

leisure opportunities

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Esporta victory in VAT tribunal

Esporta has succeeded in its legal case to make payment arrears recovered from members to be free of VAT.

In a hearing put before the First Tier Tax Tribunal, the health club operator successfully argued that the sums recovered by the debt collection solicitors did not represent payment for any service supplied by the club.

The decision could lead to windfalls for clubs around the UK as the tribunal's findings mean clubs are now - in principle - able to reclaim amounts paid as output VAT on late payments. HMRC has already indicated it will be reclaiming the VAT paid on all late payments.

Speaking to *Leisure Opportunities* following the ruling, Fitness Industry Association (FIA) chief executive officer David Stalker said: "This ruling is great news for any business.



HMRC is likely to launch an appeal against the tribunal's VAT decision

"Irrespective of the economic climate, any breach of contract should not be subject to VAT therefore, given the huge financial pressures on businesses at present, this ruling will help alleviate some of the tax burden and help businesses optimise their financial models."



Leeds Met's new institute is set to have six themes

Wellbeing research institute for Leeds Met

A centre promoting and researching health and wellbeing will be launched at Leeds Metropolitan University in November.

The Institute for Health and Wellbeing will have six distinct research themes: healthy communities; health promotion; men's health; men, gender and wellbeing; nutrition and childhood obesity; and pain science and management.

Faculties will be housed in a single unit as part of promoting innovation and collaboration, and will research the health status of both individuals and communities.

FIA announces rebranding plans

The Fitness Industry Association (FIA) has announced plans to rebrand during 2012, to better reflect its role in working across the UK's physical activity sector.

Speaking at the FIA Vanguard Council meeting on 25 October, chief executive officer David Stalker said the board had approved the plans and that a consultation period with members and key stakeholders would follow.

"The FIA now has a broader remit working across the indoor and outdoor activity space and is building new and exciting partnerships across government, sport and the Olympic legacy," said Stalker. "We will stay loyal to our vision of more people, more active, more often,



The FIA is to consult on the proposed 2012 rebrand

but feel 2012 is an ideal time to showcase our offer to the wider market."

He added that an online member consultation will take place and that key stakeholders would be interviewed during January 2012.

Stephen Studd steps down from SkillsActive

Stephen Studd, chief executive of SkillsActive, has announced his decision to stand down from the role with immediate effect.

Studd has led the sector skills council for eight years and is a leisure industry veteran, having began his career at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre in 1975. He later spent 21 years with the Sports Council Great Britain - now UK Sport.

Studd has been replaced on an interim basis by SkillsActive board director Suki Kalirai until the group makes a permanent appointment.

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SPORT

BASIS unveiled at Emirates Stadium

A new national organisation, which aims to "educate, share best practice and integrate sustainability issues" across the UK sport sector, has officially launched in London.

The British Association for Sustainable Sport (BASIS) is a voluntary association of clubs, venues, national governing bodies and others involved in the sport sector that aim to improve sustainability.

It is hoped that the organisation will also encourage sports fans to become more pro-actively involved in sustainability issues by using sport to connect with people.

The launch coincided with the publication of findings for a survey by BASIS, which was distributed to more than 180 organisations and venues. Out of the responses received, it was found that 95 per cent believe it is important to manage the impact of clubs and events.



The organisation is a voluntary association of clubs, venues and bodies

More than two thirds (68 per cent) of participants said that they had an environmental policy in place, although 80 per cent said operations took precedence over sustainability.

The launch also featured presentations from a number of groups, including a keynote speech by National Football League senior vice president of events Frank Supovitz.

EHB launches new Rush Hockey format

England Hockey Board (EHB) has announced the launch of the new Rush Hockey format in a bid to engage with thousands of recreational players across the country.

Designed to capitalise on an anticipated surge in interest around the 2012 Games, the

Rush Hockey concept aims to replicate the success of the five-a-side format in football.

Rush Hockey can be played either indoors or outdoors and in four- or five-a-side matches, with the EHB now seeking to sign up new delivery partners to help roll out the format.

Council backs Derry sports campus plans

Plans for a new sports campus at Derry's St Columba's Park, which will provide a Centre of Sporting Excellence for north west Northern Ireland and Ireland, have been ratified by Derry City Council.

The North West Regional Sports Campus (NWRSC) is set to "enable the facilitation of sports development" and will incorporate a Judo Centre of Excellence for the region, featuring a two mat dojo; a North West Regional Indoor Climbin' Centre; and a 238sq m (2,562sq ft) gym.

A Northern Ireland Olympic Wrestling Association National Wrestling Centre with two mat dojo and a warm-up hall and a multi-sport sports hall will also feature, along with a floodlit 3G pitch complex; office space for national



The NWRSC development will incorporate a Judo Centre of Excellence

governing bodies; and a 117sq m (1,259sq ft) Performance Development Centre.

The plans will also result in the development of a new swimming pool and the closure of the existing Lisnagelvin Leisure Centre, with the project to be carried out in phases.

Graham nets Kirkcaldy contract

Graham Construction has secured a £15.3m contract to build a new sports and leisure complex in Kirkcaldy, which will open in summer 2013.

Fife Council and Fife Sports and Leisure Trust are leading the scheme, which will see a new building offer a 25m, six-lane pool with spectator seating for 90 people.

A training pool with moveable floor; accessible waterside changing areas; a health suite with a sauna and steamroom; and a 60-station fitness suite will be among the facilities.

Elsewhere, a purpose-built aerobics studio; a four-court sports hall; a children's play centre; and a meeting room will also be included.

The project forms part of a wider £55m investment in new leisure facilities across the region and it is expected that the Kirkcaldy venue will attract 200,000 visits each year.



Construction work is expected to start on-site this month (November)

Alice Soper, chair of Fife Council's Kirkcaldy Area Committee, said: "Kirkcaldy's new sports and leisure centre will provide more than just a pool for town. There will be a wealth of dry side facilities for the first time ever and it will be an iconic building with unrivalled views of the waterfront."

New-look venue opens at Aston University

Doug Ellis, former chair of Aston Villa Football Club, has helped mark the unveiling of Aston University's new-look Woodcock Sports Centre, following a £5m revamp.

The centre has been renamed the Doug Ellis Woodcock Sports Centre in honour of Ellis, an honorary graduate of the institution and who made the lead gift towards the scheme.

Facilities at the new-look venue include a new 120-station gym with Life Fitness cardiovascular machines and free weights; a refurbished sports hall; and an upgraded swimming pool area.

A two-storey facility with martial arts, fitness and dance studios; a new sauna, steam-room and changing rooms; and improved



Woodcock Sports Centre now comprises a 120-station Life Fitness gym

badminton, basketball and netball provision are also included at the new-look venue.

Aston University acquired the sports centre building from Birmingham City Council in 1980, which includes the Grade II-listed pool – the city's oldest working swimming facility.

London mayor boost for wheelchair basketball

London mayor Boris Johnson has announced plans to more than quadruple the number of wheelchair basketball clubs across the capital and increase participation by 7,000 people.

Less than 10 per cent of disabled Londoners are believed to participate in sport on a regular

basis, with the capital having one of the lowest participation rates for wheelchair basketball.

The mayor has now contributed £95,000 from the Sports Legacy Fund to the Great Britain Wheelchair Basketball Association's programme to create seven clubs in London.

£10m Iconic Facilities funding made available

Sport England has announced that £10m worth of National Lottery funding has been made available in the latest round of the Iconic Facilities programme.

The initiative is designed to provide investment in "large scale, state-of-the-art" venues capable of catering for a number of sports and help increase participation.

Iconic Facilities is one of three strands to run under the 'Places' element of the wider Places People Play programme. Applicants can bid for grants of between £250,000 and £3m in the second of three rounds.



A new-build element formed part of the scheme

£8.25m university facility to launch in Twickenham

Sebastian Coe and double Olympic medalist Rebecca Romero have helped open an £8.25m sports centre at St Mary's University College in Twickenham, London.

Former 10,000m world record holder Dave Bedford and representatives from Sport England will also attend the unveiling of the facility, along with Olympians including Tim Brabants.

Work has included a new sports hall; a strength and conditioning suite; and changing spaces, with a new-build element created as an extension to the existing games hall and sports block.

Cardiff leisure centre plans to be reviewed

Plans to revamp a Cardiff leisure centre will be reviewed after Cardiff Council confirmed it was seeking an "alternative option" for its schools reorganisation programme.

Cardiff Council had proposed the Eastern Leisure Centre refurbishment as part of plans to develop a new secondary school on the centre's site in Llanrumney.

However, the council said that a reduction in funding from the Welsh Assembly Government has forced the rethink, with revised proposals for the leisure centre revamp now to be drawn up.

Keiser awarded British Athletes' Commission deal

Fitness equipment supplier Keiser UK has become an official supplier to the British Athletes' Commission (BAC).

The new agreement will result in all BAC members being able to benefit from savings on Keiser UK equipment, in addition to a range of special offers.

BAC is the voice of all UK Olympic, Paralympic and World Class funded athletes and was set up in 2004 to represent the interests of athletes in Great Britain to the key decision makers in sport.



The group opened its most recent site in London

Pure Gym pushes forward with UK expansion plans

Low-cost health club chain Pure Gym is continuing to push forward with its UK expansion plans, with the forthcoming opening of new sites across the country.

One of the first new venues to open was the London Oval club, which was unveiled on 27 October ahead of sites in Cardiff (17 November) and Coventry (15 December).

Pure Gym is also due to open a club in Walton-on-Thames this winter. The group's facilities are open 24 hours a day and offer more than 220 pieces of equipment, in addition to more than 40 classes each week.

New-look leisure centre opens in Redhill

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council has reopened Donynys Leisure Centre in Redhill, Surrey, which has undergone an extensive £4.1m refurbishment.

A new fitness suite was opened to users at the venue earlier this year, which includes 100 pieces of Life Fitness equipment. A youth gym for 11-to-16-year-olds has also been created as part of the scheme.

Other improvements to be carried out at Donynys Leisure Centre have included the development of a new soft play area in the old gym space and enhancements to the existing fitness and dance studio.

New register launches in Ireland

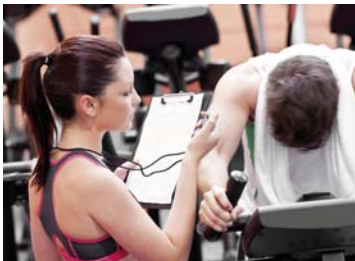
Fitness Professionals Ireland (FPI), an independent nationwide register for Ireland's health and fitness industry has been officially launched.

The European Health and Fitness Association-backed register has been two years in development and is now fully integrated with the European Register of Exercise Professionals (EREPS).

FPI aims to register around 600 professionals in its first year of operation, with its members meeting prescribed standards of good practice.

Active IQ has announced that Dundalk Institute of Technology will be among those to support the new register, with the institution registering its learners with the new register.

EREPS director Cliff Collins said: "The development of FPI has been undertaken thoroughly and comprehensively to provide



The new FPI is aiming to register 600 professionals during its first year

a unified register for Ireland. The new register is founded on the agreed European standards for exercise professionals.

"Ireland has shown a lead in many areas of European development in the area of qualifications and the launch of FPI is a further positive move in this direction."

Sean Holt outlines new IMSPA goals

Sean Holt, the interim chief executive officer of the new Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (IMSPA), has said the body will look to draw members from a much broader cohort than its forerunners.

In an interview with *Leisure Management*, Holt said that while core membership will still comprise those employed by operators and managers, the institute hopes to attract professionals working across the physical activity sector.

The broadening of the net is part of IMSPA's aim to represent the whole of the active leisure sector.

IMSPA was formed as the result of a merger of Institute of Sport and Recreation Management and the Institute for Sport,



Holt has led the new organisation following its official launch in May

Parks and Leisure (ISPAL). While IMSPA will look to expand its reach within the active leisure sector, Holt added there would be less involvement with parks – formerly a key element of ISPAL. To read the interview go to: <http://lei.sr?a=f6Z4n>.

Winchester leisure centre revamp completed

Winchester City Council (WCC) and operator DC Leisure have completed a refurbishment of the River Park Leisure Centre.

Gym changing rooms have been remodelled as part of the revamp, which comes in response to a growth in gym usage and membership.

Meanwhile, work has also been undertaken 'behind the scenes', including rewiring in some parts of the venue and repairs to the roof.

WCC also confirmed that it is planning to replace the centre's cardiovascular gym equipment and spin bikes late this year.

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New gym unveiled at Nuneaton Academy

Nuneaton Academy, a dual-use centre, has benefited from a new £75,000 gym.

New equipment at the gym, which is managed by Nuneaton and Bedworth Leisure Trust, was supplied by Precor and includes 13 cardio machines including treadmills, recumbent and upright bikes and crosstrainers, all featuring Precor's wireless cardio theatre units.

Nuneaton Academy's new gym also features six pieces from Precor's S-line and two from the C-line strength ranges, in addition to three Icarian stations.



The Aspire budget gym is located in Cheltenham

Aspire trust secures contract for budget gym

Aspire Sports and Cultural Trust, which runs GL1 Leisure Centre and Oxstalls Tennis Centre in Gloucester, has expanded by opening a budget gym in Cheltenham.

Located at Gloucestershire College Campus, Cheltenham the new site has been branded 'Xpress Fitness' and will offer monthly memberships from £15. It features cv and resistance stations, an exercise studio and a multi-use sports area.

According to a spokesperson for Aspire, the trust is currently aiming to establish a portfolio of budget gyms in the region.

David Lloyd awards PT Hero of the Year

Sarah Taylor, a mother of three from Eastbourne, has been named David Lloyd Leisure's (DLL) PT Hero of the Year 2011.

Taylor, 43, shed a total of 3st 4lbs over a 15-month period following an exercise and weight loss regime with the support of her personal trainer, Josh Warrell – based at DLL's Eastbourne club.

"Through all that I've learnt, I cannot see that I will ever slip backwards to where I was before. Every aspect of my life is better, and I can't thank Josh enough – what a team!" said Taylor.

Minister urges image 'rethink'

Lynne Featherstone, the junior equalities minister, has urged health club operators to stop using "models with perfect bodies" in marketing materials as it could potentially deter people from joining clubs.

Speaking at the Fitness Industry Association's (FIA) Vanguard Council meeting, she called on gyms and leisure centres to instead promote "healthy and achievable" body images.

The comments come as part of the Body Confidence campaign, which is spearheaded by the Government Office for Equalities. The FIA is supporting the initiative as part of its work to increase the public's understanding of the benefits of exercise.

Featherstone said: "The health and fitness industry has an important role to play to promote healthy and sustainable ways to achieving



Featherstone said centres should promote "achievable" body images

realistic body shapes. We need to move away from selling the image of 'the perfect body'. Everyone has a different body type and there are no quick-fix solutions.

"So let's work together to change attitudes and encourage a more inclusive atmosphere in health and fitness centres."

HMRC campaign for private instructors

A new 'tax amnesty' has been launched by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in a bid to encourage the UK's private fitness and dance instructors to come forward with any undeclared tax liabilities.

The Tax Catch Up Plan is aimed at those who currently profit from private tuition and instruction, either as a main or secondary income, on which correct tax has not been paid. It will see private tutors and coaches given until 31 March 2012 to declare any outstanding liabilities for the years to 5 April 2010 and to pay what they owe.

HMRC said those who come forward ahead of the deadline would receive the "best possible terms", which is "unlikely" to amount to more than a fifth of any outstanding tax debts.



Private instructors and tutors are being urged to declare any liabilities

Marian Wilson, head of HMRC campaigns, said: "We are making it as easy as possible for people offering tuition and coaching to use this unique opportunity to put their tax affairs in order by making a full disclosure."

New UK sales director appointed by York Fitness

Fitness equipment supplier York Fitness has announced the appointment of Philip Cooksey as UK sales director, who joins the company after seven years with Technogym.

In his new role with York Fitness, Cooksey is to be responsible for maintaining the group's

position as one of the market leaders in performance weightlifting and home fitness.

Cooksey said: "I build teams around professional individuals who have a passion, not only for the fitness industry, but for the long-term relationship and success of its customers."

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Builth Wells venue to undergo renovation

Wyeside Arts Centre has announced that it has secured funding from a number of sources towards a £190,000 revamp of Market Theatre in Builth Wells, Powys.

The Aggregates Levy Fund for Wales; Powys County Council; the Foyle Foundation; and the Friends of Wyeside have contributed towards the project.

Market Theatre is scheduled to close between January and March 2012, although Wyeside Arts Centre will remain open. Work will include improved lighting and a new seating arrangement.



The British Museum won the Art Fund Prize 2011

Art Fund Prize 2012 open to applicants

The application process for the Art Fund Prize 2012 is now open to museums and galleries across the UK, with a £100,000 prize on offer to the venue with the most innovative project.

Venues in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man are also eligible to enter the Art Fund Prize, which is now in its tenth year and was won by the British Museum in 2011.

Entries are also being accepted for the Clore Award for Museum Learning, to celebrate museums and galleries with high quality education programmes.

Derby arts venue faces council funding cut

Derby's Quad Arts Centre is to have its council support withdrawn over the next four years, which is set to result in a loss of income of more than £600,000.

Quad chief executive Keith Jeffrey called the decision as "extremely bad news, not only for Quad but also the city" and said it made Derby less appealing to investors.

Derby City Council is aiming for the arts venue to find alternative income streams or become self-sustaining. The city's Deda facility is also facing the same withdrawal of support from the local authority.

Crossrail plans new London theatre

London's 'newest West End theatre' in more than 10 years is to be created as part of plans for the redevelopment of the Tottenham Court Road area unveiled by Crossrail.

Three planning applications have now been lodged with Westminster City Council, covering four sites on the corner of Oxford Street and Charing Cross Road.

AHMM are behind designs for the first two sites, which features a new theatre on the site of the former Astoria site as part of two nine-storey mixed-use buildings and a public realm.

Hawkins Brown architects are responsible for plans for the two remaining sites, which is set to comprise housing and retail accommodation as part of an "over-site development".

The proposals have been drawn up in conjunction with Derwent Holdings, which has



AHMM are behind the design of the two sites that will boast the theatre

entered into an agreement with venue operator Nimax Theatres to manage the new 350-seat property once it is completed.

Crossrail land and property director Ian Lindsay said: "These development plans will enhance Oxford Street and Charing Cross Road as a thriving cultural and retail destination."

Councillors decide site of new Chester theatre

An art deco building that formerly housed Chester's Odeon Cinema has been selected to be the site for the development of the city's proposed new theatre by the local authority.

More than 70 members of Cheshire West and Chester Council "overwhelmingly" approved

the choice of the new theatre location, which was selected ahead of Little Roodee.

It is hoped that the £43m venue will help fulfil plans for "two specific cultural quarters" in Chester, one being a spoken word and performance quarter centred on the town hall.

Portsmouth theatre nets Lottery funding

Portsmouth's New Theatre Royal has secured £939,000 towards a restoration project at the Grade II*-listed arts venue from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The grant will help support a scheme first launched after a fire at the property in 1972, with plans including an overhaul of the stage house, orchestra pit and access facilities. A new Creative Learning Centre to be used by local groups and organisation also features as part of the plans.

John Craven, vice-chancellor of the University of Portsmouth – working in partnership with the theatre, said: "The HLF has recognised the importance of restoring the New Theatre Royal as a major historic building."



The stage house, orchestra pit and access facilities are to be refurbished

Stuart McLeod, head of the HLF South East, added: "This wonderful historic building can be developed and put to use for the benefit of the local community."

New galleries for Liverpool venue

The £72m Museum of Liverpool, which opened in July, has revealed that it will open its new ground floor Great Port area and a first floor boasting three more galleries on 2 December.

3xN were behind the design of the attraction, which already incorporates the Atrium and the Global City, Little Liverpool, Wondrous Place and Skylight galleries.

The Great Port on the ground floor will explore Liverpool's history on the River Mersey and uses exhibits from National Museums Liverpool's land transport collection to tell the story.

On the first floor, visitors will be able to examine the Liverpool Overhead Railway, which was demolished 55 years ago but revived to be sited over the Great Port gallery. Other galleries to open on the first floor will include



The £72m Museum of Liverpool first opened its doors to visitors in July

City Soldiers, dedicated to the history of the King's Regiment. The History Detectives gallery will provide a background to the city.

Museum of Liverpool director Janet Dugdale said: "Aside from The Great Port on the ground floor, we are also opening up the entire first floor of the museum."

MLA accredits eight Scottish attractions

Eight properties operated by the National Trust for Scotland have been officially accredited as attractions by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA).

Brodick Castle, Broughton House, Culross Palace, Fyvie Castle, Pollok House, House of Dun, Hugh Miller Birthplace Cottage and Museum, and the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum have all been officially recognised as meeting industry-wide guidelines on how they are run, how they look after collections and the services they provides to visitors.

MLA chair Andrew Motion said: "It recognises the high standard and service that these Trust properties provide and acknowledges the hard work of the staff".



The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum has been accredited by the MLA

The Museum Accreditation Scheme sets nationally agreed standards for all museums in the UK. It has since become the responsibility of Arts Council England after MLA functions were transferred on 1 October.

A new voyage for National Maritime Museum

Exhibition designer Real Studios has created an introductory gallery for the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich to coincide with the opening of the new Sammy Ofer wing.

The Voyagers exhibition uses AV installations, text, objects and personal narrative to

evoke the historic and contemporary relevance of the sea and maritime heritage.

Images are projected over a central wave structure and follow themes such as navigation, exploration, leisure and conflict. There is also an interactive space for children.

Bernard Donoghue appointed ALVA director

Robin Broke, who led the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) for 15 years, has retired. He has been replaced by Bernard Donoghue.

Donoghue, who is also the chair of London International Festival of Theatre and spent 13 years as head of government and public affairs at VisitBritain, begins in the role with immediate effect.

Broke, who took over the role as director of ALVA in 1996, has presented the association on a number of committees and also sat on the board of Tourism Alliance.



Work is expected to take six months to complete

Housesteads museum to undergo refurbishment

The English Heritage-run facilities at Northumberland's historic Housesteads Roman Fort, including the museum and visitor centre, have now shut ahead of a major renovation project.

Due to take six months to complete, the scheme is being led by the agency alongside the National Trust and Northumberland National Park Authority.

The first phase of the project will cost more than £1m and will include a refurbishment of the museum in order to improve the interpretation and visitor facilities.

HLF support for Museum of Free Derry plans

The Museum of Free Derry's plans to expand its home in Derry, Northern Ireland, have received a £500,000 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant.

A community space; an archive and research area; and increased exhibition space are included in the proposals, as well as enhanced public facilities.

Stella McDermott from the HLF said: "This project will provide the extra space and enhanced facilities that are necessary to enable the museum to offer a first class experience to visitors."

Come on in - the industry is waiting!



PHILIPPE ROSSITER
is chief executive of the
Institute of Hospitality

October 2011's Office of National Statistics (ONS) report on employment shows the number of people in work aged 16 and over fell by 178,000 for the quarter, and by 47,000 for the year to just more than 29 million. This is the largest quarterly fall in the number of people in employment since the three months to July 2009.

In the same quarter, the number of people working part-time also dropped by 175,000, and this is the largest quarterly decrease in this category since comparable records began in 1992. Unsurprisingly, the unemployment rate has continued to rise, with the result that the number of unemployed people has not been higher since October 1994. Most worryingly in these statistics is the fact that the unemployment level and rate of people between the ages of 16 and 24 have reached their highest since comparable records began in 1992.

While these statistics cover the general economy, they conceal the good news which the hospitality sector can provide. According to its recent *State of the Nation* report, People 1st – the industry's sector skills council – suggests the sector appears to be bucking the general economic trend, with its workforce having grown by some 14 per cent since 2004. As if this was not enough, the industry is predicted to continue along this curve, with more than 100,000 people required annually to fill the increase in the number of jobs, as well as to satisfy the replacement demand for existing posts being vacated. Most telling is that the sector continues to employ a much younger workforce than across the economy as a whole, where 44 per cent of employees are below the age of 30, compared to a national average of just 24 per cent.

Faced with these realities, the hospitality industry must reach out to those who are unemployed. It can offer a wide variety of roles to match the needs and skills of individuals. As an industry, it has very low 'barriers to entry'; it can accommodate younger and older workers, is able to offer flexible working, and is a fun and exciting sector in which to work. What a positive message in an otherwise gloomy world!

HOTELS

New operator for Jarvis portfolio

A newly created hotel group, Jupiter Hotels, has acquired 24 hotels from the administrators of Jarvis Hotels.

Jupiter is a joint venture created for the transaction by private investor Patron Capital and West Register, an arm of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Andrew Gill has been named interim chief executive officer of Jupiter Hotels. With the exception of Jarvis's board, all existing employees of Jarvis's head office and the hotels will move to Jupiter.

The hotels will be rebranded Mercure, under a franchise agreement with French hotel giant Accor. The deal is the single biggest franchise contract for Accor this year. The joint venture investors are injecting £40m, with debt financing of £71m provided by RBS, HSBC and Bank of Ireland, which were the original lenders to Jarvis.



The properties will now be rebranded Mercure under a deal with Accor

Stephen Green, Patron Capital's senior partner, special situations, said: "We are delighted that West Register chose to partner with Patron Capital on this complicated restructuring transaction. The result is to the benefit of a wide range of stakeholders, including 1,900 employees across the UK."

Brighton's Blanch House reopens after revamp

The new-look Blanch House hotel in Brighton has re-opened after undergoing an extensive re-design and refurbishment.

Housed in a Grade II-listed Regency building, the 12-bedroom boutique hotel has been sympathetically restored during the project.

The hotel's Perrier Jouet room has retained many of its original architectural features and offers a view of the sea. Meanwhile, the Moroccan room's walls are painted to give an exotic feel and the Alice room creates a quirky 'wonderland' with mirrored wallpaper.

Morgans to offload two London properties

Morgans Hotel Group (MHG) has sold its two London, UK hotels – The Sanderson and St Martins Lane – for £192m to Capital Hill Hotels, a Middle Eastern investor with a number of global hotel holdings.

Morgans owned the hotels in a 50-50 joint venture with Walton Street Capital. The partners have entered into a definitive agreement that will represent a value of around £542,000 per room.

Morgans will continue to manage the two hotels under long-term agreements. The terms of the management agreements, including extension options, have been lengthened to 2041 from 2027.

Michael Gross, chief executive officer of MHG, said: "Our continued management of



The Sanderson and St Martins Lane have been sold by MHG for £192m

these two great London assets and the proceeds from the sale will help provide the foundation for continued growth of our management business and brands around the world."



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ARK opens 'finishing school' for therapists

Ark Age Aware Skincare has opened a new training academy at its headquarters in Putney, south west London.

The ARK Academy aims to offer newly-qualified spa therapists a 'finishing school', and help them be professionally ready for the working environment.

Academy director Sara Wilce said: "The idea for the ARK Academy arose from that struggle and will allow newly qualified therapists to improve their techniques, gain that all important confidence and set them on the path to a fulfilling career."

The academy will shortly launch new training packages in operational areas such as management development, reception training, customer service, team leadership skills and refresher courses for therapists returning to the industry.



DLL's Farnham club will boast a large Amida Spa

New products unveiled for David Lloyd's Amida Spas

David Lloyd Leisure (DLL) has secured a deal with Aromatherapy Associates; Rodial; and Alpha-H to provide products for new treatments across its Amida Spa estate.

The products are to be offered from October/November at all Amida Spa facilities, which are located at selected DLL racquet and fitness clubs and the operator's Harbour clubs.

Hazel Geary, the health and racquet club operator's business development manager said: "These are exclusive products available at premium locations and, as such, are a perfect offering for Amida."

Among the locations to offer the new products will be DLL's new Farnham club, which is scheduled to open in December and will house a 1,013sq m (10,904sq ft) Amida Spa, the group's largest.

Fish spas pose 'low health risk'

Customers that undergo spa treatments using toothless Garra Rufa fish are at a 'very low' risk of catching an infection, according to new guidance on fish spas that has been published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

The HPA outlined that in a fish spa setting there is the potential for transmission of a range of infections, either from fish to person (during the nibbling process), water to person (from the bacteria that can multiply in water), or person to person (via water, surrounding surfaces and fish).

However, the HPA concludes that "overall risk of infection is likely to be very low, if appropriate standards of hygiene are adhered to". The guidance was issued by a multi-agency working group, established earlier this year, following a number of enquiries to the HPA



The overall risk is "very low" if appropriate standards are adhered to

from local environmental health practitioners questioning the safety of fish spas.

The treatment has become increasingly popular throughout the UK and a number of operators, such as London-based Aqua Sheko and Appyfeet, have based their entire business model on the Garra Rufa service.

Fidelity invests £3.5m in Wahanda

Venture capitalist company Fidelity Growth Partners (FGP) has invested £3.5m in online health and beauty marketplace Wahanda.

Wahanda co-founder Lopo Champalimaud said the deal, which will also see FGP partner Davor Hebel join the board of Wahanda, will help accelerate its growth both in the UK and overseas.

The company was originally established in 2008 by Champalimaud - formerly with lastminute.com - and Salim Mitha, a former general manager at internet giant Yahoo!

"Our vision is to do for health, beauty and wellness what Amazon did for books," Champalimaud said. "We've created an online destination where people can find, discover,



Wahanda is now aiming to speed up its growth in the UK and overseas

share and book anything they want to do with health, beauty and wellness. We're thrilled to partner with Fidelity Growth Partners Europe and we are looking forward to the passion and experience Davor will bring to our board."

£1.5m spa suites for Center Parcs Elveden Forest

Four new luxury spa suites at the Center Parcs Elveden Forest holiday village in Suffolk have been completed.

The suites have a large open-plan living space and features a fireplace, twin beds or double bed and private balcony or terrace.

The £1.5m suites, which are a brand new concept for Center Parcs, are located adjacent to the Aqua Sana Spa, giving guests that stay in them private access to the World of Spa.

Nottingham-based construction consultancy Edmond Shipway managed the project.



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Seven "key locations" will undergo improvements

Work underway on £3m South Bank overhaul

Southwark Council has announced the start of work on a £3m transformation of London's South Bank ahead of the 2012 Games and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The council received funding from mayor Boris Johnson earlier this year towards an overhaul of the 2-mile (3.2km) stretch between Tower and Westminster bridges.

A total of seven "key locations" have been earmarked for improvements such as new lighting, seating and paving as part of the scheme, including the Millennium Bridge; Bankside; and the Oxo Tower.

Green light for £80m Hereford development

London-based Stanhope has been awarded reserved matters consent for the £80m Old Market development in Hereford, which will include a six-screen Odeon cinema.

Extensive retail accommodation and restaurants will also form part of the mixed-use scheme, which has been designed by Allies and Morrison and Leslie Jones.

John Jarvis, the leader of Herefordshire Council, said: "We are very pleased that Herefordshire Council's planning committee has given us the go-ahead to progress the Old Market."

£1m funding for historic Scottish properties

Scottish culture secretary Fiona Hyslop has provided more than £1m to help protect six historic properties through the Building Repair Grants scheme.

More than £430,000 will be used to stabilise and repair Ham Giral in Caithness, which will see the 18th century grain store used as a hub for the performing arts.

Elsewhere, Braemar Castle, Deeside, has been awarded £144,600, which is designed to help the property's trustees work towards establishing the castle as a tourist attraction and local education resource.

OPLC submits 'major' proposals

The Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) has said it has submitted plans that will "shape the future of East London" as part of the Legacy Communities Scheme.

Five neighbourhoods are to be developed over a 20-year period across 64 hectares (158 acres) of the Olympic Park site, which have been detailed in a 5,000-page application.

Chobham Manor; East Wick Sweetwater; Marshgate Wharf; and Pudding Mill Lane are the names for the districts, which will offer a wide range of facilities.

Community spaces will be offered in each of the five neighbourhoods, while a 14,500sq m (156,077sq ft) hotel will be built in Marshgate Wharf to the south-east of the park.



How the Chobham Manor area could look with the Velodrome behind it

Due to open in phases from 2013, the new districts will sit alongside the sporting venues; cultural attractions; and parklands that will form part of the post-Games Olympic Park.

Wolverhampton plans submitted

Plans have been submitted for a £50m development in Wolverhampton, which will feature a £6m academy for Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club (WWFC).

Turley Associates lodged a planning application with the local authority on behalf of the Premier League club; the University of Wolverhampton; Inspire; and Redrow Homes.

The project will bring about a radical transformation of the Compton Park area, with the new WWFC facility to incorporate new indoor and improved outdoor pitches.

WWFC's new Football Academy will occupy the site of St Edmund's Catholic School next to its existing training ground, with the school moving to university-owned land. The remainder of the university-owned site will be sold to Redrow Homes. Meanwhile, WWFC's £1m



The Compton Park area of Wolverhampton is in line to be transformed

arena at Aldersley Leisure Village will be transferred to Wolves Community Trust to benefit disadvantaged and disabled young people.

WWFC chief executive Jez Moxey said: "This project will deliver educational, sporting and community benefits across the city and will be a real shot in the arm for Wolverhampton."

£20.6m refurbishment planned for Birmingham's NIA

Birmingham City Council (BCC) leader Mike Whitty has announced plans for undertake a £20.6m refurbishment of the facilities at the National Indoor Arena (NIA).

Whitty revealed the proposals in his annual State of the City speech to the full council on 11

October, with the project to be the first major work at the NIA since its 1991 opening.

It is anticipated the revamp scheme will help ensure the long-term success of the NIA, which currently contributes around £150m to the regional economy each year.

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Winter funding for Irish tourism

Ireland's tourism industry has been handed EUR9m (£7.8m) worth of funding to help drive a winter marketing campaign, which will reach a global audience of 'at least' 20 million.

In addition to Tourism Ireland funding supported by air travel tax revenues, matched funding will be provided by partners such as Ryanair and Stena Line.

Irish minister for transport, tourism and sport Leo Varadkar said the latest funding builds on the government's Jobs Initiative and will help deliver more visitors by the end of 2011.

Varadkar said: "Ireland's tourism industry is now showing signs of recovery, with overseas visitor numbers rising by almost 12 per cent in the first seven months of this year."

The funding announcement came after Varadkar had announced plans for The



Partners including Stena Line and Ryanair will provide match funding

Gathering, which is to be Ireland's largest ever tourism initiative and has the potential to attract 325,000 extra visitors.

It will comprise a series of flagship festivals held throughout the year, showcasing the best of Irish arts, sports and food, while helping to create further spin-off events.

New online tool for pubs to improve accessibility

VisitEngland, working in partnership with the British Beer and Pub Association, has unveiled a new online tool to help businesses cater for visitors with access needs.

Pubs will be encouraged to write a "general introduction" that outlines its location and

to provide information about specific services and facilities suitable, such as car parking; bar and dining areas; and beer gardens.

Once an Access Statement has been prepared by businesses, it can be made available online to visitors with access requirements.

Scots reap benefits of tourism campaign

Scotland's economy has benefited from an extra £89.9m since the March launch of the Surprise Yourself campaign, according to VisitScotland.

The £3.5m scheme was unveiled with online and television advertising and includes a range of money-saving vouchers and focuses on the "surprising twists" of Scottish locations.

VisitScotland revealed the economic impact of the campaign at the convention of Highlands and Islands and comes as figures revealed an increase in domestic visitors to Scotland.

Meanwhile, the agency has also entered into a partnership with National Museums Scotland as part of Surprise Yourself, which has been running since the end of August.



The campaign focuses on the "surprising twists" of locations in Scotland

VisitScotland chair Mike Cantlay said: "The staycation trend is far from over and we hope that the campaign will continue to inspire potential visitors and locals alike to explore the fantastic things to see and do in Scotland."

Celebrating English Tourism Week 2012



KURT JANSON
is policy director of
Tourism Alliance

The first English Tourism Week will be held between 10 and 18 March next year. It's fitting that this will be held at the beginning of a year where we are celebrating both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games and provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to recognise and fully appreciate the size and scale of the UK tourism industry and the role it plays in the economy.

And there is plenty to celebrate. While there are concerns as to the state of the economy and whether we are entering a "double dip" recession, the tourism industry is showing an amazing degree of resilience with inbound tourism expenditure tracking at 4 per cent more than 2010. Even more impressively, domestic tourism expenditure is tracking at 10 per cent more than 2010.

In real terms what this means is that, if these trends hold to the end of the year, the tourism sector will grow by £2.7bn. Incredible as this sounds, if the industry grows by £2.7bn, this will mean that it has generated more than 50,000 new jobs.

These are growth figures other industries would die for, and we should be shouting them from the rooftops. The issue is that the tourism sector is very diverse and disparate, with more than 80 per cent of the estimated 200,000 businesses in the sector being SMEs spread all over the UK. This means that rather than having a few large, easily identifiable factories employing thousands of new workers, tourism has many thousands of small firms that have taken on one new person or a part-timer because they have seen business pick up. This makes it hard for the average person, or politician, to see the collective increase in revenue and employment in the tourism sector.

And this is why we need English Tourism Week. To highlight this successful industry and to get the government to see that, if they want growth and employment, this is where they need to invest resources. Not only are the opportunities boundless, but the benefits that derive from tourism accrue to all communities across the country.

A message from the new SkillsActive interim CEO



SUKI KALIRAI
is interim chief executive officer at SkillsActive

Many of you will be surprised to see my writing this column but like many others I'm sure you are aware, after more than 16 years in the sector Stephen Studd stepped down in early October as CEO of SkillsActive. The SkillsActive board and staff recognise the high level of credit that Stephen deserves and wish him the best of luck for the future.

We are now actively recruiting a new CEO who will be able to take SkillsActive forward in this next chapter. Until then I have agreed to act as interim CEO on behalf of the SkillsActive board. After only a few weeks in this role I am conscious that SkillsActive needs to interact with its main stakeholders – Employers Training Providers and Individuals in a collaborative and understanding way so as to best serve those relationships. Going forward there does need to be a positive form of intervention and this will be reflected in the composition of our Board. The government clearly recognises our importance as a sector and as result I am very excited to re-state that SkillsActive has secured more than £450,000 to deliver apprenticeships and increased training opportunities for 3,000 SME's over the next two years via England's first ever Group Training Association (GTA).

This is in addition to the £500,000 that has already been pledged from Government as part of a Joint Investment Programme (JIP), to match-fund more than 1,300 specific training programmes in both the fitness (in partnership with the FIA) and play-work sectors. Clearly, both of these contracts are tremendous votes of confidence from Westminster. However we are not complacent and already we are at advanced stages of improving the way we communicate to individual members and employers via On-line mechanisms and the offers that we provide for our partners plus making the overall process simpler-it has been a busy few weeks and more to come!

TRAINING

MGS launches new internship programme

Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) has launched its new internship programme, which is to give graduates the opportunity to gain sector workplace knowledge and skills.

More than 3,200 applied for the Interns Programme, with the 20 successful candidates selected. The internships will last for one year and will see each individual receive a £15,000 tax-free bursary and travel expenses, while providing opportunities to gain "valuable" experience.

It is hoped the MGS initiative will also help the sector to tackle sustainability issues such as skill-sharing, while offering a "broad range" of skills to the successful applicants.

MGS chief executive officer Joanne Orr said: "The sheer number of applications received to



More than 3,200 applied for the 20 internship vacancies offered by MGS

the programme from potential interns and the high levels of interest illustrates the appetite there is for a project of this type.

"We look forward to watching the development of the programme as it brings lasting and positive change for all involved."

GLL extends personal training deal

Greenwich Leisure (GLL), the operator of more than 100 leisure centres, has revealed that it has extended its personal training contract with Your Personal Training after more than 2,000 of its members used the service.

During the period, the number of personal trainers working at GLL-managed sites had grown from 10 to 80, while personal training revenue was up 300 per cent.

Leeds-based Your Personal Training (YourPT), part of the Your Management Solutions Group, offers recruitment, marketing, training, education and management of personal trainers. The company currently works in partnership with 20 leisure operators at 200 leisure facilities nationwide.

Your Personal Training managing director Joe Oliver said: "We have seen a vast increase



The number of PTs employed at GLL-run facilities has increased to 80

in members taking up personal training services which has led to a dramatic increase in revenue for the operator.

"Your Personal Training has developed relationships with GLL fitness instructors, which provides them with a pathway of career progression into personal training."

Fit2Fite announces entry into UK market at LIW 2011

Fit2Fite, a new martial arts-based group exercise class programme using "practical fighting combinations", has been launched at this year's Leisure Industry Week (LIW).

Greg Francis, the ex-international karate athlete and current assistant England coach,

devised the concept, which involves combat combinations put to "funky uplifting music".

Fit2Fite aims to help its participants develop knowledge base that allows for self-assessment of how the combinations are executed and encourage a "more productive" workout.



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Leisure Centre Manager, *De Montfort University, Leicester, UK*
Fitness Instructor, *YMCA London South West, Surbiton, UK*
Group Spa Operations Manager, *ESPA International, Farnham*
Full and Part Time Therapists, *Wildmoor Spa and Health Club, Stratford upon Avon, UK*
Partnerships and Projects Manager, *Aylesbury Vale District Council, Aylesbury, UK*
Fitness Manager, *Ashford Leisure Trust, Kent, UK*
Sales Advisor/Club Promoter, *Energie Group, Swindon, UK*
Fitness Consultant, *Energie Group, Southampton, UK*
Sports Development Officer, *Wycombe District Council, High Wycombe, UK*
General Manager – Oxford Ice Rink, *Fusion, Oxford, UK*
Duty Supervisor (Cover), *Tone Leisure, Totnes, UK*
Duty Manager, *University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK*
Body Balance Instructor, *Tone Leisure, Kingsbridge, UK*
Energy Manager, *Leisure Connection Ltd, Nationwide, UK*
Reports Analyst, *Leisure Connection Ltd, Nationwide, UK*
Business Manager, *Leisure Connection Ltd, Harpers at Parklands Leisure Centre, Okehampton, Devon, UK*
Business Manager, *Leisure Connection Ltd, North Kesteven, UK*
Business Manager, *Leisure Connection Ltd, Long Sutton, Spalding, Lincolnshire, UK*
Development Manager, *Wave Leisure, Newhaven, UK*
Development Assistant, *Wave Leisure, Newhaven, UK*
Operations Manager, *Wave Leisure, Newhaven, UK*
Experienced exercise professionals required, *Ten Pilates, Central London, UK*
Sports Development Advisor, *British Blind Sport, Leamington Spa, UK*
Spa Operations Manager, *Shire Hotels Ltd, Leeds, UK*
General Manager, *Renard Resources, London, UK*
Assistant Leisure Club, *Renard Resources, London, UK*
Leisure and Spa Club Manager, *Renard Resources, Aberdeen, UK*
Commercial & Visitor Enjoyment Manager, *National Trust, Morden Hall Park, London, UK*
Spa Therapists (Full and Part time), *The Malvern Spa, Worcestershire, UK*
Sports Development Officer, *Wandsworth Borough Council, London, UK*
Sports and Physical Activity Officer, *Wandsworth Borough Council, London*
Watersports Development Officer, *British Rowing, London, UK*
Assistant Regional Manager, *Bannatyne Fitness Ltd, Central region, UK*
Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager, *Stamford Endowed Schools, Stamford, Lincolnshire, UK*
General Manager, *Mack Trading, Manchester, UK*
Personal Trainers, *Pure Gym Limited, Various locations, UK*
Assistant Sales and Fitness Manager
Salary: Competitive Salary and Benefits Company:
Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Finchley - Barnet, UK
GP Referral Facilitator, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, London Borough Hackney, UK*
Duty Manager, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Bromley, UK*
2 x GP Referral Facilitator (Fixed Term 6 Months,
Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Hackney East London, UK
Sports Coaches, *Necus Community, Chilterns / South Bucks / Oxfordshire, UK*

Activity Leader, *Tone Leisure, Churchill, UK*
Personal Trainer, *Fitness First, London and South East, UK*
Health and Fitness Supervisor, *Serco Leisure, Bolton, UK*
Receptionists, *Serco Leisure, Bolton, UK*
Customer Advisors, *Serco Leisure, Bolton, UK*
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Recreation Attendants, *Serco Leisure, Bolton, UK*
Duty Managers, *Serco Leisure, Bolton, UK*
Assistant Visitor Experience Manager, *National Trust, Robertsbridge, UK*
Visitor Experience Officer - Volunteers, *National Trust, East Sussex, UK*
Tennis Administrator, *Tone Leisure, Taunton, UK*
Tutors and Assessors, *Fitness Industry Education, Various, UK*
Club General Managers, *Energie Group, Nationwide, UK*
Fitness Trainers, *Energie Group, Chelmsford, UK*
Club promoter and membership sales advisor
(P/T), *Energie Group, Plymouth, UK*
Part Time Sales Advisor / Fitness Club Promoter, *Energie Group, Portsmouth, UK*
Sales Advisor/ Club Promoter, *Energie Group, Leighton Buzzard, UK*
Membership Sales Advisor, *Energie Group, Liverpool, UK*
Receptionist, *St Mary's University College, Twickenham, UK*
Fitness and Conditioning Suite Manager, *St Mary's University College, Twickenham, UK*
Dual Fitness Instructor & Sales Promotor/ Advisor, *Energie Group, Liverpool, UK*
Sales Advisor/Club Promoter, *Energie Group, Andover, UK*
Sales Advisor/Club Promoter, *Energie Group, Redditch, UK*
Learning Disability Sports Advisor (two posts), *Mencap, Negotiable, UK*
Inclusive Sport Advisor, *Dwarf Sports Association UK, Dronfield, UK*
Receptionist, *Energie Group, Southampton, UK*
Membership Manager, *Energie Group, Epsom, UK*
Sales & Promotions Advisor, *Energie Group, Nationwide*
Sales Consultant, *Energie Group, Southampton, UK*
Full and Part Time Instructors, *Kieser Training, London, UK*
Duty Manager x 3, *University of East London, London, UK*
Sports and Health Development Officer, *East Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire, UK*
Physical activity referral hub co-ordinator x2
Salary: £21,519 - £23,708 pro rata Company: *Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire, UK*
Personal Trainers, *Kirklees Active Leisure, Huddersfield*
Massage Therapist, *Verbier Exclusive, Verbier, Swiss Alps, UK*
Spa Therapist, *SpaStaff.com, Maldives*
Sports Massage Therapist, *SpaStaff.com, 5* Spa Resort, Bermuda*
Spa and Beauty Therapists Cruise Ships, *SpaStaff.com, Worldwide*
Spa Director, *Six Senses Resorts and Spas, London, UK*
Area Sales Rep, *SpaStaff.com, Midlands and South England, UK*
Spa Manager, *SpaStaff.com, North Wales, UK*
General Manager, *The Gym Group, London Stockwell, UK*
General Manager - Luton, *The Gym Group, Luton, UK*
County FA Development Manager, *Liverpool County Football Association, Liverpool, UK*
Fitness and Sales Supervisor, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Hammersmith And Fulham, UK*
GP Referral Administrator, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Hackney East London, UK*

for more news and jobs updated daily visit www.leisureopportunities.co.uk



Fantastic opportunities available with Leisure Connection

Leisure Connection, one of the market leaders in outsourced sport, leisure and the arts, is expanding its ever growing team. It's an exciting time for Leisure Connection as our business continues to grow. We currently employ over 4,000 people, from lifeguards to receptionists, to regional development teams and financial experts and have further invested in a significant training and development programme to ensure our colleagues are equipped to deal with the ever changing leisure industry.

We are proud of the career opportunities we offer our team members - many of whom have been with us for many years. We promise to offer you a rewarding career that will challenge you, inspire you and enhance your skills and capabilities. We have established a very successful and powerful partnership with Lifetime, the number one training provider in the health, fitness and hospitality sectors. We work in partnership to ensure a comprehensive training programme is delivered to all at Leisure Connection. This has included the delivery of over 300 NVQs in the past year and ongoing training to our gym and fitness staff.

Contract Manager – South Kesteven, Lincolnshire c. £35 k plus bonus potential + health care and pension scheme

This is an exciting role for a Contract Manager position working in the South Kesteven area of Lincolnshire. The post holder will be responsible for the commercial and operational success of four large sports and leisure centres with a wide range of sports facilities.

You will manage and motivate your teams to drive service standards, achieve operational excellence and deliver on all commercial targets. You will also build a strong relationship with the local authority, complying with the contract agreement and ensuring the needs of the community are catered for, as well as ensuring all company targets are met and exceeded where possible.

To be considered for the role, you will have managed a busy leisure centre or health club, or held a similar level multi-site role delivering a service under contract.

Business Manager – Peele Leisure Centre, Long Sutton, Spalding, Lincolnshire £19k plus bonus potential

An exciting opportunity for a first step into site management has become available in the South Holland Contract. Peele Leisure Centre requires an ambitious, enthusiastic, target driven individual to take on the role of Business Manager and oversee all aspects of commercial and operational performance at the dual use, dry facility site.

Business Manager – North Kesteven c. £25 k

An exciting opportunity has become available on the award winning North Kesteven Contract for Leisure Connection Ltd. The North Kesteven Centre in Lincolnshire requires an ambitious, enthusiastic, target driven individual to take on the role of Business Manager of this busy dual use site that has a wide range of both wet and dry facilities.

The manager will be tasked with motivating and developing the team, achieving sales and profitability targets whilst ensuring an exceptionally high service standard is delivered to all our customers, our client and our partners.

Business Manager - Loddon Valley Leisure Centre, Wokingham, Berkshire. Up to £26 k plus bonus potential

Loddon Valley Leisure Centre requires an ambitious, enthusiastic, target driven individual to take on the role of Business Manager of this site which has just undergone an extensive refurbishment.

The successful candidate will oversee all aspects of commercial and operational performance at the centre and will be tasked with motivating and developing the team, achieving demanding sales, personal training, profitability and retention targets whilst ensuring an exceptionally high customer service standard is delivered to all our members.

Business Manager Harpers at Parklands Leisure Centre, Okehampton, Devon c. £24 k plus bonus potential

An exciting opportunity has become available in the West Devon Contract. Parklands Leisure Centre requires an ambitious, enthusiastic, target driven individual to take on the role of Business Manager of this site.

The successful candidate will oversee all aspects of commercial and operational performance at this Sports Centre and will be tasked with motivating and developing the team, achieving demanding sales, personal training and profitability targets whilst ensuring an exceptionally high service standard is delivered to all our members.

Fitness Managers – Hotels £16-18 k

Fantastic opportunities have arisen within our hotel leisure club business. You will have the responsibility for delivering a high quality service to hotel guests and members alike, whilst hitting revenue targets for Membership Sales, PT, and Swim school.

You must hold a minimum Level 3 Fitness Qualification and hold or be willing to undertake First Aid at Work, Pool Plant and Emergency Response Training.

Reports Analyst c. £17 k

We are looking for a Reports Analyst to work as part of the Information Systems team based at our Support Office at Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire. The job holder will work closely with the Information Systems Manager & Data Analyst to maintain and further develop the current reporting suite using SQL and reporting services 2005/2008.

The Reports Analyst will be required to produce monthly, weekly and ad-hoc management summary reports and to process data queries all parts of the business within agreed SLAs. This is an ideal role for someone seeking to further develop sql skills and move into more complex data analysis.

Energy Manager £25-30 k plus car

This is a challenging position for a self motivated, hard working and well organised individual, who is seeking an exciting opportunity with an organisation committed to energy reduction and management. The role will require the individual to work closely with Leisure Connection managers and our energy management partner, to oversee a £1m+ investment in energy reduction and consumption management.

You must be willing to travel around the nationwide estate, project manage the investment programme, liaise with sub contractors and have strong skills in data analysis and management. Monitoring site consumption performance and highlighting future opportunities will be key as will communication and training with on site teams through to board level. A technical or energy background is preferred but not essential for the role.

Please e-mail your CV and cover letter to: recruitment@leisureconnection.co.uk

Closing date: Friday 18th November 2011

www.leisureconnection.co.uk

Membership and Office Services Manager



Package: up to £35k

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In our 75th anniversary year, BALPPA is the non-profit making Trade Association which represents the interests of owners, managers, suppliers and developers in the UK's vibrant commercial leisure parks, piers, zoos and static attractions sector.

Reporting to the Chief Executive, this exciting position provides a comprehensive and efficient support and administration service to the members and officers of the Association, acting as a key contact and co-ordination point for our many members, partners and stakeholders.

Experience of working in a similar environment within the commercial attractions industry or in a membership organisation is desirable. Ideally you will have experience of arranging events, seminars and trade shows and the ability to work within a small support team.

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Recruitment Opportunity



GROUP TRAINING MANAGER

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As one of the fastest growing Leisure Management Companies, this new role will be instrumental in further developing our excellent colleague training across SLM. Working closely with the senior management team and our training providers the role will be responsible for;

- Improving training delivery and quality assurance throughout the organization.
- Setting Group Training and Development Policies and Procedures.
- Working with the Group Managers, Regional Managers and Training Providers to develop bespoke training and development pathways and programs for all positions within the organization.
- Maximizing the return on externally run training courses.
- Ensuring efficient running of internal courses to the required standards.
- Maximizing funding opportunities.
- Managing training contracts.

The skills and knowledge required for the role will include;

- Excellent organisational and time management skills.
- Good Project management skills.
- An ability to communicate clearly.
- An ability to developing excellent working relationships both internally and externally.
- An excellent understanding of Funded Training Programs and National Vocational Qualifications.
- An excellent understanding of internal verification processes.

For more details on the position or to apply, send a current CV to Ben Beevers at the address below or email benbeevers@slm-ltd.co.uk.

Closing Date: 21st November 2011

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Imperial College London

Imperial College London has over 14,000 students and 6000 staff across a range of campuses at which are a number of Sport and fitness facilities. Sport Imperial has recently refurbished a state-of-the-art 76-station Energia fitness gym at Ethos, South Kensington. Incorporating brand new Matrix equipment and an exciting new layout, the gym provides users with 5 designated workout zones including: Tone, Burn, Tech, Functional and Speed Zones for our 17,000 members. For more information please go to our website: www.imperial.ac.uk/sports.

We are currently looking to fill the following positions:

Active Lifestyles Manager

Professional Services: £27,400 - £31,300 p.a.

We are looking for a competent and experienced project manager to take control of our recently refurbished gym. The Manager is required to manage all aspects of the day-to-day operation of the gym, studio and other outlying fitness facilities. The post holder will manage, implement and coordinate a new Active Lifestyles Programme alongside coordinating the delivery of a wide range of new cross-campus services. This person will be responsible for 3 Active Lifestyles Advisors whose remit will cover Participation, Student Performance and Wellbeing. The post-holder will possess a sports/fitness related degree and a Level 3 REPS accredited instructor's certificate and will have experience of supervising or managing in a similar environment.

Active Lifestyles Advisors x 3

Professional Services: £21,820 - £23,490 p.a.

The three Active Lifestyles Advisors will deliver a series of campaigns and one-off events as part of the new programme under the direction of the Active Lifestyles Manager. The post-holders will each be responsible for a specific remit:

- Student Performance:** To work with the Sports Development Officer to deliver a S&C support service for all elite athletes, scholars and sports clubs.
- Participation:** To deliver mass participation events, campaigns and programmes to engage the College society in Active Lifestyles Campaigns.
- Wellbeing:** To develop the health and wellbeing services we offer to our College society. To form working partnerships with both internal and external providers to expand on our services.

Each Advisor will also deliver fitness services within Energia and our satellite gyms as part of their day-to-day role. The post-holders will each possess a sports/fitness related degree and a Level 3 REPS accredited instructor's certificate and will have experience and relevant qualifications to deliver the specific remit of work.

(All starting salaries will be dependent on experience and qualifications.)

Freelance Personal Trainers

In addition to the above internal posts, Sport Imperial is offering Level 3 REPS Certified Personal Trainers opportunities to enhance our range of services.

We are looking for innovative, business-minded team players that would like to operate as a freelance Personal Trainer, offering a high level of customer service and practical results to our clients and members. If you are an experienced Personal Trainer looking to build a successful client base, in a superb location, with fantastic development opportunities, then we would like to hear from you.

We do not accept CVs, only completed application forms will be considered.

For further details and to apply please visit www.imperial.ac.uk/employment

For further queries, please contact Samantha Bell, Sport Services Manager on 020 7594 9069 or samantha.bell@imperial.ac.uk for an informal discussion.

Closing date: Monday, 21 November 2011. Interviews to be held over a two week period commencing Monday, 28 November 2011.

Committed to equality and valuing diversity. We are also an Athena Bronze SWAN Award winner, a Stonewall Diversity Champion and a Stonewall Top Employer 2011.



sport Imperial

Emirates to sponsor Thames project

London mayor Boris Johnson has confirmed the signing of a new ten-year sponsorship deal worth £36m for the proposed cable car link across the River Thames between Greenwich and the Royal Docks.

The Emirates Air Line will cater for up to 2,500 passengers per hour each way and is expected to carry 2 million visitors in its first year.

The deal enables the mayor and Transport for London to recoup upfront costs relating to the construction, while funding 80 per cent of the overall building costs. A bid to the European Regional Development Fund, due to be decided next spring, is part of a funding strategy for the project, along with further sponsorship and retail space rental.



Wilkinson Eyre are behind the design of the planned new cable car link

The Wilkinson Eyre-designed scheme aims to reduce journey times between the O2 Arena and the ExCeL venue and transform the area into a 'metropolitan quarter'.

PPL fee plans face hospitality industry opposition

Hospitality trade bodies have joined forces against Phonographic Performance Ltd's (PPL) plans for "huge" increases in the Specially Featured Entertainment Tariff.

The British Hospitality Association and the British Beer and Pub Association are among

the groups against proposals covering music played at discos in pubs and clubs.

A submission has been made against PPL's plans alongside the Bar Entertainment and Dance Association of Great Britain and the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers.

UK move for eco-restaurant concept

Australia-based designer Joost Bakker has told *Leisure Management* he will launch his first overseas Greenhouse restaurant in London next year. The eco-restaurant concept first opened in Perth in 2009 and has gathered momentum following a pop-up restaurant that operated for six weeks at Sydney's harbourside in March.

As well as the UK launch, permanent sites are being planned for Sydney and Melbourne. The London site will open by mid-2012.

The Greenhouse concept is based on using produce sourced solely from biodynamic farms while the building itself has been built using the Productive Building Method (PBM) developed by Bakker. PBM uses recycled and recyclable materials with even the solid steel structure being 100 per cent recyclable.

The menu changes constantly, is dependent



The first Greenhouse venue opened in Sydney in 2009

on available produce and includes a number of ecologically-friendly, organic solutions. One of these is using freshly milled wheat.

"If someone orders a pasta at noon, it would have been wheat at 11am" Bakker explained. "You can't get faster than that from grain to plate." Read more: <http://lei.sr?a=15K6U>

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