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£12.5m improvements to 'future-proof' London Eye

By **Pete Hayman**

Merlin Entertainments has unveiled plans for a £12.5m upgrade of the London Eye in a bid to improve customer experience and to 'future-proof' the attraction in the lead up to the London 2012 Olympics.

The wheel's 32 capsules will be removed one at a time to undergo work to install new, environmentally-friendly heating and ventilation systems, while one of the capsules will also feature ceiling-mounted TV screens and have wi-fi installed.

A temporary capsule, which will not carry passengers, will be used to replace whichever pod is being upgraded.



The work will help to improve the London Eye's visitor experience

It is hoped that the project, which is due to be completed in time for the London 2012 Olympics, will ensure that no major maintenance work will have to be carried out on the

attraction for up to 20 years, and will make it more environmentally friendly.

Merlin Entertainments' divisional director of London Midway attractions, David

Sharpe, said: "This investment is a clear demonstration of Merlin Entertainments' commitment to constantly investing in upgrading its attractions, and to delivering the best possible experience to visitors.

"We believe that investment is more important than ever in the current economic climate when both local and international visitors to attractions like the London Eye are looking for real value for their leisure pound."

The 135m (443ft)-high London Eye has attracted more than 33 million visitors since it first launched in 2000, becoming the UK's top paid-for visitor attraction.

Report claims fitness is "growing" despite recession

FIA's State of the Industry survey reveals sector has generated £3.77bn revenue

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

The health and fitness sector has grown by 3 per cent during the year to 31 March 2009, according to the FIA's annual State of the Industry survey.

Compiled by market analysts The Leisure Database Company, the survey of 6,000 health club sites shows that the industry's revenue reached £3.77bn during the year.

The number of new public and private fitness facilities has also increased by 114, while one in eight consumers



The sector has benefited from additional government support

are now members of either a health club or leisure centre.

The industry has also benefited from government

funding to support its role as a delivery partner for national public health programmes.

The FIA's activity-led initiatives developed over the last 12 months – including behavioural modification scheme Fit for the Future for 18 to 24-year-olds and activity programmes 'go' and 'active at school' – have all been created to improve the physical activity levels and the nation's health.

MoreActive4Life, a sub-brand of the government's Change4Life campaign, is also due to launch in June 2009.

Knock Castle work complete

Redevelopment work at the Knock Castle Hotel and Spa in Crieff, Scotland, has been completed.

The second phase of the £1.5m revamp included a new spa treatment wing, housing treatment rooms and a relaxation area, while the leisure area, incorporating a swimming pool, a spa pool and a steamroom was upgraded.

Work also included the creation of a 100-capacity conference suite.

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£160m Birmingham scheme approved

Jewellery Quarter redevelopment set to include leisure facilities and public spaces

By Pete Hayman

Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter is set to receive an extensive refurbishment after proposals for the £160m St Georges scheme were given the go-ahead by Birmingham City Council.

The first phase of the 6.8-acre (2.8-hectare) mixed-use scheme, which is the largest development in the Jewellery Quarter for more than 200 years, includes the £55m transformation of the former Kettleworks factory into office and retail space and a 60m (197ft) x 50m (164ft) public square featuring outdoor performance space.

Although the 109-year-old Kettleworks building is not listed, developer Chord Deeley intends to retain the red-brick



Plans include the refurbishment of the former Kettleworks factory

exterior, while a fifth storey will be added to the site along with the revamp of a 1950s warehouse will also become a multi-storey car park.

Future plans for the site, which have been drawn up by Online Architects and will be implemented over a five-year period, include a 151-room

Ramada Encore hotel and a 100-room budget hotel, 1,145sq m (12,230sq ft) of restaurants and bars and a residential development.

Chord Deeley – a joint venture between Coventry-based Deeley Properties and local developer Chord – expects to begin work on the first phase in June.

National Trust for Scotland defends planned cuts

By Helen Patenall

The National Trust for Scotland has come under attack from its trade union, Prospect, for allegedly failing to consult its stakeholders over recent cost-cutting measures aimed at ensuring the financial sustainability of the charity.

The board of trustees have been criticised in a recent report by Prospect for not disclosing plans to make 90 redundancies and to close 11 of its historic properties – including Kellie Castle and the David Livingstone Centre – until too late in the day.

The union's attack has been compounded by criticism over funding for the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum project, which is putting the charity under pressure to find a £3.8m



The cuts include the closure of Fife's Hill of Tarvit Mansion House

shortfall during an already financially difficult period.

However, chief executive Kate Mavor defended the decisions: "While it's fair to say that we are facing challenges at the moment, we are making good progress in strengthening our finances and we anticipate that we will be in surplus by the end of this year.

"Our finances are reviewed regularly by auditors and we are regulated by the Office of the Scotland's Charity Regulator which has not highlighted any concerns.

"We are acting now to ensure our finances remain stable for the long term. These decisions are never easy, but it is our belief that they are essential."

Taxpayers to fund £1bn Olympic Village

Government admits failure in efforts to secure private investment for the scheme

By Pete Hayman

The entire cost of the £1.1bn London 2012 Olympic Village is to be funded by taxpayers, after the government and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) admitted that they had failed to secure private backing.

Ministers have now approved a further £324m, to be sourced from contingency funds, in order to help fund the scheme after a deal put forward by Lend Lease was rejected due to the increased risk to the public sector brought about by the recession.

It now means that taxpayers have contributed a total of £650m to the Olympic Village project. Organisers hope to recoup the latest cash injection through the sale of flats after the 2012 Games.



Olympic bosses hope to recoup the cash through the sale of flats

The remaining balance of the £1.1bn development is expected to be met by Triathlon Homes, which has agreed a £268m deal in principle with the government and ODA for the provision of 1,400 affordable homes as part of the scheme.

Olympics minister Tessa Jowell said: "A private sector deal was available, but because of the credit crunch it was not a good deal. By funding the entire project the village will become publicly owned and the public purse will receive substantial returns from sales."

£48m Tropicana development on hold until 2010

By Pete Hayman

Plans for the £48m development of a new leisure complex on the site of the Tropicana centre in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, have been put on hold until early 2010 due to the recession.

The Lifestation@Tropicana project, which was approved by North Somerset Council's (NSC) West Area planning committee in October, had been set to get underway later this year as part of a wider scheme to revamp the town's seafront.



The £48m complex has been delayed due to the recession

However, the council has now admitted that the recession looks set to delay the scheme by around six months, although work will continue to

address outstanding planning issues and the planned Section 106 agreement with developer Henry Boot in the meantime.

NSC deputy leader Elfan Ap Rees said: "Everyone is aware of what the recession is doing for development plans. We're discussing with Henry Boot over when they can start work, but they remain our preferred development partner."

Plans for the complex include a six-lane, 25m indoor swimming pool, a multiplex cinema, a 20-lane bowling alley and a 96-bedroom hotel, as well as a restaurant.

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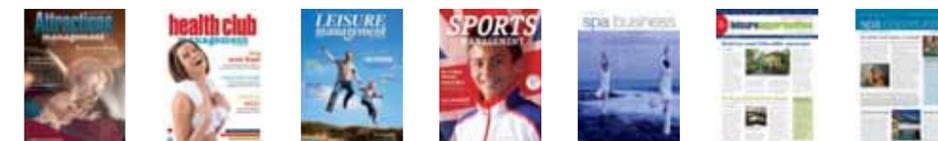
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IN BRIEF

New £2m fitness suite for Rivermead

▶ A new £2m fitness suite has been unveiled at Rivermead Leisure Complex in Reading, Berkshire, following the completion of a refurbishment scheme carried out by operator Greenwich Leisure (GLL). Escape Fitness has worked in partnership with GLL to help equip the facility, which now boasts 120 stations of equipment and a free weights area, along with two 10m BSW sprint-track lanes have also been installed in the complex's new exercise studio. The fitness suite also now offers an aerobic studio, a Kinesis studio and a crewing area, as well as a dedicated area for GP referrals and disabled users.

Virgin Active plans Italian expansion

▶ Health club operator Virgin Active plans to open 25 clubs in northern Italy over the next three-to-four years as it boosts international expansion. Majority shareholder Virgin Group has secured most of the targeted Italian sites after signing deals with developers of several mixed-use property schemes. Virgin Active, which entered the Italian market in 2004, opened four clubs last year and now has a total of 13 in the market. The new Italian clubs were among 10 new sites added last year, with the other six in South Africa.

Plans for St Neots centre submitted

▶ Proposals to extend St Neots Leisure Centre have been submitted by Huntingdonshire District Council. If approved, the facility will benefit from a new fitness suite, a wellness suite, a crèche, changing rooms and a soft play area. A decision is expected to be made by the planning committee on 22 June.

Paddington facility to open in summer

Little Venice Sports Centre will be the first IFI-accredited facility in the borough

By **Pete Hayman**

A new £4.3m multi-purpose leisure complex in Paddington, London, which will be the only facility in the area to be accredited by the Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI), is to open this summer.

Westminster City Council hopes that the 1,800sq m (19,375sq ft) Little Venice Sports Centre will help to tackle the borough's health inequalities by making its facilities fully accessible to customers with physical disabilities and learning difficulties, as well as non-disabled users.

The complex, which has been designed by LCE Architects, includes a 30-station, 172sq m (1,851sq ft) fitness suite equipped by Matrix Fitness Systems, as well as four badminton-court sports hall, a multi-use dance and exercise studio and a training suite with



The £4.3m leisure complex has been designed by LCE Architects

cameras to monitor athletes' performance and needs.

A satellite library offering free wi-fi internet access in the reception area is also included.

Funding for the new complex has been provided by the council, while more than £1.8m has been contributed through grants from a range of organisations, including

Sport England, Skills Active, the Big Lottery Fund and John Lyon Charity Trust.

It will also be designated as a Centre of Excellence for Physical Activity as part of the National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure, and has been built using sustainable materials to reduce the leisure complex's carbon footprint.

£1m upgrade for Camden centre

By **Pete Hayman**

Oasis Sports Centre in Camden, north London, is to undergo a £1m refurbishment after the local authority agreed to fund the scheme in a bid to improve its two swimming pools and changing facilities.

Work is already underway on a six-month project to replace the facility's existing boilers with new energy efficient devices, which is expected to improve water and air temperatures, before a revamp is carried out of the indoor swimming pool and male and female changing areas.

Meanwhile, the centre's fitness suite re-opened on 12 May following the installation



The two swimming pools will be revamped later this year

of new equipment, including seven treadmills and stretching machines supplied by Technogym, matting areas and resistance machines.

The council-owned centre is operated by Greenwich Leisure, and offers an indoor and outdoor swimming pool, squash courts and a health suite.

Dulwich facility to get a £5m revamp

The centre is one of four facilities in the borough to undergo refurbishment work

By **Pete Hayman**

Construction work on a £5m refurbishment of Dulwich Leisure Centre in London, is underway and is the first phase of a wider Southwark Council-led scheme to upgrade leisure facilities in the area.

The entire scheme is expected to take 20 months to complete, and includes a revamp of the centre's 80-station gym and 27m swimming pool, enhanced changing areas and improved disabled access.

Although the centre's swimming pool, crèche and rear studios will be closed until spring 2010 to enable the refurbishment to be carried out, the gym will remain open.



The 27m swimming pool and gym will be given a new lease of life

Lewis Robinson, Southwark Council's executive member for culture, leisure and sport, said: "While elsewhere in the country historic swimming facilities have closed or fallen into disrepair, Southwark is investing the money to secure

the long-term future of its two historic Victorian Baths in Dulwich and Camberwell."

Dulwich Leisure Centre, operated by Fusion, is one of four sites set to undergo work as part of the council's Leisure Improvement Programme.

Proposed leisure centre for new technical college

By **Helen Patenall**

Metrix Consortium's proposals for a £12bn defence technical college at the former RAF airbase in St Athan, South Wales, incorporate a new community leisure centre.

Plans submitted to the Vale of Glamorgan Council include a new sports centre comprising 12 sports courts plus two squash courts; an eight-lane, floodlit athletics track; 12 outdoor sports pitches for



Plans include 12 sports courts

rugby, hockey, football and cricket; and a fitness suite with a free weights area.

A 25m, eight-lane swimming pool will also be built to Amateur Swimming Association standards, while a crèche on site will accommodate the needs of the military personnel, with any available spaces being open to community use.

The sports facility is likely to be open to the public in the evenings and at the weekends, with the final arrangements being decided after public consultations. If approved, construction will begin in 2010.

Recession causes Heston's pool plans to be cancelled

Plans for a £20m leisure centre in Heston, west London, have been shelved by the London Borough of Hounslow due to the recession.

The proposals included replacing the town's existing swimming pool, as well as the construction of a learning disability resource centre and community rooms.

Following discussions with developers Barratts, it became clear the project would not begin until the housing market improved, which the council felt was detrimental to the provision of improved leisure facilities in the area.

The executive committee will meet again later this year to discuss other options.

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IN BRIEF

Explosion! museum to be saved?

► Negotiations are taking place in an attempt to save the Explosion! Museum of Naval Firepower from closure. The museum is located on the Gosport side of Portsmouth Harbour in Hampshire. Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust – the organisation that leases the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard from the Ministry of Defence and runs three of the site's attractions – is negotiating with Gosport Borough Council for continued support, as well as the acquisition of Priddy's Hard, a former ordnance depot, and the Explosion! museum.

Wrexham Museum receives HLF grant

► The proposed redevelopment of Wrexham Museum has received a £950,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The grant will allow Wrexham Borough Council to open up more of the museum building and its collections to the public and increase educational opportunities. External works to the forecourt and the addition of a glass extension will make more display space and inside, there will be interactive, family-friendly and community displays.

Horrible Histories attraction still possible

► Talks regarding plans for a theme park in County Durham based on the Horrible Histories book series have resumed. As previously reported in *Leisure Opportunities*, author Terry Deary has been planning to build an all-weather attraction since 2003, but has so far been unsuccessful. However, according to *The Journal*, Deary has met with the County Durham Tourism Partnership to discuss how to bring his plans for the attraction to life.

July opening for Bugworld Experience

New £3.8m attraction to enable visitors to learn about a range of insect species

By Tom Walker

A new £3.8m visitor attraction based on the life of insects will launch at the Albert Dock in Liverpool this summer.

Bugworld Experience, a 1,200sq m (13,000sq ft) attraction, will open on 1 July and includes a number of simulated habitats – ranging from a rainforest to savannah to the everyday British home – in which visitors can observe a wide range of species.

The concept has been developed by Rogers Group Investments (RGI). According to RGI founder, Des Rogers, the idea to create Bugworld came as a result of him visiting a successful insectarium in Canada a few years ago.

Alastair Wallace, partner at property company T&A, the company appointed to build the attraction in a Grade



The visitor attraction will be located at Liverpool's Albert Dock

A-listed building, said: "The Bugworld Experience will bring a unique attraction to Britain that is also an amazing learning experience."

Bugworld will be divided into six distinct zones, which will feature digital and interactive exhibits, games, information points and daily shows with insect handlers, as well as a shop.

Keith Thomas, director of Petersham Group, which will manage the site, said: "There will be a lot of touch screens, games and multimedia."

"Visitors will start their journey by studying the bugs found in a tropical rainforest and end up finding out about the creatures they share their home with – such as cockroaches and bedbugs."

Zoo goes green with wind power

Wildwood Wildlife Park near Canterbury, Kent, has invested in green energy by installing a 18m (59.1ft)-high wind turbine at the attraction.

The 20kW turbine is expected to generate around 35,000 units of energy a year, preventing the release of more than 15 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

The £111,478 turbine was funded by grants from the government's Low Carbon Buildings Programme, as well as grants from EDF Energy and Canterbury City Council.

As part of its green strategy, the zoo's hot water is produced by energy created using solar panels and the heating of the attraction is provided by wood-burning stoves.

Alton Towers plans a new hotel

By Helen Patenall

Merlin Entertainments is planning to build a new hotel at the Alton Towers theme park and resort in Staffordshire.

An outline proposal will be submitted to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council within the next two months.

Corporate communications manager Liz Greenwood said: "We have conducted a very detailed economic impact survey which looks at how our business affects those around us and the wider area."

"Over the next 10 years, many millions of pounds will be invested in the resort - on its infrastructure, rides, attractions, heritage, peripheral activities, and further accommodation."



Alton Towers has two hotels, with one featuring a waterpark

Visitors to the park are currently offered accommodation at the 175-bedroom Alton Towers Hotel and the 216-bedroom Splash Landings hotel, which has an indoor water park.



SPORT AND LEISURE STATISTICS
FORECASTS FOR THE SPORT AND LEISURE INDUSTRIES

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

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

Leisure Forecasts

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

Sport Market Forecasts

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IN BRIEF

Fans launch bid to buy Stirling Albion

▶ Supporters of Stirling Albion Football Club have launched a new campaign to acquire the Scottish League Division Two outfit after fears were raised about the club's long-term future. The BuyStirlingAlbion scheme has been established by the Stirling Albion Supporters' Trust with the intention of raising enough money to take over sole ownership of the 64-year-old club from current chair Peter McKenzie.

Council backing for Poole Town plans

▶ A council committee has narrowly voted in favour of Poole Town Football Club's plans for the construction of new facilities at Branksome Recreation Ground. The plans, which will see the club relocate from its Tatnam Park home, will now be considered by the Borough of Poole Council's cabinet on 2 June. Branksome Recreation Ground's existing pavilion will be refurbished as part of the proposals, which also include a 150-seat stand, an enclosed football pitch and three all-weather multi-use games areas.

Franklin's Gardens revamp plans unveiled

▶ Northampton Saints Rugby Football Club has announced plans for the construction of a new North Stand at its Franklin's Gardens stadium in a bid to increase the venue's capacity to 17,000. A planning application is expected to be submitted to Northampton Borough Council for the new stand, which will replace the existing Sturtridge Pavilion after the club admitted that the 13,500-capacity stadium has operated at 98 per cent for the last few seasons.

Urban Cricket unveiled in Nottingham

New purpose-built facility to increase the number of young people playing cricket

By **Pete Hayman**

A new Urban Cricket facility has opened in Nottingham as part of a scheme led by npower and the England and Wales Cricket Board to increase the number of children playing cricket.

The purpose-built facility, which has transformed a disused area of the city's King Edward Park in Sneinton, is designed to provide a permanent area for young people to develop their cricket skills.

It is the fourth of five sites planned in cities across the UK as part of the scheme, which also includes the creation of five urban cricket zones in local school playgrounds in a bid to provide additional areas where the sport can be practiced.



England cricketer Stuart Broad helped to launch the new facility

Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Cricket Board have also been involved with the project, which is designed to enable young people to work their way up from beginner to club cricket standard and beyond.

England cricketer Stuart Broad helped to launch the new facility. He said: "It's going to make a real difference to the local community and will hopefully produce plenty more first class cricketers for Nottinghamshire."

Sport England launches new £5m innovation fund

By **Pete Hayman**

A £5m innovation fund has been launched by Sport England in a bid to encourage people across the country to come up with new ideas to help to transform participation in grassroots sports.

National Lottery funding will be offered to as many as 20 of the most inventive ideas, which help to remove barriers preventing participation, develop new ways of exploiting



£5m is available for new ideas

technology or to inspire increased participation by adapting existing sports.

Applications for the fund, which also aims to help create a lasting legacy from the London 2012 Olympics, will be judged by a panel of experts, along with a representative from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Sport England chair Richard Lewis said: "Great ideas are priceless, so we need to do all we can to encourage innovative thinking if we're to achieve a genuine breakthrough in growing sports participation."

Royal opening for Loughborough University facility

Princess Anne has unveiled the £8m Clyde Williams building at Loughborough University, which is at the centre of the university's new school of sports, exercise and health studies.

Designed by London-based David Morley Architects, the new centre was built by GB-Building Solutions and houses 27 laboratories, four teaching rooms and a large lecture theatre, as well as two climatic chambers, a sprint lane and bespoke training and testing equipment.

The university's schools of sports and exercise sciences and human sciences will be brought together as part of the new combined school, which will become operational in August.

Thousands of clubs face closure threat

CCPR report claims 60 per cent of clubs are suffering from decreasing revenue

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

Around 6,000 community sports clubs (equivalent to 4 per cent of clubs) could be forced to close in the next 12 months as a result of the recession, according to a new survey.

The research released by CCPR, an umbrella organisation for 290 national governing and representative bodies of sport and recreation in the UK, revealed that 60 per cent of clubs are suffering from reductions in the revenue they manage to raise commercially. Around 40 per cent are seeing membership subscription income and renewals fall.

Financial constraints are also forcing almost half to consider reducing spending on coaching, kit, facilities and community



Falling revenue is threatening the survival of clubs across the UK

initiatives, while cuts are being made in the level of coaching and training offered, staffing levels and opening hours.

Brigid Simmonds, CCPR chair, said: "The data shows that sports clubs are in trouble. CCPR has been pushing the government to do more

through our 'Subs for Clubs' campaign and by fighting off endless increases in regulation, which increase their costs. This survey shows that unless we act, thousands of local sports clubs could go under. That would be a tragic shame for their members and communities."

RFU unveils 2015 bid details

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has revealed that it plans to use football grounds as part of its bid to host the 2015 World Cup, which it hopes will create a lasting legacy for the sport.

England's bid, which was presented to the International Rugby Board in Dublin on 13 May, would see pool matches staged in nine cities across the country, as well as at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

Among the venues put forward by the RFU are Old Trafford, Manchester; Anfield in Liverpool; and St James' Park, Newcastle; as well as Arsenal's Emirates Stadium in London; and St Mary's Stadium in Southampton.

New leisure complex for Dublin



The Meadowbrook centre includes a 25m, six-lane swimming pool

By **Pete Hayman**

The new multi-million euro Meadowbrook sports and leisure facility at Ballinteer in Dublin, Ireland, has been officially unveiled by Martin Cullen, the Irish minister for arts, sports and tourism.

Operated by Dún Laoghaire Leisure Services on behalf of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, the new complex features a 25m,

six-lane swimming pool and a 13m x 9m learner pool, as well as an aerobics room, four all-weather pitches, a fitness suite and squash courts.

The Irish government contributed 3.8m (£3.4m) to the project under the Department for Arts, Sport and Tourism's Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme, as well as a further 940,000 (£846,400) through the Sports Capital Programme.

IN BRIEF

Stoke City training ground plans approved

▶ A new £5m training facility for Stoke City Football Club is set to be built at Trent Vale in Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, after the scheme was approved by the local authority. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council granted conditional planning approval for the new development on 12 May, which is earmarked for the site of the former Michelin Athletic Club playing fields, although the project could still be called in at any point over a mandatory 21-day period.

Fisher Athletic wound up over unpaid tax

▶ Fisher Athletic Football Club has been wound up with immediate effect following a hearing at London's High Court on 13 May, after failing to pay around £250,000 owed in income tax. Barristers acting on behalf of owners of the relegated Blue Square South outfit were unable to secure more time to pay, with the club having already received a 21-day reprieve by the High Court on 22 April. The club's supporters' trust will now be exploring the possibility of reforming the club lower down the non-league pyramid.

New sports complex planned for Canterbury

▶ A new Community Sports Hub is under development in Canterbury, Kent, following the appointment of consultants Capita Symonds and HSSP Architects by the city council. The scheme will comprise a clubhouse with health and fitness facilities, as well as changing rooms and spectator seating. A floodlit, full-size football pitch and additional junior and mini pitches will be complemented by a floodlit, artificial pitch and further recreation and play facilities.

IN BRIEF

Four star hotel for Birmingham scheme

► Hotel La Tour has announced that it will open a four-star hotel at the mixed-use City Park Gate development in Birmingham. The hotel group, led by hoteliers Alan English, Norman Bellone and Jane Chofield, plans to open a 200-room property which will include a large conferencing space. To be called Hotel La Tour at City Park Gate, the property is the latest addition to the group's portfolio of UK hotels.

Carluccio's receives takeover bid

► Carluccio's has confirmed a preliminary takeover approach by an unnamed suitor, believed to be from a private equity firm. Speculation of an advance arose on the back of a sudden 18 per cent rise in the chain's share price, to 92.5p, valuing the company at around £52m. City analysts speculate a possible bid of 110p to 120p a share, but it is unlikely that the group would accept anything less than 150p on the back of its potential to expand the chain overseas, combined with the company's lack of debt.

Ulster hotel reopens after £2.5m revamp

► The Belmore Court and Motel in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, has been reopened by Northern Irish tourism minister Arlene Foster following the completion of a £2.5m refurbishment. Four conference rooms, a new reception area, a foyer and a breakfast room have been created as part of the scheme, which also included the addition of 30 more bedrooms, taking the property's total to 60. Foster said: "The new facilities at the Belmore Court and Motel can help showcase Northern Ireland as an attractive location."

Corinthia to develop UK flagship hotel

The five-star, 283-bedroom hotel is the first investment IHI has made in the UK

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

Corinthia Hotels is due to make its London debut, having secured a £135m loan from a syndicate of banks to develop the Metropole Building near Trafalgar Square.

The historic Metropole Building will be redeveloped as part of a joint venture formed by Malta's International Hotel Investments (IHI), shareholders of the Libyan Foreign Investment Company and Istithmar Hotels FZE of Dubai.

The property, to be called The Corinthia Hotel & Residences, will be the first investment IHI has made in the UK and will accompany its portfolio of hotels located in Malta, Libya, Portugal, and Russia. The five-star, 283-bedroom hotel is



The property has been previously used by the Ministry of Defence

due to open in 2010 and will be operated by CHI Hotels & Resorts. The hotel will feature two clusters of restaurants, a bar, ballroom, and meeting facilities.

The investors bought the property last year from Crown Estates for around £135m, which has been matched by

banks to make it a 50:50 loan-to-equity funded project.

The Metropole Building, originally constructed by the Gordons Hotel Company in 1883, has been leased by the government since 1936 for use by various departments such as the Ministry of Defence.

Joint venture for Wembley

Developer of the Wembley City scheme has signed a joint venture to handover the site's hotel ownership and development to Summit Hotels.

The Summit Wembley City Hotels venture, led by Quintain Estates, will result in Summit Hotels building an Express by Holiday Inn hotel with up to 262 bedrooms.

Summit Hotels will pay Quintain £7.5m for a 51 per cent stake in the hotel and will be able to buy Quintain's interest over the next 15 months. Other hotels on the site include a 441-bed Hilton Hotel – the second on the site – and a Millennium & Copthorne hotel, developed by Londonnewcastle.

MPs call for pub industry probe



The committee has recommended an investigation into beer-ties

By **Pete Hayman**

A committee of MPs has called on the Competition Commission to investigate whether the beer-tie arrangements used by pub companies is pushing up drinks prices.

According to the Business and Enterprise Select Committee, pub companies such as Punch Taverns, Enterprise Inns and Greene King – that force tenants into buying beer

exclusively from them – are creating an "ever-increasing disparity" between on and off-licence beer prices.

The committee, which is chaired by Peter Luff MP, ruled that it was the government's duty to investigate any failure and abuse of the market, and has called upon the Competition Commission for an urgent investigation into the current arrangements in the interests of consumers and tenants.



Two new hotels will be built on the site of a former Thistle Hotel

Heathrow hotels plans approved

Guoman to launch new flagship property near airport

By **Tom Walker**

Proposals for the redevelopment of the Thistle Hotel site, close to the new Terminal Five at Heathrow Airport in west London, have received the approval of Hillingdon Council.

Plans for the site, which have been drawn up by the UK-based firm, EPR Architects, include the demolition of the existing 1960s hotel building on Bath Road and replacing it with two new hotels.

The first property will be a 250-room, luxury hotel, operated by Guoman Hotels,

while the operator of the second property, which will be a 353-room budget hotel, is yet to be confirmed.

Both properties are set to incorporate a number of green measures, including a combined CHP plant with biomass boilers and roof-mounted solar panels, in a bid to reduce the carbon footprint.

Designed as a pair, the hotels will also meet the Greater London Authority's 20 per cent renewable energy target by taking advantage of biomass boilers and photovoltaic panels on the roofs.

Hotel planned for Biggin Hill Airport

London-based EPR Architects have submitted a detailed planning application to Bromley Council for the construction of a four-star hotel at the Biggin Hill Airport in south east London.

EPR has drawn-up plans for a 76-room hotel with a restaurant at the airport, which played a major role as an RAF base in the Battle Of Britain during the Second World War.

Peter Lonergan, Biggin Hill Airport's managing director, said that the airport is in "desperate need of good quality accommodation" and added that many of the pilots, crew and businesses are forced to travel miles outside of the area.

"A new hotel would also be fantastic for the economy in terms of employment and revenue generation for other local businesses," he added.

Suffering from a preoccupied Parliament

Words aren't enough to help the industry at this critical time, the government must act

While Rome burns, our MPs fiddle – or, rather, try to explain why they didn't. But there is a far more serious point made by the expenses revelations and speaker Michael Martin's resignation – is the government actually governing, or is it riding from crisis to crisis, trying to damp down fire after fire?

The reason for asking is there was an excellent and little-reported debate in the House of Lords in early May that discussed the state of UK tourism. It was measured, positive and helpful.

Three points emerged, the first of which identified the need for small seasonal tourism businesses, reliant on overdraft facilities, to obtain appropriate finance from the banks.

Secondly, there must be an end to the ceaseless flow of new regulations that are so costly to implement in terms of money and time. While thirdly, there is a need to boost UK domestic tourism at a time when the low value of sterling against other major currencies could potentially be so positive.

At least, our lordships understand the challenges facing tourism at the beginning of what could be a make-or-break season for many operators. But at this critical time, the government is so preoccupied by the crises that are overwhelming it that it's like a rabbit staring into a car's headlights – it is doing nothing.

Finance is still difficult to obtain. Whitehall bureaucrats are still determined to saddle industry with increasing regulations. Meanwhile, the summer season approaches with VisitEngland only just in operational mode and VisitBritain operating on a tighter budget than ever before.

UK tourism faces a testing year. In spite of the fall in the value of sterling, the number of overseas visitors in the first three months of this year was down on 2008 by 13 per cent although spend was more or less the same – a sign that either visitors are spending more voluntarily or, more worrying, that UK prices have increased.

In this scenario, if the government is to take tourism seriously, it should take note of the House of Lords debate. Yet, the government's general policy drift is reflected in its approach to tourism: no clear policies, little support, minimal financial help, and yet more regulations. And there is little hope that anything will change soon.



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

IN BRIEF

First phase of Colston Hall scheme completed

▶ The first phase of building work at the new £20.3m Colston Hall performance venue in Bristol has been completed. The work included the venue's foyer, which features an atrium crossed by bridges at upper floor levels, designed by Levitt Bernstein Associates. The bridges connect the foyer with the rear of the existing auditorium and other parts of the historic building. When finished in September, Colston Hall will boast modern box office facilities, new performance and exhibition spaces, meeting rooms, and rehearsal and recording studios.

New funding for Scottish public art

▶ The Scottish Arts Council has provided a funding lifeline to eight emerging public art projects. The new Public Art Fund, formed from £466,000 of National Lottery money, will invest in projects to investigate the possibility of artworks being installed within beaches, woodland, schools and parks. By pushing these projects forward, the council hopes to encourage public art and community engagement to be at the heart of new regeneration projects.

World's smallest art gallery unveiled?

▶ The Open Empty Spaces arts organisation is showcasing a series of non-gallery-based exhibits at public sites throughout Cardiff. The series launched on 1 May with Hole in the Wall – a temporary art exhibition housed in a small 20cm (8ins) by 28cm (11ins) alcove on Albany Road, Roath. The next temporary exhibition – titled River – was unveiled by the River Taff near Blackweir on 22 May, featuring performances and workshops.

£1.6m revamp for Mayflower Theatre

Southampton venue set to undergo summer refurbishment to upgrade facilities

By Pete Hayman

Southampton's Mayflower Theatre is set to undergo an extensive £1.6m refurbishment this summer in a bid to upgrade the venue's backstage and production facilities.

The theatre will close for 12 weeks between June and August in order to allow the work to be carried out, although the box office and its conference and meeting room facilities will operate as normal.

It is expected that the new backstage area, which will include a new facility to store scenery, will be fully operational by spring 2010, ensuring the venue can cope with the evolving demands of touring productions.



Backstage facilities at the Mayflower Theatre are to be improved

Land at the back of the theatre is earmarked for a housing development by the Mayflower Theatre in partnership with Southampton City Council, Atlantic Housing and Drew Smith in a bid to provide key worker homes for the city.

Dennis Hall, chief executive of the Mayflower Theatre, said: "The fact that we are getting this exciting and modern facility means that the land at the back of the theatre is now released for the much needed key worker homes for the city."

£44.5m Arts Council funding to tackle recession

By Pete Hayman

Arts Council England (ACE) has announced that it is to invest an additional £44.5m in arts initiatives over the next two years in a bid to fight off the economic downturn.

The new proposals were unveiled by chair Dame Liz Forgan on 24 April at an ACE-sponsored seminar looking at ways in which the importance of arts and culture can be maximised during the recession.



Forgan unveiled the proposals

A new £40m open application fund called Sustain will be established in order to support

arts organisations that are suffering from the downturn, while a further £500,000 will be made available for the Town Centres Initiative to allow more artistic activities to take place in empty retail areas.

Grants for the arts budget will also increase by £4m over the next two years as part of the new funding strategy, although Forgan has also called on private and public sector partners to maintain current levels of investment.

New £35m Aylesbury Waterside venue topped out

Construction work on the £35m Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, which is scheduled to open next year has topped out.

The venue will have a 1,200-seat auditorium that can be converted into a 1,800-capacity hall for standing events, and a 225-seat suite for smaller events including dance and drama.

The concept for the venue, which will replace Aylesbury Civic Centre, has been developed by Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) and theatre designers RHWL Arts Team.

The construction of the AVDC-funded theatre is being undertaken by the Hertfordshire-based firm, Willmott Dixon.

25-year masterplan for Kew Gardens

The plan will mark Kew's 250th year and will focus on how the gardens can evolve

By Caroline Wilkinson

The Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew has commissioned a masterplan to outline the site's long-term future and to create the first analysis and proposed design for Kew since the 1840s.

Landscape architects Gross Max will create the plans, with the intention of improving the experience for visitors and providing a direction for the gardens to evolve over the next 25 years.

Kew's role as a living botanical collection will also be evaluated, along with how the garden is being affected by collections growing and changing. It has been reported that a new river approach to Kew Gardens, with an adjacent dock, could be included as part of the plans as well as the



The masterplan is being created by Landscape architect Gross Max

re-landscaping of Kew's river border. A footbridge is also being considered to link Kew Garden to Syon Park, according to *The Times* newspaper. The plan is expected to be completed in November.

Eelco Hooftman, partner of landscape architects Gross Max, said: "The challenge of the

project is to pay tribute to the gardens' status as a World Heritage Site as well accommodating continuous transformation. Over the years the gardens have lost their relationship with the River Thames. The opportunity to reintegrate Kew Gardens with the river is an exciting project."

New review of National Park expansion revealed

By Pete Hayman

Natural England has announced that it is considering extending the boundaries of both the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales National Parks in a bid to preserve a number of unprotected landscapes.

The government's natural environment advisory body believes that there are large areas of land between the two national parks which could qualify for National Park status, including the Howgill Fells, the Orton Fells and the fells from Shap to Whinfell.

Although Natural England postponed its designation last year during a public inquiry into the South Downs National Park, the planning inspector has supported the designation of national parks around more



The review will assess redesignation of National Park boundaries

than one type of landscape feature. The proposals will be subject to extensive public consultation before designating any new boundaries for both the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales, while final approval must be given by the environment secretary.

Helen Phillips, Natural England chief executive, said:

"The work of looking at whether new landscape areas can be included as part of the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National parks remains a high priority for Natural England. The legal uncertainties of recent years have caused significant delays and we are looking into how we can progress the project quickly, but thoroughly."

IN BRIEF

Cash boost for Derbyshire countryside

▶ Derbyshire County Council has confirmed that a series of initiatives designed to improve the county's rural areas are to share a funding package worth £139,500. Among the schemes that are in line for a cash injection is the upgrade of a canal towpath and Bluebank Loop at Brimington, which will receive £30,000, while the Peak District National Park Authority will net £20,000 to be invested in improving access.

Barnes Park revamp gets funding boost

▶ Barnes Park in Sunderland is to be redeveloped thanks to a £2.4m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund. The Parks for People award will allow the city council, which is contributing £1.24m towards the project, to develop a multi-use games and an adventure play area for all ages, as well as a cycleway connected to the popular Coast-to-Coast cycle route. Historic features such as the canon, bandstand, railings and gates will be restored, a sensory and formal garden laid, and the lake and surrounding area will be rejuvenated. A full-time community development and education officer will also be based within the park.

Decline in Blue Flag beach numbers

▶ Keep Britain Tidy has revealed the effects of flooding in recent years has led to a small decrease in the number of English beaches awarded Blue Flag status for 2009. Blue Flag awards have been given to a total of 71 beaches across the country, compared with 82 last year, although the number of Quality Coast Awards handed out has increased from 82 to 113.

IN BRIEF

Home nations unveil new rugby tournament

A new cross-border rugby union tournament, featuring teams from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, is to launch next season following an agreement between the four home governing bodies. The British and Irish Cup will be played over five weekends between the autumn internationals and the Six Nations in February, with four pool winners progressing to the semi-finals on 24 April 2010 before the final on 15 May 2010.

Esporta to target the unemployed

Health club chain Esporta has launched a membership package designed for people who have been made redundant. According to CEO Glenn Timms, the new scheme, called Fresh Start, will offer unemployed people the first three months' membership at "very advantageous rates". The scheme will be made available at all of Esporta's 55 sites and looks to offset the effects of the ongoing recession, with many health club operators expected to see falls in retention rates. To qualify for Fresh Start, prospective members are required to offer evidence that they have been made redundant.

IHG to boost sales with freebies

The InterContinental Hotels Group is set to give away five million free nights at any of its 4,000 hotels worldwide. The three-for-two offer requires visitors to purchase two nights between 4 May and 3 July, to earn a free night stay between 3 July and 26 December. The company's brands include InterContinental Hotels & Resorts, Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn, Hotel Indigo, Candlewood and Staybridge Suites.

Natural England unveils two projects

The flagship initiatives are designed to encourage people to enjoy nature and wildlife

By Pete Hayman

Natural England has launched two flagship initiatives in a bid to enable more people to access parks, woods and city farms as part of its £25m Access to Nature programme.

VisitWoods, a scheme designed to increase access to woods, and Let Nature Feed Your Senses – intended to develop a greater understanding of the natural environment – have been set up to coincide with the first anniversary of Access to Nature, funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

The Woodland Trust has been awarded £1.2m by Natural England in order to establish the VisitWoods project, which will include the creation of an online database of



One scheme is aimed at getting more people visiting woodland

accessible woodland around the country, as well as working with around 20 partner organisations to promote the natural environment.

Meanwhile, £960,000 will be put towards the Let Nature Feed Your Senses scheme, which will lead to the creation

of eight Nature Networks in a bid to connect disengaged groups with wildlife and the natural environment.

Access to Nature has awarded 23 grants, worth more than £7m, in its first year to projects designed to improve education and access to wildlife,

Ecsite-UK re-brands itself

Ecsite-UK, the UK network of science centres, museums and natural history attractions, has changed its name to the Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC).

The re-branding is part of the trade body's strategy to increase its independence. For the past eight years, the body has been part of The British Science Association (BSA). By cutting its ties with BSA, ASDC will be able to operate as an independent legal entity with its own finance, banking and IT systems. The company will work out of its new office in Bristol, which is hoped will help the company work more efficiently.

New Welsh food tourism scheme



Gastronomic experiences will be used to tempt tourists to Wales

By Pete Hayman

Welsh heritage minister Alun Fred Jones and rural affairs minister Elin Jones have launched the Welsh Assembly Government's new Food Tourism Action Plan at a restaurant at Three Cliffs Bay near Swansea, South Wales.

It is hoped the initiative will help benefit the Welsh economy by developing the

links between food and tourism, bringing together the agriculture, tourism and food production sectors to offer a unique visitor experience.

Elin Jones said: "Our Food Tourism Action Plan is all about improving perceptions of Wales as a destination where high quality and distinctive food is widely available in our cafés, restaurants, pubs, hotels and guesthouses."

How robust is the hotel industry?



An early evening LPF seminar to be held at: the offices of Lawrence Graham LLP, 4 More London Riverside, London SE1 2AU on Tuesday 2nd June 2009



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	

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A review of the multiplex cinema industry



An early evening LPF seminar to be held at the offices of: Reed Smith LLP, The Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose Street, London EC2A 2RS on Monday 15th June 2009



HOST:

Reed Smith LLP

CONTENT:

A high level review of the UK Multiplex Cinema Industry. Following a presentation by Tim Richards, CEO of VUE Cinemas, on the company's experiences over the past 12 months, a panel of industry experts will discuss and take questions on the key factors that will drive and influence the sector in the near future.

SPEAKERS:

Tim Richards, CEO of VUE Cinemas, founded the company in 1998. VUE currently has 65 cinemas in the UK, representing c20% of the market. Tim worked for UCI in London and Warner Brothers International in LA before setting up SBC Intl in 1998. He moved to the UK, opened his first cinema in Livingstone in 2000 and completed the purchase of the Warner Village UK circuit in 2003.

Barry Smith, Partner, Reed Smith LLP is a partner in the Media Group specialising in film finance and distribution.

Jonathan Berger, Partner, Reed Smith LLP is a partner in the Media Group representing companies in the deployment of digital cinema in Europe and in their negotiations with the Hollywood studios.

PROGRAMME

6.15pm	Seminar registration
6.30pm	Introduction
6.45pm	Speaker presentation
7.15pm	Panel Discussion with Q&As
7.45pm	Refreshments and networking
8.30pm	Close

Venue: Reed Smith LLP, The Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose Street, London EC2A 2RS

Fee: £45.00 + VAT LPF members
£55.00 + VAT member guests
£90.00 + VAT non members

The LPF takes no responsibility for the statements made by, or the opinions or views expressed by speakers or any other person at this event.

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IN BRIEF

Councils urged to improve maintenance

► Nearly a quarter of all council-owned buildings across Scotland, including sports centres and museums, are not fit for purpose, according to a new report by the Scottish public spending watchdog, Audit Scotland. The study - *Asset management in Local Government in Scotland* - examined the maintenance and management of more than 12,000 properties across the country, with one in four found to be in poor or bad condition.

Charity to buy Ladywood Leisure

► Penicuik Community Sports and Leisure Foundation has announced plans to buy Ladywood Leisure Centre in Lothian, Scotland. The sports charity has successfully managed the council-owned facility since March 2007, attracting around 1,500 users each week. The foundation's aim of building on this success by expanding the facility requires lottery funding, but as they do not own the centre they can not apply to the Big Lottery Fund for the award.

Council denies Livingston agreement

► West Lothian Council (WLC) has denied that it has reached a deal to sell Almondvale Stadium to Livingston Football Club (LFC), despite claims that an agreement had been reached over the price. LFC chair, Angelo Massone, will now meet with WLC officials to discuss the possible acquisition of the venue by 30 June, having already issued a statement saying a 'mutually agreed price' was in place.

£30m Edgbaston revamp is approved

The cricket ground redevelopment will include a new hotel and a spectator stand

By Pete Hayman

Detailed plans for the £30m redevelopment of Edgbaston cricket ground, home to Warwickshire County Cricket Club (WCCC), have been given the go-ahead by Birmingham City Council.

MCD Developments has been appointed to deliver the scheme, which includes a new hotel, a housing development, offices, and a new stand and pavilion designed to increase the venue's capacity to more than 25,000.

The new stand has been designed to provide improved facilities for both spectators and players, with new changing rooms, bars and restaurants planned, as well as upgrades to corporate hospitality offerings and the media centre.



The completed venue will be able to hold around 25,000 people

It is hoped that the redevelopment will reaffirm Edgbaston status as an international cricket venue. WCCC chief executive Colin Povey said: "It would be difficult to overstate the importance of redeveloping Edgbaston to the club, Birmingham and wider region. Our plans will enable us to

provide world class sporting facilities for players, fans and the thousands of young people that use our ground every year." Architects Broadway Malyan, planning consultants Turley Associates, design consultants Urban Initiatives and builders Ridley Levett Bucknall have been involved with the project.

Ski centre plans are submitted

Plans for the construction of a £2.9m dry ski slope and clubhouse at Newmilns Snow and Sports Complex near Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, in Scotland, have been submitted to East Ayrshire Council.

The proposals, drawn up by architects Lawrence McPherson Associates, include a new 115m (377ft) adult ski slope and a 30m (98ft) nursery ski slope in addition to the new clubhouse facility, which will feature a café-bar, function rooms and conference facilities.

Meadowside revamp revealed

By Helen Patenall

Meadowside Leisure Centre in Burton, Staffordshire, is set to undergo a £5m transformation. East Staffordshire Borough Council has revealed its initial plans and artist impressions, produced by Maber Architects, of how the revamped leisure facility will look when it reopens in summer 2010.

The scheme includes a refurbished gym with upgraded equipment and studio facilities, improvements to toilets and changing rooms and the introduction of a new crèche and soft play area. The six- to eight-month



The centre will open in 2010

refurbishment is scheduled to kick off in October, when the facility will close for health and safety reasons.

In the meantime, the council aims to find alternative facilities and venues for its existing customers and staff members.

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Turning interest into bookings

Wales can offer real value for holidaymakers this summer



ALUN FRED JONES is Welsh Assembly Government minister for heritage

I've recently had the opportunity to announce some core changes to the Tourism Advisory Panel, which has had the role of guiding the heritage minister since its inception in 2006.

One of the key recommendations that came out of an industry review last year was the need for a new national level public/private sector Tourism Partnership. I now propose to establish a revised Tourism Advisory Panel, with increased industry representation to help forge stronger working links between government and industry.

Looking at the prospects for the summer ahead, industry surveys have revealed a good level of interest in holidaying in Wales this summer. However, we are aware that in the current economic climate, there is still a great deal of uncertainty and there is a strong feeling that booking decisions have, in many cases, yet to be taken.

But, although the good Easter weekend has boosted the industry's confidence ahead of the summer, we are aware this doesn't make a good summer season. We cannot rest on our laurels and Visit Wales has adjusted this year's budgets in order to provide the marketing team with resources to extend the current UK campaign to convert interest into bookings.

Together with the value that the pound offers visitors to Wales and the promise of a better summer from the weather forecasters, we can look forward with cautious optimism to our tourism industry weathering the current economic storm.

AVM unveils £25m tourism plan

Initiative designed to attract more visitors to the West Midlands region

By **Pete Hayman**

A new £25m seven-point action plan has been launched by regional development agency Advantage West Midlands (AVM) in a bid to boost the region's tourism industry.

The plan, which was unveiled at the West Midlands Tourism Summit in Gaydon, Warwickshire, includes £1m for a new television advertising campaign and a £12m initiative to attract conferences, exhibitions and events to the area.

A pilot scheme will also be launched in conjunction with the Department for Work and Pensions in a bid to increase skills and tourism employment, while new partnerships will be developed between visitor attractions across the West Midlands region to offer joint ticket offers.

Regional minister Ian Austin said: "Tourism is our fourth largest industry bringing in £6bn each year to the West



Birmingham is in line for a tourism boost

Midlands, supporting 115,000 jobs across 30,000 companies. The business tourism sector is worth another £6.8bn on its own.

"The downturn is having a real impact and our action plan sets out the real help we're providing to get the industry through the recession."

Council unveils 'Nottingham Riviera' plans

By **Pete Hayman**



The beach is coming to central Nottingham

Nottingham's Old Market Square is to be transformed this summer as part of new proposals to create a temporary seaside resort in the heart of the city centre.

Around 300 tonnes of sand will be used to create the beach as part of the plans, which include the installation of a large paddling pool and fairground rides.

The scheme has been drawn up by Nottingham City Council along with Mellors Group, the operator of the city's big wheel attraction.

Ireland reports fall in inbound visitor numbers

Ireland's Central Statistics Office (CSO) has reported a sharp decline in the number of people visiting the country during March, with a 16 per cent decrease compared with March 2008.

According to the CSO, the main reason for the decline in inbound numbers is a 26.3 per cent decrease in tourists visiting from the United Kingdom, contributing

to an overall fall of 9.1 per cent in the number of visits to Ireland for the first quarter of 2009.

The CSO figures also revealed that the number of Irish residents travelling abroad also dropped by 15.4 per cent to 563,700, which has resulted in a 12.6 per cent fall in overall outbound travel in the first three months of the year.



Funding will be made available to firms over the next two years

Apprenticeships net £11m boost

Government funding to create more training places

By **Pete Hayman**

Nearly 3,000 more apprenticeship places are to be made available to young people after the government unveiled an £11m funding package in a bid to increase the number of training opportunities.

A range of 16 businesses across the country that already offer apprenticeships, including sport and leisure companies, will be entitled to receive a share of the investment over the next two years, announced by skills secretary John Denham and schools secretary Ed Balls.

Nearly 60 per cent of the funding will be targeted towards training young people between 16 and 18 years old.

It is hoped that the additional investment will contrib-

ute towards the government's £140m plans to fund an extra 35,000 training places across the public and private sectors.

Balls said: "We will not sit back during the current downturn or cut our investment when the priority is to build a talented, skilled and motivated workforce for the future.

"That's why we are running a major campaign, fronted by Sir Alan Sugar, to increase the number of employers with apprentice places."

Denham added: "The businesses we have signed agreements with will be able to train more apprentices, thanks to the £11m of funding, and will have a skilled workforce improving the strength of the sector as a whole."

Habia UK workshops in June

A series of Habia workshops will take place across the UK to examine future qualifications in beauty therapy, nail services and hairdressing.

Launching on 8 June in Glasgow, the workshops will cover changes to the updated

National Occupational Standards, as well as changes to Assessment Strategies and Evidence Requirements.

Habia is the government-approved standards setting organisation for hair, beauty, nails and spa.

Gaining an important insight into the sector

The 2009 *Working in Fitness* survey will help sustain the needs of a diverse industry

Ask anyone and they'll tell you that my motto is there has never been a better time to work in the sector and, despite the recession, I stand by that. The health and fitness sector offers so many opportunities at so many different levels, including community cohesion, removing cultural barriers, addressing the physical activity agenda, raising participation and even identifying sportsmen and women of the future. Why wouldn't you want to be a part of that?

Academic qualifications aren't necessarily the route to entry though; employers need recruits with vocational qualifications. These are the bread and butter of the industry, and what employers look for. With budgets slashed and funds depleted, it is more important than ever that we ensure employers are doing all they can to attract, train and keep the right people if it is to not only continue to weather this storm, but continue to develop and thrive.

With this in mind, we have just launched the 2009 *Working in Fitness* survey, which gives an insight into how the sector rewards its workforce by examining salary levels, job satisfaction and spending on training and development. We know through previous research that there are an average of 8,500 job openings a year in the sector, to meet staff turnover and the creation of new positions. And one of the survey's aims is to find out whether the industry is doing enough to attract new, as well as retain existing staff, to meet these demands.

The survey allows us to get a good representation of jobs in the sector and to identify issues at a local level and where improvement is needed. Past results have informed the way we work with training providers, the way we've developed the new Qualifications and Credit Framework, and our ongoing development of national occupational standards – which inform training courses, qualifications and job roles in the sector. So you can rest assured we're not just filing away the results in a drawer, they are informing the way we do business!

Increasing participation in physical activity and adopting an active lifestyle is the key to the health and wellbeing of the nation. It is an agenda shared with governments across the UK and we're doing our utmost to ensure the workforce is skilled, professional and highly qualified.

To complete Skills Active's 2009 *Working in Fitness* survey, visit: www.skillsactive.com/wif09



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STEPHEN STUDD is chief executive of SkillsActive.



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Chronic Respiratory Disease Exercise Instructor Course

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

Developed by Loughborough College, the University Hospitals of Leicester and the British Lung Foundation (BLF), with funding and input from Rotherham PCT, the course has been submitted for endorsement at level 4 on the Register of Exercise Professionals. It covers:

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

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

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

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

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



e: exercise@blf-uk.org
t: 020 7688 5618
w: www.lunguk.org

Reg. charity of England & Wales - no. 326730. Charity reg in Scotland - no. SC038415

BRITISH LUNG FOUNDATION



Barnsley Premier Leisure is one of the region's most active employers - now operating eleven leisure centres throughout the Barnsley area. Working hard to enrich the lives of the local community, we aim to deliver enjoyable sport and leisure choices for all.

Facility Manager

£23,459 per annum
40 hours per week

For further details about the position or an application form, go to:
www.bpl.org.uk
or contact our 24 Hour Recruitment Line:
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Closing date:
Noon on Monday
8th June 2009



You will bring management, organisation and a strong 'customer first' ethos to the team. Your commitment to quality must be evident in everything you do. You will maintain high standards of customer service, ensure a rigorous approach to Health & Safety and set and achieve targets for the team. It calls for recent management-level experience in a leisure or customer-facing environment, where you've gained experience of managing a flexible rota system, recruiting and developing a talented team and exploring ways to maximise income streams. An NVQ Level 5 Management qualification (or working towards one) is essential, along with a full driving license and your own vehicle. Some work at other sites may be required. Flexibility is key as this position will require evening and weekend work.

This post requires CRB disclosure.

Working together to enrich lives through enjoyable sport and leisure choices for all.

Perth and Kinross Leisure RECRUITMENT *live active*

Facility Operations Manager

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

This is an exciting opportunity for an individual who enjoys working with the community and local partners to take a leading role in delivering the anticipated success of this community pool and sports centre.

The right candidate will be able to meet deadlines, adapt to a changing environment, have strong people management skills and be a good communicator. In addition managing and developing a comprehensive programme, budgetary control, performance monitoring, health and safety management, service review and planning are all major elements of the challenging role of the Operations Manager.

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

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

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Closing Date: 10th June 2009

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Nottingham City School Sport Partnerships

MULTI SKILLS COACH

Salary Range: c£12500 - £13500



We wish to appoint an experienced and enthusiastic coach to deliver multi skills coaching and activities in Nottingham City schools.

The successful candidate will join established partnerships that have made significant progress over the last 7 years in developing PE and sport in local primary schools, school club links and a wide ranging programme of out of hours sports activities.

This is an excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic and committed professional to make a significant impact on the provision of PE & sport for young people in Nottingham.

For further information and an application pack please contact Nick Robb, Partnership Development Manager at Ellis Guilford School & Sports College

Tel: 07905003724 Email: nickrobbpdm@yahoo.co.uk
Closing date Friday 12th June Interviews Tuesday 23rd June

DUTY MANAGER



Millwall Community Scheme is a registered charity providing sporting, social, educational and healthy lifestyle opportunities across the London Boroughs of Lewisham and Southwark. We also operate a leisure centre which includes a 4 badminton court sports hall, an indoor 3rd generation astrotrurf pitch and a seminar room.

We are recruiting an additional Duty Manager to oversee the operation of the leisure centre on a shift basis. The successful candidate will be responsible for the building and facilities adhering to health & safety procedures, maintaining a welcoming environment, dealing with facility bookings and cash handling.

Candidates should be reliable, punctual and have experience of being responsible for a building and the people in it. Experience of working within a leisure facility is desirable but not essential.

Applications on an official application form ONLY.
Closing date is 12 noon on 22nd May 2009.

Download all information and the application form at www.millwallcommunity.co.uk or call 020 7740 0503.

FLECKNEY PARISH COUNCIL

SPORTS FACILITIES MANAGER/ SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Salary: Scale 6 £22,001 to £23,473

Term: 3 year fixed (contract extension beyond 2012 subject to additional funding)

Location: Fleckney, Leicestershire.

This post provides an opportunity to make a real impact in the local community in the delivery of sport and physical activity.

You will be responsible for the formulation, management and implementation of a number of sports development plans designed to increase access, participation and inclusion and for developing working partnerships with local clubs and organisations. You will manage the Council's Sports Hall, Floodlit Multi Use Games Area and its recreation areas which are currently let for various sports and activities.

Ideally, you should be qualified to degree level within a sporting/leisure field and/or be able to demonstrate and evidence appropriate knowledge, experience and background in sports facility management and sports development. Coaching experience and/or a coaching qualification would also be an advantage.

Evening and weekend working will be required and this is subject to seasonal variation.

This post is subject to a satisfactory enhanced CRB check.

To obtain an Application Pack either email fleckneypc@btconnect.com or telephone 0116 2404589.

Closing date: Friday 12th June 2009
Interview date: Monday 29th June 2009



Business Development Manager

Wrexham FC Community Football & Education Foundation
£26,000 - £30,000 per annum



Wrexham Association Football Club (W AFC) in partnership with Glyndwr University Sport & Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) wishes to establish a community scheme to replace the previous Wrexham Football in the Community scheme which ceased trading on 31st August 2008.

With the establishment of the Wrexham FC Community Football & Education Foundation (W AFC Foundation) as a charitable trust, it is hoped that an inspirational, enthusiastic and professional individual will structure, establish, develop and expand this organisation for the benefit of individuals in North Wales and Wrexham Football fans nationwide and beyond.

You will be reporting to a board of Trustees concerning the management of the Foundation and will work with the Chief Executive Officer of Wrexham Association Football Club; Head of Sports Facilities at Glyndwr University and the Football Development Officer of Wrexham to ensure that the standards and quality of all programmes provided will be appropriate to the standards and requirements of national organisations and partners.

The post-holder will be responsible for the development of a business that will incorporate opportunities for Women & Girls Football; Disability Football; Birthday Parties; Match Day Visits; After School Programmes; School Holiday Programmes; Football Skills Programmes and weekend Community Football.

You would also be expected to work in partnership with education and health organisations to co-ordinate Coach Education programmes, Coaches CPD opportunities, the development of funding bids for work in Outreach Provision, Double Club Programmes; Health Promotion etc.

Through these programmes your goal will be to improve the health and well-being of the community, especially relating to the social and economic environment in which the Club sits. Using football as a vehicle to educate and improve the health of Wrexham and beyond to North Wales. This will be done through positive PR; utilisation of Wrexham professional players as role models and the development of charitable works within the community; especially utilising the professional knowledge of Wrexham Association Football Club, Glyndwr University and Wrexham County Borough Council sport & education staff.

So if you are up for the challenge and want to learn more please contact Wrexham AFC CEO, Paul Retout on 01978 262129. Or e-mail info@wrexhamfc.tv

Closing Date: Friday 12 June 2009 Interview Date: Friday 19 June 2009

Club, Coach and Volunteer Development Officer

Ref: COM/27/09

£22,001 - £23,473 (Subject to job evaluation)
Fixed term 3 years

Supporting participation within local sports clubs, you'll increase capacity and help clubs to achieve National Governing Body or Sport England accreditations, such as Club Mark. You'll be at the centre of improving standards and increasing opportunities for volunteers and coaches and you'll strategically pull together partners through the Sports Alliance Volunteer and Coach Development Group. Interagency partnerships, project management, team working, developing training and promotion of activities will be key to the success of the role. A flexible worker with a background in sports development or similar, plus knowledge of working with community sports clubs and volunteers and an understanding of Club Mark or equivalent accreditations is essential.

CRB clearance will be required.

Closing Date: Thursday 11 June 2009.

Application forms and further details are available from:
www.warrington.gov.uk/jobs Tel: 01925 442040 (24 hr).

Please quote reference number.

Committed to equality at work and in our community. Warrington Borough Council as an aware employer is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults as its number one priority.



www.warrington.gov.uk/jobs Warrington Borough Council



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

Sports Development

3 Community Sports Coaches

Scale 5 (£19,370 – £21,244) per annum
Robin Park Arena

Wigan Sports Development Unit are seeking three highly motivated Community Sports Coaches (volleyball, gymnastics and dance and multi-skills) to join its highly successful and progressive team.

Full Time Community Sports Coach (multi-skills/volleyball)

Ref: 0317/TSHL081

You will work within schools and the community delivering volleyball and multi-skill sessions through the Premier League for Sport Initiative. You will increase the number of young people aged 5-19 years participating, leading and volunteering in volleyball clubs through Volleyball England's 'Lets Play Volleyball' community programme and plan, deliver and monitor coaching activities.

Qualified to Level 2 or above standard in Volleyball with at least one other National Governing Body Sport qualification is required. We are looking for an individual who can illustrate two years' or equivalent experience working with young people in the community, club and school setting. You will have the ability to deliver leadership opportunities and lead a small team of assistant coaches.

This is a one year contract with a view to an extension depending on external funding.

Full Time Community Sports Coach (multi-skills/gymnastics and dance)

Ref: 0315/TSHL040

You will deliver a structured exercise and physical activity programme for young women and girls aiming to address specific health needs. You will work within schools delivering specific dance and gymnastics sessions for the National Curriculum Scheme of Work. Working in partnership with external organisations to deliver diversionary activities for young people in identified communities to create sustainable sports programmes.

Your remit will include planning, delivering and monitoring of coaching activities across the Borough.

Qualified in Dance or Gymnastics to a Level 2 standard or equivalent, you will also have at least one other National Governing Body qualification.

Full Time Community Sports Coach (multi-skills)

Ref: 0316/TSHL038

You will work within schools delivering multi-skill sessions and establishing multi-skill clubs in-line with the National Curriculum for PE and Sport. Working in partnership with external organisations to deliver diversionary activities for young people in identified communities, you will create sustainable sports programmes as well as the planning, delivering and monitoring of coaching activities.

Qualified in at least one National Governing Body Sport to Level 2 standard, we are looking for individuals who can illustrate two years' or equivalent, experience working with young people in the community, club and school settings.

For both posts, experience of working with challenging young people would be beneficial. You will have the ability to deliver leadership opportunities and lead a small team of assistant coaches.

The above two posts are temporary until March 2010.

These posts are all subject to a satisfactory disclosure check.

These posts are one of a number of programmes that will be working to increase participation in sport and physical activity as part of Wigan Borough's SHAPE Policy Action Plans (2007 - 2012).

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

Closing date: 9th June 2009, 5pm.

Proposed interview date: w/c 22nd June 2009.



WIGAN LEISURE & CULTURE TRUST

www.wlct.org



Putting Enfield First

Education Children's Service and Leisure Directorate - Everybody Active in Enfield

Business and Partnership Manager £34,200 - £36,810 Scale P02

Sports Development Officers £23,733 - £25,203 Scale 6

It is exciting times for the development of Sport and Physical Activity, we have new targets to deliver and some fantastic opportunities to work with partners.

We are looking to appoint a first class Business and Partnership Development Manager (P02) whose role it will be to make us more efficient, develop partnerships and make the best use of all available resources. We are also looking to recruit 3 highly motivated Sports Development Officers (Scale 6) to join our newly restructured team.

Our new structure places Enfield in a commanding position to respond to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic opportunities and the challenges of delivering against both the new National Indicator targets and the DCSF/DCMS PESSYP strategy.

All post holders will work together to successfully deliver the Council Sport and Physical Activity strategy 'Everybody Active' (2009 - 2014). It is essential you have the energy and drive with a true passion for sport and physical activity to achieve the objective of creating a thriving and active community in Enfield.

Appointed personnel will be required to undertake enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check and be prepared to work evenings and weekends.

Ref: 1331.

Closing date: 12 June 2009.

To find out more, and to apply for this position please visit www.jobs.enfield.gov.uk

Enfield Council offers free Internet access at local libraries to assist you in applying for council vacancies.

If you have any difficulties using this method of application, please contact Paula Dixon on 020 8379 4210. A textphone (minicom) is provided for those with a hearing or speech impairment on 020 8379 4419.

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Directorate of Regeneration and Housing

Positive Steps Outreach Instructor

Development & Outreach

£16,991 - £18,937 per annum

'Positive Steps' is the Swansea exercise referral scheme which aims to increase physical activity levels amongst people who are at risk from suffering Coronary Heart Disease and/or have mental health problems.

'Positive Steps' is looking for a suitably qualified, enthusiastic and highly motivated person to join the Development & Outreach Team. The aim is to increase the opportunities for referred clients to access physical activity opportunities which will lead to lifelong participation in healthy lifestyles.

You will need an Exercise Referral Qualification and a range of recognised health & fitness qualifications. A Register of Exercise Professional Accreditation is desirable. It would be an advantage to have experience of instructing individuals and/or groups; classes in a voluntary or professional capacity.

For more information please contact, Paul Whapham on 01792 635219 or email: paul.whapham@swansea.gov.uk

Please quote ref: RG62829

Apply immediately at
www.swansea.gov.uk

Or contact Human Resources, City & County of Swansea, Room 1.7.8 Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road, Swansea SA1 3SN. Tel: (01792) 636875.

Closing date: 5pm, 11 June 2009.

City and County of Swansea
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We value equality because quality services need people from the whole community.



Recreation and Health

Recreation and Project Officer (RH0007)

Local Grade 11, £22,695 per annum

Plus Essential Car User Allowance

1 year fixed-term contract

Two key responsibilities:

- To provide support for recreation and health projects
- To assist in delivering the client role for the sports facilities management contract.

A background in leisure related project work and experience of working in a sports centre environment is desirable. Some evening and weekend working will be required, for which time in lieu will be given.

The range of responsibilities is set out in the job description however the following list provides a snap shot of the variety of the work delivered through this post:

- Support to capital improvement schemes eg Sports Centre Modernisation
- Support to the Town and Parish Councils in preparing and implementing Sports Development Plans (including securing external funding)
- Support and funding advice to other areas of R&H i.e. Young People, Health Improvement, etc
- Administration of grants to Parish Councils and play organisations
- Advising planners to ensure appropriate infrastructure is in place for new housing developments
- Being aware of and providing information on potential external funding opportunities
- Assist in completing applications to secure external funding for recreation/leisure related projects.

For an informal discussion please contact Philip Rolls, Recreation & Health Improvement Manager on 01295 221697.

For more information, download an application pack or to apply for the post visit cherwell.gov.uk/jobs

Our preferred method of application is online. If you don't have access to the internet contact us on 01295 221528 quoting the relevant reference number.

Closing Date: Wednesday 10 June 2009.
Interview Date: Friday 19 June 2009.

Committed to equal opportunities

We positively welcome applications from all sections of the community

Cherwell

DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

www.cherwell.gov.uk



Maternity Leave cover – commencing end of August

ASSISTANT MANAGER (SPORTS)

Up to £20,000 per annum

Responsibilities include the scheduling, administration, organisation and dialogue with private members and over 60 existing clubs, requiring outstanding personal organisation, excellent interpersonal skills, confidence and strong customer focus. Experience of the Gladstone bookings system and the co-ordination of fitness classes would prove an advantage to this role.

The post includes responsibility for routine customer safety and security throughout a Duty Manager shift pattern which includes early morning, evening and weekend work. Applicants should have a recognised First Aid qualification and possess a minimum of two years supervisory experience: a National Pool Lifeguard Qualification would be a further advantage for this post.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will commence duties towards the end of August. If you feel that you possess the drive, personal skills, attention to detail and commitment to the highest standards required to excel in this key role, an application pack can be requested by telephoning the Sports Centre reception team on (01277) 243344, or by writing to: Paul Morgan, Commercial Manager, Brentwood School Sports Centre, Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 8EE,

Closing Date: 30th June.

Brentwood School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

The English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS)

is the national body responsible for developing sport for disabled people in England. We work closely with national sports organizations to develop sporting opportunities for the 11 million disabled people in England.

We have two vacancies for self motivated, dynamic individuals to support the development of EFDS' programmes. We are looking for experienced people with competent skills and the ability to meet targets.

An understanding of issues relating to participation in disability sport is preferable, but not essential.

Training Development Manager

Salary: £ 27,573 - £35,953 Full time: 36 hours Location: Alsager

To manage the development and implementation of EFDS' training programmes working with external partners.

For an informal discussion please call Liz Milner on Tel: 07764 291 668 or e-mail: Lmilner@efds.co.uk

County Athlete Assessment & Development Centre (CAADC) Co-ordinator

Salary: £26,016 – £34,207 Full time: 36 hours Location: Alsager

To develop and roll-out CAADC working with national and regional partners. To work as part of a team to roll out the identification and support of disabled players and athletes who demonstrate potential to succeed in a defined number of sports.

For an informal discussion please call Colin Chaytors on Tel: 07764 291 662 or e-mail: cchaytors@efds.co.uk

For further details and an application form, please contact: EFDS, Manchester Met University, Alsager Campus, Hassall Road, Alsager, ST7 2HL. Tel: 0161 247 5294. Minicom: 0161 247 5644 or e-mail: federation@efds.co.uk

Closing date for applications 12 noon Wednesday 3rd June 2009. Interviews will be held on w/c 8th June 2009.

The English Federation of Disability Sport is an equal opportunities employer and receives funding from Sport England. Disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria are guaranteed an interview.



Partnership Development

Officer (National Governing Bodies & Talent Pathway Development)
Grade 8 (SCP 34-37) £28,353 - £30,546

Fixed term contract until 31.03.2010 with a strong possibility of extension, subject to funding

Hosted by Barnsley MBC and based at the English Institute of Sport, Sheffield

Ref: 50051086

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE?

Initially until 31.03.2010, but with a strong possibility of extension, South Yorkshire Sport is looking for an enthusiastic and committed sports development professional to join our core strategic team. Leading the portfolio of National Governing Body Liaison, Talent Development and PE & School Sport, you will already be familiar with the needs and challenges of these areas of work. Engaging with National governing bodies and interpreting their whole sport plans, working with local community sport networks and strengthening the links between education and sport are just some of the challenges awaiting you in this exciting role. In addition, an understanding of Child Protection, safeguarding and equity standards will enable you to play a crucial role in the development of the Partnership and its ongoing work.

To succeed, you will need:

- Relevant degree in Sport/Leisure management/ Sports Development or similar. (HNC/HND/NVQ Level 4 or equivalent)
- Relevant experience in sport/ leisure at a senior/ strategic development level
- Experience of creating and sustaining partnerships and evidence of working strategically with a range of organisations to achieve agreed targets and goals

If you think you have got what it takes to play a major role in developing sport across South Yorkshire, we'd like to hear from you.

For an informal discussion about this post, please contact Bruce Kelsey, Director or Helen Cund, Networks Manager on 0114 223 5673/2

Information packs and further details about South Yorkshire Sport are available from our website – www.sysport.co.uk (click on jobs and careers)

Application forms can be obtained from www.barnsley.gov.uk – recruitment or by telephoning 01226 772250 and quoting the reference no. Completed applications should be returned to BMBC

Closing date for applications:

12th June 2009.
Interviews: 26th June 2009.

'Working to increase participation in sport and active recreation'

www.barnsley.gov.uk



where people count

Community Facilities Manager

£35,629 - £41,754 p.a. (incl. of fringe)
36.25 hours per week

Basildon Council is changing the way it manages its community facilities. An exciting opportunity now exists for a Community Facilities Manager to lead that change.

You will be responsible for a wide range of community facilities, including three day centres and our welfare catering service, as well as more than 40 community centres and halls, including our largest community facility. You must ensure maximum usage of these facilities and services, ensuring both quality and value for money are delivered.

Experience of buildings and facilities management are essential, as are excellent communication skills and a commitment to quality customer service. Our new recruit must also have a demonstrable ability to work in partnership and manage a large budget. Ref: 428

Leisure Officer

£19,487 p.a. (incl. of fringe)
36.25 hours per week

Basildon District Council's Cultural Services operates three sports centres across the district; you will be part of the Duty Management team at Markhams Chase and Basildon Sports Centre.

You will assist with the development of a varied activity programme and promotion of the facilities to all groups within the community. You will be responsible for the supervision of staff and assess performance and training needs. You will also be required to carry out daily safety checks and respond effectively to any problems that are identified, ensuring that the building and the equipment are secure and safe to use.

You will need to have experience within the leisure industry with excellent verbal and written communication skills, and have a good understanding of health and safety within the workplace. Computer literacy will be an advantage. A Sports Coaching Qualification and a First Aid Certificate are essential. Weekend, evenings and bank holiday working will be required on a rota basis. Ref: 430

For further details and an application form, please telephone our 24 hour recruitment line on 01268 294289 (answerphone) or visit www.basildon.gov.uk/jobs Please quote the appropriate reference number. We are registered with Type Talk. The pack is available in alternative formats.

Closing date for both posts: 11 June 2009.

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Basildon Council

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Applicants must have excellent organisational and communication skills. Experience in a customer facing role is essential as is the ability to work using own initiative.

Excellent salary offered to reflect experience and qualifications. Start Date: As soon as possible.

INTERESTED?

Please apply in writing with CV to Nicola Morgan, Neal Training, PO Box 894, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 1ZR or Email nicola@nealtraining.com CLOSING DATE: 31st MAY 2009

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We offer a competitive salary and benefits package, including uniform, meals on duty and contributory pension scheme.

CLOSING DATE 31 May 2009

Please send your CV to Pat Kenny, HR Department, Royal Automobile Club, Woodcote Park, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 7EW or email patk@royalautomobileclub.co.uk Tel: 01372 229282

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Walsall Community Health

Physical Activity Advisor

AfC Band 5 £20,710 - £26,839

37.5 hours per week

Fixed term for 12 months

Job ref: 777-09.1455

Do you have the drive and ambition to encourage others to increase their physical activity levels through the development and delivery of physical activity sessions? If so, then this is the job for you!

NHS Walsall Community Health is looking to recruit a Physical Activity Advisor who will:

- develop evidence based, appropriate and tailor made physical activity sessions
- co-ordinate the delivery of safe, effective and evidence based physical activity sessions within different locations
- support schools, to deliver an effective programme of support to children and their families in relation to physical activity
- support the delivery of physical activity sessions across Walsall, including supporting the childhood obesity programme, when required
- interact with referred clients, recording details, monitoring adherence, providing individual support and advice, ensuring that all sessions and activities are monitored in line with set targets
- assist in the development of referral criteria for all relevant care pathways
- act as an advisor to health professionals on matters relating to physical activity
- signpost people to other appropriate services

Key requirements are a relevant first degree (health related discipline) or equivalent, an Exercise to Music qualification (YMCA, Level 2) and experience of working with children and young people.

If you have experience of developing physical activity sessions to a range of audiences, the skills to co-ordinate the successful delivery of those sessions and effective communication skills to help motivate people to become more physically active, then we want to hear from you.

For further information please contact: Hannah Williams, Acting Head of Children's and Families Lifestyle Services, Telephone 01922 444044 or email hannah.lwilliams@walsall.nhs.uk

The successful applicant will be asked to apply for a Disclosure (criminal record check).

NHS Walsall Community Health is committed to operating flexible working practices wherever possible.

For further details or to apply, please visit www.jobs.nhs.uk and quote the above job reference number.

Closing date for applications: 9th June 2009.

This post will be subject to the terms and conditions of the new NHS pay system 'Agenda for Change'.

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FITNESS INSTRUCTOR

DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS AND LEISURE

£23,865 - £26,346 p.a (Including LWA)

Regent Site

The University of Westminster is one of London's largest universities. We seek to provide a stimulating environment for both our students and staff. The Estates and Facilities department is the main provider of full support services to the University of Westminster sites and buildings including sports and leisure facilities. We have an exciting opportunity for an experienced and highly motivated Fitness Instructor to work in our busy Regent Street fitness facility. You will form part of a team responsible for the day-to-day running and contributing to the future provision of the University's Sport and Leisure facility. You will also perform Duty Manager responsibilities including overseeing other staff.

You will have a professional qualification (YMCA level 2 or equivalent) and have a working knowledge of client requirements with respect to fitness testing, personal programs/training, H&S requirements and general maintenance of equipment. You will also be computer literate and have experience of using membership systems. You will also be able to work regular evening and weekend shifts.

The role is based in Central London; however travel to other Sport sites may be required. You will receive a competitive salary, including a generous annual leave entitlement and final salary pension scheme.

We strongly encourage female applicants as we are currently unrepresented in this area.

Closing date: Tuesday 9 June 2009.

Interview date: To be confirmed.

Candidates should apply via our website at: www.wmin.ac.uk/hrvacancies/ under reference 50002072, which includes full job description and an online application form.

Please note CV's in isolation or incomplete application forms will not be accepted. Previous applicants need not apply.

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Events and Conferencing Manager

Salary up to £25,000 + bonus, depending on experience

Coventry Transport Museum displays the largest collection of British road transport in the world. Its collection includes over 550 cars, motorcycles and bicycles, 25,000 models and around a million ephemera items that represents Coventry's unique heritage as the birthplace of British road transport. With everything from bone rattling cycles to thrilling land speed record breakers, the Museum is regarded as one of the leading visitor attractions in the West Midlands, welcoming over 360,000 visitors a year.



This is no ordinary transport museum though...

The Museum is also a vibrant and unusual conference and events venue, with unrivalled impact for a successful event and a truly memorable experience.

This is an exciting opportunity for a self-motivated and forward looking person to join our team to develop our events and conferencing offer. You will be responsible for sales, marketing and service provision:-

- Leading on sales pitches and quotations for a wide range of internal and external client enquiries, maximising conversion rates.
- Driving conference sales through personal selling, networking and other sales development techniques to meet targets.
- Creating an annual programme of high profile on-site temporary exhibitions and activities, taking into account overall business objectives, and external developments and opportunities.
- Managing the planning, delivery and promotion of all internal and partnership events and activities to the highest standards.

You will have personal drive, excellent communication skills, enthusiasm and a commitment to customer care. Previous experience in the planning and delivery of events and conferencing is essential.

Further details and application forms are available from Coventry Transport Museum's website or email anne.dooy@transport-museum.co.uk



Closing date for Applications: **2nd June 2009** Interview Date: **9th June 2009**

Development Manager (Preston Hall & Park)

Grade L - £29,714 to £32,475 Post ref: (10001)

With experience of managing projects, people, and budgets, you will oversee the delivery and operation of the Museum redevelopment and Park improvements, to deliver a seamless visitor experience.

You will have a relevant degree or equivalent, an appropriate professional or technical qualification, good communication and IT skills, plus experience of delivering services in a heritage or leisure visitor facility.

This post is for an initial term of five years, 2009-2014. The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application packs are available to download from www.stockton.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively you can contact the Recruitment Team, Tel: (01642) 526992 or email: recruitment@stockton.gov.uk

Closing date: Friday 19 June 2009

Interviews will be held the week beginning 13 July 2009.



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Green light for £1bn Kidbrooke regeneration plans

Leisure facilities and public open space included in Greenwich Council-approved masterplan for former estate

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

Plans for the £1bn transformation of the former Ferrier Estate and neighbouring Kidbrooke area have been given the go-ahead by Greenwich Council.

As part of the Kidbrooke Vision masterplan, Thomas Tallis secondary school will be redeveloped to include a dual-use gymnastics centre, martial arts dojo, a floodlit all-weather pitch and a six-court sports hall, designed for county and regional level basketball competitions, along with

theatre and performing arts spaces, music facilities and classrooms for adult education.

Designed by Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands, the plans also comprise 300,000sq ft (27,870sq m) of commercial and retail space, as well as eight hectares (19.7-acres) of public open space, designed by landscape architects Gillespies.

The scheme will be centred around a new park with a series of outdoor 'rooms', each with a dedicated use – such as sport, cultural activities, bio-diverse planting and wildlife.



A martial arts dojo among the new facilities included in the plans

Four Scottish sports in line for £1m funding boost

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

Four Commonwealth Games sports, including cycling and triathlon have received £1m funding from sportscotland.

Scottish Cycling was awarded £527,960 and Triathlon Scotland received £235,030, while £228,500 and £148,000 was awarded to target shooting and wrestling respectively.

Louise Martin, chair of sportscotland, said: "With the



Cycling will receive extra cash

selection period for 2010 underway it is more important than ever to ensure that Scottish sports receive the

funding and support they need to deliver on the world stage.

"However, our investment will also ensure that this key group of sports continues to develop towards 2014, and beyond. The programmes supported through our investment will provide more opportunities for Scots to participate in healthy, active lifestyles and to realise their own potential, up to the highest level."

Scottish artists net £1m funding

The Edinburgh Fringe festival has been given a £1m boost by the Scottish Government to help showcase homegrown dance and theatre artists over the next two years.

The 'Made in Scotland' initiative was launched by the government last year with a £200,000 grant through the Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund.

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