

New Hertfordshire snow centre set for May opening

By **Pete Hayman**

A new £23m indoor hub for skiing and snowboarding, which has been built on the site of the former Hemel Ski Slope in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, is to open on 6 May.

The Snow Centre, which has been built by UK-based company Sir Robert McAlpine, incorporates a 160m (525ft) main slope suitable for skiers of all abilities, a 100m (328ft) lesson slope, a Snow and Rock retail outlet, a café and après bar and a snow play area.

It will also be the only indoor snow facility in southern Britain that holds Centre of Excellence status,



The centre will enable visitors to experience real snow conditions

which has been awarded by the British Association of Snowsports Instructors (BASI), while links have also been established with the Ötztal region in Austria to ensure it

offers the latest Alpine coaching techniques.

Work got underway last year following two years of planning by David Surrey, director of the Hemel Ski Centre, in partner-

ship with Sir Robert McAlpine and Dacorum Borough Council, and it is hoped that the new venue will attract 300,000 visitors in its first year.

Steven Jordan, technical director at The Snow Centre, said: "Everybody will be able to enjoy the centre, from beginners to experts, children to adults; there is something for everyone."

Ten snow cannons will ensure real snow is produced on a regular basis to replicate Alpine conditions, which will be maintained at temperatures just below freezing.

The new centre also features a 72,000sq ft (6,689sq m) living roof planted with sedum.

Leeds City Council secures funding for Holt Park

Department of Health confirms PFI credits towards new £32m leisure centre

By **Tom Walker**

Leeds City Council (LCC) has secured funding for the construction of a new leisure and wellbeing centre in Holt Park, near Cookridge.

The Department of Health has confirmed the allocation, in principle, of £32m of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) credits for the new centre, which will combine services provided by LCC's adult social care, youth and sports services, NHS Leeds, and the local community.



The new leisure centre will include a 25m swimming pool

The Holt Park facility, to be called New Leaf Wellbeing Centre, will include a 25m swimming pool, an easily

accessible learner pool with beach, a sports hall and a Bodyline gym. It will also have meeting, conference and multi-purpose rooms that will host health education workshops and exercise classes.

The wellbeing aspects include a hydrotherapy pool, sensory rooms and a rebound room, which is a soft-sided relaxation space with music.

The centre is intended to replace the existing Holt Park Leisure Centre, as well as contribute to the regeneration of Holt Park District Centre.

Marwell opens African Valley

Marwell Zoological Park in Hampshire has opened its new African Valley zone. The opening of the new zone follows several years of planning and has taken a year to construct.

The 20-acre (8.1-hectare) African Valley will see more than 35 Ellipsen waterbucks, Grevy's zebras and ostriches roam together in a new habitat.

The opening coincides with Marwell renaming itself as Marwell Wildlife for the 2009 season

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TALKING POINT

Testing Budget offers little relief

At a time when the British economy faces its toughest challenge since the Second World War, there was little respite for the leisure industry as chancellor Alistair Darling increased alcohol duties and ignored calls for investment in tourism in the 2009 Budget. *Pete Hayman* investigates how industry figures have greeted the news.

COLIN DAWSON chief executive, BALPPA

The Budget is a missed opportunity to promote British tourism and to create much needed boost in employment. Amid all the depressing content of his Budget, the chancellor could have included a measure that would have provided a genuine green shoot by stimulating an industry that is capable of playing a major role in moving our economy in the right direction.

In BALPPA's Budget submission we argued for a targeted reduction in VAT for visitor attractions and accommodation. A reduction to 5 per cent would have boosted Treasury revenues and contributed to GDP growth.

I am mystified why the chancellor did not seize the opportunity to promote British tourism at a time when many people are for the first time in decades seriously thinking about holidaying in the UK rather than going abroad.

BOB COTTON chief executive, British Hospitality Association

In his speech, the chancellor said that his Budget would "build on the strengths of the British economy and its people, speed the recovery, providing jobs and spreading prosperity".

It is curious, therefore, that despite its size and importance, tourism didn't get a mention in the speech, while other industries – creative, oil, IT, energy – did. It was an opportunity missed.

Gordon Brown insists that Britain must invest its way out of the economy – yet the Budget has done little to encourage this in tourism.

In 2007, the government abolished the Hotel Buildings Allowance and reduced other capital allowance yet investment in tourism facilities is essentially long-term. Frustratingly, the government is now investing heavily in green and hi-tech industries to pull the economy out of the recession, which take many years to produce a return; tourism can produce a near-instant return.

If the government wants to encourage more new investment, it needs to restore the Hotel Buildings Allowance and the long-term cuts in capital allowances, stop the imposition of additional costs on businesses and stanch the endless stream of new regulations.



"The Budget signs a death warrant for thousands of Britain's pubs and for tens of thousands of jobs."
Mark Hastings

MARK HASTINGS director of communications, British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA)

The Budget signs a death warrant for thousands of Britain's pubs and for tens of thousands of jobs. Pubs play a vital role in the economy, yet six are closing every day and more than 2,000 have gone in the last 12 months alone.

In imposing additional beer taxes, the government has wilfully ignored the public, landlords, consumer groups, industry representatives and MPs from all parties who have been calling for action to save the British pub.

At a time when the rest of the economy is getting a supporting hand, the pub industry is being singled out for punitive action. Last year, the chancellor raised beer tax by an eye-watering 18 per cent. The latest increase is a further body blow. The result will be more pubs closing, more jobs being lost and more people consuming alcohol outside supervised, licensed premises.

Our campaign with the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) to save pubs as a vital part of British life now becomes a matter of the highest priority. It has widespread public support, cross-party political support plus the support of trade unions such as Unite. The only person who doesn't seem to be listening is the chancellor.

UK parks to receive £14m funding boost

Eight restoration schemes across Britain to benefit from a share of Lottery cash

By **Pete Hayman**

Eight parks across Britain are to be restored after receiving a share of £14m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund's (BIG) Parks for People initiative.

The funding will also go towards increasing the number of volunteering and training opportunities for more than 1,000 as part of the schemes, which include planting, habitat creation and woodland and event management.

Lichfield's Beacon Park, Minster Pool and the Garden of Remembrance in Staffordshire will receive the largest funding share, with a £3.9m grant set to be spent on transforming the open spaces through the restoration of the park's landscape and historic features.



A restoration scheme at Lichfield's Beacon Park will receive £3.9m

A scheme to restore Coventry's War Memorial Park in Warwickshire, which commemorates soldiers who died in World War I, has been awarded £2.8m, while the largest park in Sunderland – Barnes Park – will receive £2.4m towards a £3.6m regeneration project.

Elsewhere, MacRosty Park in Perthshire; Stevenage's Town Centre Gardens, Hertfordshire; and Gyllyngdune Gardens in Falmouth, Cornwall will also receive funding, as will Stafford Orchard, Leicestershire; and Burngreen Park in Kilsyth, North Lanarkshire.

Government to extend child cycling initiative

By **Pete Hayman**

School children in England are to benefit from the chance to take part in Bikeability, the national cycle training standard, after the government committed £10m towards the initiative.

The funding is part of a £140m package for the training scheme, which aims to enable a total of 500,000 young people to learn essential cycling skills and to gain greater awareness of the dangers on the road.

Transport minister Paul Clark revealed details of the extra investment at the end of March,



More children will benefit from the Bikeability training scheme

with £5.4m funding earmarked for local authorities to provide Bikeability training and £4m to go towards the Youth Sport Trust to deliver cycle training in

schools through the School Sports Partnerships.

The remaining £500,000 is to be awarded as bursary grants to pay for 1,600 new training staff as part of the initiative, which launched in March 2007 to help children cope with traffic conditions.

Clark said: "Having the skills to cycle to school and to make other local journeys has never been more important, especially as it helps children and young people to reach the 60 minutes of activity recommended by the government's Change4Life scheme."

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IN BRIEF

Freedom Leisure wins Olympos contract

► Sussex-based sports trust Freedom Leisure has been awarded a five-year contract to manage the three Olympos leisure centres in Burgess Hill, East Grinstead and Haywards Heath on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC). In partnership with fellow trust Greenwich Leisure (GLL), Freedom Leisure will also take over the management of two MSDC entertainment venues, Clair Hall in Haywards Heath and Martlets Hall in Burgess Hill. This is not the first time Freedom Leisure and GLL have worked together, previously winning a joint bid to manage K2 Leisure Centre in Crawley.

Clayton gym revamped

► Phase one of the £500,000 redevelopment of Clayton Green Sports Centre in Chorley has reached completion, with the opening of its new fitness suite to local residents. Members can now use 40 pieces of Technogym equipment and will soon benefit from a new reception area with a lift, refurbished changing facilities and improved toilets and showers. The crèche and nursery area will also be completely refurbished and a new multipurpose room added to the first floor.

Fusion to manage Oxford facilities

► Fusion Lifestyle has announced that it has taken over the running of leisure facilities in Oxford from 30 March after securing a 10-year management contract with the city council. Working in partnership with Oxford City Council (OCC), Fusion has said it intends to improve facilities at seven sites across the city, as well as to reduce overall costs in a bid to rejuvenate the region's leisure services.

£13m centre proposed for Lewisham

Three separate designs for Forest Hill Pools to undergo public consultation

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

Three redevelopment proposals for Forest Hill Pools are due to be the subject of a public consultation this April in Lewisham, London.

Lewisham Council's short-listed leisure centre options come from HLM Architects, Allies + Morrison and Pollard Thomas Edwards architects.

It is the second round of consultations to be held on the development, after the council was forced to rethink designs last year. The adjacent Louise House received a Grade II listing by English Heritage, making the construction of a two-pool leisure centre on the site unaffordable.

A final decision on the redevelopment of Forest Hill Pools will be made by the mayor in the summer. According to the council there are two options: either postpone the



The existing Forest Hill Pools are to be replaced with a new centre

development until 2012 in the hope further funding can be found, which means the earliest it can be completed is late 2015, or proceed now and build the centre on Willow Way, 400m from the current site.

Funding would be provided in part by a housing development bringing the completion date to late 2011.

HLM are proposing the redevelopment of the Forest

Hill Pools on its existing site and accompany it with housing, demolishing the Victorian frontage. Allies + Morrison have submitted similar designs, but plan to retain the frontage and move the commercial and housing aspect to Willow Way.

Pollard Thomas Edwards intend to host the leisure centre on Willow Way and the housing development on the site of the existing pools.

Dance project kicks off in Carlisle

By **Tim Nash**

A new £30,000 mobile dance project has been launched by sports trust Carlisle Leisure.

Funded by the trust, with an additional £10,000 from the Healthy Communities and Older Peoples group, the LifeStyle fitness team from the Sands Centre is now taking to the road in a new van with 16 interactive dance mats supplied by Pulse. The scheme is designed to appeal to seven- to 15-year-olds.

Dan Anderton, Carlisle Leisure's Healthy LifeStyle co-ordinator added: "We're very excited about LifeStyle on the Road as it gives us the opportunity to get right into



The new dance mats were supplied by Pulse Fitness

the heart of the community and bring with us a fun new approach to health and fitness."

As part of the scheme, the team will also be delivering workshops covering a range of topics including healthy eating.

£1m grant for Nottingham complex

New centre part of city's £18.5m Leisure Centre Transformation Programme

By **Pete Hayman**

A new £6.44m leisure centre, which is currently being built at Forest Fields, Nottingham, has received a £1m grant from Sport England's Free Swimming Capital Modernisation Development Programme.

Nottingham City Council (NCC) is behind plans for the new complex, which will replace existing facilities at Noel Street as part of its £18.5m Leisure Centre Transformation Programme to improve sports provision across the city. The funding, which is made available to local authorities across England, is designed to encourage more people to take up swimming by helping to



The centre has been designed by Archial and is set to open in 2010

provide modern facilities and to enhance accessibility.

It coincides with the launch of the government's free swimming initiative for people aged between 16 and 60 years old, which will run until 31 March 2011 and aims to

increase participation ahead of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The new centre, which has been designed by Archial Architects and is being built by ISG Regions, is expected to be completed by April 2010.

New vision for physical activity unveiled in Liverpool

By **Pete Hayman**

A new 15-year strategy has been launched by Liverpool City Council (LCC) in a bid to improve the health and wellbeing of the city's residents through the reduction of obesity levels and ensuring people live longer.

Liverpool 2024: A Thriving International City sets out a series of plans designed to address a variety of public health issues through physical



The city-wide scheme has been designed to tackle obesity

activity, while also attempting to make the city one of the greenest and cleanest in Britain.

The city's local strategic partnership, Liverpool First, is implementing the plans following a 17-month consultation with more than 1,500 residents and more than 50 partner organisations.

Among LCC's pledges as part of the 100-page document, the council will look to reduce the level of obesity in adults and children from 2010 onwards, while also reducing the number of smokers to less than 10 per cent of the population.

IN BRIEF

700th Hilton Fitness By Precor opened

► More than 700 Hilton Fitness By Precor facilities have now opened globally since the brand was launched at the end of 2006, making it one of the world's largest health and fitness brands. Hilton plans to open another 150 facilities scheduled during 2009. Recent guest surveys conducted by the Hilton Hotels Corporation found that hotels offering Hilton Fitness By Precor facilities saw increases of up to 45 per cent in overall guest satisfaction.

DC Leisure strikes NHS deal

► Leisure management company DC Leisure has teamed up with the NHS as part of efforts to tackle obesity levels in Rotherham. The programme is aimed primarily at children between the ages of eight and 17-years-old who have a history of weight issues. The scheme has been created by professor Paul Gately, and is designed to form links between schools and leisure centres in the area. The programme contains weekly lifestyle sessions, which will be managed by DC Leisure on behalf of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Fitness First joins forces with Nintendo

► The Fitness First gym chain has joined forces with Nintendo Wii to launch a new product line for the games console. First to be released will be NewU Inside Out, which will combine fitness and exercise content with nutritional advice. A full-body workout is being designed by Fitness First. For this, six Fitness First personal trainers have been filmed demonstrating exercises as the designers opted for real life instruction rather than using 3D graphics.

IN BRIEF

Profits fall at Arena Leisure

► Arena Leisure, the UK racecourse operator, has seen a fall in profits and announced that it will not be paying a final dividend. The company saw its shares fall after reporting a drop in pretax profits from £5.9m in 2007 to £4m this year. However, the company said that revenue had increased by 12 per cent to £64.8m. Mark Elliot, chief executive, said: "Arena has delivered a creditable operational performance, growing total attendance across its portfolio of racecourses during the year."

Clubs closed as Rileys enters administration

► Rileys, the UK-wide snooker and pool club operator, has announced the closure of 30 properties and the loss of 200 jobs after it entered administration. Simon Allport and Tom Jack of Ernst and Young were appointed joint administrators of the embattled Milton Keynes-based company, although a deal has been reached with Valiant Sports Limited to ensure the survival of 129 clubs, which will continue to operate under the Rileys name.

Luminar chief expects half of clubs to close

► The chief executive of Luminar, the UK's biggest nightclub operator, has predicted tough times ahead for the club industry. Stephen Thomas told *The Times* that half of the UK's 2,700 nightclubs could close in the next 18 months, although he expects many venues to eventually reopen. He told the newspaper that Luminar was not looking to make any acquisitions either, saying that "of the 2,000-odd clubs in the country not owned by us, we'd be interested in less than eight".

Go-ahead for £16m Scunthorpe venue

New 3,200-capacity entertainment facility expected to open by summer 2011

By Pete Hayman

Plans to replace Scunthorpe's Baths Hall with a new £16m entertainment venue have been given the green light by North Lincolnshire Council (NLC).

The new venue, which will retain its original 1930s frontage, will include a standing area for up to 2,000 people, seating capacity of 1,200, conference facilities, a bar and a café.

Work has already started on a tender process to find a contractor to build the new facility, but the decision now means the council can move forward with the appointment of the venue's operator.

NLC will also continue with negotiations to find external funding for the scheme, with meetings scheduled to take place between the council and development agency Yorkshire Forward later this year.



North Lincolnshire Council has granted £10m towards the project

However, planning approval was granted subject to a number of conditions, one of which requires the new venue to generate at least 10 per cent of its energy demands through renewable, on-site measures.

Work is scheduled to get underway in April 2010, with the council already agreeing to contribute £10m from its capital programme, and it is hoped that the new facility will

be open to the public in summer 2011.

NLC leader Mark Kirk said: "The decision means we can now press ahead with our plans to provide an entertainment venue that people deserve."

"We announced that we would maintain our commitment despite budget pressures and we expect around 160,000 people to visit the new venue each year."

Cash boost for Edinburgh festivals

By Pete Hayman

Edinburgh's 12 festivals have been allocated more than £2m by the Scottish Government for the 2009-10 season in a bid to continue showcasing the best of Scottish arts and culture.

This year's Expo Fund, which has been increased by more than £700,000 from last year, is available to the 12 members of Festivals Edinburgh, an organisation set up to lead a joint strategic development plan for the festivals.

The funding, which includes a £250,000 grant to the Edinburgh Arts Festival over the next two years, forms part of the planned £6m investment in Edinburgh's festivals



Festival funding has been increased from last year

between 2008-09 and 2011-12, which is administered by the Scottish Arts Council.

Faith Liddell, director of Festivals Edinburgh, said: "The Expo Fund will allow our directors to create a rich portfolio of projects that represents the largest showcase of Scottish work ever presented."

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IN BRIEF

Weymouth FC future secured

► The future of Weymouth Football Club has been secured after a rescue package put together by two businessmen was approved by the board of directors at the Blue Square Premier League club. According to the *Dorset Echo*, the deal will see Paul Cocks and Shaun Hennessey appointed to the board, as well as the departure of chief executive Gary Calder and director Mark Golsby.

Football centre for Bradley

► Residents of North East Lincolnshire will soon benefit from a £2m investment in community sports facilities, following the approval of a new football facility in Bradley. A joint venture between the council and The Football Association (FA) will transform Bradley Playing Fields into a Community Football Development Centre, as part of the FA's drive to develop a network of sports villages across the country.

Funding boost for Scottish cricket

► Sportscotland has awarded Cricket Scotland a £415,320 grant to help develop sport in the region. The funding is part of an investment package for the sport which includes support services from the Scottish Institute of Sport, the high-performance arm of sportscotland. The sportscotland investment is also designed to support Cricket Scotland's drive to nurture the next generation of cricketing talent. According to Cricket Scotland figures, a total of 18,000 children were introduced to the sport by primary school teachers during 2008 – an increase of 10 per cent on 2007 figures.

Sports centre for Inverness campus

Proposals for £100m university site include Olympic-sized swimming pool

By Caroline Wilkinson

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) have submitted plans for a sports centre as part of a proposed £100m university campus in Inverness.

The development, to be located on 200-acres of land at Beechwood, is to be called Inverness Campus and will be part of the Millennium Institute's University of the Highlands and Islands portfolio of colleges.

The scheme is expected to generate in excess of £50m a year for the local economy. Designed by MAKE architects, in consultation with planning agents Turnberry Consulting, the proposed facilities include a gym, outdoor sports pitches, a



The centre is to open in time for the 2014 Commonwealth Games

swimming pool and a public park. An Olympic-sized swimming pool is also a consideration following a campaign launched by Inverness Swimming Club but, although HIE do not oppose the idea, it's not in a position

to fund such as venture. If another organisation is willing to front the cost of a 50m swimming pool then it will be considered.

Construction of the centre is expected to start in 2010 and completed by 2013.

£1.2m cash boost for Plymouth sports scheme

By Caroline Wilkinson

The refurbishment of the UCP Marjon swimming pool is set to receive a £1.2m cash injection from Plymouth City Council to ensure the dual-use provision of the facility.

The project, at the University College Plymouth St Mark and St John (UCP Marjon), is part of a wider rebuild of sports facilities which will also include enlarging the sports centre by 900sq m to 6,253sq m.



The designs of the new centre

A council spokesperson said: "Without the council's investment it is unlikely that UCP

Marjon would have continued to provide swimming facilities, but this new partnership arrangement means the University College can completely remodel the facility and provide vital public swimming provision."

The pool will be available for community use for up to 70 hours a week – up to 10 hours a day – and students can use the pool for around 20 hours a week to meet their curriculum requirements.

£1m grant for Manchester sports village

The football Foundation has presented a cheque for £1m towards the development of a £10.3m sports, culture and leisure village in Heywood, north Manchester.

The £1m grant, personally delivered by Football Foundation president Lord Pendry, will go towards the new centre which will incorporate a sports hall; 25-metre, six-lane swimming pool; 100-station fitness suite and dance studio plus community and education rooms. There will also be dedicated youth space and a youth gym. The funding comes on top of an earlier grant from Sport England for £500,000, which was also the largest amount they have ever awarded

House of Sport planned for Flintshire

Deeside Leisure Centre to be replaced by multi-million pound sports facility

By Helen Patenall

Deeside Leisure Centre in Flintshire, North Wales, may be demolished to make way for a new facility dubbed the 'House of Sport'.

Flintshire County Council is holding an executive cabinet meeting on Wednesday 1 April to decide how best to move forward with the proposals for a 12-court sports hall, a six-lane indoor bowls hall and an outdoor five-a-side football pitch. A dance room, a martial arts room and a spa centre may also be developed. The existing ice rink will be retained.

Ian Budd, director of lifelong learning, told local paper the Evening Leader: "The Sports Council for Wales identified the potential for the site making a



Plans for the centre include a dedicated space for martial arts

significant contribution to sport in North Wales as a major venue for regional and national training and competitions and as a key support facility for the North Wales Institute of Sport.

"If these were to be linked to an office base for Sports Council and Governing Bodies

of Sports staff, then the concept of a 'house of sport' becomes realisable — making Deeside and Flintshire the main focal point for sport in North Wales."

Six acres of land freed up by the redevelopment could be used by a local play scheme seeking a new site.

SCW targets child poverty

The Sports Council for Wales (SCW) has become one of the first eight public and voluntary sector organisations to sign up to a new joint agreement with the Welsh Assembly Government to help tackle child poverty.

The agreement is designed to show the Assembly Government's commitment to eradicating child poverty, as well as outlining ways in which other organisations can contribute towards that aim. The agreement will also support the Children and Families Measure put before the government which would place duty on public bodies to tackle child poverty.

Work starts on Adlington centre



Adlington (left) learned to swim at the Sheffield Baths in Mansfield

By Caroline Wilkinson

Construction work has started on the £5m redevelopment of Sheffield Baths in Mansfield.

The facility will be renamed the Rebecca Adlington Swimming Centre when it reopens, in celebration of the facility where the double olympic medalist learnt to swim. The contractor, G F Tomlinson Building, is in the process of adding two lanes to

the existing four-lane swimming pool, a new performance athlete pool training tank, a new changing village, a multi-purpose room and an enlarged larger gym.

There will also be a new two storey block with poolside changing rooms and improved disabled access, changing rooms dedicated to schools and clubs. The existing learner pool and pool hall will also be refurbished.

IN BRIEF

Shaftesbury Leisure closure

► The district council's withdrawal of a £110,000 subsidy to Shaftesbury Leisure Centre in North Dorset forced the facility to close its doors at the weekend. The decision was announced two years ago as part of the council's medium term financial plan. Regular users of the fitness centre will have to rely on services offered by Blandford Leisure Centre, while the astro-turf pitches at Shaftesbury Sports College may be open to the public for future use outside of school hours.

Revamp for Ashton centre

► Ashton Leisure Centre in Ashton-In-Makerfield, near Wigan, is set to undergo a £600,000 facelift thanks to its early start in offering free swimming for under 16-year-olds and the over 60s. As the centre was one of the first to offer free swimming, the facility's operator Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust was entitled to a cut of the DCMS' £50m capital swimming fund. Having successfully bid to Sport England for the cash boost, the grant will enable the trust to refurbish the centre's learner and main swimming pool and changing rooms.

Sport provision boosts participation

► The number of people living within a reasonable distance of a quality sports facility has almost doubled in the last few years, The Audit Commission's latest Comprehensive Performance Assessment found that 41 per cent of people living in urban England are now within a 20-minute walk — and within a 20-minute drive in rural areas — of three different types of sports facilities, including at least one quality assured scheme.

IN BRIEF

Rezidor Hotels signs Brighton properties

► DRezidor Hotels has announced the signing of two hotels in Brighton. The Brussels-based firm signed agreements to operate the Royal York Hotel and Landsdowne Place, both owned by Max Hotels, which will be rebranded as the Radisson Blue Hotel Brighton and Park Inn Brighton respectively at the end of April.

Travelodge scoops for Purple Hotels

► Travelodge has bought the last three remaining leases from Purple Hotels for £14m. Purple Hotels was owned by The Real Hotel Company, which went into administration in January this year. Travelodge bought the hotels – the 71-room Purple Hotel Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire, the 84-room Purple Hotel Derby in Derbyshire and the 103-room Purple Hotel Sheffield Meadowhall in South Yorkshire – from the company's administrator BDO Stoy Hayward. All three hotels will be rebranded.

Deloitte opts to buy-out GuestInvest investors

► GuestInvest's administrator Deloitte has reportedly made an offer to buy out individual investors of the London buy-to-let hotel operator so it can push forward with the sale of uncompleted properties. According to *The Times* newspaper, Deloitte recently sold a property in Leinster Square, Notting Hill, to GuestInvest founder Johnny Sandelson. The administrator is also understood to be close to agreeing the sale of Blakes hotel in Kensington. The three properties include the 157-room The Nest in Bayswater; The Jones, a £70m development in Bayswater; and The Brewery, in Chiswell Street.

Clapham to accelerate GBK roll out

Restaurant group looking to benefit from falling property prices across the UK

By **Tom Walker**

Clapham House Group plans to take advantage of the property market's depleting value over the next 12 months as it prepares to accelerate the roll out of its restaurants.

The operator of The Real Greek and Tootsies, plans to open 150 new Gourmet Burger Kitchen (GBK) restaurants in the UK, after delivering good sales for the year to 29 March 2009.

"We are witnessing a correction in UK property valuations as landlords have begun to adjust their rental expectations for new properties and leases," said the group's trading statement.

"We expect this realignment to accelerate over the next 12 months and will plan our



Clapham House has set out to rapidly expand the GBK chain

expansion to take best advantage of this."

Six GBK restaurants were opened in the financial year, bringing the group's total to 49 UK sites, accompanied by six overseas and 10 operated under franchise. A further three sites are under construction.

Sales at The Real Greek and Tootsies restaurants also weathered well, despite the weak UK economy.

Clapham House Group was created by former PizzaExpress boss, David Page, in 2003. Page floated the company on the AIM later that year.

RevPAR to fall at capital's hotels



Empty rooms – the trend facing London hoteliers during 2009

By **Tom Walker**

London hoteliers can expect to see a 12.7 per cent fall in RevPAR, to an average of £81.62, by the year-end 2009.

In its latest quarterly Hotel Market Outlook, consultants Deloitte predicts that the decline in RevPAR will come as average occupancy will fall 5.8 per cent to just 75.2 per cent.

Average room rates are also likely to take a hit and to settle

at £108.38, a £9 drop on the previous year.

All market segments are expected to see RevPAR decline more than 10 per cent during 2009, but luxury hotels are set to suffer the most with average room rates falling 18.2 per cent (more than a £35 reduction).

The outlook for 2010 looks similar to 2009, with little sign of the recovery. Average room rates are due to fall a further £9 to £99.03.



The Cavendish hotel in London, a leading member of CHA

CHA partners with Carbon Clear

Member hotels to benefit from environmental advice

By **Tom Walker**

The Considerate Hoteliers Association (CHA) has formed a strategic alliance with London-based carbon management specialist Carbon Clear.

Carbon Clear will act as the CHA's nominated expert on carbon management and offer advice to the association's members on issues relating to the development and implementation of carbon management strategies.

CHA's secretary John Firrell said: "We believe Carbon Clear will add considerable value to

what we can offer our members. Every day, we hear of conflicting tales of what best to do concerning a minefield of green issues. Carbon Clear will provide clear and concise advice that fits a multitude of different situations.

This is the first alliance we have formed and we are actively looking and talking with other key organisations – providing and promoting 'environmental best practice' – with which we can form a mutually beneficial relationship and further enhance the benefit of being a Considerate Hotelier."

Student restaurant opens for training

The student-run Open Kitchen Bar and Restaurant has opened at Hackney Community College in East London as part of efforts to bridge the skills gap ahead of the 2012 Olympics.

The restaurant, located below the London City Hospitality Centre, offers students the opportunity to study NVQ-based courses in customer service, leadership, and management while

gaining important skills in the work place.

Geoff Newton, director of Olympic Opportunities at the London Development Agency, said: "Hospitality and catering is a growth industry that can provide opportunities during the economic downturn. The London City Hospitality Centre will give students an important edge by gaining qualifications and valuable experience."

We can't afford to wait idly for recovery

Investing in our facilities must remain a priority, even in the face of a recession

The summer season is around the corner. What kind of a season will it be? According to TRI Hospitality, occupancy in London is forecast to drop this year by between 10 and 18 per cent and in the provinces by between eight and 14 per cent. Yet, while these are bleak signs, tourism is a remarkably resilient beast. Recovery will come but it will take time. What should we do in the meantime?

Firstly, and most importantly, we must continue to invest. The hotel industry alone has invested £5bn in each of the last five years and opened 1,000 new hotels. Many new restaurants have opened. The recession, however, means that this investment is already slackening. Yet it is precisely now that the industry needs tax and fiscal incentives to encourage continued investment in new hotels, restaurants and new attractions.

Secondly, investment in staff training and staff development is key to success. Staff costs represent 30 per cent of turnover in a hotel and over 40 per cent in a restaurant. We need to ensure that the staff we have are fully trained so that they offer the best service possible for our guests.

Incentivising the use of training schemes and short training courses is critically important. There is a plethora of qualifications in the industry that are not understood by employers; they must be simplified so that employers understand what skills people have. Benchmarking schemes, too, are a valuable aid to efficiency and should be supported.

Thirdly, the overwhelming need is for UK tourism to provide even greater value for money. This needs leadership on the part of the government in providing the right economic environment, the right incentives, and the right tourism structure. It also needs leadership on the part of the industry to respond by providing the right facilities, the right welcome and standard of service that guests now demand.

Industry is up for it, but is government? Last week's Budget offered little encouragement other than the doubling – for one year only – of the main capital allowance. If government wants to encourage more new investment, it needs to restore the Hotel Buildings Allowance and the long-term cuts in capital allowances, stop the imposition of additional employment costs on businesses (particularly in business rates, employment and NI) and stanch the endless stream of new regulations.



BOB COTTON is chief executive of the BHA. *Leisure Opportunities* is a member benefit of the BHA, for your free copy call 01462 431385

IN BRIEF

Harpers launches new online lifestyle store

► Leisure centre operator Harpers Fitness has launched an online shop providing information and products based on sports nutrition and lifestyle support. The site sells products designed to enhance performance, including supplements to increase energy, build muscle and improve recovery rate. The lifestyle section focuses on detoxification, antioxidants and amino acid supplements. Details: harpersnutrition.co.uk

New logo for REPs

► REPs is due to unveil a fresh new logo to bring the image in line with the more modern feel of the organisation, which has recently rolled out new occupational standards and a revamped website, as well as appointing a new registrar. Chair John Greenway MP says: "Our brief was to keep the logo recognisable but to give it a modern twist, and we feel that has been successfully achieved. I hope our members will be as pleased with it as we are." The re-designed logo retains the Register's three figures and colours. The organisation has also taken the opportunity to re-design its CPD logos, as well as those used to denote training courses approved by parent organisation SkillsActive.

Trusts team up with PCT to Give It A Go!

► Jubilee Hall Clubs (JHC) has been working in partnership with Camden PCT and Greenwich Leisure (GLL) to offer free gym memberships to Camden residents who receive benefits or are over 60 years of age. The scheme, called Give It A Go!, ran throughout March and attracted nearly 1,500 new users to four leisure centres in Camden managed by JHC and GLL.

VisitBritain launches Britain For Less

Campaign to run over summer in the hope of attracting visitors from Eurozone

By Tom Walker

VisitBritain has launched the £1.8m European phase of its Britain For Less campaign.

Launching this week and running until the end of June, it is VisitBritain's largest European campaign for several years, spanning 18 countries.

The national tourism agency has teamed with easyjet to offer low-cost flights from Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Switzerland, and with British Airways to offer low-cost flights in Belgium, Norway, Russia and Sweden.

VisitBritain's regional director for Europe, Laurence Bresh, said: "The global economic



It is hoped the lower prices will attract young people to visit the UK

climate means that people are watching their wallets before deciding how they spend their money. While Britain remains among the world's leading destinations, we want to make sure that visitors are aware of the surprising experiences they have yet to enjoy and the great

exchange rates they can get if they travel right now.

"The Britain For Less campaign helps them make their money go even further with great deals on getting here and getting around, as well as places to stay and go, to eat out and shop."

TV cash threat to Scottish clubs

By Pete Hayman

Scottish Premier League (SPL) clubs could see a dramatic fall in the amount of money they receive from the sale of television rights, after it was revealed that Setanta is seeking to renegotiate a deal enabling it to screen live matches.

The SPL announced last June that it had struck a £125m deal with the broadcaster for exclusive live rights to fixtures over a four-year period from the start of the 2010-11 season.

However, reports now suggest that Setanta is seeking talks with SPL bosses with a view to renegotiating its contract for future seasons.

This would lead to a reduction in the amount that it pays for the rights. The broadcaster declined to comment on the matter.



Clubs are likely to face cuts

According to the BBC, a spokesperson for the SPL admitted that the organisation has been in contact with Setanta, but would not confirm whether the league's 12 member clubs will be meeting to discuss the proposals.

Heritage schemes to get £21m boost

Six major sites to receive share of funding package to help with renovation plans

By Pete Hayman

Six projects at heritage sites across the UK will be sharing a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) package worth £21m allocated to them in its latest round of awards.

Three further schemes have also been allocated first-round passes by the organisation to help the plans progress.

Among the six projects is the creation of a new interpretative centre and the preservation of 1,200 trees at Epping Forest, Essex, which will receive the largest grant worth £4.76m, while the restoration of St James' Priory in Bristol has been awarded £3m.

Plans to guarantee the long-term future of the 23-hectare (57-acre) Great Dixter house and estate in Northiam, East Sussex, home to gardener Christopher Lloyd,



The Scottish National Portrait Gallery received £4.35m from HLF

will benefit from a £3.79m grant, with £4.53m awarded to the expansion of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh.

The development of a park at Castle Hill, including the repair of Knox Hannyngton towers, and the revamp of Ranfurly House in Dungannon, Northern Ireland, has been given £2.24m, and the establishment

of a new 'Experience Barnsley' museum and archives centre in Yorkshire has secured £2.6m.

Dame Jenny Abramsky, HLF chair, said: "During these tough economic times, we still need to enjoy the things which enrich the quality of our daily lives – whether it's a beautiful garden, a gallery full of wonderful paintings, or a much-loved historic building."

Bond Museum opens in Cumbria

A museum centred around the Ian Fleming's fictional 007 agent James Bond has opened in a former supermarket in Keswick, Cumbria.

The Bond Museum showcases memorabilia, including the convertible Triumph Stag driven by Sean Connery in the film *Diamonds Are Forever* and the Lotus Esprit Turbo and the underwater submarine from *The Spy Who Loves Me*. There is also the Russian T55 battle tank and Cagiva motorbike used in *GoldenEye* and the Colibri gun shot in *The Man with the Golden Gun*.

Owner Peter Nelson said: "This museum is dedicated to the fans of 007." James Bond was created in 1953.

Safari Park unveils new arena

By Tom Walker

West Midland Safari Park (WMSP) has opened a new £1m outdoor arena and sea lion show at its Seaquarium site in Rhyl, Wales.

Called Sea Lion Cove, the new exhibit will offer seating for 300 visitors and is home to a colony of six seals.

WMSP's managing director, Ivan Knezovich, said: "Following the rise in visitor numbers at all of our three sites, WMSP will continue to invest heavily in the leisure market."

"At West Midland Safari Park we are opening a new £500,000 educational area this year and we are on schedule to re-open Spring Grove House as a corporate, conference and



The Sea Lion Cove is a new attraction at the Seaquarium

business destination following a £5m refurbishment in 2010."

Knezovich added that other plans at WMSP include a hotel, conference centre and an indoor water park.

The Rhyl Seaquarium is one of three attractions operated by the WMSP, including a safari park near Kidderminster and a Seaquarium in Somerset.

IN BRIEF

Wallace attraction gets facelift

► Stirling District Tourism (SDT) has added new facilities to the National Wallace Monument in Stirling. Operator SDT has completed a redevelopment project at the base of The Abbey Craig, where the famous tower was built more than 140 years ago to commemorate the life of the Scottish patriot Sir William Wallace. Designed specifically to enhance the visitor experience, the project has involved the construction of a new reception building housing a retail area, and a new 50-seat Legends Coffee House, providing panoramic views of The Abbey Craig and The Monument.

Middlesbrough set for new wheel attraction

► A new 40m (131.2ft) wheel attraction is set to be established in the centre of Middlesbrough, north east England, after the local authority approved plans put forward by World Tourist Attractions (WTA). Middlesbrough Council's planning and development committee gave the green light for the wheel attraction on 9 April, which will be the only one of its kind in the north east region.

Council persists with Southend Pier

► Southend Borough Council has not given up on plans to rejuvenate the fire-damaged Southend Pier in Essex. Hopes to secure a private-sector investor to help pay for the reparations have waned during the current economic climate, forcing the council to bid for funding from the government's Sea Change Grant programme. If successful, according to the *Essex Echo*, the council will match the investment with money from its public coffers.

IN BRIEF

Bedford Gallery reopens after revamp

► Grade II-listed Bedford Gallery in Bedfordshire, built in 1841 and closed in the 1970s, has been reopened following a £2.5m refurbishment. The project is the first phase of a wider £11.3m regeneration scheme designed to unite the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery and Bedford Museum buildings. When completed, Bedford Gallery will feature more than 200sq m (2,152sq ft) of temporary exhibition space.

Seal of approval for Shetland arts venue

► Construction work on the new £12m music, cinema and arts venue located on the Shetland Islands is expected to begin this month. The Mareel centre, on track to open in 2010, will be situated on Lerwick's waterfront and has been designed to drive Scotland's burgeoning cultural and economic development forward. Designed by Gareth Hoskins Architects on behalf of the Shetland Arts Development Agency, the facility will comprise a 330-seat auditorium, a 159-seat digital cinema, performance rehearsal space, a recording studio and a café bar.

Birmingham's REP theatre set for revamp

► The Birmingham Repertory Theatre (REP) will be undergoing a £193m overhaul as part of a joint scheme to redevelop the Library of Birmingham. The joint venture, led by Birmingham City Council and The REP, is designed by Dutch architect Mecanoo to create a 31,000sq ft (2,879sq m) "centre for culture and knowledge" in Centenary Square. The library will be integrated with The REP at the ground floor and mezzanine levels. They will also share a foyer, a café, a bar, a restaurant and a new 300-seat studio theatre.

London's Whitechapel Gallery reopens

The £13.5m project merged the venue with an adjacent library to increase its size

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

The new £13.5m expansion of east London's Whitechapel Gallery is now open.

The gallery, redesigned by Belgian architects Robbrecht & Daem and Witherford Watson Mann, is almost double the size after it merged with the adjacent Passmore Edwards library (built in 1892) increasing the 3,000sq ft (279sq m) space by 78 per cent.

New features include three galleries dedicated to international art collections, new art commissioned by the gallery's trust and an archive collection and a research room to document the last 100 years of the gallery and local area. Other new facilities consist of



The gallery, built in 1901, is now almost double its original size

an education tower for local school and community groups as well as a street-facing café.

Contractor Wallis, who worked on the redevelopment of the V&A Museum of Childhood, is carrying out the construction work.

The project is being funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Arts Council England, the European Regional Development fund, London Development Agency, charitable trusts and donors.

New-look Tate Modern project gets the go-ahead

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

The new £215m Tate Modern extension, designed by Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, has been approved by Southwark Council in London.

The project, called Transforming Tate Modern, will feature an 11-storey glass tower in the form of a spiraling stepped pyramid on the south-west corner of the existing gallery.

The building will be 65m (213ft) tall and will add



The glass tower will reach 65m

21,500sq m (230,400sq ft) to the Tate existing 35,000sq m (377,000sq ft) of gallery space.

Original designs – which resembled a stack of bricks – were scrapped by the gallery after winning planning approval in 2007. The new designs are created around three oil tanks from the former Bankside Power Station, which will be used as exhibition space.

The new-look Tate Modern will also boast two new public spaces – a southern square modelled as a city piazza and new child-friendly gardens to the west.

New Ipswich theatre gets £75,000 cash injection

Ipswich Borough Council (IBC) has announced it will contribute £75,000 towards a £400,000 scheme that will establish a new theatre on the town's waterfront, scheduled to open in 2010.

The grant will go towards fitting out the 220-seat Witchbottle Theatre – a new base for the Red Rose Chain – for theatre and cinema

performances and will feature a café, offices and a film editing suite.

Judy Terry, IBC portfolio holder for arts, culture and leisure, said: "With this grant, we are helping the company build on its reputation for providing exciting theatre and film projects with a broad appeal."

Thames Gateway gets new parklands

The £10m project is designed to create a network of five multi-purpose spaces

By **Pete Hayman**

The London Development Agency (LDA) has announced that a new £10m project is set to transform a number of parklands along the Thames Gateway in east London in a bid to create a network of multi-purpose open spaces.

It follows the news that the London Borough of Lewisham has been awarded a £2m grant by the LDA as part of the Thames Gateway Parklands plan, which has received funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government's Parklands Fund.

Five parklands will undergo extensive refurbishment work as part of the scheme, including Three Mills Green in the Lea River Park; Dagenham Washlands; Rainham Riverside;



The schemes will include the redevelopment of the Lea River Park

Erith Marshes; and Waterlink Way and Deptford Loop.

Plans for Waterlink Way and Deptford Loop includes the upgrade of cycle and footpaths from the Thames to Outer London, as well as new wetlands and new backwaters.

New cycle and footpaths also form part of plans for Dagen-

ham Washlands, while Rainham Riverside will see an increased public access to the Thames waterfront and expanded marshland wildlife habitats.

The scheme forms part of the East London Green Grid, which has been developed by a number of stakeholders including the Mayor of London.

Stanwick Lakes unveils new £2.2m visitor centre

By **Pete Hayman**

A new £2.2m visitor centre has opened at the Stanwick Lakes countryside attraction and nature reserve near Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, as part of a two-phase project.

The facility, which marks the completion of the first phase of the construction scheme, includes a central atrium containing an interpretation space and interactive exhibits, a multi-purpose function suite and an indoor play area for young children.

A café with terrace overlooking the lake and a gift shop also form part of the centre, which was designed by architects Laurie Wood, and built by Corby-based company, Jeakins Weir. Saturn Projects acted as project managers.



The centre has been designed to meet its own energy needs

The facility has been designed to meet its own energy needs, including a combination of solar power and a ground source heat pump, while a wind turbine will be installed later this summer. Rainwater harvesting will also be used to flush the toilets, and a sedum living roof has been created to improve insulation.

East Northamptonshire Council helped to fund the project, along with North Northamptonshire Development Company through the Department for Communities and Local Government, Northamptonshire Enterprise through the East Midlands Development Agency, and River Nene Regional Park.

IN BRIEF

Woodland scheme for Northern Ireland

► Newtownabbey Borough Council has joined forces with the Woodland Trust to offer local residents the chance to take part in a scheme that aims to see 50,000 new trees planted in the borough during 2009. As part of the initiative, landowners will be given the opportunity to benefit from two planting options depending on the size of land applicants wish to plant on – the first of which offering 50 free packs of 100 trees to plant on small areas around 0.25 acres (0.1 hectares).

Gateshead riverside restoration complete

► Saltmeadows Riverside in Gateshead has reopened to the public following the completion of a £2m restoration scheme after the site was found to be heavily contaminated in 2005. Keelman's Way, a long-distance cycleway that forms part of the national cycle network, has been restored to its original riverside route, while the picnic area has been made fully accessible. The Keelman's Way cycle route has also been completely tarmaced.

New outdoor activities centre opens in Falkirk

► The Waterways Trust Scotland and Falkirk Council have opened a £1m outdoor activity centre designed to get young people in the region more active. The Action Outdoors centre has been built on the bank of the Union Canal and will allow young people to engage in activities such as canoeing, cycling, rock climbing and angling. The project received funding from numerous sources including sportscotland Lottery Fund, the Scottish Government, Falkirk Council, and Big Lottery Active Futures.

leisure property news

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IN BRIEF

Developer announced for Basildon scheme

► Basildon District Council has appointed Community Solutions for Leisure (CSL) as developer of the £35m Basildon Sporting Village. CSL will now finalise the design – and eventually build – the new centre and its 50m Olympic-size sized pool. The council cabinet's decision brings to an end a 15-month procurement process. The Sporting Village is supported by £5m funding from Essex County Council and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Construction starts on 2012 handball arena

► Work on the new Handball Arena for the 2012 London Olympics is set to get underway this summer after the Olympic Delivery Authority appointed Buckingham Group Contracting to build the venue. The Milton Keynes-based company will work with HOK Sport on the construction of the 7,000-seat facility, which has been designed by Make Architects with PTW and Arup and is set to become a 6,000-seat multi-sports venue after the Games.

Toolkit for cultural regeneration plans

► A government-funded partnership has launched a Culture, Sport and Planning Toolkit to guide developers on ways to integrate cultural and sporting facilities into regeneration schemes. The online resource brings together new and existing tools to incorporate planning for culture and sport into developments as well as providing advice on integrating them into an infrastructure.

New leisure complex for Isle of Man

New mixed-use centre to be built on the site of the former Summerland building

By **Pete Hayman**

A new multi-million pound family leisure complex is set to be created on the Isle of Man after development proposals put forward by the Sefton Group were selected by the island's government.

The island's Department of Tourism and Leisure revealed that the Liverpool-based developer was chosen following a formal expression of interest process for The Wave development, which will be built on the site of the former Summerland complex.

Sefton Group has now been awarded a temporary license on the site for up to four months in order to allow the company to carry out detailed investigations of the site, before a formal long-term lease



The Wave complex will include a multiplex cinema and a casino

will be sought from the Tynwald – the parliament of the Isle of Man.

Initial plans for The Wave include a multiplex cinema, a ten-pin bowling facility and exhibition areas capable of accommodating skating. Casino and bingo facilities are also

earmarked for the complex, as well as restaurants, bars and conference facilities.

It is hoped that all necessary site surveys and approvals for the scheme to replace the Summerland centre, which was damaged by fire in 1973, will be concluded by 30 June.

Council settles Sports Village bill

By **Tom Walker**

Shrewsbury Borough Council (SBC) has finally agreed to settle the £8.5m construction bill for the city's Sports Village.

The original £6.9m budget agreed with leisure developer Bluestone – formerly Morgan Ashurst – rose by £1.6m more than determined at the outset of the project.

SBC leader Peter Nutting said: "Following negotiations between the borough council and Morgan Ashurst, agreement was reached for a full and final settlement of the Sports Village account. The sum agreed is £8.5m and this is



Facilities include a climbing wall

within the budget agreed by the full council last year."

The payment will put an end to three years of disputes between the council and the developer regarding the final budget and alleged faulty workmanship.

£100m scheme for Newry

Plans for a £100m mixed-use development in Newry have been submitted to the Northern Ireland Planning Service.

The development, proposed for a 32-acre site, includes a 10-screen cinema complex with five restaurants, a coffee shop and landscaped park.

The plans also comprise 29 affordable homes as well as a business park set to create more than 1,000 jobs. Construction on the project is expected to begin by the end of 2009.

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Management & Development of Bowring Park Golf Course

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified, experienced and resourced operators to manage its 18 hole Bowring Park Golf Course and associated amenities based in Huyton, Merseyside.

The Council is looking for an operator who would be interested in investing and developing the course and amenities further, in particular the pre/post game facilities which currently include an 18 hole golf course, car park, reception area, changing accommodation and clubhouse as well as several outlying buildings.

The site which is spread over 129 acres also includes Bowring Park. Bowring Park is the oldest public park in Knowsley, originally forming the heart of the ancient Roby Hall Estate.

Ideas and opportunities are sought from organisations that have a successful track record of developing and improving facilities of this nature.

Respondents to this notice are required to express interest by the request and subsequent completion of a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ), which will be obtainable until 05/06/2009. This can be downloaded from the Knowsley MBC website <http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/business/selling-to-the-council/tender-opportunities.aspx>

This is a Competitive Dialogue EU Tender Process.

Applications must be submitted in writing to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Directorate of Corporate Resources, Corporate Procurement Team, 7th Floor Municipal Buildings, Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby, Liverpool L32 1TX for the attention of Alan Rotherham, Procurement Officer.

Email: alan.therham@knowsley.gov.uk
Tel: 0151 443 5424. Fax: 0151 443 5407.

Closing date for submitted applications: 12/06/2009.

Knowsl@y Council

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Tel: 01279 307309 Email: toniagosling@harlowssportcentre.co.uk
Closing date: 15th May 2009.

Expressions of interest will be shortlisted and then there will be a further discussion period with the selected interested parties prior to final selection.

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Putting the Community First



CORPORATE PROCUREMENT TEAM BARNET COPTHALL STADIUM MANAGEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT

London Borough of Barnet is seeking an operator for its Grade 1 athletics facility in London NW4. This will include maintaining the Stadium's reputation as a national / regional standard facility and provision of a substantial community programme to be devised by the operator in partnership with the Council and its partners.

It is envisaged that the contract will be for 8-10 years, beginning in November 2009. The Council expects that existing staff will transfer under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations. Expressions of interest from suitable leisure management contractors to enter into a contract to manage and operate the Stadium are invited immediately.

Potential contractors will be required to complete a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) and demonstrate a proven track record to be assessed as set out in the contract notice. The contractor will be selected through the EU restricted procedure. OJEU ref. number 2009/S 70-101957

Interested organisations can obtain the PQQ from Nasreen Kassim, Procurement Manager, Corporate Procurement Team, London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park (Building 2), Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP, tel: 020 8359 3367
e-mail: nasreen.kassim@barnet.gov.uk

The closing date for receipt of expressions of interest to the PQQ is **Friday 8 May 2009**. The closing date for receipt of the PQQ is **Friday 15 May 2009**.

www.barnet.gov.uk

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

Leisure Facilities Operator Contract EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The London Borough of Enfield is seeking a Leisure Facility partner through the competitive dialogue process, to deliver its sport and recreation services across the Borough for 5 leisure centre's (one with a Bowls annex) and 1 dual use site.

The council wishes to explore the potential for additional capacity, specialist commercial skills, innovation and investment. Information about the facilities is contained in the Information Memorandum.

Companies expressing an interest will each receive a pre-qualification questionnaire and an Information Memorandum. Completed pre-qualification questionnaires and all required supporting information must be received at the address shown below by noon on Monday, 18th May 2009.

Those companies passing the pre-qualification evaluation process will receive an invitation to submit outline solutions. To obtain a pre-qualification questionnaire pack, which will be sent out electronically, please contact:

FAO: Mr Mark Pearson, Senior Procurement Manager, Corporate Procurement Team, London Borough of Enfield, PO Box 50, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield EN1 3XA
Telephone: 020 8379 3844 Fax: 020 8379 5289
E-mail: mark.pearson@enfield.gov.uk

A notice was placed in the Official Journal of the European Union on the 14th April 2009



SHOBNALL LEISURE COMPLEX

Refurbishment of 400m Athletics Track and runways.

East Staffordshire Borough Council is inviting contractors to tender for the replacement of Shobnall Leisure Complex's athletics track and runways.

Shobnall Leisure Complex has a 400m athletics track with two home straight's and top D area, Two long jump runways, Two pole vault runways, Two javelin fans.

We are looking for principle contractors to tender for the above work, for the replacement of the existing athletics track surface.

Companies wishing to tender for this contract are invited, in the first instance, to complete a Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ). Submissions should be made by the 15th May 2009.

Successful applicants will be sent full tender documents after 25th May 2009. Tender dead line 19th June 2009 at 12 noon.

Tenders will be evaluated and appointment of the successful contractor by 6th July 2009

The contract commencement of works 7th September 2009.

Your request for a Pre Qualification Questionnaire should be made in writing to: Mr T Phillips, Shobnall Leisure Complex, Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 2BB.

You also may email your interest to tim.phillips@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk.



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CONTENT:

These are challenging times for the hotel sector. Two experts in the hotel market give their view of the current hot topics and where the market is heading.

SPEAKERS:

Mark Anderson, Property Director (UK & Ireland), Whitbread PLC
Nick Turner, Partner, LG LLP

PROGRAMME

6.15pm	Seminar registration	Fee:
6.30pm	Introduction	£45.00 + VAT LPF members
6.45pm	Speakers	£55.00 + VAT member guests
7.30pm	Panel Discussion with Q&As	£90.00 + VAT non members
7.45pm	Refreshments and networking	
8.30pm	Close	

TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Emmerson, LPF Administration
E: info@leisurepropertyforum.org
T: 01462 471932 F: 01462 433909
W: www.leisurepropertyforum.org



Driving home Britain's appeal

Push to attract visitors must continue into the summer



PATRICIA YATES is director of strategy and insights at Visit Britain

With an eventful spring well underway, we have seen a successful third British Tourism Week receiving great cross-party political support and the first ever Best of Britain and Ireland exhibition, which helped draw attention to the popularity of domestic destinations. Parts of the industry are reporting strong bookings, but with our thoughts progressing to the important summer months, there is no time to rest of our laurels.

We are committed to driving home the message that Britain is a must-see destination, with an abundance of often surprising experiences. The exchange rate has provided immediacy for our "Britain for Less" campaign, as we urge overseas visitors to take advantage by travelling right now. We want to ensure the benefits are felt across the whole of the industry by showing that Britain is easy to explore even on a short trip.

"Britain for Less" highlights how easy it is to get around by illustrating journey times from London, the customary gateway to Britain for most overseas visitors. The idea is to change the perceptions of where you can go and what you can do when you choose to take a break in Britain.

A big part of Britain's unforgettable experience is provided by you – the leisure industry. VisitBritain needs your support to ensure that we give a warm welcome and make the best an impression on the first time visitor who will hopefully become a repeat one.

Follett calls for 'greener' tourism

Minister calls upon industry to become more environmentally friendly

By **Pete Hayman**

Tourism minister Barbara Follett has said that more environmentally-friendly measures need to be adopted by the industry to guarantee its long-term future.

Follett made the comments at the launch of the DCMS' new sustainable tourism framework for England, which outlines six main challenges for the sector and also honours a commitment made by the government's tourism strategy for 2012.

Challenges outlined in the new framework include minimising the environmental impact of tourism businesses and encouraging businesses to seek a reduction in the use of resources, such as water.

The framework also includes a challenge to address the impact of tourism transport, ensuring the quality and accessibility of holidays in the UK, and reducing the short-term seasonal demand for facilities.



Green tourism is at the top of the agenda

Follett said: "All of us must try to behave in a more environmentally responsible way and the tourism industry is no exception. If we value the future of our world and if we want to protect our country's unique tourism offer for future generations, we must take sustainability seriously."

New £2m plan to promote London overseas



London's unique appeal will be the focus

By **Pete Hayman**

London mayor Boris Johnson has unveiled a new £2m international marketing campaign, which has been designed to promote the capital as the experience of a lifetime for overseas visitors.

The campaign will focus on the unique nature of London's tourist attractions, including the opportunity to ride the London Eye, the world's largest observation wheel, and to drink at the longest champagne bar in Europe at St Pancras International Station.

Bid to save Lincoln Tourist Information Centre

One of the two tourist information centres in Lincoln set to close later this year in a bid by the city council to save money could now be saved.

The City of Lincoln Council's (CLC) executive will discuss plans to work with Lincoln Business Improvement Group (BIG) to continue providing services at the Castle Square facility.

CLC leader Darren Grice said: "We have reached an agreement in principle that Lincoln BIG will take over the centre on Castle Square, with the help of a grant from the city council."

In March, CLC agreed to close the centres, as well as withdrawing funding for its arts service and the transfer of the city's marketing to Lincolnshire Tourism.

Calling for joined up thinking on training

Government needs to stop moving goal posts and ensure a coherent approach to skills



REPs hopes to attract more degree students to join the register

REPs to set up new test centres

Oversees qualifications to gain industry recognition

By **Tom Walker**

The Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs) is working with awarding bodies and training providers to establish test centres across the UK to help assess people's knowledge and skills against industry-recognised standards.

The move is in response to the increasing demand from overseas applicants and individuals from higher education wishing to join the register. According to REPs, a large number of international and higher education appli-

cants with degrees are unable to prove their knowledge competence and skills against the sector's agreed standards.

REPs has invited training providers to opt into the scheme to provide Accreditation of Prior Learning, which allows individuals to discuss their qualifications and will enable them to go straight to assessment without participating in a training course.

Registrar Jean-Ann Marnoch added: "We hope this will allow highly knowledgeable fitness professionals to begin working as REPs members."

Trust to invest in 'people skills'

South Suffolk Leisure Trust (SSL) has introduced a new personal development programme to improve the people skills of its staff.

BEE - The People Programme has been developed by FitPro and SSL is one of the first organisations in the country to use it.

It works on the basis that customer satisfaction and loyalty are directly related to the ability of staff to

communicate on a personal basis, engaging with customers and building rapport and relationships.

Tracey Copping, chief executive of South Suffolk Leisure – one of the pilot sites – said: "The staff are really excited and motivated. Most passed their training with flying colours and are now putting their new-found coaching skills in to practice with their colleagues."

Being employer-led is crucial for us as a Sector Skills Council; it means that employer's needs are at the heart of everything that we do.

Through our current re-licensing process, sector employers have taken the opportunity to shape a number of direct messages to government, which will be delivered through the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, about the skills system and its impact on our sector.

The time and commitment of sector employers by engaging with us sends out a strong message in itself; the active leisure and learning sector is engaged with the skills and education agenda. Through the development of standards, the sector qualifications strategy, new and existing qualifications, employers are shaping the skills of their current and future workforce.

They remain, however, concerned about the unresponsiveness of the government in a number of key areas that impact on our sector. Active leisure and learning needs to be considered a priority sector not only because of its major contribution to the economy, but also its contribution to other key agendas including health, physical activity, social cohesion, personal and social development and education. Qualification reform must lead to a well planned and implemented credit-based system however; if we continue to witness an over-hasty transfer of qualifications to the new framework it will compromise the effectiveness of a well planned and properly implemented credit structure.

We have been lobbying against the Public Service Agreement (PSA) target-driven 'full-fat' qualifications that receive public funding; the nature of our sector doesn't align itself to these larger qualifications. The majority of work places would benefit from 'bite-size' learning which directly reflects employer needs. This learning needs to be part of government targets and attract public funding if our sector is to continue to flourish.

There needs to be a greater return on employer investment into developing the skills system. Our strong engagement over the past five years with employers has been hugely beneficial for the sector. This needs to be further acknowledged at government level as employers will become reluctant to engage in government-led processes through us if they feel that once asked for their opinion, nothing changes as a result. And finally, the government must stop moving the goal posts and ensure a joined up approach to skills across departments.



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STEPHEN STUDD is chief executive of SkillsActive.



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Need to Improve Your Bottom Line?

ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

Brent Council

Sports Service

Leisure Client and Projects Officer
From £26,142 to £32,283 (career graded post) Ref No: 10886

Brent's Sports Service believes that working in partnership with contractors plays a vital role in the overall council aim of providing good quality sports opportunities for all sections of Brent's diverse communities.

The Leisure Client and Projects Officer will work with our leisure contractors to monitor and evaluate the performance of Brent's two leisure management contracts so that the services provided are continually developing and improving. The postholder will assist with the development of capital and revenue projects to improve and increase indoor and outdoor sports provision in the Borough and work to raise awareness of sporting opportunities amongst Brent's multi cultural population. You will also assist with specific projects, implement different methods of consultation to identify community needs and support funding and quality accreditation applications for the Service.

As postholder, you will work closely within a small team. It is essential that you have good numeracy and literacy skills. You need to be able to understand contractual documents and be able to collect, analyse and interpret data and management information. You will need good communication skills, be excellent at time management and managing different workloads. You must be IT literate. An awareness of equality and diversity issues particularly in relation to participation in sport and physical activity is essential.

Successful applicants for this post will be required to obtain a satisfactory 'Enhanced' Criminal Record Disclosure. Further information can be obtained from www.disclosure.gov.uk

Closing date: 13 May 2009.

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

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Please visit our website **www.tendringdc.gov.uk** or telephone (01255) 686337.

Closing date: 10 May 2009.
Interview date: 4 June 2009.

Tendring District Council  **the leisure centre clacton**

leisure trust

Active Recreation Officer
3 year fixed term
Salary: £16,991 - £18,937

We are looking for an innovative individual with a passion for Sport & Active Recreation. Essentially you will need experience of developing and delivering physical activity programmes, recruiting, empowering and mentoring volunteers and a Health & Exercise related Qualification HND Level or equivalent.

You will be a team player who is able to work irregular hours including evenings and weekends, possess strong oral and written skills and a high level of computer literacy.

A CRB Disclosure will be required in the event of a successful application.

For more information on the above positions contact Amanda Campbell-Barker, Head of Sport & Physical Activity, on 024 7640 0582 (a.campbell-barker@nbleisuretrust.org)

Interviews will be held on Monday 1st June 2009

Application forms (returnable by Wednesday 20th May 2009) are available from Human Resources, Nuneaton & Bedworth Leisure Trust, 3rd Floor, Heron House, Newdegate Street, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV11 4EL.

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Applicants will have:

- A degree related to Sport, Leisure or Recreation and coaching certificates in at least one sport.
- Experience of working within sports development and coaching experience with post-16 age group.
- A full UK driving licence.

Start date: As soon as possible. Closing date for completed applications: 12th May 2009

For an application form and further details, tel: 01582 877563 (24 hour answerphone) or email: jobs@lutonsfc.ac.uk. To apply on line please go to FEjobs.com

Luton Sixth Form College is an equal opportunity employer. It is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced disclosure via the CRB.

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You should possess a good standard of education and be able to offer good computer skills and budgetary knowledge. You will have excellent written and verbal communication skills; have the ability to work under pressure and to work as part of a team.

Job Ref: 09 /1167

Closing date: 12 May 2009.

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Location: Penrith Leisure Centre - Eden Contract



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The General Manager will be responsible for the financial and contractual performance of both sites, and will be supported by a dedicated team including a Centre Manager and Operational Staff.

Candidates should demonstrate the ambition and drive necessary to make a difference to our organisation. You will be passionate about exceeding customer expectations, developing leisure facilities for the local communities, be knowledgeable about the leisure industry, and have a recognised, appropriate qualification in leisure management at degree level. You will have ideally held a management position in either the private or public sector leisure industry and will have a strong commercial approach to business.

In return we will give you a rewarding role, with the ability to create your own career path, the opportunity to develop and motivate your own staff, the freedom to make your own decisions, and take responsibility and recognition for the provision of excellent customer service. This position reports directly to the Assistant Regional Director and offers a fantastic opportunity to lead the contract within a progressive and expanding environment.

Send your current CV and a covering letter, detailing your salary expectations to: Sarah Moseley, HR Administrator, Parkwood Leisure, Little Bowbrook, Walton Road, Hartlebury, Worcestershire, DY10 4JA. Alternatively visit our website or E-mail: recruit@parkwood-leisure.co.uk.



Closing Date: 8th May 2009

Parkwood Leisure is an equal opportunities employer

Head of Community Services

Salary range – £39,460 - £43,288 plus essential car user allowance

Following a re-structuring of its Senior Management Team, Dunstable Town Council is now looking to recruit a new Head of Community Services.

Reporting directly to the Town Clerk, this new post will not only be responsible and accountable for all the Council's community based services but will also be expected to play a key role in the future development and expansion of the Council as a service provider.

Dunstable Town Council is one of the largest town councils in the country and delivers a range of community based services that comprise the following; Priory House Tourist Information and heritage centre; a full and comprehensive events programme; town centre management and regeneration initiatives; services for young people delivered from two Council owned community premises; an older people's day care service; a community grants scheme and a children's summer play scheme.

It is anticipated that these responsibilities will grow with the introduction of unitary local government in Bedfordshire and as a result the Council is now seeking to employ a suitably qualified and experienced service manager with the abilities to operationally manage a diverse range of services as well as strategically develop new and existing services provided to the residents of Dunstable.

The Town Council is ambitious and is very keen to seize the exciting opportunities afforded by the new local government structure in Central Bedfordshire and by Dunstable being within a Government identified Growth Area.

INTERESTED? Please call David Ashlee – Town Clerk (01582 890600) for an informal discussion or 01582 513000 for an application pack.

Closing date for applications Tuesday 5th May 2009

Provisional long list interview date Thursday 14th May 2009

Provisional final interview date Wednesday 27th May 2009



ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE - SPORTS SERVICE



Assistant Sports Development Officer

Up to £23,046 p.a inc. (fixed-term)

Ref No 10881

Brent council, situated in North West London, is committed to developing opportunities for sport and physical activity.

The service is looking to appoint a highly motivated sports development professional to join its Sports Development Team on a fixed term contract until March 2012, to assist in the development, delivery and monitoring of activities aimed at increasing physical activity rates amongst Brent's adults.

The full-time post is predominantly office based and is not a coaching position.

The post holder will:

- work with the sports development team to increase the awareness and opportunities for adults to participate in sport and physical activity
- assist the sports development team in administrative duties, developing and maintaining a programme of activities for adults and will assist in the monitoring, and collating and analysing of data and writing reports
- work with the sports development team to raise the awareness of opportunities and benefits of physical activity by improving the marketing and promotion of the council's sports activities
- have excellent communication skills, excellent administrative and IT skills and be able to work to deadlines and targets.

Relevant experience developing sport and physical activity opportunities in a multi-cultural environment would be desirable.

The appointed persons will be required to undertake an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check and be prepared to work some evenings and weekends.

Closing date: 22 May 2009.

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



www.brent.gov.uk/jobs

BRENT - PROUD OF OUR DIVERSITY The council welcomes applications from all sections of the community



Regional Development Officer (Young People)

North East region
Salary: £21,000 Fixed term contract until the end of January 2010, flexible hours,

For visually impaired people, British Blind Sport is the UK's National Disability Sports Organisation and the leading voice in the world of sport.

The work of the organisation enables visually impaired people to access and enjoy sport and recreational activities, across every age group and at every level, from those just starting out to those competing at the Paralympics.

Now in the third year of funding from the Big Lottery Fund, British Blind Sport is seeking to employ a Regional Development Officer who will focus on providing sporting opportunities for people aged 11-25 in the North East region. As well as identifying new activities, the post holder will need to be able to communicate effectively with young people, encourage them to manage and create new clubs and events and support them in developing appropriate personal skills.

Reporting to the National Development Manager and communicating regularly with your voluntary regional steering group, you should have proven experience of working in sports development in a professional or voluntary capacity. You will also require solid administration and organisational skills. If you are self motivated, enthusiastic and would relish this challenge - then we'd like to hear from you.

For an application pack telephone 01926 424247
or email: development@britishblindsport.org.uk

CLOSING DATE: 15th May INTERVIEW DATE: 21st May

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Funded by the National Lottery through Big Lottery Fund



CLUB DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

37 hrs per week
£19,394 - £21,270 p a (dependent upon experience & qualifications)
3 year fixed-term contract

Looking for a challenge? Committed to making a difference?

The Lifestyles Team works with a variety of organisations to co-ordinate and deliver actions identified in the local Sports and Physical Activity Alliance Delivery Plan.

We are looking for an enthusiastic person with good communication skills and a range of Community Sports Club knowledge.

The position is to work across the Borough of Rossendale; the brief - to increase capacity in Voluntary Sports Clubs, to increase the number of qualified coaches and active volunteers working in sports clubs, and to increase the number of clubs achieving Clubmark Accreditation as part of the Sport England Community Investment Fund Programme. You will identify opportunities for school age leaders to link to a Club environment; identify and put into place Coach Development Courses, and establish action plans with clubs to continue development opportunities.

You will be contracted to Rossendale Leisure Trust and based at our Head Office in Rawtenstall.

A leisure qualification and / or at least two years' experience of working within the leisure industry, and particular experience of working with schools, clubs and coaches is essential. In addition, knowledge of the Club Mark Accreditation Scheme or National Governing Body Awards Scheme is essential. Experience of working with other Sports Organisations / agencies and issues with relation to child protection would be an advantage.

For an informal discussion, telephone Martin Kay on 01706 242319, after 20 April. Closing Date 5 May 2009

This post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau check at Enhanced level.

Download the application pack at www.rltrust.co.uk, telephone 01706 242315, or e-mail your name, address, and this job title to Shagorika.khan@rltrust.co.uk

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Neighbourhoods

■ **Senior Sport Development Officer (Community)**
18 months fixed-term (subject to additional funding being secured, contract may be extended)
£28,270 - £30,456 Ref: 21382

You will be responsible for the development, co-ordination and delivery of sports programmes and facilities within defined priority localities. You should have experience in a sports development, facility management, youth or community work environment and be an excellent communicator with a good understanding of issues relating to sport and social inequalities.

■ **Senior Physical Activity Development Officer**
1 year fixed-term (subject to additional funding being secured, contract may be extended)
£28,270 - £30,456 Ref: 21381

You will be responsible for developing, through partnership working, a range of physical activity provision for families with young children, enabling them to build sport and activity into their lives. You should have experience of engaging with community groups facing multiple barriers to participation in physical activity and hold recognised qualifications from the sport and fitness industry.

■ **Physical Activity Development Officer (Mental Health)**
3 year fixed-term
£21,937 - £24,331 Ref: 21380

Funded by the Football Foundation and in partnership with Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust and voluntary sector, you will be responsible for the co-ordination and development of the Bristol Active Life Project. This provides adults who have mental health problems the opportunity to participate in a broad range of sports and physical activity opportunities. You should have experience of working with this group, relevant exercise/coaching qualifications and delivering healthy lifestyle projects.

■ **Physical Activity Development Officer (Learning Difficulties)**
1 year fixed-term (subject to additional funding being secured, contract may be extended)
£21,937 - £24,331 Ref: 21379

This is a partnership post between Sport Services and Health and Social Care. You will be responsible for the creation and development of sporting and physical activity opportunities for adults with learning difficulties. You should have experience of working with this group, relevant exercise/coaching qualifications and delivering healthy lifestyle projects.

Our preferred method of application is online, if you are unable to apply online, please call 0117 922 4499. To apply in person, please visit our City Jobshop at 38 College Green. Our full range of opportunities are available online.

An enhanced CRB disclosure is required for all of the above posts. Closing date for above posts: 12 May 2009.

Apply Online at www.bristol.gov.uk/jobs

Please note we cannot accept CVs. Applicants must be either EU nationals or hold a current permit that will enable them to work in the UK. At Bristol City Council, we value having a workforce as diverse as the city we serve. We therefore welcome, develop and promote people from all sections of the community.



Working for Wandsworth

LEISURE & SPORT SERVICES

Wandsworth Council is number one for value and service and you will be joining a winning team. We are one of the leading leisure and sport services providers in London and we are seeking to fill some new posts to take us forward in developing a sporting and physical activity culture for everyone within Wandsworth. Wandsworth is currently the second most active borough in London, we have a strong partnership with the PCT and we have won awards for disability sports provision.

Sports Policy & Performance Officer

£32,211 - £34,707 PA INCL. (GRADE PO2) PLUS PRP AND FINAL SALARY PENSION SCHEME
36 HOURS PER WEEK - OCCASIONAL EVENING AND WEEKEND WORKING MAY BE REQUIRED • REF: L3287

Working across Leisure and Sports Services, you will lead on projects to help set and achieve council aims, targets and standards to improve performance. You will lead on reviewing our current sports strategy and play a leading role in developing a new strategy from 2010 - 2015. You will be responsible for working towards and maintaining service standards and quality accreditation schemes including QUEST.

You will have an appropriate degree or qualification within leisure, business or project management and experience of consulting with community groups and partners, writing strategies and monitoring action plans. You will be able to work on your own initiative and have excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Senior Physical Activity Officer

£30,045 - £31,620 PA INCL. (GRADE SO2) PLUS PRP AND FINAL SALARY PENSION SCHEME
36 HOURS PER WEEK - OCCASIONAL EVENING AND WEEKEND WORKING MAY BE REQUIRED • REF: L3288

You will lead the development of physical activity initiatives and programmes that seek to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Wandsworth. You will manage the Physical Activity Team which consists of two full time posts and a number of instructors.

Building on a number of existing programmes; Active Lifestyles, Fit4Life, Exercise Referral, Urban Energy and MEND, you will work with a range of partners including health professionals, leisure and sports facilities and the voluntary sector to develop a comprehensive health and physical activity programme.

You will have an appropriate degree in health, sport or exercise sciences and a background of working in a similar capacity with experience of physical activity development and exercise referral. You will also have experience of managing employees and excellent communication and interpersonal skills, working well in a team environment whilst being able to work under your own initiative.

Closing date for the above two posts: Monday, 18 May 2009.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check. For all teaching staff a GTC check is also required.



Wandsworth | number one for service and value

An Equal Opportunities Employer

Sports Development Officer (People with Disabilities)

£25,263 - £26,742 PA INCL. (SCALE 5 PAID 6) PLUS PRP AND FINAL SALARY PENSION SCHEME
36 HOURS PER WEEK - EVENING AND WEEKEND WORKING WILL BE REQUIRED AND THIS IS SUBJECT TO SEASONAL VARIATIONS • REF: L3288

A key member of the Sport and Physical Activity Team, you will be responsible for managing and delivering activities designed to increase participation in sport and physical activity by people with disabilities. You will support existing opportunities and implement new activities and events to ensure we become inclusive and active.

You will have a degree or equivalent in health, sport or exercise sciences and experience of disability sports development work or similar. In addition you will have a coaching qualification for delivering sessions. Experience of applying for external funding, recruiting, deploying, supervising and training coaches and volunteers and excellent communication and interpersonal skills are essential requirements of the role.

Physical Activity Co-ordinator (45+)

£25,263 - £26,742 PA INCL. (SCALE 5 PAID 6) PLUS PRP AND FINAL SALARY PENSION SCHEME
FIXED-TERM APPOINTMENT UNTIL 31 MARCH 2010 - LIKELY TO BE FURTHER EXTENDED
36 HOURS PER WEEK - EVENING AND WEEKEND WORKING WILL BE REQUIRED AND THIS IS SUBJECT TO SEASONAL VARIATIONS • REF: L3290

Working within the Sport and Physical Activity Team, you will take the lead in delivering our successful Active Lifestyles 50+ and Fit4Life 45+ programmes and have responsibility for maintaining existing sessions and establishing new physical activity programmes to meet demand.

You will have a degree in health, sport or exercise sciences and hold a Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs) Level 3 qualification relating specifically to older people to deliver sessions, and have experience of engaging older people in sport and physical activity within a health promotion, physical activity or sports development environment. In addition you will need experience of applying for external funding, recruiting, deploying, supervising and training instructors and volunteers. You must be able to demonstrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and have experience of collating and analysing data in order to monitor the implementation of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) target.

Closing date for the above two posts: Tuesday, 26 May 2009.

For informal discussion about these posts contact Claire Reeves, Sport & Physical Activity Manager on 020 8871 6741.

So if you take pride in your work, you will love working with us and you will share in the success of an 'excellent' rated authority. In addition, our department's Investor in People award means we're committed to giving you the support you need to make the most of your job.

Application packs are available from www.wandsworth.gov.uk/jobs and can be completed and returned online. Alternatively, please email I&apersonnel@wandsworth.gov.uk or telephone 020 8871 7795 (24 hour answerphone). Please quote the relevant reference number.

Please note that we do not accept CVs.

visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/jobs

Plymouth City Council



SPORTS DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Community Sports Manager

Permanent, 37 hours per week

Grade F (£23,473 - £26,016)

Ref: 014/8836

This post provides an exciting opportunity to make a real impact on the delivery of sport and physical activity in Plymouth. You will join a well-established Sports Development Unit, who has achieved Quest accreditation.

You will plan, implement and manage a number of sports development programmes and initiatives, designed to increase access, participation and inclusion. The ability to work in partnership with a number of different organisations to deliver on shared objectives is essential.

The main focus will be to assist and support Plymouth's newly established Community Sports Network and develop/co-ordinate their delivery plan.

You will have a professional approach, with excellent communication skills, a drive to succeed and commitment to delivering a quality service, combined with significant relevant experience of working in a sports development field.

Athletics Network Club and Coach Co-ordinator

Fixed-term for 3 years, 37 hours per week

Grade E (£20,652 - £22,730)

Ref: 014/8835

Plymouth City Council, in partnership with the Armada Athletics Network are seeking to appoint a new post which will contribute to the continued development of the emerging Armada Athletics Network. This post provides an exciting opportunity to make a real impact on the delivery of athletics in Plymouth and the surrounding area.

Working within Plymouth City Council's Sports Development Unit, you will assist and support the Armada Athletics Network in the development and implementation of their 3-year delivery plan.

You will have a professional approach, with excellent communication skills, a drive to succeed and commitment to delivering a quality service.

The main purpose of the job is to promote and develop opportunities for participation in athletics and increase the standard of coaching and coaches across the Network.

The job will also include working unsociable hours, evenings and weekends.

Please note these positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check.

For further information or an informal discussion, please contact Louise Oates, Sports Development Manager on (01752) 307026.

Closing date for both posts: Sunday 24 May 2009.

For an application form and further details please contact (01752) 668000 or email jobs@plymouth.gov.uk or apply online at www.plymouth.gov.uk/counciljobs

Working towards equal opportunities: applicants welcome from all sections of the community. All suitable disabled applicants for salaried posts are guaranteed an interview. Smoke Free Policy. CVs are not accepted. Plymouth City Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.



www.plymouth.gov.uk

REDBOURN RECREATION CENTRE
Redbourn, Hertfordshire



Is looking for a new Recreation Centre Manager!

Ideally, you should have relevant leisure and/or business qualifications, and possibly experience of managing a child's play scheme, with an NVQ Level 3 (although not mandatory). You are someone with excellent communication, interpersonal and organisation skills, proven experience in preparing business plans, budget and financial targets, are flexible and enjoy working with people. Salary dependent on qualifications and experience. CRB checks will be required.

INTERESTED?

Please write for a full job description and application form to the Chair of Trustees: Mrs. Pat Schofield, 82 The Park, Redbourn, Herts AL3 7LT Alternatively email: redbourn.recreation@ntlworld.com Closing: Fri 29th May Interviews: w/c 9th June

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Sports Development Manager

Education & Children's Services

£34,687 - £37,916

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PKC0912

You will be a talented sports development professional with the right experience to lead a team of officers and have the ability to help shape policy and strategy. A strong background in partnership working as well as the drive and ambition to deliver the objectives of the service working as part of the Sport & Active Recreation Service management team are essential.

For further information, contact Stuart Younie on 01738 476369.

Closing Date: When sufficient suitable applications received

Online applications only at pkc.myjobscotland.gov.uk

If you do not have access to the internet or if you have a disability which prevents you applying online, please call 01738 475437 for assistance.



Perth & Kinross Council is committed to equality and diversity and welcomes applicants from all sections of the community

FitnessFirst

Opportunities in the MIDDLE EAST

We currently have several Senior Management positions within the Middle East and are searching for the right caliber candidate to fill them.

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We are looking for:-

- A minimum of 10 years leisure experience, 5 of which must be in management,
- A proven track record of success.
- Experience in the Middle East market is preferable but not essential

If you want to know more about this exciting opportunity, please send your CV and a covering letter to ssusheela@fitnessfirst-me.com.

Closing date for applications is 8th May 2009.

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Nikal secures future of £150m Altair development

Altrincham town centre set for radical overhaul after property firm acquires shares from collapsed developer

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans are back on track for a £150m scheme designed to transform the centre of Altrincham, Greater Manchester, after property firm Nikal acquired the remaining shares in the joint venture for an undisclosed sum.

The future of the mixed-use development had been thrown into doubt following the collapse of the David McLean Group, the North Wales-based developer which entered administration in late 2008.

Plans for the Altair scheme includes a 3,000-seat ice rink that will be home to the Manchester Phoenix ice hockey team and 15,000sq m (161,460sq ft) of retail and a 100-bedroom hotel, restaurants and two new public squares.

Designed by architect Ian Simpson, the plans also include 150 luxury apartments, a car park and 8,000sq m (86,111sq ft) of office space, and now depends on Trafford Council securing the necessary land acquisitions for the scheme to move forward.



The multi-million pound proposals include a new 3,000 ice rink

Companies handed chance to defer business rates

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

Businesses will be given the opportunity to spread the payment of this year's rise in business rates over a period of three years under new plans announced by the government.

Under existing legislation, business rates are adjusted every April in order to fall in line with the Retail Prices Index for the previous September. However, the inflation rose to 5



Rates are adjusted every April

per cent last September, meaning businesses would face a serious impact of their cash flow this year.

Chancellor Alastair Darling is allowing companies to pay just 2 per cent more this year, leaving them two years to pay the remaining 3 per cent over the following two years.

"The government recognises that businesses need help now to ease their cash flow at a time when money is very tight," said Darling. "This measure will help businesses to smooth their rates payments over the next three years."

Water sports centre handover

Nottinghamshire County Council has taken over the management of the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, from Sport England.

The handover of the site took place on 1 April and the council is now set to receive more than £10m for the development of new facilities.

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