

leisure opportunities

6 SEPTEMBER - 19 SEPTEMBER 2011 ISSUE 562

Daily news & jobs: www.leisureopportunities.co.uk

Leisure sector 'to drive' UK growth

New research by Barclays Corporate has found that the hospitality and leisure industries are set to drive economic growth across "all areas" of the UK over the next decade.

A number of business leaders were surveyed on what they expected prospects to be like for their companies in 10 years' time as part of the *Business in 2021* study.

More than three quarters in all but two regions indicated that hospitality and leisure is to play a key role in economic growth. The remaining areas were London and the South East and the North West, with 57 per cent and 53 per cent of business leaders respectively expecting the sector to drive growth.

Figures from the hospitality and leisure industries themselves expected to see steady growth over the 10-year period.



Business leaders expect hospitality and leisure to fuel economic growth

Mike Saul of Barclays Corporate, said: "It is clear that the majority of the UK's hospitality and leisure sector believes in the fundamental strength of the UK as a place to do business."

Anytime Fitness opens UK base

US-based health club franchise Anytime Fitness has announced the opening of its new UK headquarters at the Riverside Shopping Centre in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

The company's new base includes a flagship 4,700sq ft (437sq m) gym on the first floor – the first in the UK to showcase Anytime Fitness' new design package.

Equipped with machines from Precor's Experience Series strength and cardiovascular range, the new gym offers monthly memberships at £32.95 and is open 24 hours a day.

Andy Thompson, managing director for Anytime Fitness UK, said: "The opening provides us with a site that we can showcase to



The group's UK HQ features a 4,700sq ft flagship gym

potential franchisees, enabling the brand to continue to grow within the UK.

"Our first franchised club in Bristol now has over 1,500 members, with further growth anticipated before the end of its first year."



The new ground will be located at Loirston Loch

Barr to deliver new Aberdeen FC stadium

Barr Construction has been selected as the preferred contractor for Aberdeen Football Club's new 21,000-capacity stadium to be developed on land near Loirston Loch.

Earlier this year, the scheme was given the green light by the Scottish Government after Aberdeen City Council approved The Miller Partnership-designed proposals.

Due for completion ahead of the 2013-14 season, it is hoped that work will start on the development early next year, with the stadium to include player, supporter and media facilities; a museum; and offices.

New-look Bedwellty House and Park opens

Bedwellty House and Park in Tredegar, South Wales, has officially reopened to the public, following the completion of an extensive £5.9m restoration programme at the property.

The Grade II-listed property has undergone an extensive renovation carried out by Blaenau Gwent Council and supported by a £3.6m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Cadw, the Welsh Assembly Government's Heads of the Valleys scheme and the European Regional Development Fund also backed the work to restore the house and park.

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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

Denise Gildea 01462 471930

subs@leisuremedia.com

Editor

Liz Terry 01462 431385

Managing Editor

Tom Walker 01462 471934

Assistant editor

Pete Hayman 01462 471938

Design

Ed Gallagher 01905 20198

Internet

Dean Fox 01462 471900

Tim Nash 01462 471917

Publisher

Julie Badrick 01462 471919

Associate publishers

Paul Thorman 01462 471904

Simon Hinksman 01462 471905

Account Manager

Sarah Gibbs 01462 471908

Property desk

Simon Hinksman 01462 471905

Spa Opportunities & business

development, attractions and museums

Annie Lovell 01462 471907

Financial Controller

Sue Davis 01395 519398

Financial Administrator

Denise Gildea 01462 471930

Circulation Manager

Michael Emmerson 01462 471932

Subscribe to Leisure Opportunities,

Online: www.leisuresubs.com

Email: subs@leisuremedia.com

Tel: +44 (0)1462 471913

Annual subscription rates are UK £31,
Europe £41, Rest of world £62, students UK £16.

Leisure Opportunities is published fortnightly by
The Leisure Media Company Limited, Portmill
House, Portmill Lane, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1DJ, UK
and is distributed in the USA by SPP, 75 Aberdeen
Road, Emigsville, PA 17318-0437. Periodicals
postage paid @ Manchester, PA POSTMASTER
Send US address changes to Leisure Opportunities,
c/o PO Box 437, Emigsville, PA 17318-0437.

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ISSN 0951/8210

SPORT

Plans lodged for Camden facility

A reserved matters planning application has been submitted for Camden Council's planned new multi-service complex in King's Cross, London, which is to include a two-pool sports centre.

In August, King's Cross Central Limited Partnership (KCCLP) and the council agreed terms for the lease and development management.

LA Architects are behind the design of the Three Pancras Square development, which is set to house a two-floor sports facility including a 25m, five-lane pool with adjustable floor. A small lagoon-style pool; a poolside spa area with sauna and steamroom; a fitness suite to incorporate more than 100 stations; and two group exercise studios are also proposed.

Three Pancras Square is also earmarked to feature a library and a customer contact centre



A 25m, five-lane pool and a lagoon-style pool are among the proposals

in an attempt by Camden Council to bring a number of its services under one roof.

A council spokesperson said: "The plans will significantly reduce the amount of taxpayers' money spent on repair and maintenance bills and ensure that much-needed funds will not be taken away from front-line services."

Town Green bid delays Oxford pool development

The start of work on a new multi-million pound swimming pool in Blackbird Leys, Oxford, is to be delayed after a group of local residents submitted a Town Green application.

Oxford City Council has confirmed that it has earmarked an additional £350,000 in

contingency funding for the delay, with work initially due to start in early September.

Willmott Dixon has already been selected to build the FaulknerBrowns Architects-designed venue, which will provide an eight-lane, 25m swimming pool with a floating floor.

Sports leaders announce playing fields fund

A number of Britain's leading sportsmen, sportswomen and administrators – from former cricket captains and Olympians to directors of national governing bodies – have called for increased protection for playing fields.

In a letter to the editor in *The Times* (18 August, p.23) the group announced the launch of a National Playing Fields Legacy Fund and called on the industry to show its support for the initiative.

"Over the past 20 years vast numbers of the nation's playing fields have been lost to development – 6,000 sites were lost between 1992 and 2009 alone," the letter states.

"We would like to propose that the large sporting clubs, and the large sporting events,



A new 'legacy fund' has been established to help protect playing fields

in this pre-Olympic year, each consider using one day in the season to promote the National Playing Fields Legacy Fund and so to help ensure this legacy."

Design team for Derby arena

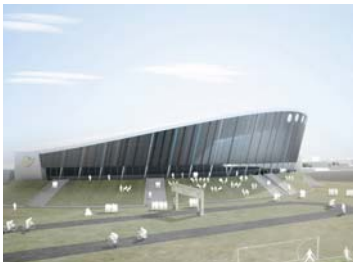
Derby City Council (DCC) has named Mace as the successful design team to work on the city's proposed new multi-sport arena.

Councillors appointed the group following a tender process, with the specification of the proposed venue to be finalised after local residents and sports clubs are given the chance to have their say.

It is thought that a 12 badminton court indoor arena will be provided, alongside a 250m cycle track; an indoor climbing centre; and a 150-station fitness and wellness centre.

Two multi-use studios; a spinning studio; and an outdoor road cycling circuit could also feature as part of the arena, which will be able to host concerts with a capacity of 5,000.

DCC cabinet member for leisure and culture Hilary Jones said: "We are confident that we



The specification of the complex will be finalised following consultation

have engaged the best design team to deliver a high quality facility and value for money for the people of Derby."

It is anticipated that plans will be submitted in December this year, with construction work due to commence in June 2012. The arena will be due for completion inside two years.

UKA confirms World Championships bid

UK Athletics (UKA) has announced that the UK is to lodge a bid for the 2017 International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) World Championships.

The national governing body has confirmed that Sebastian Coe will lead the bid team, which is aiming to bring the flagship event to London's Olympic Stadium.

A group featuring the government; London and Partners – the mayor's promotional agency; UK Sport; and UKA will support the bid to bring the event to the UK.

Coe will personally present the UK's bid to the IAAF at this year's World Championships in Daegu, South Korea. A decision is expected to be made on 11 November.



London's Olympic Stadium will be a prospective host for the 2017 event

Hugh Robertson, minister for sport and the Olympics, said: "The demand for London 2012 athletics tickets proves the level of public support for world class track and field."

Irish pools to undergo access improvements

Irish tourism and sport minister Michael Ring has confirmed that €4.4m (£3.9m) will be shared by 19 swimming pools in order to enhance access for people with disabilities.

A range of improvements will be funded through the package earmarked by Ring, such

as the installation of new ramps and hoists; widened doorways; and new changing areas.

Meanwhile, Ring has also announced the launch of the Green Swimming Pool initiative to help the same 19 pools to become more energy efficient and cut carbon emissions.

New London homes for beach volleyball sand

Nearly 2,300 tonnes of sand from the 2012 beach volleyball test event – the Visa FIVB Beach Volleyball International – is to be reused at locations across the capital.

It is hoped the move will increase interest and participation in beach sports, with three areas in London selected to provide a new home for the sand.

Between them, Crystal Palace National Sports Centre; Westminster Academy Sports Centre; and the Score Sports Centre, Waltham Forest will provide seven new beach volleyball courts for the capital.



A 25m swimming pool is included in the scheme

New Alderney sports centre to open in 2013

UK firm Directline Structures has been appointed to build a new £2.2m sports centre on the Channel Island of Alderney.

Work on the multi-purpose venue will begin in March 2012 and is due to be completed by spring 2013. The 21,000 sq ft (1,951 sq m) centre will feature a 25m swimming pool, a sports hall and a gym.

Directline Structures' Duncan Murray, said: "The centre will be built with eco-friendly features, such as an air source heating system which helps keep the building at a comfortable temperature."

New gymnastics facility planned for North Devon

North Devon Council (NDC) has approved plans to lease part of a council-owned site at the Tarka Tennis Centre in Barnstaple to Falcons Gymnastics Academy.

The local organisation has also been handed £200,000 towards the development of a new facility on the land, with £550,000 of external funding already in place.

NDC executive member for culture Derrick Spear said: "[The facility] will further enhance the existing Tarka Tennis Centre, making the area a real sporting excellence hub site."

Academy of Exercise Studies adds Indo Board

Training provider Academy of Exercise Studies (AES) has announced that it has become the first UK company to add Indo Board courses to its offering.

Indo Board is a balance trainer that was created by American surfer Hunter Joslin in 1975 and consists of a wooden deck placed upon a specially molded plastic roller.

AES – launched in 2010 by Liam Johnson and Helen Wilson – is offering exercise professionals the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the Indo training kit as part of its diploma programme.



Sportacus – one of the LazyTown TV characters

FitPro and LazyTown launch KidzMove

FitPro and children's TV brand LazyTown have joined forces to unveil a new resource designed to help increase the number of young people getting active and healthy.

KidzMove has been created specifically for the sector and offers operators and instructors the chance to co-brand with one of the largest selling kids' TV licences.

It is hoped the new resource will ensure that children have fun when visiting facilities, while a range of training courses and qualifications; music; and instructor inspirations have also been made available.

£1.4m Prescot leisure plans given green light

Plans to invest £1.4m in leisure facilities in Prescot have been given the go ahead by the town council's planning committee.

The investment will see a new leisure facility being built on Warrington Road. Work is due to commence later this year and the new community leisure facility is due to open for summer 2012.

In addition to this £1.4m investment, the council the council has also invested in the area in the form of new centres for learning each, with each providing extensive leisure facilities that are available to the public.

Work starts on Toxteth Fire Fit

A new combined sports centre and fire station is to be developed in Toxteth, Liverpool, after a £2.3m grant from the National Lottery's Myplace scheme was approved.

Work has now commenced on the £4.8m Toxteth Fire Fit scheme, which is one of the first such joint developments. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (£2m) and Liverpool City Council (£500,000) have also contributed towards the plans, which will see Toxteth Sports Centre demolished.

The existing Toxteth Fire Station will also now relocate to the Upper Hill Street site as part of the scheme, with facilities to include a fitness gym, a dance studio, a combat sports room and a climbing wall.

A sports hall, a table tennis studio and meeting rooms will also form part of Toxteth Fire Fit, which is due to open in summer 2012.



Toxteth Fire Fit will provide a combined fire station and sports centre

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority vice chair Dave Hanratty said: "The grant was a major milestone in making it happen."

"There is a clear connection between fire risk and health and fitness which is why we have been working with health providers to promote healthy lifestyles."

Doctors urge 'tougher action' on obesity

A group of influential doctors and medical experts has called for governments across the world to take tougher action against obesity levels.

In a four-part series of articles on obesity, published in the medical journal *Lancet*, the group calls for a number of measures – such as a tax on junk food; the regulation of the marketing of unhealthy foods; and more school-based education programmes.

In its assessment of the obesity pandemic, the group predicts that if nothing is done to tackle the problem, more than 40 per cent of people in the UK and 50 per cent of people in the US will be obese by 2030.

The group calls for an integrated action plan involving a wide range of government



The group said no government has yet successfully faced up to the issue

departments – from health to non-health sectors such as trade, agriculture, transport, urban planning, and development. It added that no government had yet been successful in facing up to the rising levels of obesity.

Council to consult on £20m leisure plans

Northumberland County Council (NCC) is to hold a full consultation into plans for a £20m investment in leisure and community facilities for Ashington residents.

Proposals being considered by the council include the refurbishment of the current

facility; a new-build on the existing site; and a new-build at Ashington High School.

A new-build on a number of other sites is also being proposed by NCC, which is aiming to provide a swimming pool; health and fitness facilities; and a multi-purpose sports hall.



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Bay Leisure trust opens budget gym in Swansea

Bay Leisure, the leisure trust which operates leisure facilities on behalf of Swansea City Council, has opened its latest budget health club in the city.

Simply Gym incorporates 100 pieces of cv and resistance equipment by Technogym including the new Arke functional training line, Group Cycles and Excite + Cardio equipment with Visio.

The club offers monthly memberships of £15.99 with a £9.99 joining fee, and a no-joining fee option of £19.99 per month.



DL Kids provides programmes for young people

£2.5m expansion planned for DL Kids concept

David Lloyd Leisure has unveiled plans for a £2.5m expansion of its DL Kids concept across the UK and Europe, following its successful January 2010 launch.

Purpose-built DL Kids facilities, which offer a range of sporting and educational programmes for young people, are set to open at David Lloyd Finchley, London, and Beckenham, Kent, in December.

The new locations are to include a mini sports hall; multi-purpose studios; interactive classrooms; a DL Kids café; and child-orientated bathrooms.

OFT urges gyms to check legality of contracts

Gyms have been urged by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to check the legality of their contract terms, following a High Court ruling against a management company.

On 27 May, Ashbourne Management Services was ordered to refrain from the use certain terms or "unfair practices" in a case brought against it by the OFT following customer complaints.

Ashbourne has been directed to write to its 700+ clubs to ensure the facilities complied with the ruling, with the OFT now calling on UK sites to check that their contract terms are lawful.

£9m to fuel Pure Gym expansion

Pure Gym has announced that it has secured £9m worth of fresh investment to support an "ambitious" expansion of the budget health club chain's UK estate by February 2012.

Funding – from shareholders and Barclays Bank – will allow the group to increase its portfolio from 15 clubs to 28 over the coming months.

Pure Gym unveiled a new facility in Leicester in July and also has sites in UK cities and towns including Aberdeen; Leeds; Southampton; and two in Birmingham. A number of sites are in the development stage – including two in London – and the group is looking to reach 100,000 members by the end of 2011.

Meanwhile, Jacques de Bruin has been announced as Pure Gym's new operations director, having left his position as Virgin Active's UK operations manager.



Pure Gym is looking to extend its portfolio to 28 sites by February 2012

Pure Gym CEO Peter Roberts said: "Since we started in 2009, we have set impressive expansion plans that we continue to build on.

"With the new investment, and as we aim to grow to 28 gyms by the end of our financial year and 45 by the end of 2012, Jacques' expertise will be a great asset for us."

Former Royal Marine unveils new gym

Barry O'Connell, a former Royal Marine PTL, has set up the new State of Mind Fitness gym in Hammersmith, west London, after receiving a £25,000 grant from the Royal British Legion (RBL).

O'Connell was awarded the grant by the RBL as part of its *Dragons' Den*-style *Be The Boss* programme for ex-servicemen and servicewomen looking to establish their own businesses upon leaving the Armed Forces.

Be the Boss is a joint venture between the RBL and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and O'Connell is one of many to receive a grant after successfully pitching his business idea to a panel of Legion members and experienced business professionals.



The new independently-owned gym has been equipped with Scifit kit

State of Mind Fitness features a cardiovascular area equipped with Scifit equipment, with part of the grant used to secure two pieces of Scifit kit – the company's AC5000 Treadmill and SXT7000 Elliptical.

Rossendale leisure facility plans approved

Rossendale Borough Council has approved proposals for the extension of Marl Pits Swimming Pool in Rawtenstall, Lancashire, along with four outdoor all-weather pitches.

The planned extension will increase the venue's floorspace from 1,082sq m (11,647sq ft) to

1,694sq m (18,234sq ft) and will house a fitness studio, a fitness room and changing areas.

Office accommodation and a new reception area will also be included, while the four outdoor pitches will measure 20m x 30m and will be able to accommodate five-a-side football.



Youth Engagement Zone at Leisure Industry Week 2011

Fit for Sport joins hundreds of experts to discuss best practice methods for engaging with the youth market. Operations director, Craig Jones believes simplicity can be the key to getting children active. The organisation's recent study revealed that two of the most popular activities children undertake with their families, are swimming and Nintendo Wii. Craig comments: "As an industry we must embrace 'pester power' and reach out to our youth audience to understand what excites them. This will be a key aim at this year's LIW."

Total approach to toilets helps increase visitors

The BS8300:2009 code of practice for accessible building design advises that public buildings include specialised accessible toilet facilities.

To enable the leisure industry to efficiently capitalise on this market sector, and ensure effective compliance with the Standard, Total Hygiene – the UK's leader in disabled toilet, washroom and bathroom provision – has developed a unique package using expertise gained through 50 years in disabled toileting.

The company can advise on regulatory requirements, plus design, install and service all elements needed to create an accessible bedroom suite, washroom or Changing Places facility.

Edition 8 plans to be revealed at LIW

IQL UK will unveil plans for Edition 8 of the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification at LIW. Having consulted with the leisure industry, there is a consensus that changes are needed to the qualification.

Tara Dillon, executive director of IQL UK, says: "Edition 8 will herald a new generation of lifeguards in the UK."

Independent Operators Unite seminar programme

- *Global trends in the Fitness Industry that will change the game* – Thomas Plummer, Thomas Plummer Insights Inc. In his first ever UK session, Thomas draws on his experience to talk about the emergence of low-cost health clubs in the US and the new training techniques that enable independent operators to compete in today's society.
- *Through the door and into the till* – Graeme Hinde, the founder of Leisure & Fitness Exchange. Graeme explains how independent gym owners should consider themselves as 'landlords and self-stackers', based on a principle that worked for one of the UK's wealthiest retail and fitness entrepreneurs.
- *Step Toe through Your Club's Legal Minefield* – David Stalker, CEO, FIA. Following the introduction of the Corporate Manslaughter



Thomas Plummer will give his first ever UK session on fitness trends

Act, health club owners all over the UK can now be held liable for injuries if they don't have the right procedures in place. Dave presents a Code of Practice that is designed for independent operators to use in order to ensure that they do not fall foul of corporate responsibilities.

Regency Purchasing Group returns to LIW



Regency Purchasing Group's managing director Alex Demetriou (left) with chef Marco Pierre White

Regency Purchasing Group (RPG) will exhibit at the Leisure Industry Week show for the second time this year.

Last year was the first time the buying group had attended the show and it proved so successful for them, it has now become a major date in their annual calendar.

RPG managing director Alex Demetriou said: "We went along to LIW with some of our key suppliers last year and the amount of business we picked up was phenomenal.

"We were introduced to a business at the show and we have since signed a £6m contract to provide them with all their food and drink purchasing."

Regency Purchasing Group purchases food, drink, utilities and equipment for all its clients in the leisure industry.

The purchasing group has achieved, on average, savings of up to 17 per cent on food, drink and utilities for all the new clients they signed up at LIW last year.

Supporting you professionally



PHILIPPE ROSSITER
is chief executive of the
Institute of Hospitality

When it comes to challenges, hospitality is subject to a myriad of forces, and is often the victim of the fickle fortune of fate. Whether it be natural disaster; war and political unrest; terrorism; climate change; or more straightforward influences such as downturns and labour shortages, the industry faces a bewildering array of potentially negative impacts.

At the same time, the market has become ever more complex, with the influence of technology growing at a staggering rate. To further exacerbate these challenges, the industry now has to respond to a more knowledgeable and demanding customer. Daunting as this may appear, there is a key positive challenge, and that is the phenomenal growth predicted for the industry over the next 10 to 20 years.

And what of the customer? The demographic shifts seen around the world point to ageing populations in many countries, yet ones which are wealthier and healthier than ever before in human history. As leisure time has increased so has the range of experiences enjoyed by people. Not only does this apply to the wealthy 'baby boomers', but also to a whole generation of young people for whom travel is commonplace.

The backpacking youth of the world bear witness to this global trend. With their appetites whetted and those of their parents sated, how will managers define and present hospitality in the future to ensure that their offer remains fresh and innovative? This is probably one of the greatest challenges facing the hospitality manager, but one which is not insurmountable.

Change and innovation has always been with us in the industry. Given our ability to face and overcome challenges in the past, there is no reason that today's generation of young managers will not carry the industry forward to new levels of expertise and customer satisfaction. Nevertheless, they need support as they develop their careers, and this is where membership of a professional body is so important, for it provides them with the tools and resources to keep abreast of the fast-changing environment in which they are operating.

HOTELS

Malmaison Aberdeen hotel sold

Malmaison Aberdeen has been acquired by CIP Property in a sale and leaseback deal worth £16.1m from MWB Group Holdings (MWV).

The 80-bedroom hotel will be leased back to Malmaison Aberdeen Limited (MAL) – a wholly owned subsidiary of MWB which operates the hotel – for an initial annual rental sum of £1.2m.

As a result of the deal, which is conditional on approval by MWB shareholders, MAL will enter into a 35-year with the option of taking a further 35-year lease.

According to a spokesperson, proceeds from the transaction will be used to reduce the indebtedness of Malmaison which, as at 31 December 2010, amounted to £272.1m.

MWB chief executive officer Richard Balfour-Lynn said: "This fifth sale and



The Malmaison hotel will still be operated by MWB's management arm

leaseback is enabling us to reduce Malmaison's debt by more than £100m which, in today's market we regard as extremely beneficial.

"The Malmaison and Hotel du Vin brands continue to show great resilience in the current economic climate and remain a firm favourite of our loyal customer base."

Jumeirah to reopen Rib Room in London

Jumeirah is to relaunch The Rib Room Bar and Restaurant at the Jumeirah Carlton Tower in London's Knightsbridge town.

The restaurant, which first opened 50 years ago, has undergone a major refurbishment programme while Ian Rudge – formerly at

the Michelin-starred Northcote Manor – has been appointed head chef.

Major renovations include the addition of a destination cocktail bar and two private dining rooms with capacity to seat ten and eight, one complete with a cigar terrace.

Record occupancy at London hotels

A monthly report charting the UK hotels sector suggests that hoteliers in London experienced record levels of occupancy in July 2011.

TRI Hospitality Consulting's latest HotStats survey of 550 full-service hotels located across the UK shows that average room occupancy levels reached 92.4 per cent – a 0.6 per cent increase in the previous high of July 2011.

Room rates also soared, with average room rate in London now at £148.65 – pushed up significantly by the recent high-profile openings of luxury hotels such as Corinthia, W Hotel and Four Seasons Park Lane.

Hotels outside London, however, are still under pressure after year-on-year profitability



London hotels experienced a bumper month in occupancy in July 2011

levels decreased by 3.7 per cent. This was primarily caused by declines in leisure revenue (-3.4 per cent) and food and beverage revenue (-2.1 per cent).



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2012 Artist Rooms Tour line-up announced

Banff, Glasgow, Leicester and Wakefield are among some of the locations to host 19 new art exhibitions and displays next year as part of the 2012 Artist Rooms Tour.

Belfast; Bristol; Dunoon; Hull; Linlithgow; Liverpool; Middlesbrough; Perth; Sheffield; and Walsall are also included in the line-up, with works drawn from the Artist Rooms collection.

National Galleries of Scotland and Tate are behind the fourth successive tour, which aims to bring modern and contemporary art to places outside the UK capital cities.



Glynn Vivian Art Gallery has received £300,000

Welsh Assembly boost for Swansea schemes

A planned multi-million pound renovation of Swansea's Glynn Vivian Art Gallery is one of three schemes in the city to net Welsh Assembly Government funding.

The attraction will be handed £300,000 through the Regeneration Area initiative towards an upgrade of the condition of the building and the care of its collections.

Meanwhile, a £135,000 award will ensure the completion of a second phase of landscaping works at Swansea Castle, which is due to open to the public for the first time in 40 years this month.

£16m funding package for new 'arts research hubs'

Four universities will receive a share of £16m from the Arts and Humanities Research Council towards new 'Knowledge Exchange Hubs for the Creative Economy'.

The successful institutions will work in partnership with arts and cultural groups; other universities; and creative businesses to promote research within the sector.

One of the four new hubs will be set up at the University of Lancaster. Queen Mary, University of London, The University of Dundee and the University of the West of England will house the remaining hubs.

Marlowe Theatre nears opening

Canterbury's new £25.6m Marlowe Theatre – designed by Keith Williams Architects – will open its doors on 4 October, following a two-year construction project.

Work commenced in 2009 with the demolition of the old theatre building, which was first opened in the 1930s as an Odeon Cinema before being turned into a theatre during the mid-1980s.

Located next to the River Stour, Marlowe Theatre will boast a 1,200-seat auditorium set over three levels and including an orchestra pit for 80 musicians.

Canterbury City Council (CCC) will manage and own the venue, which will accommodate alternative, community and educational projects in the Marlowe Studio.

Bars, cafés, a riverside walk and a piazza have also been created as part of the scheme, which



Keith Williams Architects are behind the new Marlowe Theatre's design

has been funded by CCC, Kent County Council and the regional development agency.

CCC head of culture and enterprise Janice McGuinness said: "This spectacular contemporary building sits in the heart of the heritage city and will provide an important stimulus for the creative and tourism economies."

Arts group announces Selfridges exhibition

Action Space, the London-based visual arts group for people with learning disabilities, is to work with The Museum of Everything on a new exhibition at Selfridges.

Exhibition #4 will launch on 2 September at the retailer, with 50 self-taught disabled artists'

to see pieces go on show in the store's windows on Oxford Street and the Ultralounge.

The Workshops of Everything will be delivered by Action Space alongside Exhibition #4 – allowing learning disabled artists to create work within a supportive atmosphere.

Edinburgh theatre set for £2.6m revamp

Northern Ireland-based H&J Martin has been appointed to undertake a £2.6m refurbishment of Edinburgh's Kings Theatre by the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC).

The main contract covers the first two phases of a three-phase investment programme at the venue, which has been awarded following a formal procurement process.

Five companies were short-listed for the project, with the first stage to include external stone and roof repairs. Due to start in mid-September, phase one will take nine months.

Following the pantomime season, the second phase will get underway with improvements to disabled access; upgraded ventilation; and the development of a new box office.



Edinburgh's Kings Theatre is poised to undergo a £2.6m refurbishment

A third stage will comprise the renewal of seating within the stalls, but is subject to a separate tender process. Phase three is due to take place during the final month of stage two.

'Eye' attraction set for Weymouth

Proposals for the construction of a new 53m (174ft) observation tower as part of the Festival Pier redevelopment in Weymouth, Dorset, have been given the green light by the local authority.

Weymouth and Portland Borough Council has backed plans for the £3m Weymouth Eye attraction, which will be run by Merlin Entertainments – the group which already manages the resort's Sea Life attraction on the pier.

Construction is expected to begin in November with work due to be completed by the beginning of the 2012 Olympic Games. The attraction will have a capacity of around 50 people and will see guests enter a ground level observation pod, which will then slowly ascend and descend. The pod will rotate around the main structure, offering people inside 360-degree views.



The planned new Weymouth Eye will be run by Merlin Entertainments

Craig Dunkerley, general manager of the Weymouth Sea Life attraction, will be responsible for the new tower attraction. He said: "This is great news. The 360-degree panoramic views the tower will provide will be magnificent and leave lasting memories of Weymouth for everyone who visits."

MA calls for 'community engagement'

Arts Council England (ACE) has been urged to promote "community engagement" in its aims for museums, following a consultation of Museum Association (MA) members.

It follows a "brief" consultation by the MA to gather views from its members on how ACE's long-term framework should be developed.

ACE recently confirmed further details about how the Renaissance in the Regions programme will be delivered from 1 October, with the National Programmes strand to continue as it is currently run by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

However, ACE will take a new approach in three other strands – a major grants programme; a strategic support fund; and museum



MA members were consulted on how ACE should develop its framework

development. The major grants programme will provide an open application process similar to ACE's National Portfolio, which will mark a change from the MLA's existing core museums concept.

New Gun Turret Experience at HMS Belfast

Exhibition designer Sarner has installed a new Gun Turret Experience at London's HMS Belfast, which allows visitors to experience the Battle of the North Cape of 1943.

In small groups of 15-20, visitors can step into the Gun Turret and recreate its atmosphere

and conditions using lights, imagery, sound, smoke effects, movements and smells.

The space recreates sea warfare and offers visitors a new way to understand the experiences of the sailors who served on HMS Belfast within a live action atmosphere.



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The tourism sector and 'Broken Britain'



KURT JANSON
is policy director of
Tourism Alliance

Following the recent riots, there has been much wringing of hands by the government and the media regarding the supposed breakdown of British society. Most of this is simply a knee-jerk reaction to be replaced by the latest "end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it" issue in a few months time.

However, there is a very real underlying issue of residents becoming disconnected communities. In a tourism context, the introduction of budget airlines has resulted in an increasing lack of awareness by parts of society as to what is on their doorstep. A holiday is no longer a holiday unless it is overseas, and a very large number of people now know the south of Spain far better than they know many parts of the UK.

Yet over this period, the British tourism product has developed and improved immeasurably – as it has had to in response to the overseas competition. And therein lies an opportunity. English Tourism Week next year (10–18 March 2012) is taking on an idea that has been successfully developed by VisitKent over the last few years to "reconnect" people with local attractions. The "Big Day Out" initiative provides residents with free access to such attractions.

This has two significant benefits. The first is that residents recognise the wealth and quality of tourism attractions on their own doorstep. In doing so, they take pride in what their area has to offer and become de-facto ambassadors. The second is that research has found that people who visit attractions during the Big Day Out (which is held at the beginning of the season) are far more likely to return later in the season with friends and relatives that visit them.

So there is a win-win for the residents and the attractions that participate. OK, this initiative is not going to suddenly make communities come together and prevent future outbreaks of violence. But it does show that tourism can play a role in improving the cohesiveness of communities. And it's a role that doesn't need government funding, an independent inquiry or outside intervention by "specialists".

TOURISM

Ireland's inbound tourism recovers

Latest figures from Ireland's Central Statistics Office (CSO) have shown that inbound travel is "moving into recovery", according to transport, tourism and sport minister Leo Varadkar.

Figures for the second quarter of the year revealed an increase in the number of total trips to Ireland in excess of 15 per cent, compared with the same period in 2010.

Nearly 1.8 million overseas residents travelled to Ireland between April and June, taking the total for the half year to June to nearly 3 million – up from 2.6 million in the first six months of 2010.

Varadkar said: "Clearly comparisons with the first half of 2010 are distorted by the impact of severe weather and the volcanic ash on travel between March and May last year. Nonetheless, today's figures confirm



Visitor numbers to Ireland have shown healthy growth so far this year

indications on the ground that overseas travel to Ireland is moving into recovery."

The increase supports suggestions from recent private sector research, such as the STR Global report highlighted by Deloitte as showing a 9.9 per cent increase in Dublin hotel occupancy.

VisitBritain reveals appeal of UK football

More than 750,000 inbound visitors to the UK attended a football match in 2010, spending around £595m in the process, according to new figures from VisitBritain.

The agency found that Norwegian visitors are most likely to watch a Premier League

match, with popular teams including Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United.

Around 40 per cent of those attending football matches said sport was a primary reason for visiting the UK, with football boosting inbound numbers during quieter periods.

'Very mixed' summer for Welsh tourism

Wales' tourism industry has experienced a "very mixed" summer 2011, with the country's visitor attractions reporting varying performance compared with the same period last year.

Adrian Greason-Walker, executive director of Wales Tourism Alliance, told the BBC that an overall decline in expenditure had been anticipated by the industry as consumers cut back.

However, Greason-Walker also predicted that free admission attractions could see growth in admissions for the period when figures are published in due course.

"It seems the season has been very mixed. Some businesses have fared okay," he said. "But I suspect when the figures for this quarter are



July visitor numbers are up at Ffestiniog Railway, according to the BBC

out, although we will probably see an increase in footfall at free admission attractions, we will possibly see a fall in admissions to paid attractions on the same quarter last year and a fall in secondary spend."

Bannatyne to open Fairfield spa

The Bannatyne Group is to open its 33rd UK spa at its recently-acquired health club in Fairfield, Hertfordshire.

Due to open next month, the new £200,000 spa will be located within the existing health club and will be available to both members and non-members.

Facilities at Fairfield's new Bannatyne Spa will include six treatment rooms; a dual treatment room for couples; a relaxation balcony; a spray tan room; and a specialist manicure and pedicure area.

A steamroom, a 14-seat spa pool and a large relaxation area alongside a 16m indoor swimming pool have also been earmarked to form part of The Bannatyne Spa.

Treatments at the venue are to be provided by Elemis, with the spa menu to incorporate services such as massages and facials.



The facility at the Fairfield club is The Bannatyne Group's 33rd UK spa

Nigel Armstrong, managing director of The Bannatyne Group, said: "The new spa in Fairfield is an essential part of Bannatyne's drive towards creating an enhanced wellbeing concept under one roof."

Bannatyne Group acquired the former GL-14 club in Fairfield in July 2011.

Stoke Place completes 'major' overhaul

Great Hotels of the World has confirmed that a 'major refurbishment' of Stoke Place – an English country house in Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire – has been completed.

Improvements to the property have seen the addition of 10 garden bedrooms within the walled gardens, which has increased the hotel's capacity to a total of 40 rooms.

An on-site gym has been also added at the request of guests, while a new spa treatment room will offer a variety of services provided by beauty specialists Flutterby.

The 20sq m (215sq ft) fitness facility has been equipped by Cybex, and while the new treatment room is the property's only spa facility, spa services are on offer 'in-bedroom'.



The country house hotel is located near Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire

A Stoke Place spokesperson said: "Guests can now enjoy treatments including massages, facials, manicures and pedicures with Stoke Place's beauty specialists Flutterby."

Polurrian Bay Hotel relaunches with Elemis

Polurrian Bay Hotel in Cornwall has relaunched following an extensive redevelopment of the 41-bedroom boutique property.

As part of the makeover, the hotel's Purity Spa has been refurbished and a new menu has been launched using Elemis products.

Facilities at the spa include two treatment rooms and a relaxation area.

The property was acquired in February 2011 by hospitality entrepreneur Nigel Chapman's Halcyon Hotels Group. The original Polurrian Hotel dates back to 1890.



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A waterside park will form part of the proposals

New park to form part of London scheme

A new waterside park alongside the Grand Union Canal has been mooted as part of a major new development – Park Royal City – to be built around a new ‘rail super hub’ at Old Oak Common, London.

Sir Terry Farrell has drawn up proposals for the scheme, which will transform the area into a new city for London around the proposed high speed rail project.

Images were drawn up as part of Hammersmith and Fulham Council’s submission to the government in support of the High Speed Rail 2 (HS2) project.

£75m regeneration masterplan for Pontypridd

Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) Council is aiming to attract more visitors to Pontypridd after unveiling a major £75m regeneration masterplan for the town.

Public and private sector-led schemes are helping to transform the town, which the council believes will ensure it becomes a “major destination” in the valleys.

RCT leader Russell Robert said: “This is a momentous plan for Pontypridd as steadily we begin to see the first phases of regeneration nearing completion in the town centre.”

Council mulls Skegness Grand Parade options

East Lindsey District Council is mulling the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) to bring a “prominent” seafront site in Skegness, Lincolnshire, back into use.

Ownership of the Grand Parade site has been split between two groups, with half of the site already redeveloped since a fire at the site in 2007, which destroyed a number of bars and nightclubs.

However, the other part of the property is still vacant despite planning permission for a new four-storey leisure complex with ice rink being approved in February 2010.

WAF Awards 2011 shortlist announced

Holburne Museum of Art, Bath (Eric Parry Architects); W London hotel (Jestico + Whiles); and the Museum of Liverpool (3xN) are among the shortlisted UK projects in the World Architecture Festival (WAF) Awards 2011.

The fourth annual awards has attracted a record number of entries, with more than 700 from 59 countries seeking to be crowned World Building of the Year 2011.

Other shortlisted entries from the UK include the new pit and paddock complex at Silverstone motor racing venue in Northamptonshire (Populous).

The awards are divided into three main sections, with each one – Completed Buildings; Structural Design; and Future Projects



The new W London - Leicester Square is one of the shortlisted entrants

– containing up to 16 categories. Shortlisted practices will present designs live to judging panels and delegates at the WAF in Barcelona, Spain, between 2 and 4 November.

Stadium decision to be reviewed

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club (THFC) and Leyton Orient Football Club (LOFC) have secured a judicial review into the procurement of the Olympic Stadium, London.

West Ham United Football Club (WHUFC) and Newham Council was named as preferred bidder for the stadium by the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) earlier this year. However, both THFC and LOFC challenged the decision and a ruling by Mr Justice Collins now means that a full judicial review into the decision will commence on 18 October.

It comes days after UK Athletics said it was bidding to host the 2017 IAAF World Athletics Championships, with the Olympic Stadium at the heart of the application.

In a related development, the OPLC has also announced that an independent



West Ham United FC/Newham Council were named as preferred bidder

investigation looking into its decision-making process regarding the stadium had exonerated employee Dionne Knight.

It had been alleged that Knight had access to confidential information relating to the stadium, which had been used to enhance WHUFC’s bid for the venue.

Final hurdle cleared on Bicester’s mixed-use plans

Communities secretary Eric Pickles has authorised the Compulsory Purchase Order necessary for the redevelopment of Bicester town centre in Oxfordshire.

Pickles’ decision now clears the way for construction work to commence next year and

means that all remaining land and other rights needed for the redevelopment can be acquired without further delay.

A seven-screen digital cinema and restaurants are among facilities to be created as part of a scheme to overhaul the town centre.

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Playing field facility with further leisure potential in Crayford Kent

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The London Borough of Bexley is inviting proposals from sports clubs and leisure operators to manage and improve facilities at Mayplace Playing Fields. The facility currently comprises three grass football pitches and a floodlit AstroTurf pitch with associated changing facilities on a site of 4.85 ha (12 acres). Annual revenue is currently circa £36,000.

Interested parties must submit their outline proposals by Friday, 4 November 2011. For a brochure and further details please contact Clive Bick at the London Borough of Bexley on 020 3045 4834 or clive.bick@bexley.gov.uk.



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PROC10-0134



Leisure Management Contract

Braintree District Council intends to invite tenders for the management, marketing, maintenance and operation of its four Leisure Centres, including the proposed new Witham Leisure Centre. The Leisure Centres are currently being managed by a private operator.

The date for the commencement of the contract is 1st September 2012. The contract will be for a minimum of ten years with the potential option to extend it for a further five.

The information and documents for this opportunity are available on <https://www.delta-esourcing.com/delta>. You must register on this site to respond, if you are already registered you will not need to register again, simply use your existing username and password. Please note there is a password reminder link on the homepage.

Suppliers must log in, go to your Response Manager and add the following Access Code: 344ZX976S4. Please ensure you follow any instruction provided to you here.

The deadline for submitting your response is 12:00pm on 21st September 2011.

Please ensure that you allow yourself plenty of time when responding to this invitation prior to the closing date and time, especially if you are uploading supporting documents. If you experience any technical difficulties please contact the Delta eSourcing Helpdesk on 0845 270 7050 or email helpdesk@delta-esourcing.com. Expressions of interest not registered via the delta portal will not be accepted.

Please note that the Council believes the Leisure Management Services to which this procurement exercise relates fall within Part B of Schedule 3 to the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 ("the regulations") and Annex IIB to council directive 2004/18/EC.

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Offers Invited - Informal Tenders

The package includes:

- A sports facility featuring a 6 lane track with field event facilities (not certificated).
- In field suitable for American Football and other ball games.
- A pavilion including male and female changing rooms, meeting room, a 30 station (approximate) gym and separate rooms which can be used for storage or additional changing rooms.

Finsbury Park has been a Green Flag Award winner since 2007. Finsbury Park Track and Gym (FPT&G) is situated in the middle of the park and caters for a number of sports clubs, school sports days and play and play gym customers.

The park itself is the largest park managed by Haringey Council and attracts approximately 1.5m visitors year round. The Park has excellent rail, tube and bus links and is located in a densely populated area.

Term: Negotiable

Premises: Finsbury Park Track & Gym

Business Rates: Currently none payable but applicants should make their own enquiries as to the situation once the business is established

Offers TO LET are invited by way of an informal tender process. The successful application will be selected based on best proposal received in terms of quality and price.

Interested parties are requested to complete application forms to be submitted by 11th November 2011. Requests for application forms and further information should be made via email to:

andrea.keable@haringey.gov.uk

Please follow the instructions sent out to you with the application documents for return of your application and proposal.

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Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust

Expressions of Interest

Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust invites expressions of interest for the lease of Trust premises at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester for the provision of gym facilities and a squash court for staff and students.

The accommodation comprises a Gym (61.4m²), Squash court (62.2m²), Changing Facilities (48.2m²) and an Office (8.9m²).

The Royal Hampshire County Hospital is a 400 bed District General Hospital with approximately 2,000 staff.

As part of any agreement, the successful supplier will be expected to furnish the gym with equipment to an appropriate standard and provide suitably insured, qualified and registered staff to support members. The supplier will be responsible for the maintenance of any gym equipment provided.

Expressions of Interest are to be made by 4th October 2011 to Jeremy Day via jeremy.day@suht.swest.nhs.uk

Royal Hampshire County Hospital
Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 5DG

Expressions of interest for the Management of Leisure Facilities at Horsham District Council

The District of Horsham in West Sussex covers a total area of approximately 530 square kilometres of open countryside and attractive small towns and villages. Around 130,000 people live in the District.



Horsham District Council has some of the best sports and recreation facilities in the South East. There are four Leisure Centres which include The Pavilions in The Park (Horsham), Broadbridge Heath, Steyning and Billingshurst Leisure Centres, the two latter being dual use facilities.

Over the last 15 years the Council has made significant investment in the facilities across the District including the provision of the flagship Pavilions in The Park. The opening of Billingshurst Leisure Centre in September 2008, realised the completion of the Council's ambitious '3 Pool District Swimming Strategy' which set out to provide accessible, high quality indoor swimming facilities for residents of the District.

Horsham District Council is seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced organisations for the management of the Council Leisure Facilities from December 2012 for an initial period of 10 years with the option to extend for a further 5 years.

The Council considers that the existing staff will transfer under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations (TUPE).

Potential partners are required to complete a pre-qualification questionnaire and demonstrate suitable experience to be included in the Council's tender short list. You can register your interest via our e-tendering solution at westsussex.bravosolution.co.uk. From there you will be able to view further information about this opportunity and complete the pre-qualification questionnaire.

The closing date for receipt of completed questionnaires is 12 noon on Monday 17th October 2011



Expressions of interest invited for Beauty Treatment Spa Concession

Intercontinental Hotels are inviting expressions of interest for the operation of a beauty treatment spa in a prime location in Belfast City Centre. The spa is situated within the Spirit Health Club at the newly refurbished four star Holiday Inn Belfast. The Spa is currently fully operational with an established customer base.

Description

The spa consists of three treatment rooms all finished to a high specification. There are 2 further rooms currently being used as a spray tan and sunbed room. The sunbed room has potential to be converted for a fourth treatment room.

The Spa will be able to benefit from featuring on the hotels independent website and within the hotel marketing material. The building is also fully managed by Intercontinental Hotels in respect of utilities, maintenance and fire life safety.

Location

The spa is situated within the Spirit Health Club which has a membership of 800+ members with up to 3000 visits per month.

The club includes a fully equipped gym, 15m swimming pool, sauna, steam and spa pool. The hotel itself has a 60/40 business and leisure split. The leisure business is primarily at weekends attracting hen parties, pamper breaks and weddings. The hotel also has excellent restaurant and bar facilities that can be used by customers of the spa.

Further Information

Interested parties should email fiona.mcelroy@ihg.com at the Holiday Inn Belfast to schedule a facility inspection if required.

The closing date for submitting your interest is 30th September 2011

www.hibelfasthotel.co.uk



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (SUBJECT TO CONTRACT)

FOR DRYSIDE REDEVELOPMENT OF KELSO SWIMMING POOL, SCOTTISH BORDERS

Borders Sport + Leisure (BSLT) are seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced contractors for the partial redevelopment of Kelso Swimming Pool, Kelso.

The project includes the demolition of existing internal fixtures + internal structures, installation of new ventilation system, formation of new layouts including; changing village, showering, sanitary accommodation, reception, cafe, staff facilities, multi-use studio along with re-roofing the existing structure.

The building will be closed for the entirety of the contract + is proposed to be on site late 2011 + completion early 2012.

To be part of this exciting development, please contact BSLT by e-mail only at enquiries@bslt.org.uk. The procurement process will be carried via a pre-qualification questionnaire issued by BSLT.

The closing date for Expressions of Interest is on Monday 13th September 2011.



Using sport to tackle crime and disorder



STEPHEN STUDD
is chief executive
of SkillsActive

None of us who watched the television coverage of the UK riots this summer could have failed to be moved by both the shocking scenes and by how violently some young people reacted to the situation.

A report by The Active Communities Network found that youth crime and anti-social behaviour costs the government at least £4bn a year. But one of the most successful and innovative ways to tackle crime is to use sport. It is a powerful tool for tackling youth crime and engaging young people. For the last five years, the sector has been going through a quiet revolution – responding to demand for more community programmes to meet this need.

Hundreds of groups have been working to create opportunities for training, learning and employment specifically aimed at young people, and working alongside them has been SkillsActive. Great inroads have already been made and more can be achieved in the next five years.

One of the most exciting, and timely, developments is the publication of new qualifications under the banner of Sport to Tackle Crime. These originate from the National Occupational Standards, set by SkillsActive last year after an extensive consultation period, are already part of the Qualifications and Credit Framework.

These courses will give coaches and mentors the tools they need to engage with disenfranchised young people, hopefully giving them a purpose, building confidence and relationships with the aim of leading to a decline in youth offender rates.

In addition, SkillsActive, through the Future Jobs Fund, has given training and employment opportunities to more than 5,000 previously unemployed young people. These young people are now eager to join the working world and I would urge anyone looking to recruit an enthusiastic employee to check out www.activegraduates.com and help give our young people the opportunity they deserve.

TRAINING

SkillsActive launches Talking Sport survey

SkillsActive is to conduct a new survey on the need for increased foreign language, cultural and communication skills within the sport and active leisure sector as part of its Talking Sport project.

According to the sector skills council, increasing globalisation in sport, which has been seen at both at an amateur and a professional level, has led to a greater need for effective communication.

Patrick Knock, development officer at SkillsActive, said: "We know from our work with those within the sporting industry that a love of sport is something that brings people together regardless of nationality or ethnic background, but we also know that this in turn can create communication problems.



English referee Howard Webb (centre) with players from FC Barcelona

"What we'd like to achieve is to firstly identify communications issues across a range of sports during a consultation period, and secondly devise a range of learning programmes to tackle these issues and give people the tools to improve their language skills."

Active IQ adds sports massage award

UK awarding body Active IQ has announced the launch of its new Level 4 Certificate in Sports Massage.

The new Level 4 qualification has been recognised by the Sports Remedial Therapy Council. It also meets the National Occupational Standards stipulated by the British Olympic Association, set out as guidelines for anybody wanting to work with athletes at the 2012 Games.

The new qualification has been designed as a vocational course and does not include theoretical work and research requirements of a Level 5 qualification.

The course aims to offer sufficient knowledge and skills to identify the signs, symptoms and causes of more than 50 of the most common injuries and conditions which affect both the athletes and the general public alike.



The qualification is recognised by the Sports Remedial Therapy Council

Suzi Toseland-Goakes, executive director for Active IQ said: "We've fused a number of vocational teachings to deliver a practical qualification. Although an intense and detailed qualification, its modular design allows a structured and staged approach to learning, with each "unit" having value in its own right."

BII launches apprenticeships for licensed businesses

The British Institute of Innkeeping (BII) has announced the launch of the first ever apprenticeship scheme which is dedicated to the pub and licensed hospitality sector.

Marketed as an alternative to a university course, the scheme will look to attract

individuals within the industry wishing to improve their long term career paths.

Upon completion of the apprenticeship, individuals will receive an award acknowledged and recognised across the industry and in wider workforce training.



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ISSUE

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Key Account Manager



Reports to: The General Manager Based at: GRAVITY UK, High Wycombe

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Please post your CV with full details to The General Manager, GRAVITY UK, 2a Desborough Industrial Park, Desborough Park Road, High Wycombe, HP12 3BG. Or email jobs@gravityuk.net.

Applications close September 16th 2011.

Interviews will be held the week commencing September 26th 2011.



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Sports Massage Therapist, *Ten Pilates, London, UK*
Experienced exercise professionals, *Ten Pilates, Central London, UK*
Societies and Volunteering Assistant, *Bucks Students' Union, High Wycombe, UK*
Club Manager, *Anytime fitness, Central London*
Ice Rink Managers, *Cousins Entertainment, In and around London, UK*
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Ex-military Fitness Instructors, *British Military Martial Arts, Nationwide, UK*
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SR12/028 Photos: Ailie Hitchcock, Gary Moyes, Stephen Gregoire. Sport Relief is an initiative of Comic Relief, registered charity 329568 (England & Wales), SC039730 (Scotland)

Sun 25 March

Cineworld sees 'strong start' to H2

Cineworld has welcomed a "strong" start to the second half of 2011, after it reported a slowdown in trading for the six months ending 30 June due to a "weaker film slate".

Despite the success of *The King's Speech* at the start of 2011, revenues in the first half of the year remained broadly flat. Overall pre-tax profits were down to £6.9m.

The July release of the latest *Harry Potter* film helped the group enjoy a strong start to the second half, however, with an "excellent range" of films expected during the period.

CEO Stephen Wiener said: "We are pleased to announce solid first half results where we achieved growth despite a lower number of blockbuster and 3D film releases.



Cineworld is expecting an "excellent range" of films to boost H2 trading

"The second half has started strongly for the group, with an excellent range of blockbusters and 3D films. The fourth quarter brings an exciting line up of releases with titles."

'All bids' for Bournemouth site rejected

Bournemouth Borough Council (BBC) has revealed that none of the bids submitted for the redevelopment of the resort's waterfront building had met its "aspirations" for the site.

The local authority is seeking to transform the former IMAX cinema building into a new

all-weather leisure attraction for the town but will not be pursuing any of the bids received.

A venture between BBC and Morgan Sindall Investments – the Bournemouth Development Company – is now looking at the possibility of developing the site sooner than planned.

Anger over Liverpool terminal plans

Liverpool City Council's (LCC) proposals to increase inbound tourism in the city by developing its cruise terminal has been met with anger by Southampton City Council (SCC).

LCC is planning to submit a change of use application to the government, which would permit large cruise vessels to begin and end journeys in the city – as opposed to merely using Liverpool as a turnaround port.

The local authority has, however, already received European Union funding for the development of the terminal facilities and is now intending to apply for further government funding to attract cruise tourism in the city.

SCC councillors have questioned the emergence of a 'publicly-funded competitor' to Southampton's port, which caters for 67 per cent of the UK's cruise trade and brings around £400m into the local economy each year.



Liverpool wants journeys to start and end in the city

SCC leader Royston Smith said: "The Port of Southampton has positioned itself as the cruise capital of Northern Europe by means of private investment. I've met several ministers about this issue and am keen our voice is heard as part of the consultation."

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