new hotel at Bramall Lane

► Millennium Copthorne Hotels (MCH) has opened a 158-room hotel at Bramall Lane, the home of Sheffield United FC. A joint project between MCH and Sheffield United, the Copthorne Sheffield Hotel houses a 56-station health club, a restaurant, a bar and conferencing facilities. The property is the fourth hotel to be operated by MCH at a football stadium.

Jurys Inn secures a £90m hotel deal

The chain will acquire four new hotels and plans to open another seven in 2009

By Caroline Wilkinson

Budget hotel chain Jurys Inn has exchanged contracts on four new hotels in England and Scotland in a deal worth £90m.

Located in Glasgow, New-castle, Portsmouth and Bradford, the 200-room 80,000sq ft (7,432sq m) hotels – the Glasgow site will be the only 100,00sq ft (9,290sq m) hotel offering 230 rooms – are being developed by Jurys' strategic development partner, McAleer and Rushe.

The properties will be operated on long-term leases and are due to open in 2010. There are also seven new openings scheduled for 2009.

Simon Jones, Jurys Inn development director, said: "We plan to grow the business



The new sites are part of the company's plans for future growth

aggressively this year and are seriously exploring increased numbers of new site opportunities emerging from the fast changing UK property market.

"Developers and land owners struggling with residential or commercial projects will get a positive reception from us as we seek well located sites in prime London locations and in provincial cities.

"We continue to look speculatively for new locations as site valuations drop and struggling four star hotels close. We remain proactive and hungry for development."

Côte to open sixth city site

French bistro chain Côte has announced that it is to open its sixth site in London at Hay's Galleria near London Bridge.

The restaurant will replace the site of the independent Kwan Thai and will be the seventh in London, joining others in Richmond, Soho, Kensington and Covent Garden as well as the launch site in Wimbledon Village.

Brandon Elmon of Davis Coffey Lyons, who negotiated the deal, said: "A consideration close to seven figures was paid for the lease, which is a terrific statement in today's market, demonstrating that the best sites are still commanding substantial premiums."

£100m Savoy revamp delayed



The hotel, owned by Fairmont, will not be reopening in May

By Luke Tuchscherer

The £100m revamp of the famous Savoy Hotel in London has reportedly been delayed.

According to the *Evening Standard*, the 120-year-old hotel will not open its doors until the autumn, despite a scheduled May opening.

Canada-based Fairmont owns the hotel and work on the project, designed by Pierre-Yves Rochon, began in

December 2007. The works will involve a redesign of the Thames Foyer and River Restaurant and the refurbishment of two-thirds of the 263 bedrooms and suites, plus all the corridors.

No specific reasons have been named as the cause of the delay, a Fairmont spokesperson was quoted by the *Evening Standard* as saying "it's just one of those things that happens with projects of this size."



The Real Hotel Company is behind the Purplehotels budget chain

RHG is placed into administration

The firm's revenue dropped in the year to January '09

By Luke Tuchscherer

The Real Hotel Group (RHG) – the operator of budget chain Purplehotels – has gone into administration, becoming the latest victim of the economic downturn.

The firm reported a 7 per cent fall in revenue from £68m to £63m in 2008.

The company released the following statement on the Alternative Investment Market: "Following the announcement of the suspension of the company's ordinary shares on

13 January, the company has been actively exploring all financial and strategic options available to the business in the light of its adverse financial position.

"It is with deep regret that the board has appointed administrators, Shay Bannon and Antony Nygate of BDO Stoy Hayward with immediate effect in respect of its trading subsidiary, the Real Hotel Company (RHC).

"The administrators will be undertaking a review of RHC's assets."

Fishworks chain gets bought out

Fishworks, the seafood restaurant chain, has been acquired by Midlands-based entrepreneur Ranjit Boparan for an undisclosed sum.

The company, which was founded by celebrity chef Mitch Tonks, was bought the same day as PricewaterhouseCoopers were called in as administrators.

However, six of the chain's 10 restaurants will close immediately, resulting in 90 lost jobs.

The remaining sites are based in Bath, Richmond and two in London – on Swallow Street and Marylebone Street.

Ranjit Boparan said: "We're making a significant investment because we absolutely believe in the business and we believe in the brand.

"Our strategy is simple - exceptional quality, exceptional service and exceptional value to suit the taste, expectations and pockets of our customers."

Shoddy service does not define British hospitality

A balanced view must be sought as 42 per cent of customers rate UK as No 1

It gets increasingly frustrating when people take pot shots at the British hospitality industry without offering any palpable solutions to changing perceptions and behaviour. It is particularly tiresome when Chris Rodrigues, CEO of Visit Britain joins in.

Recently, *The Independent's* front page headline read: "Bad service and grumpy Britons put tourism jobs at risk". The story had Rodrigues complaining about the state of the British hospitality industry saying that shoddy service and high prices are putting foreign visitors off the UK.

Of course it would be foolish and erroneous of me to deny any truth in the comments made and yes, sadly there are those who work in the industry who do not, and are perhaps unlikely to ever, reflect the true definition of hospitality – 'kindness in welcoming strangers or guests' (*Collins Concise Dictionary*). However, I would challenge anyone to show me an industry where this isn't the case.

Everyone in the hospitality, leisure and tourism industries are essentially a consumer and whenever I run training courses on customer service, I ask people to give me an example of a time when they had experienced poor customer service. Unfortunately this is often an easy task, with people able to relay exactly where, when, how and why it happened. In contrast, ask people to relay occasions where they've been wowed by excellent service and they struggle to remember any. It's a bad habit that many people are wired to think like this, as it's clear from the latest UK Customer Service Satisfaction Index that examples of outstanding customer experiences DO exist in this country.

The Institute of Customer Service asked customers to choose from a list of countries, which they believe offered the best service, and 42 per cent rated the UK as number one. The only other country to achieve a notable share of the vote was the USA with its strong reputation for 'service with a smile'. While these were not hospitality specific, the Leisure and Tourism category boasted 72 per cent overall.

Expectations are higher than ever and at a time when every penny counts, it's vital that the consumer feels they're reaping the most value for their money, regardless of how big or small the budget. Rather than bleat on about how bad things are we must begin to look at ourselves both individually and corporately and recognise we need to be the difference.



Institute of Hospitality

PHILIP STANLEY is general manager of the Institute of Hospitality's Service Standard, Hospitality Assured

IN BRIEF

Gwynedd Museum secures funding

► An agreement between the Welsh Assembly Government, Gwynedd Council and Bangor University has secured the future of the Gwynedd Museum and Art Gallery in Bangor for another three years. Council staff have been working with officials from the Welsh Assembly to finalise details of a funding package under the Museum Strategic Grant scheme. Bangor University has also agreed to double its funding to the museum.

Ancient site to delay rollercoaster project?

► The construction of a new rollercoaster at Alton Towers theme park in Staffordshire could be delayed after a local resident raised concerns that the park's plans would involve building on the location of Bunbury Hill Fort – an ancient heritage site. Staffs County Council has said it will send an archaeologist to investigate. Alton Towers said it is not going to build, nor has it any plans to, where the local believes the ride will be situated.

New attractions for Museum of Kent Life

► The Museum of Kent Life in Maidstone is to reopen on 4 April with several new attractions – including a themed outdoor adventure play area. The farm attraction, operated by Continuum, will also boast an indoor 'play barn', new animals and a gift shop. There will also be a new 'Cuddle Corner', where children can interact with a range of the site's smaller animals. Julia Delaney, chief executive of Continuum, said: "There are plans to increase the family fun aspect of the Museum of Kent Life and add more commercial aspects to the site."

Ripon Workhouse nets HLF grant

New space will house exhibitions and large research centre on local studies

By **Pete Hayman**

Ripon Museum Trust has been awarded £823,500 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the refurbishment of a museum at the city's former workhouse, one of the few visitor attractions of its kind in Britain.

The Grade II-listed building, located within the Ripon Conservation Area, will also undergo restoration work, which will see the Ripon Workhouse Museum enlarged and upgraded.

Empty parts of the gatehouse will be brought back into use, while the archway between the east and west wings will be covered to create a new entrance for the museum. Two small extensions will be created at the rear of the buildings to provide more room.

A number of items currently in storage, including a large



The museum, at the city's former workhouse, will be upgraded

1868 map of the Poor Law Union, will be put on display using the extra space following the work, while the trust's collection of photographs will be included in a series of temporary exhibitions.

The extra space will also house a new local studies research centre, incorporating a drop-in archive facility, toilets and room for research.

Work is expected to get underway within the next few months, and the museum is set to reopen in August.

Anthony Chadwork, senior curator at Ripon Museum Trust, said: "This generous award from the HLF means that we can now move ahead with our investment of over £1m to deliver so much more at the Workhouse museum."

Camelot calls in administrators

By **Pete Hayman**

Camelot Theme Park near Chorley, Lancashire, has been placed into receivership having struggled to compete for visitors with rival attractions in recent years.

Les Ross and Malcolm Shiersen from Grant Thornton accountants have been appointed as joint receivers of the attraction, which only operated for 20 weeks each year and was scheduled to reopen on 4 April.

Camelot's 140-bedroom Park Hall Hotel will continue to trade as normal until a buyer is sought, although plans have already been put forward to redevelop the site into a mixed-use development



The park first opened in 1984

incorporating residential and retail units, as well as a health and fitness club and a village hall.

Ross said: "Camelot Theme Park has struggled for a number of years to compete with larger attractions such as Blackpool Pleasure Beach and Alton Towers. Visitor numbers had been in decline."

New museum for Isle of Man

A plan to establish a vintage transport museum on the Isle of Man looks set to take a step forward following further discussions between government departments on how to implement the project.

The Manx Transport Trust has been awarded permission to use an aircraft hangar at Jurby to house a collection of historic vehicles currently stored at Homefield Garage in Douglas.

Talks have been held between the chief minister and the ministers for tourism and leisure, local government and the environment (DLGE) and trade and industry. The DLGE has agreed to rent the facility at a nominal charge.



SPORT AND LEISURE STATISTICS

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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.

Leisure Forecasts

This publication identifies the way in which economic trends, new technologies and new consumer priorities will shape the leisure industry over the next five years. It is divided into two sectors, leisure in the home and leisure away from home, providing analysis for 24 distinct leisure markets.

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IN BRIEF

Funding boost for Cumbria initiative

► Kendal Arts Initiative (KAI) has secured investment worth £2m from the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) to fund a new four-year programme of outdoor performance and arts events in Cumbria. The Lakes Alive initiative is one of three Annual Legacy Programmes to be commissioned by the Legacy Trust UK for the Northwest cultural legacy scheme for the 2012 London Olympics, WE PLAY. Sponsored by NWDA, Lakes Alive is also being funded by Arts Council England and the Northern Rock Foundation.

City Art Centre closes for £750,000 revamp

► Edinburgh's City Art Centre is due to close for a six month, £750,000 refurbishment in May 2009. The council-run gallery will undergo an upgrade of its lighting, ventilation and heating systems as the gallery's current temperatures risk damaging art work. The refurbishment will mean the gallery is closed for the Edinburgh Art Festival. The centre contains the city's collection of Scottish art comprising more than 3,000 pieces across six exhibitions.

Architects picked for National Theatre plan

► The National Theatre on London's South Bank has commissioned architects Haworth Tompkins to produce a masterplan for the development of the Grade II-listed building. Haworth Tompkins beat architects Dixon Jones, Levitt Bernstein, Allies & Morrison and David Chipperfield to win the commission. The masterplan is expected to build on Haworth Tompkins' previous refurbishment work on the theatre's studio annex.

The Public's gallery creator goes under

Company in charge of launching interactive attraction enters administration

By Pete Hayman

The company responsible for creating an interactive gallery attraction, yet to open at the West Bromwich arts complex, The Public, has entered voluntary administration.

Bob Bailey and Guy Mander from Baker Tilly in Birmingham have been appointed as joint administrators of The Public Gallery Ltd, which ran into financial difficulties after it was unable to secure further grants for its development.

Bailey said: "Financial problems developed after The Public Gallery was unable to obtain funding.

"Regrettably, the company has had to make all 32 of its staff redundant."



IMAGE: TONY HISCOTT

The gallery hit financial troubles after grants couldn't be secured

Arts Council England (ACE) withdrew its financial support for the interactive gallery after it rejected a new business plan put forward by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) to double the centre's annual £520,000 funding.

ACE will, however, provide a £3m grant to allow SMBC, the owner of The Public, to develop a revised artistic and business plan for the interactive gallery.

Administrators are in discussions with SMBC and ACE over the future of the gallery.

Young people set to benefit from Leeds' First Floor

By Caroline Wilkinson

A new £617,000 arts space has been launched at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds with the aim of inspiring young people, not in mainstream education and at risk of social exclusion, to take part in arts.

First Floor, funded by Arts Council England as well as various trusts and foundations, is designed for over 12-year-olds. The 1,340sq m space offers a performing arts and a



Actor Jack Shepherd attended

visual arts studio, a social area called the Green Room and a creative writing space.

The centre will be used for a range of activities including drama workshops, storytelling, street dance and a community radio station. Programmes include one-off tasters to regular weekly drop-in classes and from accredited courses to holiday activities.

Many activities will be accredited, enabling participants to gain qualifications such as Arts Council England's Arts Awards and Open College Network credits.

Lincoln's Theatre Royal safeguards short-term future

The future of a Lincoln theatre, which was threatened with closure after the local authority decided to withdraw the venue's funding, has been safeguarded after operators formulated a rescue plan.

In October, the City of Lincoln Council (CLC) revealed that it would not be extending its

current funding agreement with the Theatre Royal, which was worth £173,000 for the current financial year.

However, the theatre's managing director, Chris Moreno, said the Grade-II listed venue is to stay open following three months of work to stave off the threat of closure.

Latest wave of Sea Change announced

Southport and Hastings among coastal towns to benefit from new round of grants

By Luke Tuchscherer

The DCMS has announced the latest group coastal towns that will benefit from its Sea Change grant scheme.

Southport, Great Yarmouth, Bridlington and Hastings are to receive £12m between them in order to "boost regeneration through investment in culture and heritage".

Tourism minister Barbara Follett said: "With more people thinking about holidaying at home, the funding provided by the Sea Change programme will help to ensure that their experiences are memorable and inspire them to return and keep the great tradition of British seaside holidays alive."

Southport will receive £4m in order to make improvements to its Grade II-listed arts centre,



A Grade I-listed chapel in Yarmouth will become a new arts centre

which will include a theatre, a museum and a music venue.

Bridlington will use its £3m funding package to redesign the promenade surrounding the Royal Hall and Spa Theatre complex, while in Great Yarmouth a Grade I-listed chapel will be converted into a new arts centre.

Hastings will use its £2m to provide an artist-designed piazza, performance space and cultural community centre.

The nationwide Sea Change programme is led by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and will give a total of £45m over three years to coastal resorts.

£7m wildlife attraction opens in Middlesbrough

By Pete Hayman

A new £7m visitor attraction has been unveiled by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Teeside Environmental Trust (TET) at Saltholme, near Middlesbrough.

The 1,000-acre (405-hectare) Wild Bird Discovery Centre has taken 11 years to develop, and its facilities include a visitor centre, a café, a shop and classrooms, as well as an adventure playground and an outdoor education zone.

Designed by architects Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall, the was built by Lumsden and Carroll. It is hoped the site will attract more than 100,000 visitors each year.

RSPB site manager, Dave Braithwaite, said: "We can finally open the doors of the



The 1,000-acre attraction took more than 11 years to complete

Saltholme centre and, while not everything is up and running, we are able to offer our first visitors a chance to see how we are already shaping up.

"Throughout the year, regular visitors will be able to see the site develop and watch as our wildlife garden starts to mature and bloom. The adventure playground with its castles and

wildlife-themed swings will also open for the first time, and we will also be introducing more country walks, nature hides and other facilities."

It is hoped that half of the visitors will be from outside the local area, while the reserve plans to spend £40,000 a year with local firms on maintenance and security.

IN BRIEF

Four parks receive funding boost

► The Heritage Lottery Fund has named the four parks which will receive a total of £4.4m in funding from the Parks for People programme. Herschel Park in Slough, Berkshire, has been awarded a £1.69m grant, while Pannett Park in Whitby, Yorkshire received £1.4m. Chances Park in Carlisle, Cumbria, will receive £869,000 and the Dixon Park in Larne, County Antrim, Northern Ireland has been given £514,000.

End to long-running quarrying dispute

► The Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) has claimed victory in a long-running dispute over quarrying at Stanton Moor, Derbyshire. The authority said it had received confirmation that planning permission for quarries near the historic Nine Ladies Stone Circle in Matlock had been formally withdrawn by the Department for Communities and Local Government. In a statement, the PDNPA said the decision was the culmination of years of perseverance by the authority to support the area's archaeological remains and wildlife habitats.

New Forest plans enter next phase

► The New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) has entered the second phase of its review of the authority's new strategy. The next stage of the draft plans will see the authority organise a series of working groups and workshops with key decision makers, covering the issues that emerged from a public consultation that ended in November. The NFNPA's aim is to revise the Park Plan for approval in May. This will include a full report of the consultation process.

leisure property news

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The perils of being a tenant

Being aware of potential pitfalls could save money



PETER MOODY is Head of Leisure at BrookStreet des Roches LLP, a member of The Leisure Property Forum

While the current market conditions mean that incoming tenants are able to negotiate good deals, there are still significant problems for tenants which add to these very challenging times.

Landlords are actively managing their portfolios, where before they were more relaxed. This means little latitude on payment of rents and a marked change in attitude – away from forfeiture as a primary remedy to distraint, with bailiffs appearing far more regularly to levy on any goods of value in the premises.

A further problem is the increase in the number of landlords forcing former tenants to pick up the tab in relation to rent and service charges for defaulting occupiers. The units that were assigned are in many cases coming back to haunt former tenants.

Just as worrying is the practice of some landlords who serve mid term dilapidations notices. Where they were once usually prepared to await the tail end of the term and negotiate, many are not now prepared to wait and see if their tenants are still trading by then.

It is important that tenants appreciate the additional risks they face at the moment. Awareness of potential problems is vital in managing and minimising cost at what is a critical time for many.

SoCo plans given the go-ahead

£40m Edinburgh scheme will rejuvenate site of devastating fire of 2002

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

Plans for the £40m mixed-use redevelopment of the derelict Cowgate district in Edinburgh have been approved by the city council.

The SoCo scheme, led by Edinburgh developer Whiteburn Projects and designed by Allan Murray Architects, is set to transform the site which was ravaged by the Edinburgh Old Town fire in 2002.

Located in South Bridge/Cowgate, the site will host a 200-room hotel, operated by boutique hotelier, Hoxton, which is led by the co-founder of Prêt à Manger. There will also be a new restaurant, festival venue, business centre and a La Belle Angele nightclub – which was destroyed in the fire.

John Shepherd, chief executive of Whiteburn, said: "Our vision is to regener-



The plans include a 200-room luxury hotel

ate this blighted area of our beautiful city which has lain derelict since the devastation of fire in 2002."

The site was previously host to the J&R Allan department store, which incorporated the Gilded Balloon comedy venue.

dRMM wins Brunel Museum commission



The brief included the restoration of the attraction's vent shaft and stairwell

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

The design competition for the development of the Brunel Museum in Southwark, London has been won by London-based de Rijke Marsh Morgan Architects (dRMM).

The focus of the brief was to make the attraction's 15m-diameter vent shaft and former stairwell to the Thames Tunnel accessible again since its closure in 1865.

The firm beat off competition from Mataphorm, FAT, Softroom, Ash Sakula and Brisac Gonzalez.

Plans revealed for £5.5m Clacton-on-Sea hotel

A seafront hotel in Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, is set to undergo a £5.5m redevelopment if proposals put forward by developers Primero Management are given the go-ahead by Tendring District Council.

Plans for the revamp of the town's Comfort Inn, which include a 16-lane

bowling alley and a rooftop restaurant and bar, have been welcomed by both the council and its regeneration company, InTend, and it is hoped a planning application will be submitted next month.

If the plans are approved, work is expected to get underway in May.

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Expressions of interest for 'The Kent Schools Games 2010'

Kent County Council is the largest local authority in England, covering an area of 3500 square kilometres. It has an annual expenditure of over £1bn on goods and services and a population of 1.3m. The Council provides a wide range of personal and strategic services on behalf of its residents, operating in partnership with 12 District Councils and 289 Parish/Town Councils.

The Sport, Leisure and Olympics Service is part of the County Council's Communities Directorate and provides a strategic lead for and coordinates the development of sport in Kent. This is achieved by working with the public and by working with and through, a large number of organisations in the public, commercial, private, voluntary and educational sectors.

After the success of the first Kent School Games held in June 2008, Kent County Council will be coordinating the Schools Games programme for 2009/10, aimed at all Schools, culminating in 10 Finals Days with participant numbers ranging from approximately 55 - 1700 on any one day, utilising approximately 12 facilities predominantly in the Canterbury area.

This Expression of Interest is for the 10 Finals days, Opening Ceremony, Celebratory Event plus additional support as required during the heats process.

The following are an indication of a number of key core elements required from the successful Supplier:

A fully marked out sports area, all equipment hire including delivery, installation, decommissioning and return. A full risk assessment, including welfare planning for the young people involved. A Health and Safety register Method Statement and Information Handbook. Full training of all personnel involved with the operation and administration of the event. Ensure that all personnel have had up to date CRB and employment checks. Transport and car park planning.

The total management of all third party contractors that attend the site during the games. The arrangement and control of all site security. The effective positioning and operation of PA systems and recording equipment. The supply of all catering to satisfy the requirement of the competitors and visitors.

To ensure a full record of the event is developed and retained using various media. Working with the Sport Leisure & Olympics service to ensure marketing, sponsorship, and media coverage is achieved. To ensure that adequate event furniture (seating, podiums, toilets) are available.

Companies wishing to express an interest in this opportunity are requested to apply by the South East Business Portal www.businessportal.southeastie.gov.uk.

The closing date for expressions of interest 3rd March 2009.



Expressions of Interest to Operate North Hertfordshire District Council's Leisure Management Contracts



North Hertfordshire District Council is situated 40 miles out of London in an affluent semi-rural area. The Council has three main indoor leisure facilities and two outdoor pools together with a School/Community use facility. The facilities mentioned are split into three contracts, two of which will be contracted out from 1st April 2010 for a period of between 5 and 7 years.

A private management contractor currently manage the two contracts which will be tendered, both of which have gained QUEST accreditation with scores of above 75%.

We are looking for expressions of interest from contractors that have experience in providing high quality leisure provision to meet the needs of all local communities. The Council will shortlist between 5 and 7 contractors to be invited to tender.

The Hitchin contract consists of an indoor 25m, 8 lane pool plus teaching pool, opened in 1991. Adjoining is a fitness facility that was opened in 2000 and holds approximately 80 pieces of fitness equipment. The Hitchin pool also has an 8 lane 50m outdoor pool, with teaching pool that is open for 15 weeks during the summer period, this facility was built in 1938. All facilities attract approximately 320,000 visits per year.

The Royston contract consists of a new leisure centre that was opened to the public in September 2005, this comprises of 25m, 6 lane pool, 4 court badminton sports hall, 40 station fitness facility and a dance studio. On average this facility attracts approximately 350,000 visits per year.

To obtain a Pre Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ) outlining the criteria that will be used to determine which contractors will be invited to tender, please contact:

Louise Peddie - Contracts and Projects Officer
North Hertfordshire District Council, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 3JF. Email: louise.peddie@north-herts.gov.uk

Final date for expressions of interest: no later than 12 noon Friday 6th March 2009
Closing date for submission of PQQ: no later than 12 noon 13th March 2009

For further information or an informal discussion please contact Steve Crowley –
Tel: 01462 474211 Email: steve.crowley@north-herts.gov.uk

LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON

MANAGEMENT OF SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES CONTRACT

The London Borough of Hillingdon invites expressions of interest from companies who are suitably qualified and experienced to provide a full management and operation of 4 sports and leisure facilities. This includes the new Botwell Green Leisure Centre in Hayes Town due to open in late Autumn 2009. The centre includes a 25m pool, leisure water, sports hall, health & fitness and specialist gymnastics facility.

The appointed company and/or organisation will be required to fulfil management, operation, marketing and promotion responsibilities for the successful operation of the leisure facilities in order to achieve the Council's key strategic aims and objectives. In particular the incoming operator/operators will be required to demonstrate the council is achieving value for money from the operation to benefit the Borough's wide and varied communities.

The Council will be letting a ten-year contract. The contract is due to commence on 01 October 2009 and will be tendered electronically.

Interested organisations will be required to register their interest, from which they will be sent the tender documentations to provide a detailed tender proposal. The tender proposal will be evaluated and a short list of organisations will be invited to a clarification meeting. Site visits will be arranged during the tender process.

Please contact Sally Smith, Procurement Buyer, by e-mailing ssmith10@hilligdon.gov.uk or by letter to London Borough of Hillingdon, Corporate Procurement Unit (15/07), Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1UW to express your interest.

Closing date for return of Tender Documents is 26th March 2009.



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For further information contact: Karen Howe, Estates Service, TDA, 1st Floor, Tor Hill House, Union Street, Torquay TQ2 5QW

Tel: 01803 207918 Email: estates@torbay.gov.uk



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Contract to design and supply Skate Ramps to Eastbourne Borough Council

Eastbourne Borough Council invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for a skate ramp design and supply Contract.

The Contract will require the Contractor to design, supply and install skate equipment at the Sovereign Skate Park, Eastbourne. Selected contractors will be invited to visit the site and discuss the skate park requirements with Council Officers and local young people.

Expressions of interest should be made in writing no later than 13th February 2009 to:- Rick Newman, Sport & Leisure Manager, Eastbourne Borough Council, 68 Grove Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4UH Tel: 01323 415421 E-mail: rick.newman@eastbourne.gov.uk

The government can do one thing

DCMS should keep a watch over policy affecting sector



KURT JANSON is policy director for Tourism Alliance

In my last column, I mentioned that there were limits to what the government could do to support the tourism industry if it was not willing to increase funding to boost marketing campaigns or to forgo tourism-related tax revenues – such as visa fees and Air Passenger Duty.

There is, however, one significant way the government can support the sector – and that is through championing the tourism industry across government. Most of the regulation that governs tourism activities is controlled by government departments other than DCMS. These other departments have little understanding of tourism, and no mandate for delivering tourism growth.

The results of this are predictable – DCMS is not consulted and the industry is left to fight a rear-guard action. When the Home Office increased visa charges for visitors to the UK by almost 40 per cent in 2005, DCMS officials found out about the decision when they read the Home Office press release.

There is a significant amount that the DCMS can do by committing the resources needed to maintain a watching brief over the legislation being developed by other departments.

The tourism minister should convene twice yearly cross-Whitehall meetings with colleagues and officials from other departments where upcoming legislation affecting the industry can be discussed and agreements reached whereby the adverse impacts on tourism are mitigated.

No extra tourism funding for 2012

Government comes under fire for "damaging and short-sighted" policy

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

The government's decision not to allocate additional funds to market tourism for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games has been branded as "short-sighted and damaging" by the Tourism Alliance.

The government was expected to provide a one-off payment to help VisitBritain in the run up to the 2012 Olympics after it cut its funding by 18 per cent for 2008-11.

However, the minister for tourism, Barbara Follett, has decided against such a boost and said there are "no plans to provide additional funding for tourism in respect of the [Games] in this comprehensive spending round."

In response, Bob Cotton, chair of the Tourism Alliance, said: "The decision highlights the DCMS's lack of understanding of the tourism industry and of its wealth creating potential to the UK economy."



No funds: another blow for 2012 tourism

"Billions of pounds are being poured into the infrastructure for the Games yet the government cannot find funding to promote what is the biggest sporting event in the world."

Follett insisted that the government remains "fully committed to tourism".

Five new countries have to face visa checks



Government uses tougher security measures

By **Pete Hayman**

Visitors from five countries, including South Africa, are to face new security checks before travelling to Britain following a government review of visa requirements.

The new security measures, including fingerprint visas, will be introduced for visitors from Bolivia, Lesotho, Venezuela and Swaziland after they failed the UK's new visa waiver test.

Other countries named by the UK Border Agency last year as needing to improve security include Brazil, Malaysia and Trinidad.

North Wales counties launch tourism drive

Three counties in North Wales have joined forces for a new campaign to promote the area as a tourist destination.

Local authorities in Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire (collectively known as the North Wales Borderlands) are working together in a bid to provide a boost to local businesses and to safeguard jobs which rely on the region's

tourism industry. The partnership is also hoping to develop niche tourism areas with the potential for growth during 2009.

Denbighshire Council's lead member for regeneration, David Thomas, said: "In 2007, tourism was worth an estimated £334m to the combined local economies of Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire."



The new standards will be based on a year-long consultation

Fitness standards to be revised

REPs and SkillsActive join forces for new benchmark

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

New standards for those working in fitness are being created following a year-long consultation process led by SkillsActive and the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs).

The new standards aim to set out a clear division of skills and qualifications, and how these relate to job roles.

REPs registrar Jean-Ann Marnoch said: "The consultation involved REPs members, employers, training providers and awarding bodies, and we consider it the widest consulta-

tion on standards in the industry to date.

"After asking our Level 2 and 3 members what their day-to-day activities included, we realised that the existing standards for qualifications needed updating in order to reflect what was happening in the workplace.

"Using this feedback we have agreed a new structure, and work is being carried out to revise the standards for qualifications. This is a fast-moving sector and we must ensure that the workforce meets the needs of the industry."

Serco partners with London Fitness

Management company Serco Leisure has partnered up with London Fitness Group so that customers who use Serco's 39 leisure facilities can also attend sessions at The Personal Training Centres (TPTC).

The partnership will give Serco customers access to a range of additional services including nutritional advice, sports massage, osteopathy and outdoor activities such as bootcamps.

David Butler, managing director for London Fitness, said: "All our personal trainers receive on going training and support to ensure they are always up to date with the latest developments in fitness."

The London Fitness Group will work with trainers employed by Serco Leisure, which currently operates centres on behalf of 18 local authorities.

Great customer service is the key to survival

When times get tough, we need to concentrate on the customer experience

There's no excuse for poor customer service in this industry, but in a downturn it's unforgivably bad for business. Customers want to spend, but need to justify every pound they part with. For businesses, the most valuable customer is a loyal customer and it costs approximately five times more to attract one than to keep one. The financial benefit is clear - if you want to see your way through the recession, step up your focus on customer service.

All routes to great customer service begin with your staff. Motivation, recognition and empowerment are essential in supporting your employees in their customer service delivery. If you demand top class performance from your teams, then give them the right tools for the job by providing clear information on your customer service policies and standards. Present guidelines on solutions to customer service situations and underline how success in this area will be measured and rewarded. Recognise achievement to keep the bar high and highlight that customer service is key to the success of your business.

An essential part of the process is customer service training. In recession, you might imagine that CEOs have been shredding their 2009 training plans, but polls show that less than a quarter of companies are planning to reduce their training budgets this year. Halting customer service training is a short term solution which ignores a vital ingredient in business success – the paying customer. However, with pressure to cut costs and redundancy rife, some companies simply can't justify training spend, so it's important to remember that motivation, training and reward are still essential – but they don't have to be expensive. Staff are most motivated by intangible rewards such as support, praise, acknowledgement, involvement, autonomy, learning and development and these can often be delivered at low cost.

It's time to focus on great customer service and acknowledge the employees that truly deliver it. Right now there is a perfect opportunity for you to do so, while putting the spotlight firmly on the importance of customer service. Entries are being encouraged for the 2009 Olive Barnett Award, which rewards excellence in employees below 30 years of age. Encouraging your staff to enter the Olive Barnett Award will send them the clear message that you value their skills and commitment.



GARETH EDWARDS is careers director of Springboard UK. *Leisure Opportunities* is the official recruitment magazine for Springboard UK

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Chronic Respiratory Disease Exercise Instructor Course

BLF bursaries are now available for the May 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 3 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 2/3 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
- 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 contact Danielle Smreczak using the details below.



e: exercise@blf-uk.org
t: 020 7688 5618
w: www.lunguk.org

Reg. charity of England & Wales - no. 326730. Charity reg in Scotland - no. SC038415

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Moulton College Sports Academies

Now is the time to join us!

Moulton College has over 600 Sport and Equestrian students on a variety of courses including:

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The Moulton Academies make full use of the excellent indoor and outdoor playing and training facilities, experienced coaching staff and strong academic teaching departments at the college.

Past Students have become professional and semi-professional players at home and abroad, scholarships in the USA and a range of degree study and industry related employment in the UK.

What are you waiting for? Contact us now for an exciting future!



MOULTON COLLEGE, MOULTON,
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FAX: 01604 491127

e-mail: enquiries@moulton.ac

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U P P I N G H A M

Uppingham School, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9QE

Enterprise Manager

Uppingham School was founded in 1584 and is one of Britain's leading independent co-educational boarding schools.

The new post of Enterprise Manager brings together the management of all the School's commercial activities: the Summer School's educational courses and commercial lettings, which are the main focus of the job; the School Shop, serving both pupils and public; and the Sports Centre, which in 2010 will be replaced by a brand new £20m building serving both School and public.

You will be an experienced manager in the leisure, hospitality or events industries, able to devise and deliver a business strategy delivering consistent profit growth. You will be dynamic and inventive, thriving in this autonomous role, and able to lead a wide variety of seasonal and permanent staff. You will enjoy caring for customers and delivering a high quality of service. You will also have sympathy for the ethos and aims of one of the best boarding schools in the country.

Salary is c. £37,500 plus final salary pension scheme, subsidised medical insurance, school fee discount, and access to sports facilities.

Uppingham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Applications should be made using the School's application form and accompanied by a CV and the names & addresses of two referees. For further information contact:

Carly Oxley, Personnel Administrator, Uppingham School, Uppingham, Rutland, LE15 9QD. Tel: 01572 820633.

Email: hr@uppingham.co.uk

Closing date: Monday 2nd March 2009.

www.uppingham.co.uk

www.uppinghamschool.co.uk

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NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Principal Leisure Services Officer

Senior Management SCP 47 £39,345 – SCP 49 £41,083

The Principal Leisure Services Officer is responsible for the strategic management of all the Council's leisure services, including leisure centres, recreation grounds, sports development and countryside access within the Borough. The primary challenge will be the completion of a new £40m Leisure and Aquatics Complex incorporating Northern Ireland's first 50m pool, due to open in Bangor, Co. Down in late 2011.

You must hold a degree or equivalent qualification in leisure and/or management and will be able to demonstrate a successful track record of senior leisure management experience in the last 5 years, including responsibility for sizeable financial and staff resources. Pool management experience and proof of delivering capital projects are also desirable. The capacity to provide leadership and deliver results is essential.

Completed forms must be returned not later than 4.00pm on Thursday 26 February 2009.

T. Polley, Chief Executive and Town Clerk

NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER AND WELCOMES ALL APPLICANTS REGARDLESS OF COMMUNITY BACKGROUND, RACE, AGE, DISABILITY OR GENDER.

There's nowhere
better to spread
your wings.

Chief Executive

Ardroy Outdoor Learning Trust

Salary £42,724 - £48,111

From the shores of Loch Gail in Lochgilhead, Argyll and from the heart of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, we offer quality outdoor education experiences to all kinds of people, including schools, colleges and businesses. Located in one of the most stunning settings anywhere in the world, it's little wonder we offer one of the best learning environments in the country for outdoor, enterprise and environmental education, team building and activity holidays.

Later this year, Ardroy Outdoor Learning Trust will take on the management and development of the outdoor education centre from Fife Council. You'll be fundamental to our success, both during this transition period and in the future. So, you'll need strong commercial acumen and a record of generating operational change. Leadership skills go without saying and you must be the kind of manager who understands how to maximise opportunities and forge lasting partnerships. You'll also understand how safety and service delivery go hand in hand and have the motivation and commitment to enthuse the people around you and really make things happen.

Visit spread-your-wings.co.uk to apply.

If you're successful, you'll undergo an Enhanced Disclosure Scotland check.

Closing date – 6 March 2009.





London's Most Successful Social Enterprise

RECRUITING NOW!

Centre Managers, Assistant Managers and Duty Managers Barnet, Central London and Ealing

GLL is the employer of choice for Leisure. We employ over 3000 people in a variety of leisure jobs. As a worker owned and controlled organisation we offer employment, training and career opportunities that far exceed the rest.

Our expansion ensures that career progression is available for shining stars. Our key staff performance indicators such as the low staff turnover levels reflect our staff. In addition to our Investors in People award, which we have continuously since 1996, our workers are positive about their company. (staff survey 2007/2008)

If you're serious about your career and have the potential to be a strong player in our management team, we want to hear from you. Due to internal promotion we now have vacancies for Centre Managers, Assistant Managers and Duty Managers. We are looking for people who are passionate about delivering Leisure provision of the highest quality. In return we can offer a comprehensive Management Development Programme which will give you the opportunity to gain the necessary skills and experience to progress through our Management Structure.

Centre Manager

Salary: £31 – 33,800k plus 8% bonus after qualifying period.

This is a key support role to our General Managers and includes operational and staff management with a business responsibility for operations in a centre. As well as being business driven, customer focused, self motivated and possessing a 'can do' attitude.

Assistant Manager

Salary: up to £29,500k plus 8% bonus after qualifying period.

The assistant manager role will work closely with the Centre Manager to provide the effective management of the facility, with an emphasis on sales and brands or operations.

Centre Managers and Assistant Managers must have:

- Proven & successful management experience within the Leisure Industry, including within large wet & dry centres. A commercial awareness and experience of leading and coaching the team to maximise revenue.
- A leisure related Degree or professional equivalent and a full complement of statutory qualifications (NPLQ, First Aid at Work and Pool Plant Operators)

Duty Managers

£19 – 23,700k plus 8% bonus after qualifying period

Required to supervise the day to day operation of the centre. Candidates should have experience of Leisure facility operation and supervision of staff.

GLL require hard working, customer focused and business driven people. Sound like you?

Benefits include:

- Discounted Membership Scheme
- Additional 8% attendance related bonus
- Childcare Vouchers*
- Ride2Work Scheme*
- Quality pension package*
- Career Development opportunities
- Extensive Training prospects

* Qualifying periods apply.

Please download an application form from the GLL Website www.gll.org or email recruitment@gll.org or call 020 8317 5000 extension 4020
Closing Date for all returned applications: Tuesday 3rd March 2009



GLL - London's Most Successful Social Enterprise

GLL is an equal opportunities employer. GLL operates 70+ leisure centres and is the UK's Leading Leisure Trust. As a worker owned and controlled organisation, we offer opportunities and benefits that far exceed the rest. GLL has an envied national reputation and continues to expand fast.

We are an equal opportunities employer and applications are encouraged from all sections of the community. GLL is working in partnership with the London Borough of Barnet, Camden, Ealing, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Lambeth, Merton, Newham, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Bellingham Community Project, Epsom & Ewell Council, Reading Council, the London Development Agency and the London Playing Fields Foundation.

I.P.S. Registration No. 27793R
Inland Revenue Charity No. XR43398

Please note that GLL expect applicants to have demonstrated their commitment to the organisation through being members of the Society so please make sure you indicate this in the relevant section of the internal application form.



www.gll.org



We have a number of new, exciting and challenging posts and are looking for experienced yet motivated leisure professionals to contribute towards ensuring that Brent Council's sports centres continue to flourish.

Candidates will be flexible and committed to equal opportunities and customer service. Some posts are specific to each centre; Bridge Park Community Leisure Centre, NW10 and Charteris Sports Centre, NW6 and others work across both sites. You will be a dynamic team player and able to work on your own initiative.

Operations Manager

£30,003 to £32,190 p.a. inc

Ref No: 10833

We are looking for an Operations Manager to run our successful Bridge Park facility. The successful candidate will be responsible for the smooth day to day running of the centre. You will have experience in a supervisory position; have financial knowledge, experience in relation to planning preventative maintenance and a strong awareness of Health and Safety legislation.

Fitness Manager

£28,440 to £30,003 p.a. inc.

Ref No: 10834

We are looking for someone to manage both sports centres' fitness facilities and contribute to both strategic and operational development of sport and physical activities in our borough. The successful candidate will have a passion for health and fitness and experience of working in this field.

Quality and Admin Manager

£28,440 to £30,003 p.a. inc.

Ref No: 10835

The successful candidate will be focused, able to set and monitor service standards across facilities. You will assess the performance of each site, contributing to improvement plans. You will have a broad range of experience and skills within the leisure sector and be able to challenge, monitor and improve performance. You will have knowledge of Quest or similar quality accreditation schemes.

Youth and Community Officer

£28,440 to £30,003 p.a. inc.

Ref No: 10836

The successful candidate will deliver improved access and participation in sports and physical activity. By reaching out to the community, identifying needs and trying to accommodate those within the two centres. You will have experience in outreach work and working with young people and target groups, understanding the issues and barriers preventing them from taking part.

Successful candidates will be required to complete a satisfactory enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure and will work a shift pattern that covers the operational hours of the Centres.

Closing date for the above posts: **9 March 2009.**

Duty Officer

£18,675 to £20,616 p.a. inc.

Ref No: 10837

We are looking for two Duty Officers to work at Bridge Park Community Leisure Centre (full-time post) and Charteris Sports Centre (part-time post). You will assist in the day to day operation of the Centre and will be part of a team of six that actively supervise and co-ordinate the operation of all areas of the service. You will be working a shift pattern that covers the operational hours of the centres.

Closing date: **13 March 2009.**

Application Pack: Tel 020 8937 6300 (24 hours) or write to: The People Centre, 2nd Floor, Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 7RH email: resourcing@brent.gov.uk apply on-line: www.brent.gov.uk/jobs



www.brent.gov.uk/jobs

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Delivery Manager

Post No: LL81

£32,380 - £34,107 pa
(Fixed term until 31 March 2011)

Set in a small, close-knit team, this new role offers the chance not only to develop and expand your own working parameters but to help shape the direction of the Partnership itself, enjoying a varied and stimulating range of working relationships.

You will play a vital part in delivering the North Yorkshire Sports Strategy, liaising with partners most notably National Governing Bodies for Sport and Sport England as well as school sport partnership, local authorities and national organizations to ensure that conditions are right for increased participation across priority sports and other forms of physical activity.

Key targets will be supporting the provision of coaching, talent development and club accreditation across North Yorkshire. You will help to develop strategies and plans on issues such as workforce development, equity and safeguarding.

In addition to an excellent knowledge of sports development, including a strong track record of partnership working, you will need significant event planning and management skills.

You must also be able to motivate and influence our partner organizations through negotiation, persuasion and personal influence.

For an informal discussion, please call David Watson on 01423 556781.

This post is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

To apply, please visit

www.harrogate.gov.uk/jobs

Alternatively, call the DCS vacancy line on 01423 556903 or email community.vacancies@harrogate.gov.uk for an application pack.

Closing date: 5 March 2009.

Interviews to be held on:
w/c 16 March 2009.



FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

MULTI-SPORTS PROJECT

The project will use the power of the football club to increase sporting participation and provide a network of sports clubs. The project will run in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust, Sport England and the National Governing Bodies of judo, table tennis, badminton and volleyball.

Sports Manager

(Ref. CSM) Salary £18-£22k in year one, 2.5 year fixed term contract (subject to a probationary period)

Essential requirements: experience in sports development with a focus on youth, project management, strong interpersonal/presentation skills, flexible and adaptable approach to work, self motivated, able to use own initiative and full UK driving license.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROJECT

This project is an exciting opportunity for you to be part of a team tasked to raise awareness and influence positive life changes.

Health Manager

(Ref. CHM) Salary £18-£22k in year one, 3 year fixed term contract (subject to a probationary period)

Essential requirements are as per above position with experience in health promotion. A Health Trainer level 3 qualification would be desirable.

Health Officer x 2

(Ref. CHO) Salary £13-£16k in year one, 3 year fixed term contract (subject to a probationary period)

Essential requirements: experience in sports development or health promotion, strong interpersonal and presentation skills, flexible and adaptable approach to work, self motivated, able to use own initiative, full UK driving license. A Health Trainer level 2 qualification would be desirable.

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter with details of your current salary and your salary expectation for the role marked with the reference number/s to the address below;
John Davies, Hull City FITC, KC Stadium, Walton Street, Hull, HU3 6HU or email: fitc@hulltigers.com

The successful candidate will undergo a thorough screening process, which will include an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure, to ensure their suitability for the role.

Closing date: Friday 23rd February 2009
Interviews dates: Ref. CSM: 3rd March
Ref. CHM: 5th March Ref. CHO: 6th March



Adult & Community Services

Club Development Officer

P1, SCP 33-36 (£27,492 - £29,628 p.a.)

Fixed Term post, 3 years from start date

Environment House, Lombard Street,

West Bromwich B70 8RU. Ref: ES2002.

We are seeking to appoint a Club Development Officer to lead on the delivery of our Club Development Adult (16-24) Participation Project.

You will need to hold a recognised qualification in Sport, Leisure, Recreation or Health Promotion related qualification to NVQ level 4. You will have experience of club and coach development programmes and should be able to work in partnership with a wide range of agencies, and ability to think and act independently.

Closing date for applications: 27th February 2009.

You can get more information about this and all our latest vacancies, or apply online, at www.jobs.sandwell.gov.uk Alternatively please contact 0845 359 7518 quoting the appropriate reference number.



www.dumfriesandgallowayjobs.co.uk

The natural place for a competitive salary, generous annual leave, flexible working, final salary pension and much more.

Outdoor Activities Instructor, Newton Stewart (Ref: 7/11801)

£22,518 – £24,927. Closing date: 6 March 2009.

Based at Stronord Outdoor Activities Centre, you will be responsible for instructing adventure activity sessions to schools and community groups. A team player, you will work effectively with a range of pupils, youths and adults. Good communications skills and an enthusiastic and pleasant manner are essential.

Outdoor education experience is essential as are at least three of the following NGB awards to level 2 – sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, hill walking, climbing and orienteering. Qualifications following NGB awards to level 2 are essential – sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, hill walking, climbing and orienteering. An HNC/HND level qualification in a relevant discipline and a qualification to level 3 in one of the above are desirable. You must have experience and the ability to prepare, organise and deliver training courses.

Evening and weekend work will be required within the remuneration for the post. Additional benefits include access to Local Government Pension Scheme, free life cover and relocation package of up to £5,000.

A current driving licence with D1 + E categories is desirable but training may be provided to enable you to drive a minibus and trailer.

Informal enquiries to Andy Mason, Outdoor Activities Officer on 07824 708145 or email andrew.mason@dumgal.gov.uk

This post is subject to candidate vetting through Disclosure Scotland.

Application forms available from Gary Kerr, Staffing Section, Education and Social Work Services, Woodbank, 30 Edinburgh Road, Dumfries, DG1 1NW on (01387) 260449, ext 64449, email: recruit-education@dumgal.gov.uk to whom they should be returned or apply on-line.

Single Status Implementation Pending



Sports Development Officer (Ref: 72/08)

£24,684 to £29,619 per annum

Flexitime Scheme + Final Salary
Pension Scheme + Car Allowance/
Lease Car + Performance Related Pay
+ Free Parking

Based at Dereham – 37 hours per week

This is an exciting opportunity to join the Sustainable Communities Team at Breckland Council.

As Sports Development Officer you will be responsible for the delivery of the Councils holiday multi sports programme, and local initiatives to help increase sport and physical activity levels within the district. The postholder will work with local clubs and community groups to assist them with project development and accessing external funding.

In addition, you will work closely with County and Regional partners to increase access to healthy lifestyle opportunities, as well as our private sector leisure operator to ensure a coordinated approach is delivered district wide.

Candidates should be qualified to degree level in a sport or leisure related field with a sound knowledge of current issues relating to healthy lifestyles and sports participation, and will be able to demonstrate effective partnership working and project management experience. You should also be IT literate and an effective communicator.

For further information please contact Riana Rudland on 01362 656300.

Closing date: Friday 6th March 2009.

The postholder will be required to undertake an enhanced CRB check.

For further information and an application pack please visit our website – www.breckland.gov.uk or email recruitment@breckland.gov.uk

Breckland Council - An Equal Opportunity Employer

Active Generation Officer - £19,370 to £21,244
Funded post of 30 months

This post will help to engage the over 50's in a programme of sustainable, physical activity and help local groups develop community led activities.

Leisure and Cultural Buildings Officer - £26,706 to £28,270

This post will have responsibility for the day-to-day functioning of the three council run community centres, and will act as the lead adviser to a number of community run centres. The ideal candidate will probably have a background in managing facilities for the public or a large clientele, which might include leisure management, education or training.

For further information and to apply on-line, visit our website www.chorley.gov.uk/jobs or call (01257) 515176

Closing date: Thursday, March 5, 2009



Duty Manager Salary: £14000

THE LORD ROBERTS CENTRE, BISLEY, SURREY

Location: National Small-Bore Rifle Association

Full Time: 35 Hours

Responsible to: Operations/Personnel Manager

Main role: Assisting in the planning, programme and implementation of services and activities, together with daily management of the sport and leisure centre. Own transport would be an advantage.

Career orientated, 'hands on' and 'can do' person who would develop services and activities within the centre, ensuring successful delivery of front line services. Must be self motivated and a team player. Supervisory/Duty Management experience in similar facility is desirable.

Successful candidate must be flexible for shift pattern which includes evenings and weekends. Job description and person specification available by e-mail or phone.

Applicants please send CV and covering letter to: Mrs Dee Fuller, Personnel Manager, National Small-bore Rifle Association, The Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0NP
e-mail: dfuller@nsra.co.uk Phone: 01483 485512



MALVERN COLLEGE

HMC Co-educational Boarding and Day (13-18)

SPORTS COMPLEX OPERATIONS MANAGER

Malvern College is one of the UK's premier independent, co-educational boarding and day schools currently educating 950 pupils from 3-18 on idyllic sites adjacent to the Malvern Hills, an area of outstanding natural beauty.

As part of the College's significant investment in boys' and girls' sport, a "state-of-the-art" sports complex will be opened in the Autumn.

The College now seeks to appoint an experienced sports/leisure centre Manager to be responsible, to the Bursar, for the smooth running of this "flagship" facility for pupils, the Malvern community and private hire.

Malvern College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Malvern College exists to provide a quality all-round education for pupils aged 3-18.

More information and details please visit our website at www.malcol.org/vacancies

Closing date 11 March 2009

Contact Margaret Harper, Head of Human Resources

t: +44 (0)1684 581 620 e: mrh@malcol.org

Registered charity number: 527578

Bright New Futures

Leisure, Culture & Lifelong Learning - Sport & Leisure Development Services

Active Lifestyles Officer (Participation Events)

£19,370 - £21,244 per annum

Ref: NS479

2 years fixed term contract

We are seeking a dynamic and enthusiastic project officer to co-ordinate and develop a range of community based events that will aim to develop healthier communities and increase local levels of participation in sport and physical activity.

The post will develop a range of partnerships with local organisations to develop, deliver and evaluate a programme of community events to include four key areas such as a running challenge, dance and martial arts festivals and an urban rally.

You will have excellent organisation and communication skills as well as the ability to work with a variety of partners. Experience of successful project management including planning, promotion and evaluation along with event management is required along with the ability to support community volunteers. You will have a sport or health instructor/development qualification and recent experience of working within a health or physical activity related field.

For an informal discussion about this post, please contact Kate Williams on 01902 605500.

To apply visit www.walsall.gov.uk/jobshop

Telephone 01922 653377 / 653504 (24 hr)

Textphone 0845 1112910

Quote job title and reference.


CVs not accepted.

Closing date: Friday 6th March 2009.

Interviews to be held:

Tuesday 31st March 2009.

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

Working towards quality through equality 



Walsall Council

www.walsall.gov.uk/jobshop

#CLUB DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Ref: 2928

#VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Ref: 2929

2 year Fixed Term Contract

£18,882 - £21,244pa

#ACTIVE ADULT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Ref: 2930

*£24,331 - £25,940pa

Hours are 37 per week to include evening and weekend working

With support from Sport England's Community Investment Fund the Bury Sport and Physical Activity Alliance require three dedicated people to take a lead on planning and co-ordinating initiatives to increase participation in sport and physical activity.

Bury Council will host a Volunteer Development Officer and a Club Development Officer to increase volunteering opportunities, high quality clubs and sports club membership.

Bury Council in partnership with NHS Bury will host an Active Adult Development Officer working to engage adults from the most deprived communities in physical activity.

Candidates will need a good awareness of sport and physical activity initiatives, have a passion to 'Be Active', together with the ability to work with and engage a variety of partners through excellent organisational skills.

Interview dates: 16 and 20 March 2009.

www.bury.gov.uk

Visit our website to view all our jobs and apply online

IMPROVING SERVICES... DELIVERING PRIORITIES

This Authority is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

For application forms and further details tel: 0161 253 5115 (24 hours). Minicom: 0161 253 5562.

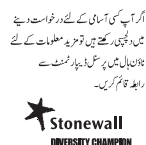
Closing date: 20 February 2009, 12 noon.

***Pay and grading review pending.**

Appointment is subject to a satisfactory enhanced disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

We are members of NowPeople – nine Councils, one website, countless opportunities, please see the website at www.nowpeople.co.uk

The Council is committed to Equality and Diversity in employment and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



Fitness Manager

£18 – £23k dependant on qualifications and experience

based on a 37 ½ hour week



We are currently seeking a highly motivated Fitness Manager dedicated to providing our customers with a first class gym experience.

This is an exciting time to join us as we prepare to relocate to the new purpose built wet and dry Leisurezone centre due to open later this year.



This is a great opportunity to develop your management skills, so if you have an outgoing personality and are passionate about all aspects of health and fitness and delivering a first class customer service to our customers using the gym and studios then we would like to hear from you.

As Fitness Manager you will hold a gym instructor qualification and have previous experience of working with groups and individuals delivering exercise programmes. You will be expected to manage and drive all aspects of the fitness facilities including coaching, influencing and motivating your team and using your skills to improve the service we offer taking a lead in retention programmes, achieving financial targets and maximising income.

If you believe you have the skills and capabilities required for this position telephone or email Lin Borthwick Human Resources Manager for an application form and job description.
Tel: 01279 307304 Email: linborthwick@harlowsportcentre.co.uk. Closing date: 6th March 2009.

www.harlowsportcentre.co.uk

With a mix of tranquil rural villages and thriving urban areas, Blaby is an attractive district to the south of Leicester which is served by a small, progressive Council. Our future promises to be an exciting one and we'd like you to share in it.



Physical Activity Co-ordinator (Area)

Fixed Term Contract to end September 2009 with funding pending to extend March 2011.
£19,940 - £22,664 per annum
37 hours per week

Closing date: Midday on 27th February 2009

Interview date: Week commencing 9th March 2009



Benefits of working with us include final salary pension scheme, out of town offices, flexi time, childcare vouchers employee volunteer scheme and free car parking.

For additional information and to apply online or download an application pack, please go to www.blaby.gov.uk
Your local library has internet access.

If you require an application pack in an alternative format, please contact 0116 272 7737 (24 hour answer phone).

Enquiries to human.resources@blaby.gov.uk

Working towards a better District

To comply with our Equal Opportunities policy, we can ONLY accept a completed Council application form.

The City of Lincoln Council is perfectly placed if you are looking to establish a career in the Public Sector



Lincoln City activity INITIATIVE

Active Over 50's Project Officer

Scale 5 £19,494 - £21,405

Fixed Term Contract until 28th February 2011

Following a successful Sport England Community Investment Fund bid we are looking for an individual to join the Lincoln City Activity Initiative team.

Your role will be to coordinate the Active Over 50's project which aims to engage those aged 50 & over in physical activity & help them to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

You will need to have a relevant HND or above or equivalent experience in this field along with a nationally recognised group exercise instructors qualification. Experience of working with this age group, relevant exercise/coaching qualifications & of delivering healthy lifestyle projects would also be advantageous.

For an informal discussion about the post please contact Fiona Roche or Natalie Fenwick, Health & Fitness Development Team on (01522) 873581 or email get.active@lincoln.gov.uk

Closing date: Noon Tuesday 3rd March 2009

Interview date: Monday 16th March 2009

For information about this and other opportunities visit www.lincoln.gov.uk

Textphone (01522) 873290 (24hour answerphone)

Large print or braille available

We actively encourage applicants from all sectors of our community

www.lincoln.gov.uk/vacancies



Changing lives isn't easy.

Exercise and Lifestyle Managers

c£30k + Bonus + Benefits

At Esporta, we truly believe that the delivery of a market leading fitness and lifestyle experience can really change our members' lives.

We also know this isn't easy.

Right now, we're looking for new Exercise and Lifestyle Managers to deliver our strategy of member service, quality interaction and a total lifestyle experience.

It takes strength, desire and leadership – evidence that you are currently driving your teams to commercial success is essential. You must also have experience of managing the provision of a member focused personal training function, group exercise classes, programming and, above all, delivering a world class service.

Nationwide opportunities

This decision won't be easy for you either... after all, changing lives through health and fitness isn't everyone's passion... it has to be yours.

To find out more and apply, please email your CV quoting ref: LOELM with covering letter to careers@esporta.com. Alternatively, call the recruitment team on 0118 912 3530.

Visit www.esporta.com



GENERAL MANAGER ADIPS LOCATION – SUNDERLAND SALARY: c £30k package

ADIPS (Amusement Device Inspection Procedures Scheme) is the fairground and amusement park industry's self regulated safety inspection scheme which registers competent ride inspectors and the rides they inspect. The purpose of the scheme is to promote and improve fairground and amusement park safety.

ADIPS is overseen by the Amusement Device Safety Council (ADSC) which, as the policy making body for safety, self regulation and technical guidance in the UK amusement rides industry, is the focal point for industry related safety matters. ADSC has representatives from all of the major trade associations in the fairground and amusement park industry and HSE, and provides the Directors for ADIPS.

Following a review of ADIPS' structure we now wish to appoint a General Manager, reporting to the Chair of ADIPS/ADSC, who will take ADIPS successfully through its next stage of development.

THE JOB

- Promote and develop the ADIPS Scheme and ensure that the reputation of the Scheme is enhanced at every opportunity
- Produce and agree with the ADIPS Board, the Business Plan for ADIPS Ltd.
- Ensure the integrity of the ADIPS Scheme through effective control procedures for registration of Inspection Bodies, receipt and distribution of ADIPS documentation and maintenance of an up-to-date and accurate ADIPS database
- Manage the ADIPS compliance and audit programme
- Oversee and direct the day-to-day working of the ADIPS office and ADIPS staff resources

THE PERSON

- Effective communicator and administrator
- Focused on Customer Service
- Good all round business, IT and people management skills
- Knowledge of the industry would be an advantage

WORKING PATTERN

- Five days per week, full time. Occasional work outside normal office hours
- Annual Leave 5 weeks

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT, IN WRITING, TO:
The Chairman, ADIPS Ltd., Business & Innovation Centre,
Wearfield, Sunderland Enterprise Park, Sunderland,
SR5 2TA and marked PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.
Closing date for applications March 13th, 2009.

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Assistant Operations Manager Wahooo! Waterpark – Bahrain City Centre

We need an "Assistant Operations Manager" for our Wahooo!Waterpark in Bahrain City Center which, when completed will be the largest indoor water park in the Middle east with an area of over 15,000 square meters and will employ over 150 staff. The water park will have a 150 m long Lazy River, 190 m long Masterblaster rollercoaster, 3 indoor slides, a 1.8m deep wave pool, and many other pools, rides and slides including a 3m high curling wave surfing machine.

Job Purpose: To work with the Operations Manager to ensure the smooth, safe operation of Wahooo! Waterpark, both Pool side and Front of House, and deliver a first-quality guest experience for all visitors.

Person Specifications

Female Candidate with a degree holder or other recognizable professional qualifications, 5 years experience in a similar position either indoor or outdoor water parks. Health & Safety training certified. Basic understanding of Pool Plant operations. A clear understanding of water quality as per HSE guidelines. Qualified Lifeguard, RLSS trainer and first aider. Demonstrable passion for customer service and the quality of the guest experience. Innovative mind with an eye for detail. Personable with excellent people skills, proven leadership skills. Fluent in English, a second language an advantage.

Salary Package

Basic: £1588/Month (Tax free), Conveyance Allowance: £91/Month. Utility Allowance: £32/Month. Housing Allowance: Unfurnished accommodation up to a rent limit which is currently £8816/- per year. 22 Working days as annual leave. Private medical insurance. Economy Class air ticket every year

If interested, please send us your CV to Opportunities@maf.ae
Or for an informal discussion call 00973 17584444 asking for the
Waterpark offices. To know more about MAF please visit our website:
www.majidalfuttaim.com

And to know more about the Wahooo!
Please visit our website www.wahooo.com.bh

ENGINEERING MANAGER



A challenging opportunity now exists for a highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Engineering Manager at Pleasurewood Hills, a Family Theme Park.

This is a "hands on" position and you would lead our maintenance team to ensure that all our rides, attractions, mechanical equipment, plant and vehicles throughout the park are correctly maintained to the highest possible standards ensuring the safety of both our guests and staff. You would report to the Park Director and organise maintenance schedules to ensure seven day a week cover during our open season.

This exciting opportunity to join our small and dedicated management team will suit an individual who is adaptable, resourceful and has exceptional mechanical and electrical skills and qualifications coupled with previous management experience.

Please apply in writing in the first instance with full CV and current salary details to: Mrs Julia Ann White, Admin & Finance Manager, Pleasurewood Hills Ltd, Leisure Way, Corton, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 3DR or email jwhite@pleasurewoodhills.com

Head of Marketing Tourism c£35k Based in Buxton

As the Official Tourist Board for the Peak District & Derbyshire, we are looking for an experienced marketer to lead a small dedicated team to deliver more visitors to the area. We seek passion, creative flair, budgetary control and a team player to work with the industry and partners.

PR Executive c£20k Based in Buxton

We are looking for an experienced PR professional to deliver a communication plan to promote the Peak District & Derbyshire to visitors. Working closely with local, Region and National Media, as well as a host of partners and industry you will be responsible for getting our message across as a world class visitor destination.

To request an information pack please contact HR on 01246207207 or email recruitment@derbyshire.org quoting the above job title. For more information about us visit www.visitpeakdistrict.com/industry



news & jobs at www.leisureopportunities.co.uk

Government approval for Longbridge redevelopment

New town centre at the heart of regeneration plans for the former MG Rover factory site near Birmingham

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

Plans for a £750m transformation of the 468-acre (189-hectare) Longbridge site near Birmingham have been approved by the government.

The Longbridge Area Action Plan (LAAP), which was submitted to the government last March, outlines a 15-year vision for the former MG Rover factory site.

At the heart of the scheme is a new town centre incorporating public, leisure and retail facilities, as well as the

proposed Austin Centre, a new museum and community resource designed to celebrate the area's automotive legacy.

New urban parks are to be created as part of the project, including plans to open up the Rivers Rea And Arrow for the first time in 70 years.

The LAAP was developed by Birmingham City Council and Bromsgrove District Council in partnership with regional development agency Advantage West Midlands, developer St Modwen and Worcestershire County Council.



The plans were given the green light by a government inspector

Credit crunch could provide boost to UK tourism

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

The UK could become Britons' top holiday destination this year, according to new research.

A survey from Continental Research, the London-based market research agency, revealed that respondents aged 20-54-years-old chose the UK as their most popular destination.

The study also suggested that despite the recession, 48 per cent of respondents would not



More UK holidays are planned

change their plans. Of the 34 per cent who said they would be changing their plans, most of them would be looking to

reduce their budget or go for last-minute bargains.

Overall, 27 per cent indicated they would be holidaying in the UK rather than another country, with Spain and the USA in second and third place.

Colin Shaddick, director at Continental Research, said: "It looks like the current economic climate will have one positive impact at least, with a considerable number of Brits planning to holiday in the UK in 2009."

Warlingham FC plans rejected

Tandridge District Council has rejected plans to build a new football ground on the site of a former boys' club in Warlingham, Surrey.

The scheme, put forward by Warlingham Football Club (WFC), included a new clubhouse with a covered seating area, storage facilities and six 15m (49ft) floodlights, as well as two pitches.

CONTACTS BOOK

Arts & Business +44 (0)20 7378 8143
www.aandb.org.uk

ALVA +44 (0)20 7222 1728
www.alva.org.uk

Arts Council +44 (0)20 7333 0100
www.artscouncil.org.uk

ASVA +44 (0)1786 475152
www.asva.co.uk

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www.ccpr.org.uk

CMAE +44 (0)1334 460 850
www.cmaeurope.org

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www.countryside.gov.uk

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www.cpre.org.uk

English Heritage +44 (0)870 333 1181
www.english-heritage.org.uk

FSPA +44 (0)2476 414999
www.sportsandplay.com

FIA +44 (0)20 7420 8560
www.fia.org.uk

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www.hha.org.uk

IAAPA +1 703 836 4800
www.iaapa.org

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Institute of Hospitality
+44 (0)20 8661 4900
www.instituteofhospitality.org.uk

ISPAL +44 (0)845 603 8734
www.ispal.org.uk

LPF +44 (0)1462 471932
www.leisureprop.com

LMCA +44 (0)1278 436910
www.lmca.info

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People 1st +44 (0)870 060 2550
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SAPCA +44 (0)24 7641 6316
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SkillsActive +44 (0)20 7632 2000
www.skillsactive.com

Tourism Management Institute
+44 (0)1926 641506
www.tmi.org.uk

Tourism Society +44 (0)20 8661 4636
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VisitBritain +44 (0)20 8563 3000
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