

Abuse allegations prompt letter to NGBs

Tracey Crouch, the minister for sport, has penned a letter to 40 national governing bodies (NGBs) urging them to investigate historic allegations of sexual abuse and make sure their current processes for safeguarding children are "as robust as possible".

Over the past month several high-profile allegations of sexual abuse within football have come to light, while almost 1,000 calls have been received by an NSPCC hotline created last month to deal with similar cases. Around 350 people have also come forward to report child sex abuse in UK football.

The Football Association (FA) has launched an independent inquiry, and Crouch's letter to Sport England-funded NGBs – including the Rugby Football Union (RFU), Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) – makes



Tracey Crouch sent a letter to NGBs urging them to evaluate their safeguarding processes

it clear that instances of child sex abuse should not be "swept under the carpet".

Her letter urged NGBs to find out whether there were any historic allegations that would "merit investigation or reinvestigation", if there were appropriate processes in place to

deal with these allegations, and whether current process for safeguarding young people were good enough.

"I am sure you share my view that the sport sector needs to do everything it can to ensure that if proven allegations are found there is justice for the survivors of past abuse, and that sport today is as safe as it possibly can be," said the MP for Chatham and Aylesford.

The Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) was expected to publish a *Duty of Care in Sport* review in the autumn, but *Leisure Opportunities* understands that the document is not likely to be

published until after the New Year.

While the recent allegations have not been the cause for the delay in publication, the subject is expected to make up part of the review, overseen by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=D7Z8f_O

BBC to export popular shows as attractions

Ryan Harmon, president and chief creative officer of Zeitgeist Design + Production, has revealed new details on the BBC's *Top Gear* and *BBC Earth* attractions.

The first location for the two attractions – based on the popular British TV shows – has been revealed as a major resort being built in Wencheng on Hainan Island in the northeast of China.

BBC has appointed Zeitgeist to lead the design on the C¥10bn (£1.15bn) development.

Continued on back cover

Health clubs 'should embrace digital age'

The leisure centre and health club industry needs to embrace the potential of the digital age, according to the chair of the International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association (IHRSA).

Speaking to *Leisure Opportunities*, Rasmus Ingerslev said the industry is defined by walls that surround clubs but over the next 10 years bricks-and-mortar operators will have "a digital extension that is relevant to their members".

He predicted that there will also be more purely digital concepts like *Pokemon Go*. An estimated 75 million people downloaded the app in July – a number which is equal to



Ingerslev said digital innovation will change the sector

50 per cent of the total number of members in the fitness industry. Ingerslev said such numbers showed the potential of digital.

"We see a clear trend: health clubs' digital ecosystems are expanding inside – and outside – of their walls," he said.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=p6w3k_O

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AFC stadium details revealed

A fan zone, a museum, a memorial garden and community facilities will make up parts of Aberdeen FC's (AFC) proposed new stadium development.

The Scottish Premiership club released further details about the project before it officially lodges a planning bid with the local council.

At the heart of the 25 hectare Kingsford site will be a 20,000-seat stadium – the largest to be built in Scotland in more than a century.

But the development will also include a number of recreational facilities, such as two community 3G pitches, gymnasium, multi-purpose space with community learning zone and museum dedicated to the heritage of the club.

Offices and training facilities for the professional playing staff will be included on site.

The stadium will be single tier and fully enclosed to “dramatically improve the atmosphere, while minimising visual impact”.

“Realising our plans for Kingsford is the critical step in our journey to achieve UEFA



The club will apply for planning permission by the end of the year

top 100 status with a highly successful squad, a wider than ever reach into the community, world-class training facilities and a modern stadium, all within a prosperous, health region,” said AFC vice-chair George Yule.

“It is also a significant investment in the city and region at a time when the public and private sectors are working to address major economic challenges,” he added. “Our vision can therefore be summed up as achieving the feel-good factor for all in the community.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=T5H2M_O

Disability football gets £1m boost

More than £1m will be ploughed into disability football following the launch of a new participation scheme devised by the English Football League (EFL).

Alongside the Wembley National Stadium Trust, the EFL Trust has created a £1.1m fund as part of its Every Player Counts Scheme.

It will expose disabled individuals to opportunities to get involved in a wide range of activities, such as wheelchair football, football for visual impairment, learning difficulties, amputees and autism.

The organisations are hoping to attract 10,000 new participants to the sport.

Twenty-five EFL clubs will be involved in running programmes up and down the country.

“I’ve heard first hand about the vital role sport has played in helping disabled people move into employment and the transformation this has made to their lives,” said minister for disabled people Penny Mordaunt.



Several variations of football will be made available to participants

“Every Player Counts is a great example for sports clubs to enable disabled people to reach their full potential.”

Stewart Goshawk, Wembley National Stadium Trust chief executive, added: “The work we are funding will make football more accessible for people with a physical or sensory impairment, or who have a learning disability or enduring mental ill health.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=y5p3m_O

Delivery pilots receive funding

Three or four location-based physical activity projects will be funded by Sport England in March 2017 as part of its local delivery pilot scheme.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport's arms-length body has set aside £130m of Exchequer and National Lottery funding to encourage physical activity in specific areas over the next four years.

A handful of pilot projects will be selected next spring before Sport England begins work on 10 further projects that will "require further development" in 2017.

To bid for funding, Sport England expects "every part of the local sporting system" to work together to create a coherent plan to boost physical activity in their area. Organisations who are not directly involved in the sport sector are also expected to be involved in bids.

Public Health England, other government departments and Lottery distributors will help the grassroots sports quango to identify the right locations and projects to work with.



Sport England is inviting expressions of interest in December

"We're looking to fund pilot projects in both urban and rural areas, covering different parts of England," said a statement on the Sport England website.

"We think the right partners working together will best define the size of the pilot area – but we don't anticipate supporting pilots that focus on very small areas such as an individual street. Nor will we fund larger regions, such as the whole South West of England."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=G8H2r_O

Powerleague to 'change face of sector'

Operator Powerleague is aiming to "change the face of five-a-side football" after kicking off a £1m refurbishment plan on its sites.

The company has placed an emphasis on customer service and employee satisfaction in an attempt to differentiate from its five-a-side competitors. Features such as all-new changing rooms, maps for pitch recognition and visible clocks – so that players know when their game is finished – will be installed across Powerleague's 50 sites.

Chief executive Rupert Campbell told *Leisure Opportunities* that the firm was experimenting with technology, adding a video-replay button to pitches so that moments can be captured and shared. It will also invest in wearable technology so that players can log match statistics.

Staff have been retrained to improve customer service, and have been offered new sporty uniforms after the company carried out a "huge amount of insight".

Each of the 50 sites will be provided their own crest and identity to give each one a "community club feel", while efforts are being made to attract more women and children.



Campbell said Powerleague wants to attract more families

Soccercise classes – a Football Association-developed aerobic football class aimed at improving fitness levels – will be made available for women, while children will be able to take advantage of a new Soccer Skills Camp based on the football routines of freestylers Billy Wingrove and Jeremy Lynch, who presented London Live television show F2.

"We're trying to deliver an experience which is enjoyable for families, kids and women," said Campbell. "This is a proper service industry, and not just a commodity you can throw away."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=g4J6C_O

Former sports minister elected BOA chair

Sir Hugh Robertson, the man who was sports minister during the 2012 London Olympic Games, has been elected as chair of the British Olympic Association.

He will replace current incumbent Sebastian Coe after being voted in by the 43 members of the National Olympic Committee.

During his four-year term, the former Conservative MP will be charged with mapping out the future direction of the organisation and making sure that Team GB athletes have the "resources, preparation and support they need".

Details: http://lei.sr?a=W8S5S_O



Bill Beaumont said the body would invest in targeted development programmes

World Rugby to boost grassroots investment

World Rugby will increase its spend on the grassroots game to £245.8m over the next four years after attracting 1.5m people to the sport in 2015. It represents a 22 per cent increase on the £201m spent over the 2013-16 cycle, and reflects the strong financial performance of the body.

Over 2015, World Rugby generated a "higher than anticipated revenue" of £345m with £189.5m profit.

According to the body, the growth in income "reflects improved broadcast and sponsorship markets" for the Rugby World Cup 2015 and a higher tournament fee from the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

Over the course of the 2013-16 cycle, rugby participation almost doubled worldwide to 7.7m people.

"World Rugby's strategic mission to grow the sport is reflected by the organisation's diligence in maintaining operating costs and strategically investing in the game for the next four years through targeted programmes, including training and education," said organisation chair Bill Beaumont.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=v2z4g_O

Fitness tech firm Wexer acquires ClubVirtual

Fitness technology firm Wexer has bought Dutch-based company ClubVirtual for an undisclosed fee.

According to Wexer the deal gives the company the largest market share in the virtual fitness market. The company already had virtual installations in more than 40 countries, but is seeking further opportunities in the Asian market with the acquisition. ClubVirtual will continue to produce virtual fitness content under its brand and will be overseen by the majority of its existing leadership team.

The firm's commercial director Robert Louw, however, will join Wexer as head of business development.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=y5S3G_O



The deal will include replacing the ageing Andover Leisure Centre with a new facility

Places for People secures southern England sites

Test Valley Borough Council in Hampshire has appointed Places for People Leisure (PPL) to manage its leisure centres on a 30-year contract starting on 1 April 2017.

The deal will include "significant investment" in improving the borough's leisure facilities – including replacing the ageing Andover Leisure Centre with a brand new facility. There will also be a number of improvements to four other centres – Romsey Rapids, Romsey Sports Centre, Knightwood Leisure Centre and Charlton Lakeside Pavilion.

The new Andover Leisure Centre will feature a 25m six-lane swimming pool with 15m learner pool, a 165-station fitness suite, virtual cycling studio, dance studios, an eight court sports hall, squash courts, adventure play area and a café.

There will also be a splash pad and a climb centre to encourage families and young people to the centre. PPL will build the new Andover Leisure Centre with its construction partners Pellikaan Construction and architects Roberts Limbrick.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=r7V3h_O

'Surgery ban' for obese patients

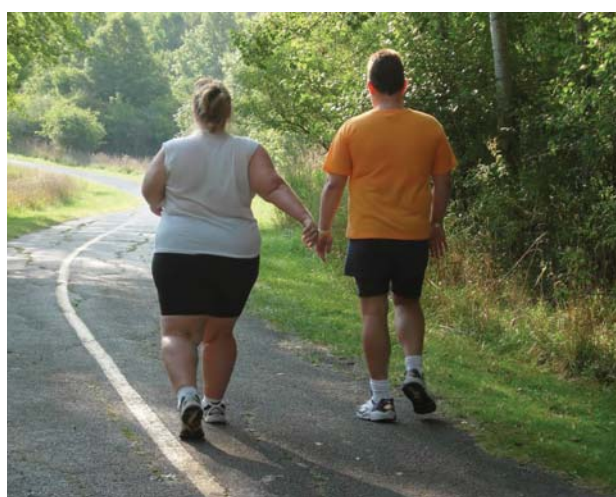
An NHS body has told obese patients to lose weight or face delays in having their non-emergency surgery, arguing that eating healthily and taking exercise can make a 'real difference' to the results of operations.

Patients in North Yorkshire who have a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or above will have to either lose weight or wait 12 months before having elective surgery.

They will have to reduce their BMI to less than 30 or lose 10 per cent of their body weight.

New criteria also relate to smokers, who will have to quit two months before surgery or wait six months for their procedure. The new rules will be introduced in January by NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Dr Shaun O'Connell, clinical lead at CCG, said: "NHS Vale of York CCG has introduced new criteria which asks patients with a BMI of 30 or above to lose weight before surgery



Obese patients in Yorkshire will have to lose weight before operations

and those recorded as a current smoker to quit smoking for at least two months. Support and help to achieve this is also being offered.

"Eating healthily, taking exercise and stopping smoking make a real difference to health and the result of operations. For this reason, we see this as a key time to discuss with patients the changes they could make to have a safe and successful operation and recover quickly."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=A2H9w_O

£26m Dover leisure centre team revealed

Dover District Council has finalised its team to deliver a £26m leisure centre in the Kent town.

The authority has appointed a team of consultants to deliver the project. They include surveyor and designer Faithful+Gould, project manager Hadron Consulting, architect GT-3, engineers M-E Engineers and Engenuiti, management consultant The Sports Consultancy, and planner DHA Planning. Some of the team worked together at the feasibility stage of the project.

Designs are still being finalised but facilities should include an eight-lane pool, learner pool with moveable floor, four-court sports hall, squash courts, multi-function room, gym, fitness studios, clip 'n' climb wall and café. Outside, there will be 3G pitches for five-a-side football.

The facility will be on a 2.1 hectare site in Whitfield and will replace Dover Leisure Centre. It is expected to open in early 2019.

Roger Walton, the council's director of environment and corporate assets, said: "The



An artist's impression of the planned leisure centre in Dover

proposals provide for a fantastic new facility and we now have an experienced team working with us to deliver a new leisure centre to meet the needs of residents now and into the future."

Dover District Council plans to outsource the management of the new leisure centre through a tendering process.

Your Leisure currently manages the council's leisure facilities.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=6G6m7_O

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First 12 'disruptors' for ActiveLab

The first 12 physical activity disruptors to benefit from the ActiveLab startup mentoring scheme have been named.

Set up by not-for-profit health body ukactive and based in London, ActiveLab aims to help develop and support innovative health solutions designed to tackle the UK's "inactivity epidemic" which is estimated to cost the NHS around £20bn each year.

The 12-week programme will look to accelerate startups and help them develop their inactivity-busting products and services further. Among those chosen for the programme are VRGO Chair, a virtual reality chair to get computer gamers active; Stepjockey, a wireless circuit that inspires movement in the workplace; and Shapelog, a 'Fitbit for strength training'.

Over the course of the ActiveLab programme, the chosen 12 companies will receive a series of networking opportunities with investors and leading physical activity firms, as well as tailored mentorship and expert workshops on the challenges of scaling a business.

The programme will conclude on 15 March 2017, when the 12 finalists will gather to showcase their innovations and take part in a series of live pitches.



ActiveLab aims to find new ways to inspire active lifestyles

The winner will win a "premium accelerator toolkit" worth £25,000 – comprising a suite of products and expertise to fast-track their concept.

Steven Ward, executive director of ukactive, said: "As physical activity, fashion, health and technology continue to converge, we're entering a brave new world of innovation with exciting opportunities to get more people more active more often. We want ActiveLab to become the global launchpad for innovative and scalable physical activity businesses, so I'm hugely excited by the dynamic group of companies."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=v7k7W_O

'Quiet sessions' trialled at gym

A leisure centre gym will begin offering "silent sessions" following requests from members who want to work out in a more quiet and peaceful environment.

Leisure trust 1610 will introduce the Music Free Moves (MFM) sessions at Trinity Sports and Leisure in Bridgwater, Somerset, a centre which it operates on behalf of Sedgemoor District Council.

The MFM sessions will run at lunchtimes and will cater for a number of groups – including older people who have impaired hearing and people on the autistic spectrum, who are sensitive to noise and have difficulty processing sensory information. Customers will still be able to listen to their own music on headphones while working out, but the gym floor at the leisure centre will be kept quiet and music-free.

General announcements over loudspeakers and other audio systems will also be stopped during this time.

The trial began on Monday 5 December and, if deemed successful, MFM will be launched officially in the new year.



The trial sessions began on 5 December at a gym in Bridgwater

Amanda Godsell, health development manager at 1610, said: "Modern life means we are constantly bombarded by noise and music, and it means we are never given a chance to rest our brains from stimulation.

"This can be problematic for many older people with hearing difficulties or for people with autism, who can be distressed by constant noise. We will monitor the response from customers and review whether we should introduce 'quiet gym' sessions permanently at Trinity and within our leisure centre network."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=x6W5X_O

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ISPA develops partnership with Cosmoprof show

The International SPA Association (ISPA) is collaborating with international beauty tradeshow Cosmoprof Worldwide Bologna.

ISPA will host a two-day spa forum in collaboration with Cosmoprof, followed by other initiatives designed to support the global spa community. The two-day conference will take place on Friday 17 March Saturday 18 March 2017.

“Cosmoprof Worldwide Bologna is the premier event for the global beauty industry,” said ISPA chair Todd Shaw. “We are thrilled to be collaborating with this prestigious group as we continue to provide education that supports ISPA’s global membership.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=s8s3k_O



Ellis is director of the Centre for Sleep Research

Jason Ellis establishes Champneys ‘sleep retreats’

Destination spa Champneys Tring in England is focusing on the importance of sleep with a two-night Sleep Retreat with leading sleep expert Jason Ellis.

A professor in psychology at Northumbria University and director of the Northumbria Centre for Sleep Research, Ellis has spent the majority of his life’s work understanding and improving people’s sleep. He is Champneys’ resident sleep expert.

The Sleep Retreat aims to give guests an understanding of the reasons for sleep problems – and how best to tackle them in order to get the optimum amount each night. It includes a combination of six sleep treatment sessions, an aromatherapy massage, and a copy of Ellis’ handbook on how to enjoy successful sleep at home, as well as access to fitness classes, gym and spa facilities, and healthy meals.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y7M2s_O

Huffington launches Thrive Global

Huffington Post founder, Arianna Huffington, has launched a new media business focused on wellness.

Called Thrive Global, the new venture aims to offer corporations and individuals “science-based solutions” in order to tackle stress and burnout while enhancing wellbeing and productivity.

Based in New York, US, the company will provide three main services: corporate training sessions with leading partners; a media platform designed to be “the global hub for the conversation about wellbeing and productivity”; and an e-commerce platform offering technology and wellbeing products.

“We are at an inflection point in history where technology has granted us powers that accelerate the speed of life beyond our capacity to cope,” Huffington said.

She added that the company has already secured a number of major partner companies for its corporate wellness services. One of these is a deal with South Africa-based



Huffington said the venture will be based on three separate services

insurer Discovery, which will allow Thrive Global access a number of markets through Discovery’s global insurance partners and corporate clients – including in the UK.

The company is also partnering with fitness tracker Fitbit to offer Thrive Global clients Fitbit’s corporate wellness experience, which provides a custom company storefront, Fitbit activity trackers, a programme dashboard and engaging corporate challenges to help companies promote employee well-being.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=j2B4e_O

Yoga organisation wins refugee prize

British organisation Ourmala has been granted a slice of a £512,733 European Commission fund to help integrate refugees into society through sport.

London-based Ourmala has received £48,916 in funding for its Ashtanga Yoga Good Health Project. The organisation delivers therapeutic yoga, nutritional lunches and English classes to refugees and asylum-seekers.

Ourmala’s project was among 10 other schemes chosen for funding by the European Commission.

Also receiving money were: Centro Universitario Sportivo Palermo; Directorate of Physical Education, Hellenic Republic; Streetfootballworld; Royal Europa 90 Kraainem Football Club; Oltalom Sport Association; Sports Management Bulgaria; Sunflower Farm; Aquila basket Trento 2013; Caritas Wien; Democracy in Sport Association. The projects will run in 2017



Tibor Navracsics said physical activity can teach refugees EU values

to “test and identify practices” that can best integrate refugees following a large influx to Europe over the past 18 months.

Tibor Navracsics, commissioner for Culture, said: “I am very pleased that the EU is supporting concrete actions enabling refugees to participate in sport and physical activity.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=y2R8u_O

Floating hotel for River Thames

A boutique floating hotel with 148 bedrooms has opened at the King George V lock on the River Thames in London.

The Good Hotel is based on an ethos of helping those suffering from long-term unemployment to get back to work.

Built on a large floating platform, the hotel first opened in Amsterdam in June 2015 as a pop-up social enterprise project and has now been transported across the North Sea with the help of tug boats and a submerged barge.

"The purpose is to extensively train unemployed local people in various jobs in the hospitality industry," a spokesperson said.

"After concluding the Good Training, participants will be offered a three-month contract at Good Hotel, followed by professional mediation in the city's hotel business. The entire process gives participants a real chance to reintegrate into the economy and get a new future."

Rooms range from a 13sq m standard to a spacious 30sq m deluxe room, and

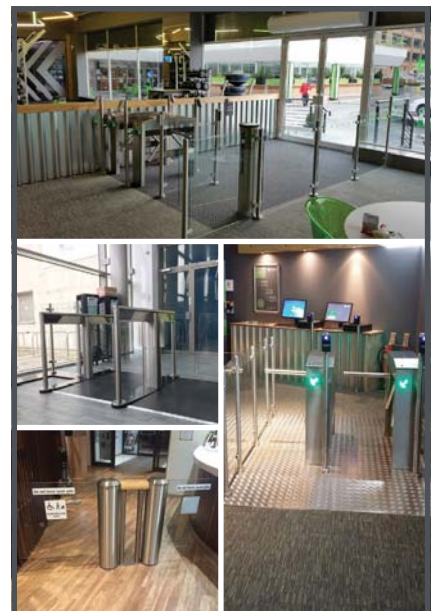


The hotel was transported across the North Sea to its current location

amenities include an en-suite bathroom, in-room safe, coffee/tea facilities, small writing desk and free WiFi.

The hotel is operated by Amsterdam-based Good Hotel Group, founded by Dutch entrepreneur Marten Dresen. The London project is the group's third development and the company is looking to open another eight hotels across the world by 2020.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=B4z2Z_O



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'Gin hotel' to open in London

A new gin-themed visitor centre – which will also operate a small boutique hotel – is set to open in London on 16 December.

Located on Portobello Road in west London, The Distillery features three boutique guestrooms, priced at £125 per night, as well as a restaurant, bar, private dining area and a number of gin-related visitor experiences.

On the ground floor is the 'Resting Room', where guests can enjoy and sample gin and other spirits from around the world. The unique design of the bar means that the barrels holding the drink have been placed high above the customers.

A spokesperson for The Distillery said: "Guests can enjoy a considered selection of international spirits that have been aged in hand-built barrels suspended above the bar from which they will be directly served."

"Due to the spirit's ongoing ageing process, which continues within the barrel, no two drinks will be the same."



The Distillery in London will feature three boutique guest rooms

As well as the hotel, the upper floors are home to GinTonica, a bar and restaurant; the Ginstitute, a gin-themed attraction allowing guests to make their own gin; a shop; a gin museum; and a dining room called Boardroom.

The visitor centre and hotel are being developed by Portobello Road Gin, an independently-owned brand of gin.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=R6M3T_O



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Mixed picture on inbound figures

New data from the British Hospitality Association (BHA) has revealed that despite predictions of increased UK tourism thanks to a Brexit-affected pound, the number of tourists over the first nine months of the year dropped by almost 400,000 people.

Despite the slump in tourists, however, the overall number of people arriving to Britain actually rose by 700,000 people over the period – thanks to an increase of 3.8 per cent rise in business travel and an 8.2 per cent rise in people travelling to the UK to visit relatives.

For September, the number of outbound tourists rose 10.1 per cent, also confounding post-Brexit tourism predictions, with many predicting “Staycation 2” as British tourists try to get more value for their spend.

Following the widely-predicted trend, inbound visitors in the same month were up, increasing by 1.3 per cent year-on-year, with business visits up 6.6 per cent.



The weakened pound was predicted to lure more visitors to Britain

The data come from BHA’s newly-launched Travel Monitor, tourism statistics which will be published monthly and quarterly.

“We have launched the BHA Travel Monitor so that we can provide, through detailed and structured analysis of passenger data, a true picture of hospitality and tourism performance,” said Ufi Ibrahim, BHA’s CEO. Details: http://lei.sr?a=e5M3c_O

St Helena readies tourism plan

The British Overseas Territory of St Helena is about to start a new chapter in its history as the island prepares for a tourism influx following a successful technical stop at its new airport, potentially increasing numbers eightfold.

Described as a game changer for the remote destination, the island hit the significant milestone in its history at the end of October, successfully landing the flight at its new £201.5m airport, which was crucial due to concerns over wind shearing.

According to the island’s tourist board, a number of airlines are currently in negotiation for either weekly or bi-weekly flights. A limit of 900 visitors per week – or 46,800 people per year – has been set by the government to protect the environment. The aim is to bring in low volume, high value tourism to make St Helena – which is currently totally reliant upon grant aid from the UK government – self-dependant.

In 2015, the island welcomed around 10,000 visitors, though those numbers were significantly boosted by diverted cruise ships



Before the airport’s launch, St Helena was only accessible by boat

thanks to the Ebola outbreak in Africa. Typical annual numbers would be closer to 6,000.

“When we know what’s coming, where it’s coming from and how much it’s going to cost, we’ve got a mountain of tour operators who would like to promote us,” said Christopher Pickard, director of tourism for St Helena. “We’re aiming for low quantity, high quality tourism.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=s9w6v_O



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Tate Modern to host Fujiko Nakaya's artificial fog show

London's Tate Modern is to host its first performance art show – an interactive artwork that will shroud part of the museum in an artificial fog.

Created by Japanese artist Fujiko Nakaya, the terrace to the gallery's newly-opened Switch House will have a sculpture installed to create the fog using water vapour.

Nakaya has created previous fog installations dating back to 1970, last year covering a Bristol bridge in fog for nine days.

“Walking inside fog, people are suddenly confronted with white darkness, but soon they find themselves trying to use all the senses other than the visual to orient themselves,” said Nakaya.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=XG6F_O



The new IAAPA chair is also the acting chief safety officer for Disney Parks and Resorts

IAAPA chair Hale: 'Safety top priority for attractions'

New IAAPA chair Greg Hale has outlined the organisation's plans for the year ahead, following on from his predecessor with the same key message: that the global industry must treat safety as a top priority.

Hale, who takes over from Universal's John McReynolds, is also acting chief safety officer for Disney Parks and Resorts.

Speaking about his new role with IAAPA, Hale talked about the importance of the organisation's safety programme, reinforced by its training institutes.

“IAAPA has always had safety as a core value,” he said, speaking to *Leisure Opportunities*. “It continues to grow its outreach programme to educate about best practices for safety, such as through the IAAPA Safety Institute.”

In the wake of recent theme park tragedies at Alton Towers and Dreamworld in Australia, Hale said that safety education and learning from these incidents is crucial to prevent similar circumstances happening again in the future.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=M6U4g_O

Heritage visits continue to grow

Historic England's annual audit of the country's heritage sites has revealed that more than three-quarters of adults in the UK have visited heritage sites in the last year, with the class participation gap significantly shrinking.

The Heritage Counts report estimates that roughly 40 million over 16s – 73 per cent of the UK's population – visited heritage sites, such as stately homes, castles and archaeological ruins, in 2015.

Historic buildings continue to draw large crowds in England, with 61 million visitors in 2015 – an increase of 39 per cent since 1989.

Major heritage organisations have also seen an increase in memberships in the past year, with English Heritage numbers increasing by 10 per cent, the National Trust 8 per cent and the Historic Houses Association 11 per cent.

The participation gap between people in rich and poor areas has shrunk dramatically, with 59 per cent of people in deprived areas visiting a historic place compared with 83 per cent in richer areas – a 24 point difference.



Historic buildings continue to draw large crowds in England

This gap has closed significantly since 2009, when there was a 44 point difference, with just 40 per cent of people from deprived areas visiting heritage sites.

“This new research clearly shows that more and more people, from a variety of socioeconomic and ethnic groups, appreciate England's historic sites,” said Sir Laurie Magnus, chair of Historic England. “Our historic environment plays a crucial role in shaping the places where we live, work and visit. It provides people with a physical link to the past.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=b7b4S_O

New headline attraction for BCLM

Ambitious plans have been submitted to recreate an entire town mirroring life from the 1940s to 1960s – complete with a public house, library and bowling green – in the heart of the Black Country Living Museum (BCLM) in Dudley, West Midlands.

Forming part of the museum's 40-year development masterplan, entitled *BCLM: Forging Ahead*, the town is set to become the museum's new headline attraction and will involve the translocation of a number of at-risk buildings in the Black Country to the museum.

Several historic buildings that are at risk of demolition across the Black Country have already been identified as suitable for the project.

Plans also include redeveloping the museum's Rolfe Street Entrance Building into a new learning centre, to enable the development of a new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) learning programme. Museum officials have submitted a first-round funding bid to the



BCLM offers visitors a glimpse into historical living in the area

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), hoping to secure a £9.8m grant for the project.

If the bid is successful, officials can get started on the first stage of the project – which is financially supported, in principle, by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership – and carry out “significant historic research” and a detailed planning proposal in order to complete a second-round bid to HLF.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=u6F2V_O



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1 Undershaft will be the tallest tower in the city

1 Undershaft approved by City of London committee

The City of London's planning committee has green lit architect Eric Parry's design for the district's tallest tower.

With a gross estimated area of 30,000sq m (323,000sq ft) and a height of 309.94m (1,016ft) above ordnance datum, the tower, called 1 Undershaft, will overtake Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners' Leadenhall Building as the tallest building in the City.

A new public square and 2,000sq m (21,500sq ft) retail court will be created at the base of the structure, while a free public viewing gallery, London's highest restaurant and an education centre curated by the Museum of London will feature at the top, served by dedicated lifts. Visitors will be able to see as far as 62km (38 miles).

The design – commissioned by Singapore-based Aroland Holdings – visualises a simple square-shaped tower featuring huge red cross braces, white louvre cladding and special fins to reduce solar glare and keep the building cool.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=X8t5h_O

Sir Peter Cook blasts 'boring' architecture

British architect and academic Sir Peter Cook has blasted the "conspiracy of boring" he believes is preventing the creation of interesting and risk-taking contemporary buildings.

In a passionate address delivered at the World Architecture Festival in Berlin last month, the founder of avant-garde collective Archigram bemoaned the "lack of imagination" stifling the industry.

"I believe there are some architects, even in this room, who really prefer it if buildings went away," he said. "They're so cool, so calm, so straight that they really don't want to have any [different] stuff at all."

"There's a conspiracy of boring, which terrorises people into saying 'we can't do this or that, because it'll be breaking the rules'. But we can break the rules."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q8T7Q_O

Plans filed for Koolhaas' Factory

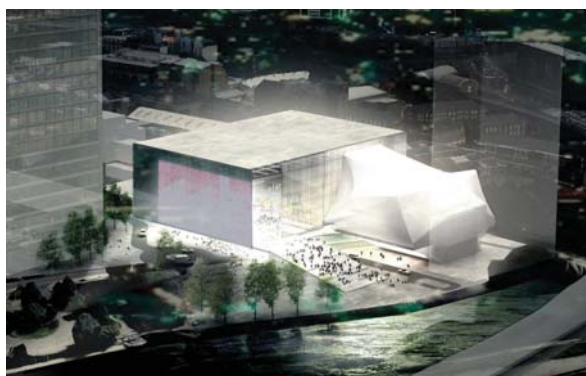
Plans for Factory, the flagship arts building for the north of England designed by Rem Koolhaas' Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA), have been submitted to Manchester City Council following a public consultation process.

The project is OMA's first major public building in the UK. If planning is granted, construction will begin in 2017. The large-scale venue has been designed

to reflect the "extraordinary creative vision and breadth of Manchester's cultural life".

It will form part of the city's new 20 acre St. John's neighbourhood, which is being developed by Allied London in partnership with the council on the site of the former Granada TV Studios. Hotels, independent food and drink outlets, extensive public realm and open green spaces will also feature.

The £110m large-scale venue – which takes its name from Factory Records, the Manchester music label which launched the careers of British bands Joy Division, New Order and the Happy Mondays – will commission and



When open, Factory will commission and host a range of performances

host performances of theatre, music, dance, technology, film and TV. The 130,000sq ft (12,000sq m) project will have room for 2,200 seats and 5,000 standing visitors.

According to local publication *Manchester Confidential*, OMA's design resembles in parts the work of surrealist architectural artist Filip Dujardin, who imagines concrete or industrial buildings introduced into unfamiliar contexts. The rear of Factory appears to feature cladding formed of a mixture of materials forming unconventional patterns – contrasting with the concrete and glass exterior.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=q2V8n_O

Schumacher's position 'not under threat'

Patrik Schumacher's position at Zaha Hadid Architects (ZHA) is not under threat despite the practice issuing a frank statement distancing itself from his controversial comments about social housing and the privatisation of public space.

"Patrik's position is certainly not under any threat; he remains our principal," a ZHA spokesperson told *Leisure Opportunities*. "Patrik is currently in Asia, along with other senior members of the practice, for a topping out ceremony."

Schumacher has faced mounting criticism over comments delivered in a speech at the World Architecture Festival in Berlin on 17 November, in which he described social housing tenants as "freeriders" stopping more productive workers living in the centre of London, and suggested that "80 per cent of Hyde Park" in London should be built over with a new city. He also



Patrik Schumacher made the controversial comments last month

called for the privatisation of all streets, squares, public spaces and parks.

A ZHA statement said: "Patrik's 'urban policy manifesto' does not reflect Zaha Hadid Architects' past – and will not be our future. Zaha did not write manifestos. She built them."

Despite the critical tone of the statement, the spokesperson told CLAD that it "simply underlines ZHA's core values and principles."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=q3Q2v_O

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Achieving our aims



TARA DILLON
is chief executive
of CIMSPA

This year has been about building solid foundations. At the start of 2016, we set out to achieve five goals: secure government support for a comprehensive workforce agenda; establish a working forum with the healthcare sector; define clear goals with higher education (HE) and further education (FE) linked to our sector; set up an employer-led Professional Development Board; and begin the Skills Matrix via committees.

I'm pleased to say that we have achieved all of these aims. The sector now has indisputable support from government as demonstrated in its sports strategy.

We are working with Public Health England as well as other leading bodies such as the Royal College of General Practitioners and Royal College of Physicians to upskill GPs and health practitioners in physical activity.

We have established formal links with the HE and FE sector via the Higher Education Academy (HEA) and the Association of Colleges Sport (AoC Sport) to make qualifications fit for purpose and students more employable.

We've also established a Professional Development Board comprising 10 employers as well as three government departments, three national governing bodies of sport, Sport England, ukactive, sports coach UK, ukactive kids, Street Games, Federation of Awarding Bodies and the Association of Education and Learning Providers. With CIMSPA acting as the secretariat, this powerful group is applying leadership and good governance to the development of a professional standards matrix which is being populated by our five professional development committees.

We are determined to give everyone in our sector a professional career pathway and route to chartered status. 2017 promises to be another challenging year, but with unprecedented support from stakeholders, we are on track to creating a sector that attracts and retains the best talent.

Lifelong learning 'key' for fitness

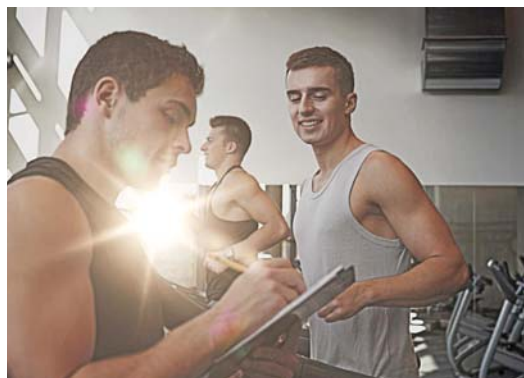
In order to provide a sustainable service for its customers, the fitness sector needs to ensure all staff and practitioners stay connected to education, training and certification beyond their basic qualifications.

That is the headline finding of a new survey, conducted by EuropeActive, which collected feedback from key stakeholders from the European fitness sector – such as club operators, fitness professionals, training providers, higher education institutes and suppliers.

The *Lifelong Learning at a European Level* survey charted the industry's opinions on the desired features of a potential future lifelong learning programme, which would be operated by the European Register of Exercise Professionals (EREPS).

The majority of respondents to the survey believe that the new lifelong programme should endorse and approve all continuing education courses – from both accredited and non-accredited training providers.

Other suggestions include the introduction of a regular recertification process, which would see fitness professional having to update qualifications periodically – with a time period of up to two years being identified as optimal.



The survey charted the industry's opinions on fitness staff

Alexis Batrakoulis, member of the EuropeActive's Professional Standards Committee and project coordinator for the survey, said: "There is strong evidence that a comprehensive and accredited lifelong learning programme is a crucial element of the development of exercise professionals in the European fitness sector."

Some of the suggestions coming out of the survey are more radical. One of the proposals was to disable the online EREPS directory profiles of all those exercise professionals who "systematically do not meet lifelong learning requirements".

Details: http://lei.sr?a=v8X9v_O

GLL and Les Mill win big at awards

Leisure organisations including GLL, Future Fit Training and Les Mills UK were some of the winners at this year's Active Training Awards.

Organised by ukactive, more than 250 delegates from the physical activity sector gathered at Hilton Reading in Berkshire for a conference and awards ceremony. As well as the above, James Pearce, BBC Sport television presenter, handed out awards to Body Transformation Academy, Places for People and ICON Training.

Individual Activity Champion of the Year was Richard Scrivener, a fitness professional from Train Fitness International, which also picked up an award for Best Use of Technology.

Outstanding Achievement awards were given to Active Nation, Lifetime Training and Jubilee Hall Trust. The conference and awards event focused on professionalisation of the workforce, fostering innovation, and laying the foundations for long-term success.

The conference was opened by ukactive chair and crossbench peer Tanni



GLL won Employer of the Year at the Active Training Awards

Grey-Thompson, followed by a keynote speech by Professor Miquel Lladó, the academic director for the ukactive Future Leaders Programme and lecturer at the IESE Business School in Barcelona. He spoke about the secrets to building a winning culture within the workplace.

There were also sessions on workforce excellence and the role of the physical activity sector as the preventative frontline for the NHS.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=J9z8W_O



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Crèche Assistant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford Upon Avon, UK

Snr Watersports Supervisor

Company: LeisureForce
Location: Jeddah

Recreation Assistant (lifeguard)

Company: GLL
Location: Various locations, UK

Club Manager

Company: Soho Gyms
Location: London, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: North Somerset, UK

Dry Side Leisure Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: Camden, London, UK

Senior Active Lifestyle Officer

Company: Cambridge City Council
Location: Cambridge, UK

Casual Receptionist

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bristol, UK

Crew Member

Company: énergie group
Location: Oldbury, UK

Membership Consultants

Company: Everyone Active
Location: across the Westminster, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group
Location: Dundee, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Stonyhurst College
Location: Lancashire, UK

Leisure Assistant

Company: Tees Active Ltd
Location: Stockton-on-Tees, UK

Lifeguards

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fleet, UK

Customer Advisor (p/t)

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: North Somerset, UK

Tech Support for Aquatics

Company: The STA
Location: Walsall, West Midlands, UK

Swimming Dev Officer

Company: Doncaster Culture and LT
Location: Doncaster, UK

Contract Fitness Manager

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Vale of Glamorgan, UK

Swimming Teacher

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Dereham, UK

Casual Catering Assistant

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Dereham, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Henbury, Bristol, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Greenwich, UK

Fitness Apprentice

Company: énergie group
Location: Fit4Less Cheadle Hulme, UK

Leisure Attendant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Epping, UK

Aquazone Manager (p/t)

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Kettering, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: énergie group
Location: Fit4Less Cheadle Hulme, UK

Part-Time Receptionist

Company: énergie group
Location: Forest Hill, UK

Centre Manager

Company: Tone Leisure
Location: Wellington, Somerset, UK

Sales and Marketing Officer

Company: Carmarthenshire CC
Location: Carmarthen, Wales, UK

x2 Team Leaders

Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK

Duty Manager (Wet)

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Bedworth, UK

National Franchise Manager

Company: truGym
Location: Nationwide, UK

Call Centre Service Advisor

Company: truGym
Location: Stevenage, UK

Conditioning to the Core

Company: Human Kinetics
Location: Online

Online CE Course

Company: Human Kinetics
Location: Online

High-Performance Training

Company: Human Kinetics
Location: Online

Leisure Manager

Company: South Oxfordshire
Location: Milton Park, Abingdon, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group
Location: Caspian Wharf, Bow, UK

Marketing & Accounts

Company: Wexer
Location: London, UK

Sales Associate (Retail)

Company: Equinox
Location: London, UK

Bodyweight Strength Training

Company: Human Kinetics
Location: Online

Anatomy CE Course

Company: Human Kinetics
Location: Online

Training Executive - UK

Company: eGym
Location: London, UK

Senior Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: London. N5 1RR, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Dartford, UK

Senior Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: London. SW4 6DB, UK

Contract Sales Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Scarborough, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Harrow, UK

Team leaders

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Cheltenham, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Harrow, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: Reading, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Hampshire, UK

Membership consultants

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Southampton, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: énergie group
Location: Bethnal Green, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group
Location: Forest Hill, UK

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Birmingham North East, UK

Area Sales Manager

Company: eGym
Location: Nationwide (UK travel), UK

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Birmingham South West, UK

Apprenticeships Available

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, UK

Sales Executive

Company: eGym
Location: London, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: énergie group
Location: Various locations, UK

Swim Instructor

Company: énergie group
Location: Leighton Buzzard, UK

Manager / Team Leader

Company: 360 Play
Location: Redditch, UK

Netball Dev Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: South East Region, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Bourton-on-the-Water, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: Oxfordshire, UK

Personal trainers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Essex, UK

Maintenance Associate

Company: Equinox
Location: London, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Nuneaton, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: Énergie Group
Location: Fulham, London, UK

General Manager

Company: Abbeycroft Leisure
Location: Suffolk, UK

Head of Leisure

Company: Lichfield District Council
Location: Lichfield, Staffordshire, UK

Operations Manager

Company: Shenley Leisure Centre Trust
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Sports Coach/Party Host

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Loughton, UK

Sports Receptionist

Company: Royal Automobile Club
Location: Epsom, UK

Senior Operations Assistant

Company: Shenley Leisure Centre Trust
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Sales manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Carshalton, UK

Membership consultants

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fleet, UK

Membership consultants

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sunbury-on-Thames, UK

General Manager

Company: Bootcamp Pilates
Location: London, UK

Sales manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Carshalton, UK

Membership consultants

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Staines-upon-Thames, UK

Aqua Aerobics Instructor

Company: Everyone Active
Location: St Albans, UK

Group Exercise Instructors

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Elephant & Castle, UK

Membership consultants

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Carshalton, UK

Night Shift Worker

Company: énergie group
Location: Cheadle Hulme, UK

General Managers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Impact Sales Consultant

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: National role, UK

Personal Trainers Needed

Company: Rush Fitness
Location: Various locations, UK

Sales and Marketing Manager

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

General Manager

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various

Personal Trainer

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Spa Receptionist

Company: Corinthia Hotel
Location: London, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Corinthia Hotel
Location: London, UK

Senior Spa Therapist

Company: Corinthia Hotel
Location: London, UK

Spa Director

Company: Champneys Health Spa
Location: Various, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Celtic Manor Resort
Location: Newport, UK

Beauty Therapists

Company: Auchrannie Hotel & Spa
Location: Isle of Arran, UK

Beauty Therapists

Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Longleat Forest, UK

Beauty Therapists

Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Woburn Forest, UK

Beauty Therapist

Company: Royal Automobile Club
Location: London, UK

ITEC/NVQ L3-Qualified

Head Spa Trainer

Company: Myoka Spas
Location: Malta, Malta

Spa Therapist

Company: Thyme Hotel
Location: Gloucestershire, UK

Regional Spa Director

Company: Myoka Spas
Location: United Arab Emirates

Beauty Therapists

Company: Lifehouse Spa and Hotel
Location: Frinton-on-Sea, UK

Duty Manager - Events

Company: Sea Life
Location: Orlando, United States

Marketing Manager

Company: Sea Life
Location: Orlando, United States

General Manager

Company: The Eye Brand
Location: Orlando, United States

Head - Commercial Operations

Company: London Borough of Waltham Forest
Location: Walthamstow, London, UK

Product Manager - Waves

Company: Whitewater West
Location: Richmond, BC, Canada

Master Model Builder

Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: Westchester NY, US

Chief Engineer

Company: Dreamland Margate
Location: Margate, UK

Events Manager

Company: Warwick Castle
Location: Warwick, UK

Senior Brand Manager

Company: Legoland
Location: California, United States

Operations Manager

Company: Madame Tussauds
Location: Hollywood, United States

Insight Manager

Company: The Eye Brand
Location: London, UK

Technical/Facilities Manager

Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: Boston, UK

Media Relations & Social

Media Representative

Company: Legoland
Location: California, United States

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Netball's TV deal will 'grow the game'

England Netball is eyeing increased participation after inking a fresh four-year deal with Sky Sports to broadcast a package of league and international matches.

The pay-TV broadcaster will take its coverage of the Vitality Superleague up to 11 years when the deal ends in 2020. Its Sky Sports Mix channel will also host several England Roses matches, including the new Quad Series, which will see England take on Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The channel recently televised England's Test series versus Jamaica.

Joanna Adams, England Netball chief executive, said she expected the deal to be the catalyst behind grassroots growth.

"This coverage will help to cement the continuing increase in netball's participation figures," she added.

The deal represents a big boost for netball and women's sport in general.

During an interview with *Leisure Opportunities* in June, Adams revealed that the broadcasting deal was helping the



Surrey Storm were crowned champions of the 2016 Superleague

governing body become less reliant on government grants from Sport England.

Around 30 per cent of England Netball's current funding comes from self-generated income, while 70 per cent comes from government. Adams said she would eventually like those figures the other way around.

England Roses head coach Tracey Neville said it was a "wonderful time" for netball at the moment, with the emergence of full-time contracts as well as the television deal.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z6y6J_O

BBC shows become attractions in China

Continued from front cover

Harmon told *Leisure Opportunities* that the project is currently in the development phase. He revealed that BBC Earth will be a full-scale theme park, with rides shows and exhibits, combined with the "gorgeous cinematography" unique to the brand.

"We're going to look at the beautiful biomes, the natural wildlife and the biodiversity of Earth, all split into realms based on the current series," he said. "We're taking the BBC's media and integrating it into the park."

He added: "In a nutshell our BBC Earth attraction will be a celebration of the Earth through the lens of the BBC." The park's *Top Gear* zone will be a family entertainment centre (FEC) concept, with a twist. Harmon added that while the traditional half-day experience of the FEC concept was still prevalent with exhibits celebrating the history of the brand – from Jeremy Clarkson to Matt



Planet Earth 2 will be among the brands incorporated into the BBC Earth theme park

LeBlanc – there would be a number of other activities integrated for visitors.

"We call it FEC plus as we're planning a number of rides and large-scale shows," Harmon said. "It's not just virtual experiences either. Physical experiences will play a part also."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=d5z2m_O

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