

Whelan confirms £83.4m deal for JJB fitness clubs

By **Pete Hayman**

Dave Whelan, the founder and former owner of the JJB Sports group, has acquired back the troubled company's nationwide chain of fitness clubs in a £83.4m deal that will form part of his new DW Sports Fitness venture.

Under the terms of the agreement, Whelan, who sold his remaining stake in JJB in 2007, will buy back 53 of JJB Sports' 55 fitness facilities, with Irish properties in Dundalk and Limerick excluded from the transaction. JJB's inaugural MiFit combined dry fitness club and superstore at Llanishen Retail Park in Cardiff is also



Whelan has acquired a total of 53 sites including MiFit in Cardiff

included as part of the acquisition. The MiFit site will be among the properties to be relaunched under the DW Sports Fitness brand. It is hoped that the deal will ensure

the future of the embattled JJB Sports company, which now plans to enter into a company voluntary arrangement (CVA) to secure improved terms with all its landlords.

The deal was announced on the same day as Dave Whelan revealed that the home of Wigan Athletic Football Club, the JJB Stadium, would be renamed the DW Stadium from 1 August as part of his new venture.

DW Sports Fitness marketing director, Winston Higham, said: "In this changing retail landscape, DW Sports Fitness is an authentic sporting goods retailer offering a broad assortment of brand name sporting goods.

"This product offering operating alongside state-of-the-art fitness clubs with innovative equipment offers an exciting customer experience."

Council approval for £35m Basildon Sports Village

New facility set for 2010 opening after Basildon Council backs design proposals

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the construction of a new £35m sports and fitness complex in Basildon, Essex, have been given the green light by the local authority.

Basildon Council approved the designs for Basildon Sporting Village, which has already been designated as a potential pre-Games training camp for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

The new facility is set to include a 50m competition-sized swimming pool with a



The new facility will include an Olympic-sized swimming pool

moveable boom and seating for 400 spectators, a learner pool, an eight badminton court-sized sports hall and a

500-station fitness suite with changing facilities and a fitness assessment and referrals room.

A gymnastics centre incorporating a specialist main hall, a training hall and changing facilities will also feature as well as a multi-purpose studio, function rooms and a climbing wall. There will also be six floodlit five-a-side football pitches and a new 750-seat athletics stand.

Plans for the complex were initially approved in principle in April 2008, and village is set to be completed in 2010.

Alton Towers set for new ride

Plans to replace the Corkscrew rollercoaster at Alton Towers with a new thrill ride have been given the green light by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

Currently known only as 'SW6', the new 20m (65.6ft) high roller coaster is set to be 2.7m (8.9ft) lower than the Corkscrew and contain a unique element to ensure that it is as iconic as its predecessor, which was Europe's first double-loop coaster.

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More green to beat recession blues?

Government called upon to increase investment in urban parks and public spaces

By Pete Hayman

Natural England and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) have said that the government should help tackle the recession by investing in more green spaces for towns and cities.

Ahead of chancellor Alistair Darling's budget statement on 22 April, both organisations have said that funding should be diverted away from road-building schemes to provide new parks, trees and open spaces, which will also help combat climate change.

According to Natural England and CABE, the creation of new, greener infrastructure in urban centres will lead to new, sustainable private-sector employment opportunities, as



CABE wants funding from road building to be diverted into parks

well as improving the areas where people live and work to attract increased investment.

It is also argued that just 10 per cent of the government's £10bn road-building and widening budget would pay for 40 new parks, 500,000 new street trees, 1.5 million sq m (16.1 million sq ft) of green roofs and 1,000 miles

(1,609km) of green routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

The call comes as Natural England and CABE brought together a number of leading figures from green planning schemes, including Olympic Park designer George Hargreaves, across the world for an event on open spaces in London last week.

Fitness First to upgrade clubs up to IFI standards

By Jon Wallace

Health club operator Fitness First is to make 24 of its sites more accessible as part of the group's strategy to increase the number of disabled members.

The group is one of the first commercial operators hoping to commit to the schemes, set up by the IFI (Inclusive Fitness Initiatives) and the NSF (National Sports Foundation).

The scheme will include a revamp of the 24 clubs. Disabled access routes and ramps will be added to allow easier access to the buildings and lifts will be installed at each club to help members move between floors.

John Gamble, Fitness First managing director, said:

"We are thrilled to be working with the IFI in modifying



The IFI scheme will include creating more accessible areas at clubs

selected clubs in order to accommodate disabled people.

"Fitness First is committed to making the world a fitter place with no exclusions and we are pleased to be making these changes with immediate effect. It is a landmark step forward for the fitness industry and we are proud to be the first major health group to offer them".

The first Fitness First clubs to be accredited will be Bath; Baker Street, London; Beckenham, Kent; Bedford; Brentwood, Essex; Bristol Harbour-side; Cheltenham; and Hillsborough in Sheffield.

Fitness First, founded in 1993, currently operates 550 clubs worldwide, with 171 clubs across the UK.

£10m funding for rural sports projects

Sport England investment aims to tackle issues raised in the *Active People Survey*

By Tom Walker

Sport England has set up a £10m investment fund as part of efforts to improve sporting provision for people living in rural areas.

Rural communities is the first of Sport England's "themed rounds" of funding, as it looks to tackle issues raised by the *Active People Survey*, published in December 2008.

The minimum grant available will be £10,000, but according to a spokesperson, Sport England is looking to favour "high value, high impact projects" to maximise the effect of the support.

"People in rural communities are the focus of the first round (of funding) because we know they face particular barriers to participation in sport, such as



Rural communities will be targeted as part of the £10m initiative

reduced choice in the sports available to them," he said.

"Small and declining local populations and higher costs, for instance, can hinder sustainable local provision."

The funding will be made available for applications on 1 April, while the second round

of themed funding will be announced by 1 September.

Stuart Burgess, chair of the Commission for Rural Communities, said: "I hope the funding will bring forward many creative ideas that will help overcome barriers rural people face in taking part in sport."

Global tourism industry to be hit hard in 2009

By Tom Walker

The global tourism industry is expected to contract rapidly during 2009, while the effects of the recession could result in millions of job cuts.

The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), reporting its annual outlook on the industry, predicts that the global GDP generated by tourism will fall by 3.5 per cent during 2009.

It also expects 1.9 per cent of all jobs directly in the tourism and travel industry to be cut during 2009 – which translates to more than one million jobs.



More than one million tourism jobs are under threat in 2009

The expected drop in tourism revenue, however, could have a devastating effect on industries reliable on tourism. WTTC predicts that more than 10

million jobs could be lost overall, when sectors that rely on tourism are also considered.

In the WTTC's annual report, Jean-Claude Baumgarten, president and CEO, said that the industry had suffered a significant deterioration during the second half of 2008, and faced a bleak forecast.

"The present downturn has been sudden and deep, with little hope of an early recovery," he said. "Real investment spending in the sector contracted globally for the first time since 2002 and real corporate travel spending growth halved."

IN THIS ISSUE

04 HEALTH & FITNESS

- ▶ Tone Leisure work complete
- ▶ Lincolnshire leisure plans

06 ATTRACTIONS

- ▶ HLF support for three sites
- ▶ New ride for Paultons Park

08 SPORT

- ▶ £11m centre for Gosport
- ▶ Carlisle revamp plans study

10 SPA

- ▶ New spa for Chelsea Club
- ▶ Harbour Spa launches

12 ARTS & CULTURE

- ▶ New gallery for Hastings
- ▶ A&B unveils new strategy

14 HOSPITALITY

- ▶ London hotels face decline
- ▶ Historic hotel reopened

16 PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE

- ▶ Linear park for Padiham
- ▶ Kirkharle set for makeover

17 PROPERTY

- ▶ Weymouth legal action
- ▶ Café Royal architects

18 PROPERTY/TENDERS

20 MARKETING

- ▶ Disney Store woodland deal
- ▶ Fitness TV set for launch

21 TRAINING

- ▶ Online boxing training
- ▶ Green apprentices scheme

22 TRAINING DIRECTORY

25 JOBS

IN BRIEF

Rodney Cullum passes away

► Fitness pioneer Rodney Cullum has died at the age of 67. Cullum, a former chief executive of Central YMCA, passed away following a short illness. Cullum first joined Central YMCA in 1973 as physical education director and was part of the team that founded Central YMCA Qualifications, the trust's training arm, in 1997.

Public health advice published

► The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, in consultation with SkillsActive, has published guidance on how to promote physical activity, active play and sport for under 18 year olds. The recommendations are for people with a responsibility for promoting physical activity, such as policy managers, planners, teachers, parents and carers. The advice is also aimed at individuals in the health and fitness industry who are tasked with developing future policies, schemes and training courses for children's physical activity.

New plan launched to get Wales active

► The Welsh Assembly Government has launched a four-year strategy created to increase the number of people walking and cycling as part of their daily routine. A range of initiatives are included as part of the Walking and Cycling Action Plan, which is hoped will contribute to improving the nation's health and the environment. The plan includes measures to prioritise walking and cycling, to ensure that local authorities provide and maintain routes and facilities for cyclists and the introduction of national standards for cycle training.

Tone Leisure boosts fitness offering

Three Taunton Deane centres are subjected to a £0.7m redevelopment project

By **Tom Walker**

Sports trust Tone Leisure has completed its £0.7m redevelopment project to extend fitness facilities at three leisure centres in the Taunton Deane area.

Work began on Wellington Sports Centre, Wellsprings Leisure Centre and Blackbrook Pavilion at the end of August 2008. Wellington Sports Centre has seen an extension of the gym to create a 240sq m (2,583sq ft), 45-station fitness suite. While Wellsprings Leisure Centre has converted an under-used steam and sauna area into extra gym space to create a 375sq m (4,036sq ft), 70-station fitness suite.

£400,000 was also invested at Blackbrook Pavilion, to convert two squash courts and a studio into a 350sq m (3,767sq ft), 75-station fitness suite. The former gym has been turned into a new studio.

New martial arts scheme

Leisure Connection has launched a fitness and healthy-living programme for five to 16-year-olds in an effort to get more youth physically active.

The Harpers Strike programme, developed in association with Danny Ball and Liam Richards – a marital arts duo first seen on ITV's *Britain's Got Talent* show – offers structured martial arts training and pre-choreographed routines suitable for all ability levels.

Divided into three age groups, the classes offer guidance on how to eat and live healthily.



Blackbrook has already seen a significant increase in membership

Wellington and Wellsprings have both seen the introduction of new Precor CV equipment, while Blackbrook has been kitted out with a range of remanufactured equipment from the PTE group and CV equipment from the former gym at Wellsprings. The kit will be upgraded to Precor within the next three years.

The project was managed and funded by Alliance Leisure

and work was carried out by contractor Createability.

Joel Chapman, commercial director at Tone Leisure said: "The redevelopment of these three sites mean that we can now comfortably accommodate our existing members, as well as attract new users.

"Both Wellsprings and Blackbrook have seen a significant increase in membership already."

Epic replacement for Ellesmere

By **Helen Patenall**

The outdated Epic Leisure Centre in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, is to be replaced by a new facility located elsewhere in the town.

According to a detailed feasibility study by consultants Strategic Leisure, the centre is in such a bad state of repair that the potential benefits of a complete refurbishment have been ruled out. Strategic Leisure has shortlisted two possible sites now subject to public consultation.

Proposals for the centre include a 25m, eight-lane swimming pool and a large learner pool with seating for 400 spectators, as well as a



Public consultations have begun on the proposed centre

six-court sports hall, a fitness suite and two studios. The existing 6,000sq m (64,583sq ft) centre includes swimming facilities, a gym and a cinema.

Council leader Justin Madders said: "Top class facilities are crucial to our aims of improving the health of residents."

Lincolnshire plans to give leisure a lift

The council strategises to improve its offerings and locals' physical activity levels

By **Tom Walker**

North East Lincolnshire Council plans to invest £15.1m on improved leisure provision in the area after a survey revealed that only 45 per cent of the adult community undertake physical activity.

The council's *Leisure Review* showed that the region suffers from low levels of community participation in regular sport and physical activity compared with national statistics and that the area's existing public facilities are outdated and require investment to bring them up to standard.

The gloomy findings have forced the council to propose a leisure refurbishment project in collaboration with its current



Physical activity levels were low compared with national statistics

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

Deputy director of community and support services, Sue Wells, told *Grimsby Telegraph*: "By linking the outcomes of the review with the BSF programme, we have an ideal

opportunity to develop facilities that are fully integrated and to develop the potential for greater community access to sports and leisure facilities within schools, at times when they are not needed for core school activity."

Lightwater ruled insolvent as negotiations fail

By **Helen Patenall**

Lightwater Leisure Centre in Surrey has gone into administration, despite a recent £2m revamp designed to boost its membership base.

Operator Lightwater Playing Fields Association was recently ruled insolvent by the High Court after negotiations with Competition Line for a £97,000 loan collapsed.

Prior to the final talks, Competition Line had supplied



The centre is due to stay open

the operator with a development grant to fund improvements to the gym and sports

facilities in 2006, in return for 70 per cent of the revenue money generated by the refurbished facility. Further loans totalling £230,000 also helped keep the facility afloat.

It is speculated that Competition Line may now buy out Lightwater Leisure Centre and create a new trust to operate it. Surrey Heath Borough Council has confirmed that it is currently discussing the centre's operating future with Competition Line and its administrators.

Future of the aging Afan Lido under consideration

Neath Port Talbot Council has announced that the 50-year-old Afan Lido on Aberavon Seafront is to be either refurbished or replaced.

Council leader Derek Vaughan said in his budget speech that the council plans to look at options for securing top-class facilities for the Afan Lido in the future.

"The Afan Lido is an aging leisure attraction," he said. "It is important that any issues are addressed sooner rather than later.

"The complex is coming to the end of its natural lifetime and it is wise to make a planned approach for its future, which will make it fit for purpose, energy efficient and cost effective."



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IN BRIEF

Gulliver's Kingdom invests £4m in park

► Gulliver's Kingdom, the Warrington-based children's theme park firm, is to invest £4m into creating new attractions and jobs. The family-owned company, which has sites in Warrington, Matlock Bath and Milton Keynes, said that despite the financial crisis, the attractions industry is still going strong. The company's Warrington park will receive a new Splashzone attraction and an indoor play centre, as well as 30 full-time and 120 seasonal jobs. Milton Keynes will receive a new dinosaur and farm park.

Lavender buys Camelot theme park hotel

► The Park Hall Hotel, adjacent to the Camelot theme park in Lancashire, has been acquired by Lavender Hotels. The theme park was put into receivership last month by its owner, Prime Resorts, and the future of the park still remains unclear, but 80 jobs have been saved as a result of the hotel deal. Lavender Hotels, owned by Lakeside Collection, bought the hotel from administrators Grant Thornton, which is still looking for buyers for the theme park.

Dawson to retire from BALPPA

► Colin Dawson, chief executive of the British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions (BALPPA), has announced that he will retire in July 2010 after nine years in the role. Dawson first joined the organisation's management committee in 1991, after being appointed director of Thorpe Park in 1988. Commenting on his tenure at BALPPA and his career as a whole, Dawson said his only regret was that it took him so long to enter the attractions industry.

HLF support for heritage attractions

Three major schemes receive first round passes in bid to secure share of £19m

By **Pete Hayman**

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has announced that three UK heritage attractions have received a significant funding boost after being awarded a first-round pass.

Lincoln Castle, the National Railway Museum (NRM) in York, and the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester, have all received development funding that could lead towards a potential application for a share of nearly £19m.

The NRM has received £200,000 to fund detailed proposals for an application worth £6.8m to help fund a complete overhaul of its Great Hall, the main exhibition space which houses the Flying Scotsman and the Mallard.

A development grant of £227,640 has been awarded to Lincoln Castle, which houses



The National Railway Museum is in line for a grant worth £6.8m

one of only four surviving copies of the Magna Carta, and aims to receive £6m to improve visitor facilities and regenerate the castle's surrounding areas.

Whitworth Art Gallery will also receive £152,000 to fund proposals that could lead to an eventual grant of £6m, to will go towards the extension of the learning and gallery areas and a new entrance.

Dame Jenny Abramsky, HLF chair, said: "These three major projects were chosen as they are truly transformational. As heritage 'classics', they very much reflect the rich histories of ordinary people."

"Having offered our initial support, applicants can now develop their plans to revitalise these wonderful places for the next generation to enjoy."

Paultons Park unveils £1m ride

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

Family attraction Paultons Park in Hampshire has launched a new £1m ride, while a new children's water park will be opening later this year.

The ride, called EDGE, comprises a giant rotating disc able to accommodate up to 40 seated people and reaches heights of 15m (49.2ft) and speeds of up to 43mph (69.2kph) on 92m (301.8ft) of track with a 'camelback' hill.

Opening this Easter, Water Kingdom – a 8,500sq ft (789sq m) young children's splash park – will feature more than 20 ways of getting wet, including water jets, giant tipping buckets and a super soaker.



Paultons' new ride will reach speeds of 43mph (69.2kph)

"We always look to add something that will appeal to all our guests, whatever their age" said Stephen Lorton, commercial director. "While the EDGE complements other larger rides at the Park, Water Kingdom is specifically designed for smaller children."

New heritage park for Margate

The Dreamland Trust is to unveil its plans to establish the world's first heritage amusement park in Margate, Kent, on the site of the former Dreamland Amusement Park.

Levitt Bernstein Architects, together with Paris-based theme park designer Jean-Marc Toussaint, is behind designs for the proposed £12m attraction, which will be built around the Grade II-listed scenic railway, one of the oldest rollercoasters in Britain.

The trust, which administers the Save Dreamland Campaign, first unveiled plans for the amusement park in 2007, which will include some of the last surviving examples of well-known rides.

Minimum wage, maximum enforcement.

From April 2009 the National Minimum Wage will be enforced with a new penalty system.

The punishment for breaking the law will be an automatic fine of up to £5000, while the most serious cases could face an unlimited fine.

These changes to the law will help prevent decent employers from being undercut by dishonest competitors.

For more details call the National Minimum Wage Helpline in confidence on 0845 6000 678 or visit businesslink.gov.uk/nmw

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IN BRIEF

Community initiative for Stevenage Borough

► Stevenage Borough Football Club (SBFC) has launched a new community scheme, designed to provide sporting provision through a number of local venues. The project, called Stevenage Borough FC in the Community, has been backed by the Stevenage Schools Sports Partnership, and forms part of the club's ambition to increase relations with the local community. The scheme is currently in the process of becoming a registered charity.

Durham pool's future secured by council

► Durham County Council (DCC) is to take over the running of a swimming pool at a Weardale college in order to safeguard the future of the facility for local residents. The current lease on the pool at Wolsingham School and Community College expires in May, and there had been fears that the facility would be forced to close down as a result. However, DCC has agreed to ensure that the pool will remain open, and will now look at the long-term swimming needs of communities in Wolsingham and the surrounding areas.

SLL preferred bidder for Rutland scheme

► Sports trust Stevenage Leisure (SLL) has been selected for a new leisure management contract at the Rutland Sports Big Build. Construction of the site at the Vale of Catmose College in Oakham is scheduled for completion in September 2010. New facilities including an eight-court sports hall, a 40-station fitness suite, two dance studios, a full-size floodlit all-weather pitch and a MUGA will be created alongside the college's existing facilities.

Gosport set for £11m leisure centre

Four developers shortlisted by the local authority to build proposed new complex

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

Gosport Borough Council has shortlisted four developers for its proposed £11m leisure facility to replace its existing Holbrook Recreation Centre.

The council is expected to make a decision by December 2009 on who will build the facility, which will offer a 25m, six-lane swimming pool and teaching pool, a 200-seat spectator area, and a four-court sports hall.

A fitness suite with 60 to 100 stations, a sauna and steam-room and a floodlit synthetic sports pitch will also be included, as well as a crèche, a soft play area, a café, a function area and dry and wet changing rooms.



A hotel may also be included in plans for the new leisure centre

Chair of the Holbrook Working Group, Peter Chegwyn, said: "As well as a new leisure centre, the one thing we are lacking in Gosport is accommodation for visitors. With very few hotels or places where wedding or conferences can be

held, a new hotel would be a great asset to the town."

Construction work is expected to begin before the end of 2009 and to be finished by mid 2011. The existing centre will remain open until the new facility is completed.

Derbyshire Dales leisure scheme moves forward

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for a new £12m leisure centre in Matlock, Derbyshire, have taken a step forward after Derbyshire Dales District Council confirmed it is seeking a contractor to build the new community facility.

The council hopes to appoint a contractor by the autumn to allow work to get underway on the new Central Area Leisure Centre on a brownfield site called The Dimple.



The plans includes a 25m pool

Led by project managers Drivers Jonas, the new facility has been designed by Dyer

Architects and will include a 25m swimming pool, two sports halls, a dance studio and a fitness suite, as well as a café.

BMX trails and a multi-use games area will also be created in addition to existing football pitches as part of the project.

Drivers Jonas' Paul Denson said: "The building will be set within a large brownfield site with ecological corridors being protected and retained as part of the eco-friendly approach being taken."

Economic downturn halts Filey leisure centre scheme

Plans to build a purpose-built sport and leisure centre in Filey, North Yorkshire, which will include an indoor swimming pool, a multi-purpose sports hall and outdoor pitches, have been put on hold by Scarborough Council due to the economic downturn and the redirection of Lottery funding to the 2012 London Olympics.

According to the *Filey & Hunmandy Mercury*, chair of Filey Sports Partnership, David Murton, said: "What annoys me is that every study has been done and paid for, but at the end of the day we see all developments going somewhere else. Ten years down the line we're no further forward."

Council to study centre revamp plans

Carlisle leisure centre set for major refurbishment in partnership with university



By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the major redevelopment of a Carlisle leisure centre have taken a step forward after the city council agreed to contribute £50,000 towards the development of a detailed feasibility study.

Carlisle City Council, together with the University of Cumbria and Carlisle Leisure, have drawn up an outline proposal for the Sands Centre scheme,

which is set to include a new multi-court sports hall and a 25m swimming pool.

Teaching facilities and specialised sports fitness testing and performance assessment areas could also form part of the project, with the university seeking a new base for its sports science degree course.

The full financial cost of the plans is yet to be determined, although it had been anticipated that if the revamped

centre does not include a pool, the project would cost in the region of £7m, with the university contributing between £3m and £4m.

The council's decision to approve a detailed feasibility study, which is expected to take three to four months to carry out, now means that a transport assessment and business plan can be carried out, which will also reveal the full cost of the scheme.

£5m centre for Peebles school

Peebles High School is to get new dual-use sports facilities following Scottish Borders Council's decision to commit £4.8m towards the scheme.

The school is currently the only high school in the region that does not have its own facilities, and the new centre will form part of the council's £40m investment in local education over the next five years.

Plans for the new sports centre include a four-court sports hall, a fitness suite, a general purpose room and changing facilities, as well as a secure community entrance to allow the complex to be used after school hours.

Calderdale pools plans submitted



The Brighouse facility is one of two new pools that will be built

By **Pete Hayman**

Detailed designs for new swimming pools in Sowerby Bridge and Brighouse, West Yorkshire have been submitted for planning approval by Calderdale Council.

The council has already appointed Willmott Dixon, to build the new £10.5m facilities, which are part-funded by the sale of Leeds-Bradford International Airport in 2007.

Both complexes, which have been designed by Saunders Boston, will include a 25m swimming pool, a learner pool, a fitness studio and a multi-purpose room.

The new pools form part of council plans to replace existing facilities in the area, and if the designs are approved, it is hoped that work will get underway in the summer.

The pools are scheduled to open in late autumn 2010.

IN BRIEF

Courts covered up at Gosling Sports Park

► Work has begun on a new tennis bubble at Gosling Sports park in Welwyn Garden City to cover four outdoor tennis courts, allowing them to be utilised all year round. The new facility will mean that, upon opening in April, the sports park will offer the most indoor courts on a single site in the country. Sport England awarded Gosling a grant of £0.4m for the project, with further funding coming from the Hertfordshire LTA.

IAAF unveils new Diamond League

► Plans for a new global elite athletics league have been launched by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) as part of a bid to enhance the sport's worldwide appeal. Starting in 2010, the IAAF Diamond League will replace the existing Golden League and incorporates 12 meetings across the world, including AVIVA British Grand Prix, the Reebok Grand Prix New York and the China Golden Grand Prix. Three further meetings are currently on standby, and the final composition of the league is expected to be confirmed by the end of the year.

Inverness leisure pool reopens

► Leisure pool facilities at Inverness Leisure's Bought Park complex in northern Scotland have reopened following the completion of work to repair damage caused by a fire in September 2008. The blaze in the centre's plant room also forced the closure of the competition pool, which reopened in November, while dryside facilities including two climbing walls, a 70-station fitness suite and two multi-use sports halls were unaffected.

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Chelsea Club launches new luxury spa

Members-only club adds four treatment rooms and a relaxation area to offering

By Tom Walker

The Chelsea Club, a members only health club at the Stamford Bridge football stadium in London, has opened a luxury spa.

Operated by Chelsea Football Club, the new 500sq ft Escape Spa opened earlier this month and boasts four treatment rooms, a manicure and pedicure area, a relaxation area and an infrared sauna.

Treatments on offer include a range of facials, massages, reflexology, reiki and body wraps as well as waxing and nail treatments.

The treatments at the spa use Elemis and ONLY YOURx products. According to Lisa Butterworth, spa manager, the



The 500sq ft spa houses four treatment rooms and a sauna

therapists at Escape Spa have been trained up by the products houses to administer the treatments, but the spa also has an ongoing training programme for its staff.

The spa is part of the Chelsea Club and aims to attract both

members of the health club as well as the general public.

Facilities at the adjacent, 40,000sq ft gym include a 25m swimming pool, 36 cv stations, a free weights room, two group exercise studios and three fitness rooms.

Harbour Spa opens doors at Christchurch Hotel

By Tom Walker

Christchurch Harbour Hotel in Dorset, UK has completed an £8m redevelopment project which included the construction of a health and beauty spa.

Called the Harbour Spa, the facility has five treatment rooms, a 14m swimming pool, hydrotherpay pool, a relaxation area, salt grotto, a sauna, rain showers and crystal steamroom.

The spa will use Guinot and ESPA products in its holistic



The spa will use ESPA products

treatments. The spa also boasts a fitness suite, which includes 11 stations of Cybex CV and

resistance equipment and a group exercise room.

Hotel guests receive a complimentary membership for the spa for the duration of their stay, but the spa is also opened to members. Memberships start at £58.50 and the number of members has been capped at 300 to retain the spa's tranquility.

Other facilities at the 64-room, privately owned hotel include a restaurant operated by Gary Rhodes.

Organic Monitor reveals predictions for 2009

Research and consulting company Organic Monitor (OM) has released its 2009 trend predictions on specialist industries.

OM predicts that the organic food and drink markets will continue to grow throughout this year, but will slow in countries most affected by the global economic slowdown.

Elsewhere, global sales of natural cosmetics are increasing by more than US\$1bn (€0.73bn, £0.6bn) a year.

Healthy market growth in this sector is expected for 2009, with mainstream retailers such as supermarkets, drugstores and pharmacies being the majority growth drivers.

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IN BRIEF

Theatr Harlech revamp plans submitted

► Coleg Harlech WEA has submitted plans for the redevelopment of the Theatr Harlech at its Wern Fawr Campus in Harlech, north Wales. The project is part of a scheme to create a new campus designed by DWA Architects called The Canolfan Cambria Centre, which will include the 266-seat theatre, exhibition and conference space, a library, a museum, a public restaurant, accommodation and a café, and teaching rooms.

Popular Cardiff music venue closes its doors

► A Cardiff music venue has been forced to close after its owners announced that they had been left with no option but to seek voluntary liquidation. The Point, located in Cardiff Bay, had to undergo extensive soundproofing work in 2008 after local residents living in newly-built apartment blocks adjacent to the venue complained to the city council. Owners have now revealed that the level of debt incurred as a result of the refurbishment, together with the loss of revenue while work was carried out, have resulted in the decision to close the venue.

Plans submitted for art gallery revamp

► A planning application has been submitted for the revamp of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum in Gloucester. The 100-year-old gallery will undergo a £5m revamp, which will add more than 300sq m (3,229sq ft) of new temporary exhibition space and a new dedicated gallery to house the museum's collection of Dutch, Italian and British masterpieces. Fundraising for the project has begun, with the Summerfield Charitable Trust earmarking £750,000 for the project.

New art gallery planned for Hastings

Jerwood Gallery set to house collection of 20th and 21st century British artwork

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans to create a new contemporary art venue in Hastings, East Sussex, have been formally submitted to the local authority by the Jerwood Foundation.

If Hastings Borough Council approves the scheme, the Jerwood Gallery will house the foundation's collection of 20th and 21st century British art, as well as acting as a regional venue for the Jerwood Visual Arts programme.

Designed by HAT Projects, the seafront building will boast more than 500sq m (5,382sq ft) of gallery space, a sculpture courtyard, an education space and a café with terrace, as well as a research and archive facility and offices.



HAT Projects has drawn up designs for the new Jerwood Gallery

Environmental sustainability is also a feature of the scheme, which was awarded a £2m grant from the government's Sea Change programme. Arts Council England, the South East England Development Agency, the Hastings Foreshore Trust,

and East Sussex County Council are also involved in the scheme.

Alan Grieve, chair of the Jerwood Foundation, said: "The art gallery and community facilities proposed for the Stade would be the best possible uses for this important site."

Arts and Business unveils new UK-wide strategy

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

Arts and Business (A&B), the consultancy that aims to foster partnerships between business and the arts, has unveiled new measures designed to address the development, learning and best practice needs of cultural organisations throughout the UK in view of the current economic climate.

The organisation's new plans include bespoke training pathways; new sources of



Verity Haines has joined A&B as its new national arts director

private investment; and an increased campaign and lobbying presence.

Verity Haines has been appointed as A&B's new national arts director, and will be responsible for the scheme's implementation.

"I admire the way A&B has led the creation of a mixed economy approach to cultural funding in the UK and want to help our cultural partners grow and deepen their support from the private sector," she said.

market intelligence aimed at ensuring cultural bodies have access to new streams of

Refurbishment for Carmarthenshire craft centre

Work is set to get underway on the £430,000 revamp of the West Wales Centre for Crafts in St Clears, Carmarthenshire, in a bid to establish a regional hub for the industry.

New workshops, incubator units, meeting rooms and activity space are planned for the Pentre Road venue, as well as a refurbished

gallery, a new craft retail area and a café, which will sell local produce.

Carmarthenshire County Council expects work to get underway next month, and hopes that the facility will provide a platform for local artists and craft makers, as well as developing and nurturing the culture of the local region.



SPORT AND LEISURE STATISTICS

FORECASTS FOR THE SPORT AND LEISURE INDUSTRIES

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

Both publications are essential references for industry practitioners, consultants and researchers.

Leisure Forecasts

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

Sport Market Forecasts

This publication is produced in conjunction with Sport England. It provides detailed economic information on consumer spending for the entire sports market. It is divided into sport goods and sport services, providing economic analysis for 10 sport markets.

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IN BRIEF

Hoxton launches off-peak promotion

► The Hoxton Urban Lodge is offering Londoners the chance to rent rooms by the day in a bid to fill rooms during empty hours. The new venture, called The Private Office, offers visitors a room for £19 per day between 10am and 4pm for individuals looking for a place to work. Each room is equipped with a workstation, free Wi-Fi and one hour of free local phone calls.

Takings drop for 60 per cent of restaurants

► UK restaurateurs have experienced a tough start to 2009, with around 60 per cent reporting falls in takings, footfall and spend compared to January 2008. According to the *Restaurant Barometer* survey, launched by Business Link, 20 per cent of restaurants saw their takings, footfall and customer spend fall by more than 25 per cent. Around 30 per cent of restaurants said they are no longer making a profit. Around 27 per cent of respondents blamed bad trading on the adverse weather conditions, while others reported falls in spend, such as customers requesting tap water and ordering less starters and deserts.

Pizza Express founder's hotel up for sale

► Final bids for the freehold of The Great Northern Hotel in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire – owned by the founder of the Pizza Express restaurant group – have been submitted. The business was put on the market by administrators Tenon Recovery, which asked for offers in excess of £2.6m. The bids are currently being considered for the 35-room mid-Victorian hotel, which features a restaurant, a lounge and banquet and conference facilities.

London hotels are in for a rough ride

Room rates and RevPAR are predicted to plummet during the course of 2009

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

The continuing economic problems could cause a record 25.6 per cent decrease in RevPAR for London's hotels as occupancy levels and room rates continue to decrease, according to a new PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) report.

The professional services firm has revealed that occupancy in the capital is set to fall to 69 per cent, the lowest it has been since 1992, while room rates have also decreased to £100.31 – levels last seen in 2005.

According to the PwC report, room rates and RevPAR for each quarter will continue to deteriorate over the course of the year, with the second quarter set to show a marked downturn. PwC's baseline



The number of empty hotel rooms is expected to rise in 2009

forecast for the decrease in RevPAR is 18.9 per cent.

Robert Milburn, PwC's hospitality and leisure leader, said: "The scale of the decline in quarter two partly reflects a strong performance in the same quarter for last year. But it's also the case that in Q4 of

2008, corporate Britain sat up and realised just how bad things were going to get.

"Given that hotels normally lag the cycle by two quarters, we are likely to be on the cusp of the worst few months of the year for hotels. London, in particular, is likely to suffer."

Accor unveils its battle strategy



The hotel group is making budget cuts to balance a fall in profits

By **Tom Walker**

Accor, the French hotel operator, has revealed details of its new strategy to reduce the effects of the global downturn on earnings after seeing a fall in profits.

Announcing its full-year results for 2008, the company reported a 3.5 per cent fall in operating profits, with fourth quarter business particularly hampered by difficult trading.

Measures identified by Accor, which operates the Ibis, Etap and Novotel brands, include a €125m (£111.7m) reduction in spending on hotel refurbishment schemes, while its expansion budget will be reduced by €100m (£89.4m) from 2011 onwards.

However, Accor said it still plans to open 30,000 new rooms over the coming year, with a further 35,000 new rooms planned for 2010.



The revamped hotel was used by the secret service during WWI

Guoman reopens historic hotel

Historic property has undergone a £16.3m revamp

By **Pete Hayman**

A historic London hotel, used by the secret service during the First World War, has been relaunched by Guoman Hotels following the completion of a £16.3m refurbishment.

The Grade I-listed Royal Horseguards hotel, located on the Embankment, has undergone a full revamp of its 280 bedrooms to bring it up to five-star standard.

Construction work has included the addition of a new Guoman Club Lounge and a conservatory restaurant

overlooking the River Thames, as well as a £1m revamp of the meetings and events space at One Whitehall Place, adjacent to the hotel.

Guests will now have the chance to go on a guided tour of the historic site, which is also home to the National Liberal Club and the Gladstone Library, as well as one of the largest free-standing marble staircases in Europe.

The Royal Horseguards is the latest addition to Guoman's London portfolio, along with The Cumberland, The Tower and Charing Cross.

IHF calls for more sector support

The Irish Hotels Federation (IHF) warns that if an Irish government recapitalisation scheme does not deliver an increase in funding for the hospitality sector 60,000 jobs will be at risk.

Figures released by Ireland's Central Bank reported a 2.9 per cent decrease in total bank debt to the industry for 2008, and the IHF has called for an increase in credit facilities to

provide extra working capital as part of the scheme.

New proposals outlined by the IHF include the easing of tax payment requirements, including commercial rates in a bid to reduce the risk to lending agencies. The federation also suggested that if banks fail to provide sufficient lending within the next four months, the Irish government should intervene to help the industry.

Service charges could cost the industry greatly

The new tipping law is certain, but timing will determine the industry's survival

Tips and service charges are once again a contentious issue for the industry – this time, with government involvement. BERR (the Department for Business and Regulatory Reform) has announced it will prevent the proceeds of the service charge being used to make up the national minimum wage.

Following a consultation document issued by BERR, the BHA has been in negotiation with ministers, expressing our concerns at its potential impact on the industry at a time of recession – when increased costs could tip a business into administration.

BERR says that the proposal will affect between 3,700 and 34,700 hospitality workers and will cost the industry between £6.6m and £47m annually. Apart from the fact that these are staggeringly vague estimates, we believe that they are entirely incorrect.

The BHA is arguing that the changes could affect as many as 73,000 hospitality workers and is more likely to cost as much as £450m, which could potentially lead to 45,000 job losses. What is extraordinary is that the government, at its own admission, is proposing to introduce legislation that could cost the restaurant industry as much as £47m a year at a time of deepening recession. If the BHA's estimate is correct, we are actually talking of a cost increase 10 times greater than even the government is suggesting.

Of the 55,000 service and quick food restaurants in the UK, under 20 per cent is group-owned. Attacking the groups for trying to hold back the legislation is an easy target, but the damage will be done to the greater number of independent restaurateurs who are operating on the edge of profitability.

Here, even an increase in labour costs of hundreds rather than thousands of pounds a month could spell failure for some. Indeed, independent research estimates that 600 businesses will go under as a direct result of implementing this change.

Despite our concerns, it is certain that the legislation will go through; the main question now is when will it be introduced? BERR has proposed October this year – just at a time when the recession might be at its deepest point. The BHA is arguing for a delay until at least April next year in order to help the industry survive. Incidentally, we believe that restaurants should be open with customers and explain how the proceeds from tips and service are distributed to staff.



BOB COTTON is chief executive of the BHA. *Leisure Opportunities* is a member benefit of the BHA, for your free copy call 01462 471913

IN BRIEF

Tip to be transformed into new park

► A former tip in Horncastle, Lincolnshire, is set to be transformed into a new community park after work started on a £850,000 refurbishment of the Hemingby Lane site. Plans for the new park, part of a new strategy to regenerate a disused piece of wasteland, include a grassed open space for events, footpaths and cycle ways. East Lindsey District Council has appointed a development team, led by landscape consultant Sheils Flynn, along with Gifford, ecologists Penny Anderson Associates and TreeCare.

Pond charity launches conservation scheme

► A national initiative led by Pond Conservation has been launched in a bid to reverse the decline in the number of ponds in Britain. The Million Ponds Project is supported by a number of other organisations and landowners, and aims to restore clean, wildlife-rich ponds to the UK's landscape. In the next four years, the initiative will see the creation of 5,000 new ponds, focused on 1,000 sites that will benefit freshwater plants and animal species listed in the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan.

Former mines to house leisure destination

► New revised plans have been announced to build a £200m tourism and leisure attraction on the site of three former mines in Northumberland. According to Widdrington Regeneration Partnership, the joint venture behind the scheme, the development now includes a holiday village, an indoor leisure complex with a 50m pool, a man made sailing lake, a 150-room hotel, a health spa and a championship golf course.

New linear parkland set for Padiham

Council-led scheme will transform a disused railway into new foot and cycle path

By **Helen Patenall**

A £1.22m linear park is to be built on a derelict railway line in Padiham, Lancashire.

The 10-month project will create a 2.4km (1.5-mile) surfaced footpath/cycleway with new access points and a central parkland area featuring extensive wildflower grassland and more than 1,000 native species trees and 8,000 shrubs.

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA)-funded initiative, spearheaded by Lancashire County Council's REMADE in Lancashire Team, forms the first part of Sustrans Connect2's ambitious East Lancashire loop project.

In December 2007, Sustrans won £50m from the Big Lottery Fund's Living Landmarks: The People's Millions competition,



The former railway will be completely revamped as part of plans

after receiving substantial public backing for its bid to create 79 walking and cycling initiatives across the UK.

Peter Foster, regional director for Sustrans, said: "When this route opens later this year it will provide an attractive path for walkers, cyclists, wheelchair users, and horse riders alike.

"The works underway will turn what was once a litter-strewn site into a useful and pleasant route to get people where they need to go."

The project was developed in partnership with Burnley Borough Council and Padiham Town Council, in consultation with local residents.

Kirkharle in line for Capability Brown makeover

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

Kirkharle Estate, Northumberland is set to receive a makeover using 270-year-old plans first developed by the legendary garden designer, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

Brown, who earned his nickname from the way in which he used to comment on the "capabilities" of an estate, was behind the design of some of Britain's most iconic gardens – including Stowe, Chatsworth House, Blenheim Palace and Kew Gardens – in his lifetime between 1716 and 1783.

It is rumoured that the plans that will be used at Kirkharle, which was the garden designer's hometown, were among the first Brown ever drew and had been forgotten about until they were rediscovered in 1980



The 270-year-old plans were only rediscovered in a desk in 1980

hidden in a desk owned by the estate's current landowner, John Anderson.

Anderson has already transformed the estate, which he inherited in a state of disrepair, into a collection of craft businesses that receive 50,000 visits a year.

It is now hoped that the plans for the 1,200-acre

(485.6-hectare) estate, once completed, will attract a further 25,000 visits per year.

The Forestry Commission, which has already offered a grant of £4,000, and Natural England are backing the scheme, which includes blocks containing new beech, Scots pine, shrubs and fruit trees, as well as a serpentine lake.

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Weymouth developer to be wound up

Council successful in High Court bid after company fails to start pavilion scheme

By **Pete Hayman**

Weymouth and Portland Borough Council (WPBC) has been successful in its legal battle with a developer that failed to start work on the redevelopment of Weymouth Pavilion in Dorset.

Howard Holdings, which was selected from a shortlist of three companies as the preferred developer for the pavilion scheme, was issued with a winding-up order by the High Court on 19 March.

WPBC said that it had no option but to seek legal action after Howard Holdings failed to submit a planning application for the project, while also offering no response to a demand issued by the council last November for £23,000 owed in consultant's fees.



The council still intends to pursue the redevelopment of the site

Howard Legg, WPBC brief holder for partnership and special projects, said: "The decision of the court takes us a step closer to clarifying the future of the site. We are still completely committed to the development of the pavilion, and will continue to seek a successful development."

WPBC is now set to inform the developer's backer, Europa, that it intends to terminate the development agreement.

Europa will be given three months to decide whether it wishes to take up the option of taking over Howard Holdings' existing development plans for the Pavilion.

Café Royal architects appointed

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

Architects have been appointed to transform the Café Royal on London's Regent Street into a five-star hotel as part of a £750m facelift of the area.

Israeli investment firm Alrov Group, leaseholder of the site, has secured David Chipperfield Architects to convert the building into a 25,000sq m (269,098sq ft), 160-room hotel.

When complete, the property will form part of The Quadrant, a 93,000sq m (1 million sq ft) mixed-use development, including a revamp for the Regent Palace Hotel and Quadrant Arcade blocks.



The Café Royal scheme is part of a wider £750m development

The project comprises the renovation of the listed interiors, while an interpretation of the original Ten Room as a new double height foyer will be reinstated. Five other historic rooms will be converted to large VIP suites.

IN BRIEF

Design team appointed for Albans leisure

► The redevelopment of Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre and the construction of a new facility in London Colney, Hertfordshire, has got underway after developer Drivers Jonas appointed its design team, including S&P Architects, landscape architects CBA and Strategic Leisure. Stephen Jepson, a partner in Drivers Jonas' specialist DJ sport team, said: "We put a lot of time and effort into bidding for this work."

Hilton plans expansion despite credit crunch

► Hilton Hotels Corporation has opened its first franchised Hampton hotel in Europe in Corby, Northamptonshire, and plans to open another 20 sites in the next few years. The former US-only brand Hampton by Hilton Hotel has 88 rooms and is owned and operated by management company Hotel Solutions London Limited. Features at the hotel include a fitness room, a bar and a 24-hour snack shop and high speed internet.

Tenby development plans revealed

► Plans for a mixed-use scheme in Tenby, Pembrokeshire, have been put forward by Dovey Estates in a bid to revitalise the seaside town's eastern gateway. At the heart of the scheme is the redevelopment of the Royal Gatehouse Hotel, which was damaged by fire last year. The exterior of the Royal Lion Hotel will be restored and new suites, new conference and banqueting facilities created, while the existing cinema will be replaced.

New golf resort set for Angus

The team behind a new £55m golf resort hopes it could establish Angus as one of Scotland's foremost tourist destinations.

Plans for the Wellbank scheme include an 18-hole Darren Clarke signature course, Scotland's first golf academy and a hotel and spa.

The course will be designed by renowned architect, Graeme Webster, while the Five Star Junior Golf Academy will be headed by Tiger Woods' first coach, Rudy Duran, alongside David Gosling.

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Management & Operation of a New Leisure Centre

Thomas Hardy Leisure Centre, Dorchester

West Dorset District Council is developing plans to deliver a replacement wet and dry leisure centre at the Thomas Hardy School in Dorchester that will include a 25m 6 lane swimming pool. The Council is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitable leisure management contractors including existing NPDO's and private sector operators to enter into a contract to manage and operate the new facility and deliver the Council's wider objectives for the leisure centre.

It is envisaged that the Contract will be for a term of 10-15 years (with the possibility of a longer contract) with a proposed date for the award of Contract in November/December 2009.

The Council considers that the existing staff will transfer under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations (TUPE) and that the Code on Workforce Matters may apply.

Potential Partners must complete a Pre Qualification Questionnaire and demonstrate a proven successful track record in a variety of areas including delivering innovative partnerships to be included on the Council's select list. The successful contractor will be selected through a formal tender process under EU negotiated procedures. OJEU Ref Number: 2009-033870.

Interested organisations can request an information pack and pre-qualification questionnaire from: Jon Carney, Senior Consultant, Strategic Leisure, 3rd Floor, Rutherford House, Warrington Road, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 6ZH.

Telephone: 01925 855 550
Email: joncarney@strategicleisure.co.uk

The closing date for the return of completed questionnaires is 28th April 2009 12pm.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Client monitoring software system

On behalf of my client authority I am investigating suppliers of a computer software system that can be used for client contract monitoring purposes. Initially for leisure centre and grounds maintenance but potentially for a wider range of contracts.

The system must be able to guide and record the client officers monitoring to provide a robust and comprehensive client monitoring regime along with the necessary reports.

Companies who are suitably qualified and experienced to provide a system with the flexibility to meet the client needs with full support should send details to

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NEWBOLD COMYN GOLF COURSE

Management Opportunity

Warwick District Council wishes to work with a commercial partner to develop and manage the Newbold Comyn Golf Course in Royal Leamington Spa.

The Golf Course was established in 1973 and is well matured, offering extensive views over the town and surrounding area. It is an 18 hole par 70, 6,315 yards course and suitable for golfers of all standards. Located on Newbold Terrace East, off the B4099 in Royal Leamington Spa, it occupies some 57 hectares within Newbold Comyn's 123 hectare Park.

The key objectives for the Council are

- To ensure that pay and play golf remains available
- To upgrade the facilities and maintain them to the highest standards
- To ensure the business is effectively managed with an excellent customer satisfaction record

Operators who are able to demonstrate relevant experience in the golf business, have the capacity to invest in the facilities on site and the ambition to help us meet our Corporate Priorities are invited to an Open Day on **Wed 22nd April 2009 (1.30 - 4.30pm)**

Attendance is strictly by registration and is limited to 2 places per company. Please email Tim Wall by **Friday 17th April 2009 at walltw@aol.com**. Visit www.warwickdc.gov.uk for further details.



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IN BRIEF

New Lansdowne Road stadium to be renamed

► The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) have secured a ten-year sponsorship deal for the new Lansdowne Road stadium in Dublin. The deal will see Ireland's largest insurance company, Hibernian Aviva, own naming rights to the stadium, which is currently undergoing a €411m (£383.8m) redevelopment, as well as investing in both the FAI and IRFU's grassroots initiatives. Phillip Browne, IRFU chief executive, said: "We believe that in the difficult economic conditions we are now going through, Aviva Stadium will be of huge benefit to the economy as a whole. Previous research shows that an Ireland v England rugby international game has an economic impact of up to €90m (£84.0m)."

RBS cuts back on sport sponsorship

► Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) intends to halve the amount it spends on sports sponsorship by 2010 in a bid to cut costs, after reporting a loss of £24.1bn in 2008 – the largest in UK corporate history. The company has already revealed that it will part company with the Williams Formula One motor racing team when the current three-year agreement ends in 2010, while all trackside advertising in 2010 has been withdrawn. RBS is also to review all other sponsorship deals, including agreements with tennis player Andy Murray, equestrienne Zara Phillips and cricketer Sachin Tendulkar. However, its current sponsorship of rugby union's Six Nations Championship is thought to remain unaffected, with a four-year extension to the current deal, worth £20m, signed in January.

Disney Store UK signs woodland deal

New partnership with the Woodland Trust aims to raise funds for 'Magical Wood'

By **Pete Hayman**

Disney Store UK and the Woodland Trust have announced the launch of a new partnership that aims to raise funds for the creation of a new 50-acre (20.2-hectare) woodland to be called The Magical Wood.

The Magical Wood will form part of the new 858-acre (347.2-hectare) Heartwood Forest near St Albans, Hertfordshire, which was purchased by the trust last year and is set to become the largest new native forest in England.

From 2 April, Disney Stores will start selling reusable shopping bags featuring Winnie the Pooh and Piglet, with £1 from each sale to be donated to the Woodland Trust.



The Disney Store injects some magic into Hertfordshire woodland

Meanwhile, the Disney Store will also start charging for regular bags, with all profits going to the trust.

Karl Mitchell, director of development at the Woodland Trust, said: "By working with one of the world's favourite brands, we aim to inspire

thousands of children to look after the environment, as well as create a fantastic woodland for generations of children to come."

The partnership will also help to support the trust's attempts to manage more than 1,000 woods around the UK.

Summer launch for Fitness TV



Luan Underwood, managing director of Media Fitness

By **Tom Walker**

A new television channel, offering viewers the opportunity to exercise at home 24-7, will be launched on the UK's digital platform in June.

Fitness TV will be aired for free on Sky and has an ambitious target of attracting 600,000 viewers a week by the end of its first year.

The content of the channel,

which is being launched by Media Fitness, will include daily workouts designed to appeal to a variety of viewers – from regular gym members to people who might find attending a gym daunting.

Luan Underwood, managing director of Media Fitness, says the company does not look to compete with gyms and health clubs, but instead to complement the sector.

"We are positioning the channel as an additional workout option, not as a replacement to gyms, fitness and wellbeing classes," she said. "We would also like to capture the interest of the 80 per cent of UK citizens that have never visited a gym."

The channel's revenue stream will come from advertising, sponsorship, merchandising and a range of online activities.



World champion David Haye is one of the trainers at Outbox

Online boxing training launched

The three-part programme is designed for instructors

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

FitPro has joined up with boxing world champion David Haye and trainer Adam Booth to offer a teaching programme accredited by the British Boxing Board of Control.

The three-phase Outbox programme has been developed for trainers and instructors working in the leisure and fitness industry. The first phase is delivered entirely online.

Level One covers the fundamentals of boxing and is aimed at existing personal trainers and instructors to

ensure boxing techniques are used correctly. The course is delivered through video and staged progression, followed by an online exam.

Levels Two and Three will be delivered face-to-face, launching in autumn and winter respectively, and are only available for people who have completed Level One. These two levels focus on developing advanced choreography using defence, more footwork and head movements.

When completed, trainers will be fully accredited and able to deliver boxing sessions.

New search for green apprentices

Housing minister Margaret Beckett has unveiled a new £1m government initiative designed to increase the number of horticultural apprentices devoted to sustaining parks and green spaces in England.

Local authorities across the country will offer people of all ages the opportunity to apply to the scheme, which will look to recruit 47 apprentices that will ensure

that areas of green space in urban centres are maintained.

The funding has been provided as part of government plans to increase the number of high quality green spaces in towns and cities.

Beckett said: "These new apprentices will be green ambassadors in their communities, taking responsibility for our open spaces, and making sure they are of the highest quality."

Celebrating the progress of apprenticeships

The success of these schemes play a vital role in promoting the leisure sector

SkillsActive was delighted to take part in National Apprenticeship Week in February. The week-long celebration, launched by the Learning and Skills Council, promoted apprenticeships through a number of events across England that demonstrated the skills, expertise and commitment of apprentices within the sport and active leisure sector.

It was particularly heartening to see the willingness of employers to get involved by hosting an event or attending one. I believe this demonstrates how far we've come with developing sector apprenticeships. The respect that they have gained by employers is a testament to the programme itself, and the calibre of our 4,000-plus apprentices we have working and studying within the sector.

Apprenticeships have a crucial role to play in workforce development: they deliver employer-led training and qualifications and keep staff engaged, committed and loyal in an industry renowned for high staff turnover. Apprenticeships also attract public funding alongside employer investment, and give people a structured and relevant learning programme, which encourages a long career in the sector.

Since its inception in 2005, the Young Apprenticeship programme in this sector has rapidly grown from a small pilot scheme to attracting over 15 per cent of Young Apprenticeship funding and more than 1,200 places nationally.

With the English National Apprenticeship Awards coming up in July, I am really keen to build on last year's success of having apprentices from our sector nominated for awards, with two of them actually winning.

I was delighted to witness Luke Power, a young man from Greenwich, London, win the Young Apprentice of the Year Award, and Mark Brookes from Solihull be Highly Commended in the Personal Achiever of the Year Award – the first time for our sector.

I urge employers to get involved with this year's awards and get nominating their apprentices. Winning awards really demonstrates the vital role our sector plays in the health and wellbeing of the nation, not to mention its contribution to the economy as a whole, which is particularly important in these unstable times.

For more information about the 2009 National Apprenticeship Awards visit: www.apprenticeships.org.uk/awards



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Chronic Respiratory Disease Exercise Instructor Course

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

Developed by Loughborough College, the University Hospitals of Leicester and the British Lung Foundation (BLF), with funding and input from Rotherham PCT, the course has been submitted for endorsement at level 3 on the Register of Exercise Professionals. It covers:

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

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

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

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

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

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THE HUMBER sports partnership

Director – The Humber Sports Partnership
“Enhancing people’s lives in the Humber sub-region by widening access to improved opportunities in sport and active recreation”

Salary: £40,000 - £45,000 **Location:** Hull, East Yorkshire **Employer:** The Goodwin Development Trust

The Humber Sports Partnership is looking for an exceptional leader to drive forward their new 3 year strategy (09-12). We are particularly interested in people who can demonstrate vision and creativity and have a track record of building relationships, networking and empowering others. This will require an extensive knowledge and experience of the issues affecting the development of sport in a range of settings, significant management experience and the desire and ambition to create a sporting legacy in the Humber.

The Humber Sports Partnership is a forward thinking, creative and dynamic partnership which has built up a very good reputation and track record over the past 3 years. The four Unitary Authorities – North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, Kingston Upon Hull & East Riding of Yorkshire play a pivotal role, alongside Governing Bodies of Sport and a wide range of other partners, driven at a local level through four strong Community Sport Networks.

Our new Strategy for 2009-12 “Shaping Sport in the Humber” sets clear strategic priorities for the Partnership, reflecting both the changing priorities for sport at a national level and the clear local priorities from our four Community Sport Networks.

This attractive role offers many opportunities for personal and professional development, working alongside a strong Executive Board and committed partners. So if you are ready for a new challenge we are looking for applicants who can demonstrate:

- Excellent leadership skills, with the vision and creativity to move sport forward in the Humber
- Outstanding communication skills coupled with the ability to forge strong relationships with a wide range of partners
- A proven track record at a senior level in the sports development sector and a well developed understanding of the issues facing the sector
- Significant resource management experience

If you’d like an informal chat about the post please contact either Rachel Roberts (current Director) or Geoff Ogden (Chair of the Board) on 01482 387491

For application packs contact The Recruitment Line on (01482) 594319 (answer machine).
Email recruitment@goodwin-centre.org You can also download application packs via our website: www.humbersport.com
These posts are subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check and Satisfactory References.

CLOSING DATE: 14TH APRIL 2009 INTERVIEW DATE: 30TH APRIL 2009 IN HULL





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ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE
JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Have you got what it takes to be part of our Team?

Located in the village of Etwall, near Derby we are on target to be in our brand new £7m, joint use leisure centre on the campus of John Port School and open to the public at the end of July 2009. This is an exciting time to join us as we prepare to relocate to the new facilities which comprise a six lane 25m swimming pool, a six badminton court sports hall, a fully equipped health & fitness suite, and class rooms, together with existing facilities comprising squash, tennis and netball courts.

We are now seeking dedicated, customer focused staff to add to a tight-knit committed team operating our existing swimming pool by recruiting the following positions:

Duty Manager Based on a three shift rota averaging 37 hours per week	Scale 5 (£19,428 - £21,306)
Health & Fitness Manager Based on a two shift rota averaging 37 hours per week	Scale 4 (£16,992 - £18,936)
Health & Fitness Instructor Based on a two shift rota averaging 37 hours per week	Scp 10 (£13,704)
Senior Recreation Assistants (2 Posts)	Scale 2 (£14,586 - £15,291)
Recreation Assistants (3 Posts)	Scale 1 Scp 4-9 (to a max of £13,422)

If you feel you have the skills, capabilities and commitment required to fill any of these new posts you could be just the person we are looking for.

Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee is a partnership between South Derbyshire District Council and John Port School

For further details on these posts and to apply online please visit our website www.south-derbys.gov.uk or contact Customer Services on (01283) 595707 (Answerphone).
Please apply by application only - CV's will not be accepted.
Closing date: midnight 21 April 2009

For an informal discussion about the post please contact either Chris Mason, Leisure Services Manager on (01283) 595794 or Steve Wright, Centre Manager on (01283) 733348

Interview dates:
Duty Manager - 30 April 2009
Health & Fitness Manager - 1 May 2009
Health & Fitness Instructor - 5 May 2009
Senior/Recreation Assistants - 6/7 May 2009

Do you have what it takes to work in the sporting county?

Nottinghamshire is celebrating record success in Beijing and we are determined to build on it.



Nottinghamshire County Council's award winning sports service has been at the heart of efforts to develop sport for three decades. After a restructuring of our team, and following further investment from the County Council and key partners, we have a bright future ahead. You could be part of it.

If you have the drive, flair, creativity and dedication to make a lasting difference to Nottinghamshire sport we want you to join us.

Sports Development Officers x 3 (National Governing Body Support)

£24,331 - £28, 270p.a. (Three year contracts)

Post 1 - Initially focusing on athletics and gymnastics. Ref: ESC/0799/AM

Post 2 - Initially focusing on swimming, cycling and triathlon. Ref: ESC/0800/AM

Post 3 - Initially focusing on three sports including hockey and judo. Ref: ESC/0801/AM

**Closing date for above 3 posts 17 April 2009
(Applicants will be considered for all three posts)**

With the support of key local partners and Sport England, we are seeking to appoint dedicated and dynamic sports development professionals to join our successful team Reporting to our Sports Development Manager (NGB Relationships), these posts are part of our commitment to support the work of NGBs in the county. In these newly created roles, you will work closely with the respective National Governing Bodies and other stakeholders to help increase participation in the identified sports and create an infrastructure that provides safe, quality and sustainable opportunities for participation. You will lead the production of strategic frameworks for the development of the sports with the aim of strengthening their human and physical infrastructure. You will have excellent organisational and inter personal skills, project and event management experience, and excellent communication skills with a variety of audiences, a proven track record of successful partnership working with sports agencies including NGBs; and will possess a sound knowledge of sports development and sports policy.

Sports Development Officer (Inclusion) £24,331 - £28, 270p.a.

You will play a central role in our work to widen access to sport to more people from different backgrounds in the county. You will understand the barriers facing many sections of the community that prevent their involvement in sport and will have experience of designing and implementing strategies to overcome them. You will have excellent organisational and inter personal skills, experience of producing reports, project plans, and presentations, project management experience, a proven track record of successful partnership working with sports agencies; and will possess a sound knowledge of sports development and sports policy. Building on our track record of achieving Beacon status for our work with hard to reach groups, this is an opportunity to make a real difference to sport in the county. Previous applicants need not apply.

Ref: ESC/0802/AM

Closing date: 17 April 2009

An enhanced CRB check will be required for these posts. You will need access to a car for business purposes, as well as a willingness to work some evenings and weekends.

Disabled applicants who meet the essential shortlisting requirements will be guaranteed an interview. Job share scheme available. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and we expect all staff to share this commitment and undergo appropriate checks.

Application forms and job descriptions are available on-line at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/jobs or from the Employee Services Centre via e-mail: jobs@nottscc.gov.uk stating job title and reference number, your name, address and post code. Alternatively, please tel: 0844 9808080 (8am - 8pm Monday - Friday, 8am - 12 noon Saturday).

Minicom available during office hours tel: (01623) 434993.

The County Council is committed to safeguarding and will actively seek to ensure through its recruitment processes that it does not recruit people who are unsuitable to work with children and vulnerable adults.



Perth and Kinross Leisure

RECRUITMENT

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Facility Operations Manager
Blairgowrie Recreation Centre
(£22,967 - £26,204)

This is an exciting opportunity for an individual who enjoys working with the community and local partners to take a leading role in delivering the anticipated success of this community pool and sports centre. The position requires the holder to lead, direct and supervise leisure service staff to ensure that the service provided is of the highest quality and meets or exceeds the needs and aspirations of the local community.

Managing and developing a comprehensive programme, ensuring staff effectiveness, budgetary control, performance monitoring, service review and planning are all major elements of the challenging role of the Operations Manager.

In addition, health and safety management, equipment maintenance, human resources responsibilities and implementing local sales and promotions activity will further enhance the opportunities of the role.

You will need a sound practical knowledge of sports and leisure service delivery and be able to demonstrate commitment and flexibility in abundance.

If you also have the skills and personal and professional qualities that are necessary to work effectively and collaboratively with partner organisations including schools, Council services, local clubs and groups, contractors and of course, the local community as a whole, then Perth and Kinross Leisure would be pleased to hear from you.

It is essential that you are educated to at least HNC level or hold a professional equivalent in a related subject and you should also hold a current NPLQ, First Aid at Work and PPO Certificates.

Closing Date: 17th April 2009

For an application form please contact:
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Closing Date: 10th April 2009

To apply for this vacancy, in the first instance, please send a current CV and covering letter to kam@portregis.com

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Active Schools Co-ordinator, Lockerbie (Ref: 10/542)
£26,331 - £28,680

This key appointment supports current, and develops new, opportunities for children to participate in regular, frequent, safe and fun physical activity and will involve partnerships with relevant local and national agencies. You will cover three Secondary Schools in Annandale and Eskdale for period up to 31 March 2011. You will develop physical activity and sport programmes for children with additional support needs throughout the region.

Educated to degree level in a relevant discipline, you will have extensive experience engaging with children and young people through sport and physical activity in education, health and/or community leisure. Experience of managing projects in these areas is essential, as is a proven experience of developing key partnerships. You will be appointed under SJC conditions for Local Government employees to allow flexible deployment in relation to holidays and other out of school commitments.

Informal enquiries to Christopher.Topping@dumgal.gov.uk

Leisure and Sport Development Officer, Wigtownshire (Ref: 10/456)
£23,082 - £25,551

Developing a Sports Development Programme throughout the community, you will work with colleagues in the Council and with external agencies. Improving the quality and quantity of sports provision, you will help increase participation of the local community.

With excellent communication skills and the ability to motivate, you will have experience in budget management, marketing, report writing, event and project management. A knowledge of Quest is desirable. An HND qualification in leisure and sport is essential and/or full membership of ILAM or ISRM. Experience in leisure and sport development is desirable.

Informal enquiries to Harry Hay, Leisure Services Manager, Wigtownshire - 0303 333 3000.

Closing date for both posts: 10 April 2009.

Posts are subject to candidate vetting through Disclosure Scotland.

For all jobs apply online or tel 01387 260000 quoting the job title and ref number or contact Jobcentre Plus.

sportscotland

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Duty Manager

(Stevenson Building) - Female Only

£19,645 - £23,449 (plus £2,104 enhanced rates for weekends and £2,160 shift allowance per annum).

The Sport and Recreation Service has an extensive range of sport and recreation facilities and is looking for a highly motivated and experienced individual to join its team of operational staff.

You should hold at least an HNC in Leisure Management or other recognised qualification together with relevant experience working in an indoor sports facility (wet & dry) and experience of managing people. You must hold a National Pool Lifeguard Qualification, with the ability to lead, develop and motivate a team of staff. The possession of Trainer Assessor Qualification, Pool Plant Operators and First Aid Qualification are advantageous.

Apply on-line at www.gla.ac.uk/jobs

If you are unable to apply on-line please contact us on +44 (0)141 330 3898 for an application pack, quoting Ref 00096.

Closing date: 10th April 2009

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COMPETITION MANAGER

South London Region - Sutton
Fixed term contract until March 31st 2011
£25,359 - £28,805 per annum Ref: CM04

This exciting role is to manage and coordinate the planning and implementation of a programme of inter-school competitions across two school sports partnerships (SSPs) in the London Borough of Sutton, using the National Schools Competition Framework as the basis.

We are looking for a self-motivated, organised, lively and innovative physical education/sport development professional with excellent communication skills and the ability to work strategically across a number of the boroughs' primary, secondary and special schools. You will be working closely with the South London Competition Manager Team and SSP Partnership Development Managers across the Carshalton Boys and John Fisher School Sport Partnerships and will facilitate links with key strategic partners including Sports Development, Pro Active South London, National Governing Bodies of Sport and community providers.

The successful candidate should be prepared to attend occasional evening meetings. You must be able to drive and provide a car for work purposes. A CRB check will be required for this post.

Application packs are available online at www.harrismerton.org.uk or contact Janette Bragginton on 020 8623 1000. For an informal discussion about this post please contact Nicola Ryan, Senior Competition Manager on 020 8623 1028 or 07983 387 827 or email ryann@harrismerton.org.uk.

Completed application forms should be returned to Harris Academy Merton, by 5pm Tuesday 21st April 2009.



Aylesbury Vale District Council has an exciting opportunity available within our Leisure & Cultural Service Team

Leisure Community Project Officer

£19,224 - £21,636

The post may involve evening and weekend work

Aylesbury Vale District Council Leisure Team is seeking to appoint a committed and highly motivated individual to its passionate and highly valued team. You will work in partnership with a wide range of community and statutory organisations in order to support, deliver and manage a range of projects and events, primarily within the Sports Development team, in order to promote participation in leisure and physical activity across Aylesbury Vale.

Educated to a minimum of 'A' level standard (or equivalent), you may be someone wishing to gain valuable experience within leisure development. You will need excellent organisational and communication skills with a strong desire to learn new skills and deliver excellence. Experience of leadership and/or coaching and working with children would be an advantage but is not essential. You will be central to the success of the team and as such must be able to lead and motivate groups and individuals, act as an enabler and facilitator and be totally committed to the demands of this challenging and rewarding post.

Closing date: 14th April 2009.

Interview date: 29th April 2009.

An attractive benefits package is available.

Apply on line at www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk or contact Aylesbury Vale District Council on (01296) 585062 (24 hour answering machine) or (01296) 585020. Minicom: (01296) 585055.



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us join us

University of Sussex

Residential, Sport and Trading Services
Falmer Sports Complex

Senior Duty Manager

Ref: 532

Permanent, full time

Salary range: £26,391 to £29,704 per annum

Sussexsport at the University of Sussex wishes to recruit a Senior Duty Manager for the Falmer Sports Complex (FSC). The complex, is one of two facilities, and is our main outdoor facility used by staff, students and the local community including Brighton Hove Albion FC. Recent investment has seen the upgrading of the main fitness facility located at the FSC with the latest CV and resistance equipment from Life Fitness.

Applicants should hold or be willing to work towards a recognised management qualification in addition to being a qualified fitness instructor. Proven experience in the leisure industry preferably working in a supervisory capacity is essential. Knowledge of standard Microsoft computerised packages and leisure management systems would be an advantage.

The Senior Duty Manager has responsibility for overseeing the day to day operations ensuring the efficient and effective running of the complex. The Senior Duty Manager will also contribute to fitness instruction, and coaching as required.

The position is an exciting opportunity for an individual with good communication, organisational and time management skills and the ability to motivate staff.

The post will be based on a 36.5 hours per week shift rota and the salary will be in the range of £26,391 to £29,704 per annum depending on experience.

For an informal discussion about the post please contact Simon Tunley on 01273 678228

Closing date for applications: 17 April 2009

For full details and how to apply see www.sussex.ac/jobs

The University of Sussex is committed to equality of opportunity

SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL TOURISM AND CULTURE SERVICES

Executive Manager Salary £36,837 to £39,669 (Entertainments and Conferences)

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for a creative and innovative individual to manage and develop the renowned Scarborough Spa, Whitby Pavilion and Filey Evron Centre facilities.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day management of the venues, the development of marketing and sales plans to maximise business opportunities, the sourcing and programming of entertainment and events as well as the expansion of current conference meeting and incentive business. The ideal candidate will have had extensive experience in Venue Management with commercial insight and superb management and organisational skills. Good financial acumen is also required as well as excellent sales and negotiation skills.

CLOSING DATE: 8 April 2009 INTERVIEW DATE: 17 April 2009

Catering & Functions Manager Salary £29,694 to £31,999

The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall management of the Scarborough Spa and Whitby Pavilion catering and license functions; the development and implementation of effective marketing and sales plans, the sourcing of quality cost effective produce, and the delivery of innovative creative catering menus in conjunction with the delivery of high quality customer service.

The ideal candidate will have had extensive knowledge and experience in catering provision and managing services at operational and strategic levels.

CLOSING DATE: 8 April 2009 INTERVIEW DATE: 21 April 2009

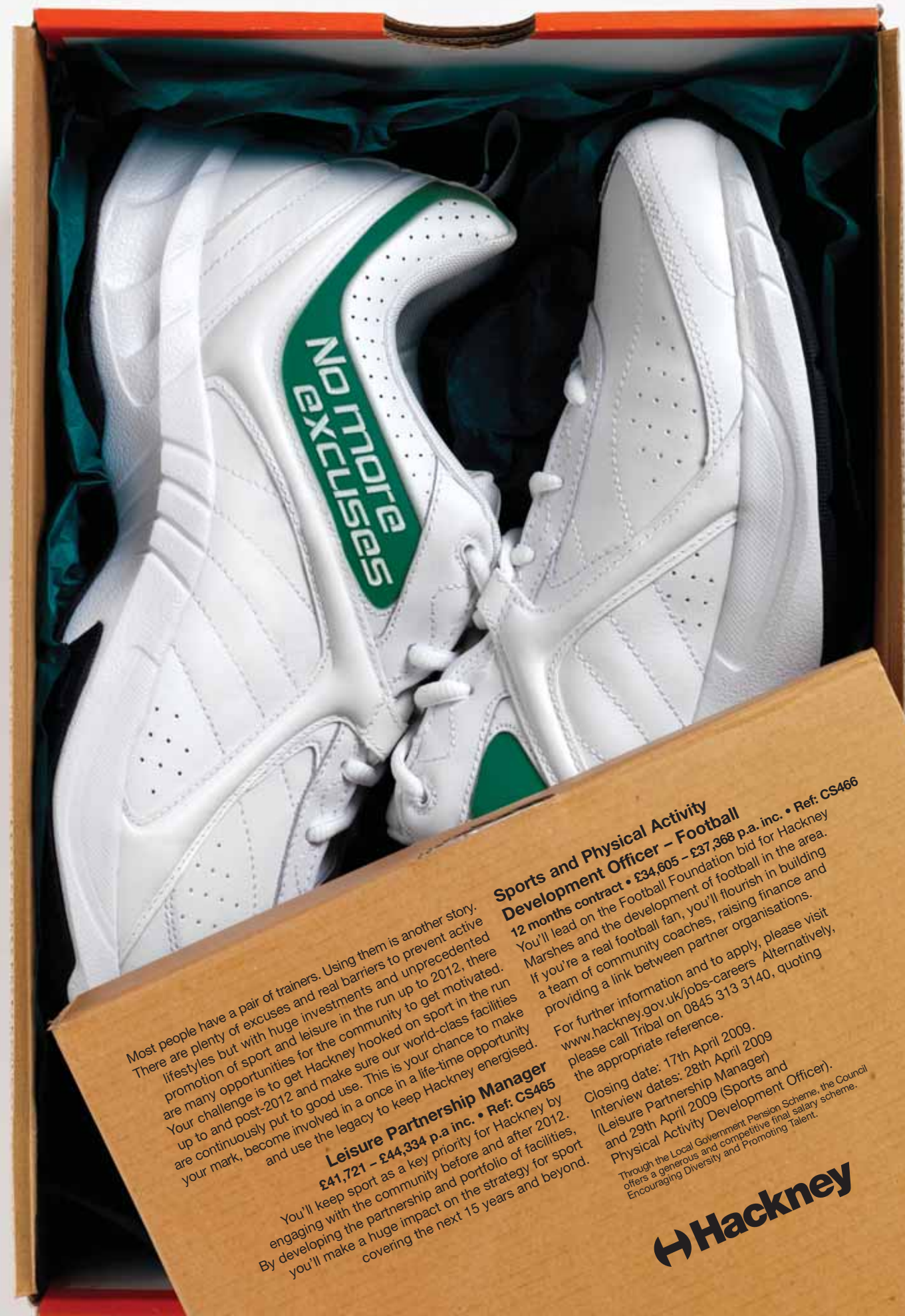
For an informal discussion please contact Janet Deacon on 01723 232570.

Enquiries should be made to Customer First, telephone 01723 232323, e-mail customer.first@scarborough.gov.uk or jobvacancies@scarborough.gov.uk Vacancy details are also available from www.scarborough.gov.uk and www.oneplacenorthyorks.com.

Application forms should be returned to Human Resources, Town Hall, St Nicholas Street, Scarborough, YO11 2HG in an envelope marked "Private and Confidential, Application for Post TC20 Executive Manager, or TC 30 Catering and Functions Manager"



A great place to live, work & play



Most people have a pair of trainers. Using them is another story. There are plenty of excuses and real barriers to prevent active lifestyles but with huge investments and unprecedented promotion of sport and leisure in the run up to 2012, there are many opportunities for the community to get motivated. Your challenge is to get Hackney hooked on sport in the run up to and post-2012 and make sure our world-class facilities are continuously put to good use. This is your chance to opportunity your mark, become involved in a once in a life-time opportunity and use the legacy to keep Hackney energised.

Leisure Partnership Manager £41,721 - £44,334 p.a. inc. • Ref: CS465

You'll keep sport as a key priority for Hackney by engaging with the community before and after 2012. By developing the partnership and portfolio of facilities, you'll make a huge impact on the strategy for sport covering the next 15 years and beyond.

Sports and Physical Activity Development Officer - Football
12 months contract • £34,605 - £37,368 p.a. inc. • Ref: CS466
You'll lead on the Football Foundation bid for Hackney Marshes and the development of football in the area. If you're a real football fan, you'll flourish in building a team of community coaches, raising finance and providing a link between partner organisations. For further information and to apply, please visit www.hackney.gov.uk/jobs-careers Alternatively, please call Tribal on 0845 313 3140, quoting the appropriate reference.

Closing date: 17th April 2009.
Interview dates: 28th April 2009 (Leisure Partnership Manager) and 29th April 2009 (Sports and Physical Activity Development Officer).
Through the Local Government Pension Scheme, the Council offers a generous and competitive final salary scheme. Encouraging Diversity and Promoting Talent.



The Skills Partnership Ltd is a dynamic, successful and growing training company. We are looking for full-time NVQ Assessors in the Greater London area and the South East to grow with us and to train employees from 'blue chip' leaders in the leisure industry.



If you are qualified and experienced assessor and hold a gym instructor/personal trainer level 3, experienced in assessing, you want to earn circa £26K+ and are looking for real advancement opportunities then send for an application pack, by sending your CV to: Jbishop@skillspartnership.co.uk

We are committed to our client companies and to our staff
We are an equal opportunities employer



Created in April 2003, we are a non-profit organisation that delivers a diverse range of leisure and cultural services on behalf of Wigan Council. Investing in the future, our growing team manages the area's libraries, art galleries, leisure facilities and visitor attractions such as Haigh Country Park.

Community Activity Officer (Bridge Builders)

Scale 4/5 (£16,941 – £21,244)

Temporary until April 2011

Wigan Investment Centre

We are looking to recruit a Community Activity Officer to assist in the development and delivery of the Bridge Builders project across the Wigan Borough.

The post involves delivering and developing a range of physical activity sessions and supporting people who have severe and enduring mental health problems to access activities. Developing new activity sessions, one-to-one lifestyle assessments, evaluating current provision and supporting clients are an integral part of the job.

The post will also involve working closely with other Active Living programme staff, as well as Mental Health services, such as Community Mental Health Teams, Hospital staff and Activity Co-ordinators.

You should have a recognised fitness qualification (NVQ level 2 or equivalent) in at least two disciplines and a specialised exercise related qualification in at least one discipline, e.g. chair based exercise leader, GP Referral certificate.

You should have demonstrable experience of developing activity programmes and projects within the community, taking a wide variety of exercise classes on a regular basis, working with people of all ages and backgrounds and with varied and complex health needs. Ref: 0280/SH1222.

This post is subject to an enhanced level disclosure.

You can obtain an application form and further details online at www.wlct.org/jobs or by telephone on 01942 828514 (24 hour answerphone). Completed application forms can be submitted online or by post to HRD Unit, Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust, Indoor Sports Complex, Loire Drive, Robin Park, Wigan WN5 0UL.

Closing date: 10 April 2009, 5pm.



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You will have a Sports Science degree, REPS 3 and First Aid at Work.
Working hours Monday - Friday only.

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Fitness Instructor/ Personal Trainer



Salary: 13-14k basic + commission,
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FITNESS ADVISER

£17,000+



We are looking for a full-time fitness adviser working 40 hours per week,
Monday to Friday, on a shift basis. The role will require: gym supervision,
fitness assessments and one-to-one inductions, as well as covering
reception, membership sales and day-to-day operations.

Advantageous skills required:

- YMCA Gym Instructor/Fitness Trainer or equivalent. (Level 2 REPS)
- Excellent customer care skills and a flexible approach to teamworking
- Minimum of one year's experience in a similar role
- Good knowledge of Gym and Class instruction

The ideal candidate will also possess:

- YMCA/RSA Exercise to music
- Personal Trainers Qualifications
- Experience of teaching exercise classes to a high standard
- Experience in the voluntary sector
- Knowledge of Health and Safety Policies

This is an opportunity to work within one of the most famous landmarks
in London. The Westminster Gym is situated within the Parliamentary
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Jubilee Hall Clubs is an independent charitable trust operating 4 clubs in
central London, and, as an accredited Investor in People, is committed to the
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Interested candidates should send a CV to:

Yinka Opaneye, THE GYM, 30 The Piazza,
Covent Garden, London, WC2E 8BE or
yinka@jubileehallclubs.co.uk.

Closing date: Friday 17th April 2009.

Interviews: Week-commencing 20th April 2009



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FITNESS MEMBERSHIP SALES MANAGER

We are looking for a highly motivated professional to head-up the
SnowDome Fitness membership sales team.

You will have a strong background within the fitness industry and more
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Excellent package to suit the right candidate.

To apply, please email your CV and a covering letter
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Fitness Trainer for gym in Bahrain

Must have qualifications by American College of Sports
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Managing Director, Hasan Mansouri Group. karim@karimmansouri.com P.O. Box 5185, Manama, Bahrain.

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Peoples' Place project secures £2m funding boost

Government announces financial support for development of new Sheffield activity centre aimed at teenagers

By **Tom Walker**

The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCFS) has awarded a £2.1m funding package towards the construction of the Peoples' Place project in Sheffield, Yorkshire.

Designed as an activity centre for 13-to-19-year-olds, the Peoples' Place aims to bring young people together and prevent anti-social behaviour by providing a range of cultural and sporting activities.

To promote physical activity, the £3.6m centre will include

an outside fitness trail, artificial football pitches and a free-to-access health and fitness club. To cater for youths with artistic interests, the centre will offer recording studio technology.

The project is led by Sheffield City Council and coordinated under a joint working group called The Sharrow Partnership. Andrew Sanger, spokesperson for Sheffield City Council, said: "Young people have been put in the driving seat in leading this bid that reflects the improvements they wanted to see."



The Peoples' Place will aim to attract the region's young teenagers

Latest figures reveal cinema visits at record high

By **Tom Walker**

UK cinemas sold more than 53.6m tickets during 2008, the highest figure since 1969, according to the latest annual report from the Film Distributors' Association (FDA).

The report revealed that big-budget movies such as Mamma Mia! and The Dark Knight helped British cinemas attract more than 50m visits for the first time in 40 years.



More than 53m tickets were sold at UK cinemas in 2008

A FDA spokesperson said the lousy summer weather boosted figures, but that figures also reflect the sector's robustness.

"A £5 cinema ticket is good value at times when people are looking to cut back on discretionary spend," he added.

The news follows figures published by the UK Film Council earlier this year, which showed that box office takings for the UK and the Republic of Ireland totalled £949.5m, an increase of 5 per cent on the previous year and the highest since records began in 1989.

CV to open No.20 in Soho

Concept Venues (CV) is to launch a new restaurant called No.20 in London.

The 60-cover outlet, designed by interior architect Lesley Purcell of Can Do, will be located on the ground floor of the company's new hotel — Sanctum Soho London — which opened on Warwick Street, Soho, on 21 March.

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