

London marks three-year countdown to 2012 Games

By **Pete Hayman**

The organisers of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games have laid out targets to be achieved by next summer as the countdown to the Opening Ceremony of the Games reached the three-year mark.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has already started work on all permanent venues at the Olympic Park site on time and on budget, while the sailing facility at Weymouth and Portland in Dorset has become the first Olympic venue to be completed.

New targets to be achieved by summer 2010 outlined by the ODA include the comple-



Olympic organisers have outlined their targets for the year ahead

tion of the Olympic Stadium structure and the start of work on the venue's field of play, as well as the completion of the Aquatic Centre's exterior. It also expects to have started the

installation of the timber track at the 2012 Velodrome.

Meanwhile, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) plans to launch

the London 2012 volunteer scheme and the initial details of the ticketing strategy by next summer, as well as the acquisition of more than one million pieces of equipment.

The publication of the new targets came as LOCOG chair Sebastian Coe met with London mayor Boris Johnson, Olympics minister Tessa Jowell and ODA chair John Armitt, as well as Team GB and ParalympicsGB athletes to witness the progress that has already been made.

Johnson said: "A Herculean effort by everyone on the 2012 project, from the planners to the construction workers, means we are ahead of schedule and on budget."

Natural England to tackle obesity with new service

"Natural Health Service" to promote open spaces as areas for physical activity

By **Tom Walker**

Natural England has joined in the battle to ease the UK's obesity burden by launching a new manifesto, titled Natural Health Service.

The manifesto outlines a number of initiatives planned by the government body in order to get more Britons active.

The document also calls for a step-change in the way people are given access to green spaces and the ways in which outdoor activity programmes are supported by GPs.



Natural England will expand Walking the Way to Health

The two main goals set out in the manifesto are to increase the number of households that are within five minutes' walk of

an area of green space – covering at least two hectares – and to make sure every general practitioner (GP) or community nurse is able to refer patients to an approved health walk or outdoor activity programme.

Natural England will also expand its Walking the Way to Health scheme and has increased its target to involve 200,000 people in the initiative.

Natural England is already the largest national body promoting led health walks, supporting more than 520 local health walk schemes.

Peterborough pool reopens

The Jack Hunt Swimming Pool in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, has reopened following a £620,000 revamp.

New facilities at the pool include new changing spaces and showers, while the spectator viewing area and pool hall have been completely refurbished.

A range of energy efficient measures have also been installed to support efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

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CAMRA calls for probe into 'beer ties'

Trade organisation lodges 'super-complaint' with OFT over pub company concerns

By **Pete Hayman**

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has lodged a 'super-complaint' with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) over concerns that beer-tie arrangements used by UK companies are damaging the pub industry.

According to CAMRA, pubs across the country are suffering from a lack of investment and landlords are being forced out of business as a result of pub companies forcing tenants to buy beer exclusively from them, as well as incurring high rents.

The 'super-complaint' system, which is available to designated consumer bodies, means that the OFT will be required to fast-track its consideration of whether pub companies are engaging in anti-competitive



CAMRA is concerned that beer-ties are damaging the UK industry

practices and driving up prices for consumers.

Mike Benner, CAMRA chief executive, said: "Exploitation of 'beer tie' agreements and the unfair method of setting pub rents are harming consumers and society as a whole. It is enshrined in EU law that consumers must get a fair share

of the benefits arising from exclusive purchasing deals such as the 'beer tie', but this is often not the case.

"We hope that the OFT will act to deliver a fair share for Britain's 14 million regular pub goers. Reform of the 'beer tie' is urgently required to save the pub from extinction."

Merlin receives compensation in LBE settlement

By **Pete Hayman**

Merlin Entertainments, the world's second largest operator of visitor attractions and owner of the London Dungeon, has been awarded "substantial" compensation after the group reached an out-of-court settlement with the London Bridge Experience (LBE).

Merlin launched a legal challenge against the operators of LBE last summer over claims that the rival attraction had breached intellectual property rights and engaged in unlawful practices as part of an attempt to replicate the London Dungeon attraction.

LBE, which was opened in early 2008 by owners Lee and Danny Scriven in south London, will also pay Merlin's legal fees as part of the settlement, which



The London Dungeon attraction on Tooley Street opened in 1976

also includes a number legally binding undertakings.

LBE's James Kislingsbury said: "The arrival of another London based scare attraction was clearly too much for them to accept and as such Merlin sought to impose a litany of operating restrictions on LBE, under which the attraction would have been inoperable."

Merlin's Glenn Earlam said: "We would never object to fair competition from attractions offering a distinct proposition to visitors. However, the sort of activity undertaken by LBE was totally unacceptable and Merlin had no choice but to put a stop to their unlawful activity which was directly targeted at the London Dungeon."

Sunbeds linked to cancer by IARC report

Cancer advisory body's research reclassifies sunbeds as carcinogenic to humans

By **Tom Walker**

A report by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has declared that there is a "clear link" between sunbeds and skin cancer.

The IARC, the World Health Organisation's (WHO) agency for research into cancer, has reclassified sunbeds as a Group 1 agent, determining them to be "carcinogenic to humans". The move means that sunbeds and artificial tanning systems are now deemed to pose a risk to human health.

The report - compiled by a team of scientists lead by Dr Fatiha el Ghissassi and published in the The Lancet Oncology - found that people who had begun using UV-emitting tanning devices before the age of 30 were up to 75 per



The UK's tanning industry is likely to face increased legislation

cent more likely to suffer from melanoma and other forms of skin cancer.

The IARC study is the second high-profile study in recent weeks to have deemed sunbeds as hazardous to human health.

Last month, the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment

(COMARE), delivered a report that called for the tanning industry to be better regulated.

The report said: "The health risks associated with sunbed use far outweigh the perceived benefits. The use of sunbeds to synthesise vitamin D is not recommended due to the cancer risk and side effects."

Mayor to recruit 'army' of 2012 volunteers

By **Pete Hayman**

London mayor Boris Johnson has unveiled plans to recruit 12,000 city volunteers to welcome and provide travel advice to visitors travelling to the capital for the 2012 Olympic Games.

The 'army' of volunteers would be stationed at airports, mainline rail and Tube stations, major visitor attractions and other key locations to provide information and directions to 2012 tourists, and to complement the work of the 70,000 Olympic volunteers.



The mayor wants 12,000 people to help welcome visitors in 2012

Johnson said: "In exactly three years, London hosts the world's greatest sporting event which we will turn into a memorable festival of

entertainment and fun. Volunteering is a fantastically rewarding and worthwhile activity, as millions of Londoners already know.

"These roles will be vital, because these volunteers will be London's front line ambassadors.

"I want to ensure that the warm and friendly welcome they afford our guests, as they point them in the right direction, leaves them feeling they have just spent a wonderful time with a great friend - a friend they will certainly revisit as soon as possible."

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IN BRIEF

Gym plans ditched for outdoor activities

► Tendring District Council in Essex no longer proposes to roll out Lifestyle gyms at leisure centres across the district. Plans by the council's former administration to overhaul sports facilities in Walton, Dovercourt and Harwich have been dropped by the current Conservative leadership in preference for the promotion of outdoor activities such as walking, cycling and water sports. Peter Halliday, cabinet member for finance, said: "We have excellent leisure centres which are very popular with a section of the population – but there are others who want to look outside the gym for their activities."

Working in Fitness survey work begins

► The team at the SkillsActive Research Unit has started analysing the results of the 2009 Working in Fitness (WIF) Survey. Respondents answered questions on remuneration packages, working practices, on-going professional development and attitudes to working within the industry as well as job satisfaction. Now in its fourth year, the WIF survey is credited with providing an annual insight into the working practices of the industry and is valued by employers and employees alike.

Dollan Aqua to undergo revamp

► Dollan Aqua Centre in East Kilbride is set to undergo a £7m overhaul. The leisure centre closed its doors to the public last year when a routine inspection revealed that the concrete structure of the Grade-A listed building had deteriorated. Immediate structural repairs will be carried out by Paisley-based Clark Contracts, with completion scheduled for winter 2010.

Catterick's new leisure centre opens

Facilities at £21m complex include 25m swimming pool and 40-station gym

By **Tom Walker**

A new £21m leisure centre has opened at Catterick Garrison in North Yorkshire.

The centre has been developed in partnership by Defence Estates, North Yorkshire County Council and Richmondshire District Council.

Facilities at the centre include a six-lane 25m swimming pool, two learner pools, a six-court sports hall, a 40-station health club with equipment supplied by Technogym and an exercise studio offering a range of group classes.

The centre will also house the town's new library and the facilities will be used by the wider community.

The opening is part of a £300m regeneration project planned for the military town by Defence Estates, the development arm of the MOD, which aims to improve the



The centre forms part of the £300m regeneration of the town

quality of life for both the town's military personnel and civilians. Proposals also include transforming 170,000sq ft of the town centre into a new mixed-use development.

When complete, the new town centre will feature an 84-bedroom hotel, leisure facilities, retail units and healthcare opportunities. There will also be 184 residential units and offices.

Announcing the plans last year, Robert Manners, principal estate surveyor of Defence Estates, said: "Our vision for the redevelopment of Catterick Garrison is simple. We want to create a prosperous community in which to live and work."

"It's important that we achieve a balanced community for both military and civilian residents and that the developments enhance the town's image."

New gym for Haringey centre

White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre in Haringey, London, has opened its new £200,000 Active Strength gym.

The 189sq m (2,034sq ft) facility is equipped with TechnoGym's Pure Strength range of resistance machines and a range of cardio kit, which have been supplied by Escape Fitness, Pullham Sport and TechnoGym.

The gym will also boast weight-lifting platforms for amateur, semi-professional and professional training. Building work was carried out by Apollo and took nine weeks to complete.

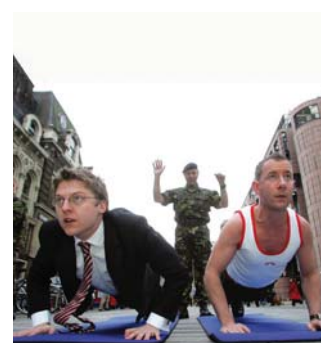
FIA welcomes Tory party report

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

The Fitness Industry Association (FIA) has welcomed a new report, backed by the Conservative Party, which seeks to improve the health and fitness levels of the country.

Fred Turok, FIA chair, said that the report – named *We're All In This Together*, Improving the Long Term Health of the Nation – was "excellent news for the health and fitness sector".

The report recommends that a single, branded vehicle should be established to deliver three key health messages: healthy diet, understanding the "calories in, calories out" equation and responsible drinking.



The report promotes physical activity for all communities

It also recommends amending the tax system to support all forms of physical activity through a reduced VAT rate.

Turok said: "This is a major milestone for everyone who works in, or is associated with the sector."

Leisure centre planned for Rushden

Facility to include a four-court sports hall and a large health and fitness club

By **Tom Walker**

A new £13m leisure centre will be built at Manor Park in Rushden, Northamptonshire, to replace outdated facilities at the Splash Leisure Pool and the Pemberton Centre.

The scheme will comprise a six-lane, 25-metre swimming pool and a teaching pool, as well as a four court sports hall, dance/exercise studios and a health and fitness suite.

The facility will be project managed by global consultants Mace, whose previous projects include the London Eye and the British Museum's Great Court, and will be designed by FaulknerBrowns Architects.

Outline designs will be publicly displayed in September.



The centre will offer a wide range of exercise classes for members

ber, when a series of consultation events will be held to provide local residents and businesses with an opportunity to provide feedback.

David Oliver, chief executive at East Northamptonshire Council, said: "We have

brought on board highly respected consultants to deliver this exciting scheme."

The council has stumped up £11m towards the development, with an additional £2m being secured from the government's Growth Fund.



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Brawn GP revamps corporate gym in Brackley

By **Tom Walker**

UK-based Formula One team Brawn GP has refurbished its corporate health and fitness club at the team's headquarters in Brackley, Northamptonshire.

The team appointed supplier Star Trac to install a range of CV stations at the site, including Spinner NXT bikes, E-TBT total body trainers, E-UB upright bikes and E-TR treadmills as well as impact equipment. The club is largely self-funding with



The Brawn GP health club has been fitted out by Star Trac

employees paying a monthly contribution towards the cost of maintenance and the on-site fitness manager.

Ross Brawn, Team Principal of Brawn GP said: "Working at the top level of motor sport in the pressurised environment of Formula One requires a huge level of commitment from our staff. We strongly believe that investing in facilities which will improve their fitness and lifestyle will result in a happy and productive team."

Physical exercise recommended for over-65s

A survey by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) has highlighted the importance of physical exercise in the prevention of chronic conditions among people over 65.

The report states that physical activity, even at a moderate level, will considerably increase life expectancy among older adults.

Research by ACSM shows that although no amount of physical activity can stop the biological aging process, there is evidence that regular exercise can minimize the physiological effects of a sedentary lifestyle and increase active life expectancy by limiting the development and progression of chronic disease.

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IN BRIEF

Investigation into Alton Towers blaze

► Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service has launched a probe into the cause of a fire that destroyed part of the Skyride cable car ride at Alton Towers theme park on 21 July. No-one was injured in the blaze at the Cloud Cuckoo Land station, which is believed to have started around 10.30pm before being brought under control by six fire crews and members of park staff. Alton Towers said that it remains open to the public as normal, although some areas have been fenced off to allow investigators to ascertain the cause of the fire.

Ironbridge Gorge visitor centre opens

► A new visitor centre has opened at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum's Blists Hill Victorian Town in Shropshire. The centre forms part of a £12m revamp of the town funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Advantage West Midlands. The building was designed by specialist architectural practice Nash Partnership of Bath with support from Osbornes Architects and was constructed by Mansell Construction Services Ltd.

Edinburgh Zoo to downsize?

► Edinburgh Zoo may have to downsize after plans to sell off land to raise money for a £72m upgrade were refused by the Scottish Government. According to the BBC, the zoo planned to develop up to 120 homes on the edge of its Corstorphine Hill site, and may not now be able to raise the £20m it expected to make from the sale. David Windmill, chief executive of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, told the BBC that the existing zoo would have to be scaled back if the funds could not be raised.

Council rejects British Museum plans

Plans for major redevelopment of London attraction dismissed by Camden Council

By **Tom Walker**

Camden Council has turned down a planning application for a £135m extension to the British Museum in London.

The proposed development, designed by architects Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners (RSHP), had secured the support of English Heritage but had angered a local conservation group, the Bloomsbury Conservation Area Advisory Committee (BCAAC).

RSHP's plans included a new 1,000 sq m (10,760sq ft) building to replace the former offices of the British Library on Montague Place, as well as a conservation centre to train museum conservators.

BCAAC lobbied actively against the expansion plans, claiming that the development would block daylight from the existing buildings and would



Opponents said the plans would ruin the building's architecture

diminish the museum's existing architectural delights – such as Sir Robert Smirke's arched library room and J.J. Burnet's King Edward II building.

Museum officials will now be forced to rethink the proposals for the museum, which were initially announced in 2007.

In a statement, the local authority said: "Camden Council's Development Control

Committee turned down the British Museum's plans for the north-west development.

"The application was recommended for approval and had the support of English Heritage. However, after careful consideration, the committee decided that the proposed benefits of the scheme did not outweigh their concerns about the design within its context."

£2.4m extension for NI folk park

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for a £2.4m expansion of the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh, County Tyrone, have been announced by the Northern Ireland culture minister, Nelson McCausland.

The plans form the first phase of a ten-year development scheme due for completion in 2011 at the outdoor museum, which tells the story of emigration from Northern Ireland to the US during the 18th and 19th centuries.

An additional 30 acres (12.1 hectares) of land will be incorporated into the folk park and will be transformed into a series of American frontier landscapes in order to display the attraction's increasing



The park celebrates the history of Ulster's links with the US

number of original Ulster settler buildings.

Funding for the expansion plans has been provided by the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure, along with National Museums Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board will also contribute £75,000 after it agreed to match a private donation.

Sea City design team appointed

Southampton City Council (SCC) has appointed architects to design its new £15m Sea City Museum attraction.

London-based architects Wilkinson Eyre has been awarded the contract to design the attraction, which will be located in SCC's Civic Centre, previously occupied by Southampton's magistrate courts and police headquarters.

The museum is intended to provide access to and interpretation of the city's maritime heritage, and will include an exhibition on the Titanic, offering visitors the chance to adopt the identity of a crew member on board the ship from the moment of boarding to the post-disaster inquiry.



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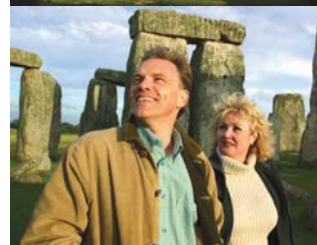
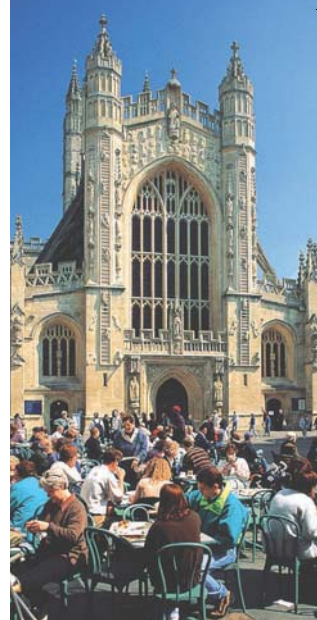
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IN BRIEF

SIV secures two-year table tennis agreement

► Sheffield International Venues (SIV) has signed a two-year agreement with the British Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) to extend the sport's performance programme in the city. The deal – supported by Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Hallam University and Yorkshire South – will see the 2012 Olympics team continue to train at SIV's English Institute of Sport (EIS) in Attercliffe, where the BTTF has been based since 2007.

Council to reopen Banbury open air pool

► The Woodgreen open air pool in Banbury, Oxfordshire, has been reopened by Cherwell District Council following the completion of a £1.5m revamp. Work has been carried out in order to modernise the 50m pool after the council agreed in December last year to contribute £50,000 each year towards the running of the facility, which closed to the public in 2002. The scheme included the reduction of the pool's maximum depth to 1.8m, a new tiled deck-level pool, a new 'Aqua Zone' for young children, a revamped flume and work to upgrade both the plant and water treatment systems.

Pool plans revealed for Birmingham

► Birmingham City Council is to pursue its plans for increased swimming pool provision for local residents. In December 2008, the cabinet agreed in principle to develop the Birmingham Aquatics and Leisure Complex in Ladywood and to replace or refurbish Sparkhill Pool, Harborne Pool and Stechford Cascades. It was decided that detailed proposals for each scheme would be re-evaluated in September 2009, before plans are submitted.

England nets 2015 Rugby World Cup

IRB Council backs recommendation to select RFU's bid to stage the tournament

By **Pete Hayman**

England has been selected to host the 2015 Rugby World Cup after the International Rugby Board (IRB) accepted the organisers' recommendation to select the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) bid.

At a special meeting held in Dublin, Ireland, the IRB Council backed a report by Rugby World Cup Limited (RWCL), which assessed each prospective host union's bid, before selecting England as its preferred host for the event.

In addition to selecting England to host the 2015 Rugby World Cup, the IRB also revealed that Japan had been awarded the right to stage the 2019 tournament.



London's Twickenham Stadium was at the heart of the RFU's bid

RWCL chair Bernard Lapasset said: "We believe that the succession of England and Japan as host nations for the Rugby World Cup will create new opportunities and help maximise commercial revenues for re-investment in the game."

"It is an exciting combination for the Rugby World Cup and one which we think will enable the sport to reach developing rugby markets and therefore contribute to the continued growth of the game and its values worldwide."

Sedgemoor Splash closure date decision called in

By **Pete Hayman**

The chair of Sedgemoor District Council's (SDC) scrutiny committee, Julian Taylor, has called in the council's decision to close Sedgemoor Splash swimming facility in Bridgwater, Somerset, on 30 August.

Councillors will now have the opportunity to request that the planned closure date be moved to take account of the financial implications of the closure and potential effect on local traders.



SDC intends to close the Splash

However, the council's original decision to close the Splash facility will not be reconsidered.

On 8 July, SDC announced that Sedgemoor Splash would close in order to help fund the construction of the town's new pool at Chilton Trinity, which is expected to open in 2012.

A council spokesperson said: "While it is really hard to accept the drastic step of closing the Splash before a new pool is provided, the executive recommended that this is the only way forward in which Bridgwater will have a public swimming pool in the future."

Topped out Lincolnshire centre gets new name

East Lindsey District Council has revealed the name of the £12m leisure centre being built in Louth, Lincolnshire, during a topping out ceremony at the new facility.

Scheduled to open by Christmas 2009, the centre will be called Meridian Leisure Centre and will include a 25m, eight-lane swimming pool with moveable floor, a multi-purpose space, a sports hall, a fitness suite and dance studios.

External pitches and a multi-activity community area are also to be created at the site. Lincolnshire-based construction company UCS Civils was appointed to construct the centre last year.

£36m sports centre for Huddersfield

Kirklees Council unveils plans for the construction of a new facility at Spring Grove

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

Plans for a new £36.2m sports complex in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, have been unveiled by Kirklees Council.

The complex will feature a leisure pool – including a beach, a wave machine, a flume, and a sidewinder ride – as well as a 25m swimming pool; a teaching pool; two large sports halls; climbing, squash and martial arts facilities; a fitness suite and a café and children's area.

A substantial amount of funding for the project would come from the council selling the land on which the current centre in Southgate is located to the Tesco supermarket chain.

Mehboob Kahn, leader of Kirklees Council, said: "Several



The proposed centre will include a 25m pool and two sports halls

sites were considered for a new sports centre and the Spring Grove site has been chosen as the only viable option.

"This is a prominent location with excellent transport and pedestrian links into the town centre, so there could be a knock-on effect of far more

people using our shops before or after they visit the centre.

"Huddersfield needs these new facilities as the current sports centre is coming to the end of its useful life."

If planning permission is approved, work could start on the centre late next year.

IN BRIEF

Funding boost for Northern Irish sport

► Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) has announced plans to invest £6m in performance sport over the next two years. The funding will be spread between 35 sports governing bodies as SNI aims to create a world-class system to develop athletes. The bodies set to benefit from the funding include the Irish Football Association, Cricket Ireland and Ulster Rugby, with each sport having its own target.

CLM's Olympic delivery costs double

► The 2012 Olympic delivery partner, CLM, earned an average of £410,000 in fees and bonuses a day, costing taxpayers £151m last year – nearly double the cost of the £87.6m the year before. The CLM consortium – including CH2M, Laing O'Rourke and Mace – was paid a £60m bonus for meeting targets and deadlines, and it is this bonus that has led to such a steep rise. In 2008-9, CLM was paid £35m for the programme itself, compared to £37.5m in 2007-8, while performance payments went up to £60.2m, compared with £16.1m in the previous year.

Tees white water course to be redeveloped

► The Tees Barrage International Water Course on the River Tees between Middlesbrough and Stockton is set to undergo a £4.9m redevelopment. The project will include a redesign of the main course, a second shorter course and four new large 12m x 3m Archimedes Screws, which will use river water to generate electricity when not being used to pump water around the course. The scheme is being funded by ONE North East, Stockton Council, Tees Active, Middlesbrough Council and Sport England.

£24m cycling plans unveiled

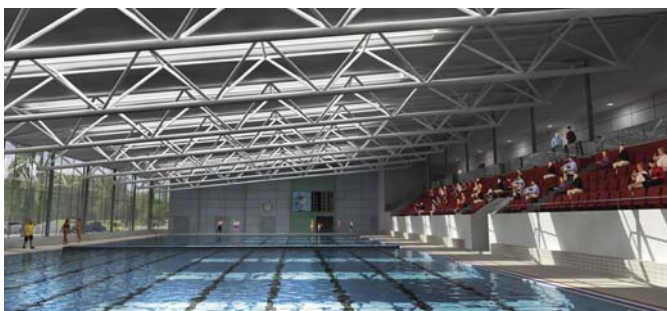
Plans for a £24m indoor BMX centre in Manchester's Sportcity development have been announced.

Designed by Ellis Williams Architects, the 110,000sq ft (10,220sq m) National Cycling Centre, will boast a 2,000-seat BMX arena and offices for the headquarters of the British Cycling Federation.

The centre will be surrounded by new public spaces, including outdoor freestyle cycling areas, forming a velopark.

Eddie Smith, chief executive of New East Manchester, said: "These facilities will offer elite athletes, schools and the wider community a unique opportunity to access a world class track."

Green light for Basildon project



The new development will boast Essex's first Olympic-sized pool

By **Pete Hayman**

Construction work on a new £38m regional sports facility in Basildon, Essex, is scheduled to start in October after the local authority appointed Community Solutions for Leisure (CSL) to deliver the scheme.

Basildon Council has also approved a detailed funding plan for the Basildon Sporting Village project, which will house the county's first 50m

swimming pool and has been included in the Pre-Games Training Camp guide for the London 2012 Olympics.

The new facility, which will include a competition swimming pool, a 400-capacity spectator area, a learner pool, a sports hall, gymnastics centre and a health and fitness club.

CSL's construction partner, Morgan Ashurst, will build the sporting village, which is expected to open in 2011.

IN BRIEF

SAC funding for Homecoming projects

► A variety of dance, theatre, poetry and visual arts projects in Scotland will get underway as a result of Scottish Arts Council (SAC) funding. The £300,000 Homecoming Fund – part of Homecoming Scotland 2009, which celebrates the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth – will support a range of projects throughout the year, each of which will celebrate the themes of the Homecoming scheme: Robert Burns; culture and heritage; and the contributions Scotland has made to the world. Mary Shields, SAC's artistic advisor for Homecoming Scotland, said: "Supporting artists, celebrating Scotland's culture and encouraging a lasting legacy is at the heart of our new Homecoming Scotland programme." Funded projects include: Arts Fringe, Inverness; Muriel Sparks' *The Girls of Slender Means*, Stellar Quines Theatre Company, Edinburgh and BurnsBanner, Edinburgh.

02 criticises tube closures

► The 02 venue in London has attacked Transport for London for weekend closures on the Jubilee tube line that have caused huge problems for gig goers. According to *thelondonpaper*, Geoff Symonds, the venue's head of transport strategy, told the London Assembly that the closure of North Greenwich station was creating a massive headache for travellers. He said: "We have a world-class venue, currently the most popular venue in the world, but unfortunately – because of the weekend closures – we do not have a transport system to match. The biggest impact is on the customer experience – no alternative travel can replace the Jubilee line."

The Public secures £3m ACE funding

New trust plans to fully open the Midlands arts venue by the end of the summer

By **Pete Hayman**

Arts Council England (ACE) has agreed to contribute £3m to help safeguard the future of The Public arts complex in West Bromwich after accepting a revised business plan put forward by the local authority.

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) drew up the proposals in partnership with Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT) after ACE revealed that it was prepared to provide a one-off grant to open the venue's interactive art gallery.

Sandwell Arts Trust, a new company formed by SMBC and SLT, will take over the complex in August and plans are in place to fully open the venue by the end of the summer.



Sandwell Arts Trust plans to fully open The Public by the autumn

SMBC cabinet member for regeneration, Bob Badham, said: "We felt very strongly that the building should be all one single experience – the gallery will be free to visit and will be very much linked to learning and community activity."

ACE originally announced that it was to withdraw financial support due to delays in opening the interactive art gallery after the company responsible for creating it, Public Gallery Ltd, entered administration earlier this year.

Liverpool theatre in line for £28m redevelopment

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the £28m redevelopment of the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool have been given the go ahead after Arts Council England agreed to contribute £12.8m towards the scheme.

The Liverpool and Merseyside Theatres Trust (LMTT) is behind the proposals for the first major refurbishment of the 45-year-old venue since the 1970s, which will form the first stage of a combined scheme



The venue first opened in 1964

that will also include the redevelopment of the city's Playhouse theatre.

Designed by Steve Tompkins of Haworth Tompkins Architects, the project will include the creation of a new 400-seat auditorium, the recreation of the Everyman Bistro and a new 'creative hub' for writers.

New space for schools and community groups also forms part of the scheme, which will now move to the detailed design stage to enable work to get underway in spring 2011.

The revamped Everyman is expected to reopen in 2013.

HLF announces funding for Phoenix Cinema facelift

Britain's oldest continuously working cinema, The Phoenix in East Finchley, London, is to receive a makeover after a £608,800 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The revamp of the Grade II-listed building will include the construction of a bar or café and repair work to the auditorium incorporat-

ing the original Mollo and Egan plaster wall panels and barrel vaulted ceiling, as well as the extension of the mezzanine.

The restoration is designed to return the Phoenix to its art deco glory, dating back to 1938, and it is the only historical cinema in London to have received HLF funding.



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LEISURE INDUSTRY WEEK

IN BRIEF

Von Essen plans to double its estate

► Von Essen Hotels has unveiled plans to double its estate after reporting strong results for 2008. The firm stated in its annual report that it was looking to increase its 27-strong portfolio in London, the UK and Europe, particularly its Metropolitan brand. The company saw a 20 per cent increase in turnover to £70.6m and its gross profit up 24 per cent to £60.7m. Chair Andrew Davis said: "We are diligently monitoring the market for material corporate acquisition opportunities."

Belfast's Park Avenue Hotel upgraded

► The Park Avenue Hotel in east Belfast has achieved four-star status following the completion of a £5m upgrade. The Northern Ireland Tourism Board gave the family-owned hotel an extra star following an inspection of the newly-renovated facilities. Improvements were made to the hotel's bedrooms, bar, restaurant and conference centre.

Clapham House reports profit slump

► Clapham House Group, the operator of the Gourmet Burger Kitchen, Tootsies and The Real Greek chains, has seen its annual profits fall nearly 20 per cent from £5m to £4.1m. However, revenue increased 16.7 per cent to £62.2m for the year to 29 March and EBITDA stayed the same at £8.7m. David Page, executive chair, said: "Despite consumer confidence in the UK being fragile and the trading outlook remaining uncertain, our sales in the first quarter of this financial year across the group are 6 per cent higher than the same period last year. We remain positive about the mid-term market prospects for the UK eating out market."

New £350m London hotel topped out

Park Plaza's Westminster Bridge property to boast more than 1,000 bedrooms

By **Pete Hayman**

A topping-out ceremony has been held in London to mark the completion of external construction work on one of the capital's largest ever purpose-built hotels, the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge.

The £350m property, which is scheduled to open in 2010, is situated on land once occupied by the former Greater London Council building and will boast more than 1,000 bedrooms and 2,700sq m (29,062.6sq ft) of meeting space.

London mayor Boris Johnson helped to bolt the final beam into place as part of the ceremony at the hotel, which will also offer a luxury spa, a ballroom, a gymnasium and a 15m indoor swimming pool.



The Park Plaza Westminster Bridge is scheduled to open in 2010

The new hotel has been designed by BUJ Architects and Uri Blumenthal Architects and Town Planners, while construction work has been carried out by Eurosea Hotels Contractors.

Johnson said: "This impressive development has removed

an awful eyesore that has blighted this corner of the capital for too long.

"It will act as a springboard for the regeneration plans for Waterloo Station and the surrounding area, on top of creating hundreds of jobs."

Wetherspoons bucks downturn

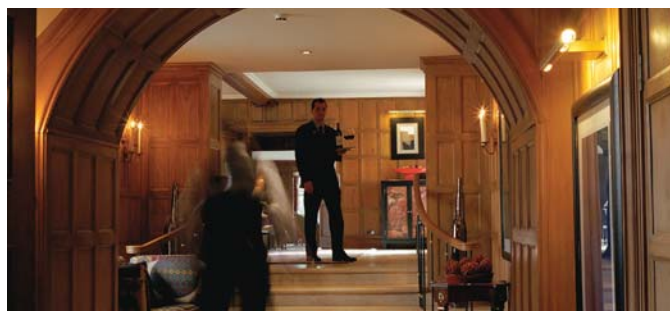
JD Wetherspoon, the pub chain, has reported an increase in sales for the financial year to date, bucking the trend of many in the pub sector.

The company saw a 1.2 per cent increase in like for like sales, while overall company sales increased 5.2 per cent for the 50 weeks to 12 July.

Wetherspoon said that costs were lower than expected, and as a result, operating margins for the second half of the year are set to be higher than expected at 10 per cent.

A spokesperson said: "In the light of our sales and margin performance, we are confident about the outlook for the current financial year."

Paperwork costing firms £2.7bn



Government red tape is hitting the pockets of smaller operators

By **Tom Walker**

Small to medium-size hotels and restaurants could be losing up to £2.7bn every year due to government red tape.

A survey, by the Forum of Private Businesses (FPB), claims that small and medium-sized businesses, on average, spend up to thirty-three hours each month on paperwork.

Companies with nine or less employees spend an average of

29 hours on paperwork, while those with between 10 and 50 employees spend around 41 hours and firms with up to 249 workers devote 131 hours.

FPB policy representative Matt Goodman said: "Our research shows that complying with red tape remains one of the major cost burdens facing smaller businesses, swallowing up valuable time and money that could be used more profitably elsewhere."

Cheap eateries report decline in sales

New report reveals first slump in the informal eating out sector in a generation

By **Helen Patenall**

The UK's informal eating out market is in decline for the first time in 40 years, according to a report published by industry analysts Allegra Strategies.

Eating Out in the UK, 2009 revealed that food purchases costing less than £15 at informal establishments, such as pubs, have been hit by the recession.

In 2009, only one in nine meals has been eaten outside the home, down from one in eight last year, and 20 per cent of those interviewed said that they planned to eat out less in the next 12 months.

However, despite market projections that eating out will be valued at only £40.3bn in 2009 – a fall of 0.5 per cent since last year – growth is



The recession is having an adverse effect on consumer spending

expected to return in 2010 and to increase to £47.5bn by 2014, thanks to rising trends in affluence, mobility, more youthful older customers and the 2012 Olympics.

Steve Gotham, project director at Allegra, said: "There is a myth that the informal eating out sector is recession proof, but this report shows that,

while some companies continue to do well, many are suffering.

"The industry will have to become more consumer-focused as customers won't forget what they are learning in the recession. Eating out may have become an everyday experience, but when the economy picks up, people won't go back to paying over the odds for a meal."

New £35m South Wales hotel scheme announced



The Leekes Group is behind the plans for the listed castle

By **Pete Hayman**

The Grade I-listed Hensol Castle in the Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales, is set to be transformed into a new five-star, 50-bed boutique hotel and spa as part of a new £35m development.

A number of other mansion buildings situated within the 150-acre (61-hectare) parkland will also be converted into apartments, which have been drawn up by the Leekes Group.

Acquired by the Leekes Group in 2003, Hensol Castle Park is situated adjacent to the four-star Vale Resort, which is also owned by the company and includes two championship golf courses, a 143-bedroom hotel and one of Wales' largest health spas.

Young's eyes up future expansion after sales increase

Young's, the pub operator and brewing company, has revealed that it is "well-placed" for future acquisitions.

The London-based company reported a 3.3 per cent increase in sales in its managed houses and said that it had continued to maintain its premium offering despite the recession.

Christopher Sandland, Young's chair, said: "While we continue to be mindful of the broader

economic outlook, we are encouraged by the resilience of the business to continuing difficult economic conditions.

"We have the resources to take advantage of opportunities to acquire additional pubs that meet our requirements and we have confidence that our strategy and our brand provide the best possible platform for further growth when conditions improve."



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IN BRIEF

Green Flag Award winners announced

► More than 1,000 parks and green spaces across England and Wales have picked up the Green Flag Award for 2009, the national standard designed to recognise sites offering high environmental quality. The number of green spaces that received the award increased by more than 200 in 2009, while 96 green spaces received the Green Pennant Award – presented to sites managed by voluntary groups – and a further 46 picked up the Green Heritage Site prize.

New Welsh countryside survey published

► The results of a new survey examining the condition of the Welsh countryside and its natural resources has been published by the Welsh Assembly Government. The Countryside Survey, which was undertaken by the Natural Environment Research Council's Centre of Ecology and Hydrology in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government, DEFRA and the Countryside Council for Wales, revealed an increase in the area of broad-leaved woodland in Wales and an improvement in the physical condition of streams.

Sunderland scheme gets green light

► Plans to cut down trees covering a 2.73-hectare (6.75-acre) area of woodland to allow the development of new football facilities at Newbottle, Sunderland, have been approved by the Forestry Commission. The Russell Foster Tyne and Wear Youth League is planning to create 20 new football pitches, a changing pavilion, an outdoor store and a car park as part of the scheme, which was approved following an environmental impact assessment.

Bradford City Park funding approved

New £24.4m urban park development receives the green light from local authority

By **Helen Patenall**

The development of a £24.4m City Park in Bradford offering residents a large water feature, green spaces, public art, relaxation and play areas will soon be underway.

The six-acre site will be centred around a 4,200sq m (45,200sq ft) mirror pool with causeways, special effects and a series of fountains reaching up to 30m high.

Although the use of water is central to the design, the park can also be drained to provide an urban area for public events, such as concerts and markets, hosting up to 10,000 people.

Cllr Adrian Naylor, Bradford Council's executive member for regeneration & economy, said: "The park has been designed to bring jobs and prosperity to



Bradford City Park will feature a new mirror pool with causeways

Bradford. It will attract visitors and investors and raise land and property values. The project will connect the city centre, enhance the overall image of the city and help create the landscape for investment in the city centre."

Construction work on the scheme, funded by the council,

Yorkshire Forward, the Homes and Communities Agency and the Regional Transport Board, will kick off this autumn.

The park is expected to attract 2.2 million visitors each year, bringing an extra £80m annually to the local economy, according to an independent report by Locum Consulting.

New-look Dublin park reopens after €1m facelift

By **Pete Hayman**

Kylemore Park in Ballyfermot, Dublin, has officially reopened following the completion of a 1m euro refurbishment scheme as part of efforts to combat vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the area.

Local residents formed the Kylemore Park Action Group in 2004 in a bid to revamp the site with the help of Dublin City Council's (DCC) Parks and Landscapes Services Division.

The nine-month Kylemore Park refurbishment, which was part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), included the creation of floodlit five-a-side synthetic football pitches and a basketball and football combination unit, as well as a boules area and play equipment.



Dublin Lord Mayor Emer Costello unveiled the park's new facilities

Landscaping works have also been carried out, while new lighting and close-circuit television cameras have been installed to improve security.

Gerry Barry, head of DCC's Parks and Landscapes Services Division, said: "This project is an example of where local consultation and knowledge was effective at all stages of the

design process. The result is an outstanding community facility that sets an impressive benchmark for the future."

Funding from the ERDF was provided through the Urban II Initiative, while DCC and the Irish Government's National Development Plan and Rapid Programme also contributed towards the scheme.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

TENDER NOTICE

The Baths Hall - Appointment of Management Company

North Lincolnshire Council is redeveloping the existing 'Baths Hall' site to create a new entertainment venue. The new venue will provide a high quality landmark building that contributes to a diverse cultural offering in North Lincolnshire.

The council is seeking to appoint a management company to operate all aspects of the venue.

Organisations wishing to be considered for supplying this service must complete a pre-qualification questionnaire.

The issue and submission of completed questionnaires is via the supplier contract management system (SCMS) website (<http://scms.alito.co.uk>). You will have to register interest by following the suppliers/contractors link and then selecting the project titled '12722 - The Baths Hall Management Company' before uploading the completed questionnaire. If you require any assistance accessing the website please contact the SCMS Helpdesk on telephone 0113 2474001 or email scms@yhcoe.org.uk

Contacts:

All queries should be raised via SCMS by selecting the above project.

Closing date for completed pre-qualification questionnaires is

Noon on 18 September 2009.



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BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF GOLF COURSES – TENDER NO. 889

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE INVITED FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF TWO 18 HOLE GOLF COURSES

Brighton & Hove City Council is keen to enter into a partnership arrangement with an external operator that is suitably qualified and experienced in the management of golf courses. The successful operator will manage two 18 hole golf courses (Hollingbury Park and Waterhall) in picturesque settings on the Sussex Downs to the north of the city. Potential operators will need to be CHAS accredited or hold an equivalent Health & Safety accreditation.

The scope of the contract will include:

- Management and maintenance of two 18 hole golf courses
- Management of all on-site catering arrangements and clubhouses
- Provision of golf professional services
- Provision of an inclusive golf development programme

The contract will commence on 1 April 2010 and run for a minimum period of 10 years although the City Council would be interested to hear from operators interested in a longer contract period.

Pre-qualification questionnaires can be obtained from the South East Business Portal: www.businessportal.southeast.gov.uk select opportunities page, Brighton & Hove, followed by Management and Maintenance of Golf Courses – No 889; or contact Denise Potts-Morton, Corporate Procurement, PO Box 2500, Kings House, Grand Avenue, Hove BN3 2SR, email: Denise.Potts-Morton@brighton-hove.gov.uk

The closing date for returning the questionnaires to the above address is 5pm on 14 August 2009.

Any requests for further information should be addressed to the Officer detailed above in writing.



INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE: WALSALL COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT

The Government's revised Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17, 2002) requires local authorities to undertake assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities. Walsall Council is therefore commissioning an Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Audit and Assessment that requires:

- An audit of existing open space sites and sport and recreational facilities (both outdoor and indoor) in the borough
- An assessment identifying future need for provision, i.e. a supply and demand analysis, as well as work assessing the feasibility of the Council requiring developer contributions towards open space, sport and recreational facilities
- A Playing Pitch Strategy incorporating school playing fields / pitches

The successful regeneration consultancy team must be able to demonstrate:

- A proven track record in developing Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Audit and Assessments (including Playing Pitch Strategy) or similar work
- An innovative approach in developing the Walsall Council Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Audit and Assessment
- The ability to work and consult effectively with the community and stakeholders

To receive a tender 'pack', please contact:

Caroline Glover, Regeneration Directorate, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Walsall, WS1 1TP.

Tel: 01922 653692 or e mail: glovercaroline@walsall.gov.uk

KEY DATES:

Closing Date for receipt of Tender submissions: 12 noon on Friday 14th August 2009 Interviews: Thursday 3rd September 2009

Anticipated contract commencement:

Monday 7th September 2009



Walsall Council

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IN BRIEF

Warwickshire village set for major overhaul

► Residents are to be consulted over multi-million pound proposals for a major overhaul of a Warwickshire village, drawn-up by Coventry-based developer, Deeley Group. Plans for the redevelopment of Bermuda, near Nuneaton, include the relocation of a social club and sports facilities to another area of the village, while new homes, retail units and a doctor's surgery also form part of the scheme.

Coventry set for new £4m square

► A new public square is set to be created in the centre of Coventry by early 2010 after plans for the £4m redevelopment of Ironmonger Row and the Burges given the green light by Coventry City Council. Plans include a revised and improved square, while local cafés and restaurants will be encouraged to open out onto the square. The scheme had been put at risk after a technical study revealed that an underground structure behind a nearby retail outlet had to be strengthened to allow buses to pass overhead.

Contractor appointed for Cafe Royal project

► Mace, the construction firm, has won a £100m contract to manage the conversion of the Cafe Royal into a 160-room hotel. Sisk and ISG were also in contention for the £750m scheme, which will also feature a fitness centre and spa. Work on the project, which was designed by David Chipperfield Architects, is expected to begin in the coming weeks and be completed before 2012.

£75m revamp for RHASS showground

Ingliston venue to be redeveloped after society's relocation plans were put on hold

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the £75m redevelopment of the Royal Highland Centre at Ingliston, Edinburgh, have been unveiled by the Royal Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS).

A new 6,000-seat indoor arena, a new MacRobert Pavilion, a 180-bed, four-star hotel and a new centre of food excellence form part of the scheme, as well as a new hall and a 70-bed extension of the existing Quality Hotel.

The venue, which has been home to RHASS for 50 years, had been due to relocate to a new 145-hectare (358.3-acre) site at Norton Park by 2013 in order to allow the expansion of Edinburgh Airport to go ahead.

However, the BAA-owned airport put its redevelopment



The revamped Ingliston site will include a new 6,000-seat arena

plans on hold in September 2008 after it said that the anticipated £350m cost of relocating the Royal Highland Centre would place too great a financial burden on airlines operating out of the airport.

RHASS chief executive Ray Jones said: "With this regeneration and a 6,000-seat indoor

arena, we will ensure that Ingliston remains one of the UK's premier events venues for the next 20 years.

"The development is key for the west of Edinburgh and Scotland, and our Norton Park site could see the society double its contribution to the Scottish economy to £500m."

Manchester set to go Medieval

A new Medieval Quarter is reportedly being proposed for Manchester.

According to the *Manchester Evening News*, a new quarter, with Chetham's School of Music at its core, would generate more than £6m a year for the city.

The ideas – outlined in a report by Locum Consulting – comprise opening up the doors of the 15th century school building to the public and building a 400-seat concert hall opposite Victoria Station.

MFC names stadium contractors

By **Pete Hayman**

Morecambe Football Club (MFC) has appointed Globe Management Services to construct a new 6,800-capacity stadium at the Lancashire town's Westgate site, which will replace the club's existing Christie Park home.

Plans for the venue, which have been drawn up in partnership with planning consultants Maze Planning Solutions, architects The Harris Partnership and structural engineers R.G Perkins and Partners, also include a new multi-sports facility adjacent to the new stadium.



The stadium is to open in 2010

The Cheshire-based firm is expected to start work on 10 August to deliver the stadium, which will feature a 2,000-seat main stand incorporating bars, a club shop, and conferencing facilities capable of accommodating 300 delegates.

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Tax plans will hit sector hard

Self-catering industry faces damaging FHL changes



KURT JANSON is policy director at *Tourism Alliance*

As we reach the height of the 2009 holiday season, the recession has had a mixed impact on domestic tourism. Some sectors have reported growth, while others have showed marked declines. One of the larger sectors that seems to be holding up is self-catering, which – with a turnover of over £1.8bn per annum – accounts for 13 per cent of total UK domestic holiday expenditure.

The growth of this sector is backed by the Furnished Holiday Lettings (FHL) rules, which currently allow operators to be treated as trading businesses for tax purposes. These rules allow operators to claim capital allowances and off-set losses against other income like any normal business.

However, the Treasury has decided that FHL rules may not be compliant with European law and has announced that they will be repealed next year. As a result, operators will face a much greater tax liability which will severely affect the viability of their business.

The task is now to have Treasury fully evaluate the economic impact of repealing the FHL rules so that the consequences of this proposed change on the self-catering sector can be fully understood and measures introduced to mitigate against the negative impacts.

We believe that if Treasury discusses this issue with the sector, we can find a solution that will protect tax revenue, comply with EU law and allow operators of self-catering accommodation to invest and develop this important sector of the UK tourism industry.

CTA passport proposals shelved

Government climbs down over formal checks between Britain and Ireland

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans to introduce formal passport checks for UK and Irish citizens travelling within the Common Travel Area (CTA) have been shelved by the government, following opposition from the House of Lords.

Immigration minister Phil Woolas said that the measures, which form part of the proposed Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill, were needed to prevent non-CTA nationals from exploiting the CTA for the purpose of illegal immigration.

Woolas told the House of Commons that the government intends to pursue the measures in order to strengthen the security of borders within the CTA, which also includes Crown dependencies, such as the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

However, the clause outlining the proposals has now been removed from the bill. Damian Green, the shadow immigra-



The House of Lords opposed the measures

tion minister, said: "The Conservative party has argued consistently that the Common Travel Area is useful for the United Kingdom, Ireland and the Channel Islands and that the government was wrong in seeking to abolish it."

Inbound visits to the UK drop by 8 per cent

By **Luke Tuchscherer**



Inbound visits fell in the second quarter

The UK has seen visitor numbers drop 8 per cent from 33.2 million to 30.4 million over the 12 months to May 2009, according to the Office of National Statistics.

Visits from European citizens decreased 6 per cent to 22.7 million and visitors from North America fell 20 per cent to 3.5 million. Visits from residents in other parts of the world fell 10 per cent to 4.2 million.

In that same annual period, visits abroad by UK residents also fell 8 per cent, from 70.6 million to 64.6 million.

Robinson appointed new Tourism Alliance chair

The Tourism Alliance has appointed Ken Robinson as its new chair.

Robinson, who also chairs the Tourism Society Think Tank, will take over the one-year role from previous chair Bob Cotton. Robinson was awarded a CBE for services to tourism in the UK in 1997.

Bob Cotton, who is retiring from the post, said: "I am delighted that Ken has

agreed to take over this very important role - his very extensive knowledge of the tourism sector will be extremely valuable in working with the government to ensure that the industry plays a full part in providing the employment and growth opportunities that the UK needs to work its way out of the current recession."



The partnership will see courses made available through the NSA

ISPAL secures NSA partnership

Institute set to provide discounted CPD programmes

By Tom Walker

The Institute for Sport, Parks and Leisure (ISPAL) has become the first national institute to be awarded Academy Provider status by the National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure (NSA).

ISPAL has been appointed Academy Provider for Leadership and Management and will deliver a range of discounted CPD programmes from September 2009. It is estimated that the programmes will reach more than 280 industry workers during the first year.

The courses, which will be made available via the Skills Academy, include free training needs analysis and can be delivered on site to suit the organisations taking part.

Sue Sutton, ISPAL CEO, said:

"The partnership with the National Skills Academy should provide employers and employees within the sector the opportunity to make training decisions with confidence."

Figures from SkillsActive show that 64 per cent of managers do not feel they have the business and management skills they need to do their jobs.

STA launches new Scottish division

The Swimming Teachers' Association (STA) has expanded its operations north of the border with the launch of STA Scotland.

The association hopes that the introduction of an independent body will help to raise the profile of the STA and its activities in the region.

STA Scotland will operate its own Scottish Council, including a Scottish president, which will be proposed and

elected by the UK Trustees, and the existing STA Scottish Regional Organisers.

Roger Millward, the STA's chief executive, said: "A dedicated Scottish division will ensure the interests of our Scottish members are represented and that STA procedures reflect the Scottish dimension."

The first council meeting is scheduled to take place in August 2009.

Educating and inspiring the future workforce

Providing a minimum standard of quality in work experience can benefit the industry

Every day across the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industry, thousands of young people from different backgrounds, educational establishments and with wildly differing expectations are on work experience. Some have chosen the industry because they have a real interest, some because they cannot decide what their future could look like and want to find out more.

An important question has to be how much of that experience has any real relevance to either the young person or the work experience host employer? How much of the work 'experience' is delivered with real quality? I remember when, aged 15, I was sent on work experience to the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple to work alongside the general manager and the head chef. WOW is the only word I can use to describe it! Everyone I met and worked with made me feel valued, treated me like an adult and allowed me to be involved in the day to day running of the catering department.

Many young people who undertake work experience receive a less than outstanding experience and are consequently put off entering our industry altogether. We have all heard stories of students placed with employers who are not expecting them, who end up photocopying or filing all day or are left standing in front of a white wall chopping carrots for hours.

How can we expect our young people to take this industry seriously if we treat them like this? They will be put off the industry as a career choice and will share their negative experiences with family and friends. We need to inspire and encourage them, show some passion and that we care about their development. Over the past two years Springboard has really turned the spotlight on work experience and increased pressure on industry to deliver. By working with industry, Springboard has developed a Quality Standard called INSPIRE.

Currently available for Hotels and Food & Service Management Sectors, INSPIRE helps businesses to deliver quality minimum standards for work experience, while supporting employers with online and offline resources that cover the four main areas for work experience. So, if you care about our industry and its future and you care about students having a quality work experience, then ask for INSPIRE!



Springboard

SAM COULSTOCK is customer relationship director of Springboard UK. Leisure Opportunities is the official recruitment magazine for Springboard UK

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MA Sport Management and Leadership

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Teaching Pattern

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Further Information: Dr Nicola Bolton
email: njbolton@uwic.ac.uk
or css@uwic.ac.uk
Tel: 020 2041 6591
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Photo: Scott Ferguson

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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

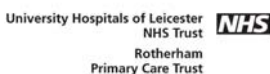
Instructors taking up a bursary will be expected to work with local Breathe Easy support groups to set up exercise classes within the community.

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



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You will play a significant role in steering this work, contributing towards making County Durham a first class county for sport and physical activity. If you would like further information relating to this post, please contact Steve Howell at stephen.howell@durham.gov.uk.

For further information on the work of County Durham Sport please visit: www.countydurhamsport.com

Apply on-line at www.durham.gov.uk/jobs or by contacting Julie Longstaff on (0191) 301 8201 or email julie.longstaff@durham.gov.uk
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Who you are:

You will be educated to degree level, with extensive B2B sales and marketing experience, gained within the leisure and/or technology sectors. You will be able to illustrate previous success, and a thorough understanding of lead generation, proposal/bid preparation and sales/client management. You are a good listener, and have the ability to engage with and influence key decision makers at senior level. You will be charismatic, energetic, inspirational, and commercially astute. You will work collaboratively within a small but passionate team

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In the Anglian region, we have the potential to create more cruising water than that of the Norfolk Broads. Our Fens Waterways Link Project is essential to this goal. Your work will generate increased visitor numbers while securing external

funding and investment to create a more self-sufficient waterway network. In fact, you'll make the waterways more valuable than ever before. Inspired by creating a better environment, you'll have a postgraduate qualification or relevant experience in funding, regeneration, tourism, engineering or a similar field.

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COMPETITION MANAGERS

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Tel: 01270 765031
E-mail: JStreet@Sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk



Required from 1st October 2009, or as soon as possible.

Partnership Development Manager (PDM)

Sandbach School Sport Partnership

Part of the national PE & Sport Strategy for Young People with DCSF & DCMS
AAAE3020 - Scale 10: £31,217 to £36,612 Fixed term contract until August 2011

On behalf of the School Sport Partnership we are seeking to appoint a committed physical education and sport enthusiast to work as the PDM for the Sandbach School Sport Partnership. Candidates should have substantial experience of working with young people within a school and community environment.

This is an exciting opportunity for a dedicated and motivated professional. The Sandbach School Sport Partnership is a successful and innovative partnership which is in its sixth year. The successful candidate will have a key role in supporting schools and community groups to work towards the five-hour offer for young people.

The PDM will be based at Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College, Sports College and will spend their time managing a partnership of 8 secondary schools and their associated feeder primary schools. The post holder will enhance the existing strong links with key strategic partners including the Local Authority, NGBs, the Senior Competition Manager and Cheshire and Warrington County Sports Partnership.

Applications are sought from experienced managers with a real commitment to developing learning opportunities and participation opportunities for young people across the partnership. The successful candidate will have a sound knowledge of physical education and sport in schools and the wider community; will have excellent leadership and communication skills; will have proven experience of project or programme management; and will lead dynamically, giving the partnership strategic direction and increase the already strong profile.

For an application form please contact:

Mrs J Street, Bursar – jstreet@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

For further information about the post please contact:

Miss R J Darlington, Assistant Headteacher – rdarlington@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

Closing date for applications: Monday 31st August 2009

Interviews: Thursday 3rd September 2009



Sandwell Leisure Trust



Job Title: **Sport and Physical Activity Manager**

Ref: **SLT** Scale: **P2 – P6 (£28,353 to £34,207)**

Hours: **37 hours per week.**

Location: **Tipton Sports Academy, Tipton, West Midlands**

It is an exciting time for Sandwell Leisure Trust and our partners in the development of sport and physical activity in the Borough. Sandwell has recently launched its new Physical Activity, PE and Sport Strategy and is recruiting 3 Physical Activity Development Officers to enhance the work of the current team working across the borough.

To complete the team, Sandwell Leisure Trust is now seeking to recruit a well organised and self motivated manager who can manage the team and drive forward the implementation of the Strategy across Sandwell successfully whilst meeting the Trust's key performance targets.

Reporting to the Operations Manager and forming part of the Operational Management Team you will work closely with partner organisations and be responsible for the development and delivery of sport development and physical activity across Sandwell.

You will hold a recognised qualification in leisure management to a minimum level equivalent to NVQ Level 4 or be able to demonstrate a minimum of 3 years proven experience in the development of sport, and physical activity initiatives at a senior level. Candidates must also have a minimum of 3 years experience of working at an appropriate management level.

SO, ARE YOU READY TO GET ACTIVE?

For an informal discussion please call Ash Rai, Deputy Chief Executive on 0121 521 4426 or John Harling, Facility Manager on 0121 506 4981

For an application form call 0121 521 4459 or visit our website at www.sandwell.gov.uk

Closing date: 14/8/09. Short listing will take place on: 20/8/09.

Interviews will take place on: 3/9/09 at Tipton Sports Academy. **More details:** <http://www.irec.sandwell.gov.uk/recruitment/vacancyservlet?appid=4913>

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Young People's Development Officers

2 Full time posts covering the North and South of the County including Derby City. Scale £19179-£21034. Fixed-Term contract for 2 years.

Sporting Futures is a Derbyshire based charity that works throughout the county, whose aim is to use sport as a catalyst to engage with young people enabling them to build meaningful relationships with family, friends and the wider community in which they live.

The organisation is one of only 25 across the country that has been successful in receiving funding from the Youth Sector Development Fund initially for a two year project.

As part of the project we are looking for two highly motivated people to work alongside the current team of sport development officers, and volunteer manager to encourage, support and develop young people on our programmes to participate in Coach Education and volunteering.

The post holders will be expected to have a youth work and or sport development background and will be able to clearly demonstrate their experience of developing young people in community settings.

For more information and an informal discussion please contact Sarah Clarke 01332 613156
Application packs can be requested from 01332 613156 or email info@sporting-futures.org.uk

Closing date for applications 24th August 2009 12 noon Interviews to place 7th September 2009.

"The STEP project is financed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families through the Youth Sector Development Fund"

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The successful candidate will hold a current RLSS Pool Lifeguard qualification, First Aid at Work Certificate, ideally the ISRM Pool Plant Operators Certificate and a good working knowledge of the running of both wet and dry side facilities.

Benefits include a free lunch and use of sports facilities.

Closing date: 12th August

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 Sharon Exelby Personnel Officer**

**5 High Street, Harrow, HA1 3HP Tel: 020 8872 8293
personnelofficer@harrowsschool.org.uk**

**Application packs available to download online at
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The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and all successful applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with any past employer and the Criminal Records Bureau. Harrow School is an equal opportunities employer.

www.harrowsschool.org.uk

AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION



The ASA School Swimming Advisor

**Location: Central South & East Region (1 post) and
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Salary: £26,724 to £31,026 per annum

Plus company car/car allowance and contributory pension

The Amateur Swimming Association is the National Governing Body for Swimming and its associated disciplines in England, with its headquarters situated in the centre of Loughborough.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the appointment of two School Swimming Advisors to lead on the programme across Central South & East and Yorkshire & East Midlands regions. This programme is designed to support the weakest swimmers in primary schools and forms part of the national PE, Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) - whose aim is to enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities for 5-16 year olds. Funded primarily by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) you will work with School Sport Partnerships (SSP) to co-ordinate and deliver programmes across the designated geographical area. Both roles will involve working with SSP to improve school swimming and identifying pupils who require extra help and support, implementing a programme to assist these pupils to reach the National Curriculum key stage 2 requirements for swimming and identify training needs for those involved in its delivery at this level.

The successful candidates must have proven experience of implementing and managing a swimming or sport related project. Candidates will have excellent communication skills, as they will be liaising with key agencies and School Sport Partnerships. A qualification in sport education or sport development and experience of teaching swimming is essential. Candidates will also need a clear understanding of the requirements of swimming in the National Curriculum, the ASA National Plan for Teaching Swimming and the national school sport strategy.

The funding period for these posts will be up until 31st March 2010.

The ASA is committed to diversification of its work force and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The ASA is committed to being an equal opportunities employer. We currently hold the Foundation, Preliminary and Intermediate levels of the Equality Standard.

The closing date for applications is: Tuesday 18 August 2009 at 12.00 noon.

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY.

To obtain an application form and job description please contact our 24 hour employment line on 01509 618703,

e-mail personnelservices@swimming.org or write to:

The Personnel Department, ASA, 39 Granby Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire. LE11 3DU. Alternatively you can visit our website and download an application pack from www.britishswimming.org



Senior Recreation Assistants

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Closing date for applications is Monday 24 August 2009.

For further information and/or an application pack please contact Dave Pond, Duty Manager (Recreation) on 01963 824400 or email davepond@wincantonsports.co.uk

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Senior Lecturer in Sports Studies

£35,469 - £39,920

Ref: EH2424

Alongside contributing to the area of sports sociology, you will lead on the teaching of youth culture and the associated area of extreme sports and informal youth leisure activity. Collegial in your approach, you will also develop networks with relevant agencies to facilitate opportunities for students to engage in community sports.

An experienced lecturer in the general area of children and young people's well-being, with an emphasis on this within the sporting context, you will bring an understanding of the motivations of these groups to participate, or not, in physical activity, and the role that such activity plays in contemporary society.

Senior Lecturer in Sports Development

£35,469 - £39,920

Ref: EH2423

This is an excellent opportunity to join a dynamic degree programme making an effective contribution to the community sports agenda. You will lead on the teaching of strategic management and sports event management incorporating relevant management disciplines and principles.

You will need considerable experience of organising and managing events coupled with an appreciation of the strategic role and impact of sport. The ability to engage students in community activities and raise the profile of the department will be essential.

Lecturer in Sport Workforce Development

£30,594 - £34,435

Ref: EH2419

You will oversee the teaching of volunteer management and club development while co-ordinating sport workforce opportunities across the Department and encouraging a volunteering ethos within the student body.

An expert networker with a flair for developing mutually beneficial partnerships with a range of agencies and institutions, you will bring knowledge of the sporting landscape and the range of agendas linked to sport and physical activity. An awareness of the importance of placements within the student experience will also be vital.

To apply visit our website and click on "Job Vacancies" or telephone 01695 570478 (24 hours).



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If you feel you have the skills and experience to succeed in this role please send a CV and covering letter to

Ian Portas, Contract Manager,
Cleethorpes Leisure Centre,
Kingsway, Cleethorpes
DN35 0BY

Tel 01472 323200

ianportas@slm-ltd.co.uk

Closing Date 31st August 2009.

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Youth Club Development Officer

Full Time (37 hours per week) Salary £17,500 to £21,000 + Benefits (depending on qualifications and experience)

The main duties of the post include:

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- To organise training opportunities for young people and volunteers
- Development of resources for voluntary based youth clubs
- Creation of new youth clubs in rural areas around Oxfordshire

You need to be organised, enthusiastic, motivated and committed to working for the good of the community. Experience or awareness of partnership working, issues affecting voluntary youth clubs and engaging with volunteers and young people are essential.

The post requires travel throughout Oxfordshire, therefore a full UK driving licence is essential.

For an informal discussion about the post please contact Paul Lawrence, County Director on 01865 368027. For an application pack please visit www.oayp.org.uk or you can email paul.lawrence@oayp.org.uk.

Closing Date for completed applications: 20th August 2009
Interviews to be held on the 1st September 2009

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If you are confident you have the right blend of skills, find out more by visiting www.leevalleypark.org.uk/jobs Email: jobs@leevalley.org.uk or if you do not have access to the internet, call 01992 709 839.

Closing date: 28th August 2009

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St Bede's Catholic College

Long Cross

Lawrence Weston

Bristol

BS11 0SU

Telephone: 0117 3772200

Email: headstbedes@bristol.gov.uk



SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOOTBALL +

£22,845 - £26,706 Fixed term contract to 31st March 2012

The Governors of St Bede's 11-16 Catholic College (920 pupils) wish to appoint an excellent and innovative Sports Development Officer Football +.

St Bede's has been judged by Ofsted and the Diocese to be an outstanding school "where pupils' achievement is excellent and where their personal development and wellbeing are of the highest order". (Ofsted 2007)

Alongside the building of a new teaching block and Sports Hall through BSF St Bede's has been successful in securing Football Foundation funding to build a 3G all weather pitch along with new changing facilities, the building of which is underway. We now seek to employ a dynamic individual with the necessary enthusiasm and commitment to make a real difference to the development of grassroots football and sport within our College and the North Bristol community.

The post is subject to an enhanced CRB check and validation of references.

Closing date for applications to St Bede's Catholic College is midday on Friday 4th September 2009.

Application form and details available from the Principal at the above address or during school holidays from Nick Baker, County Development Manager, Gloucestershire Football Association Ltd.
Email nick.baker@gloucestershirefa.com



Gloucestershire County FA

DEVELOPING FOOTBALL FOR EVERYONE

WILTSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

County Football Development Officer



Wiltshire County Football Association is seeking to recruit a Football Development Officer to implement a strategic development programme within the County.

The position reports directly to the County Development Manager

The role encompasses the following areas:

- Growth and retention – increasing and sustaining player participation
- Raising standards – creating a safe and positive environment
- Better players – developing better players with a focus on 5 - 11 age group
- Running the game – leading and governing the game efficiently

The candidate needs to be of graduate calibre or equivalent and have experience in sports development. Youth must have an understanding of the FA's National Game Strategy and be passionate and committed to the development of football at a local level. You must be able to work under pressure, handle multiple priorities and meet deadlines.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate both team working and the ability to work unsupervised. Candidates should also have excellent interpersonal/communication / presentation skills

You need also to have a current driving licence and also be able to work evenings and weekends.

For further information on the role please phone 01793 486047 or find details on www.wiltshirefa.com

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter with details of your current salary and your salary expectation for the role marked 'Private and Confidential' to: County Hon. Secretary, Wiltshire County Football Association, Units 2/3 Dorcan Business Village, Murdock Road, Dorcan, Swindon, SN3 5HY.

Closing date for applications; Friday 14th August 2009.

Salary Range: £22,000 - £25,000 depending on experience.

Interviews have been provisionally set for 25th and 26th August 2009.

Wiltshire County FA are committed to equality of opportunity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.



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The successful candidates should also be IT literate as The Hogarth Group operates the FitLinx Interactive Network.

Candidates should send a CV and supporting letter to:
Terry Rodham, Senior Health and Fitness Manager,
The Hogarth Health Club,
Airedale Avenue, Chiswick, London W4 2NW
Email: terry@thehogarth.co.uk

www.hogarthgroup.co.uk

General Manager

LifeStyles Health Club and Spa, a premier health club in Beirut, Lebanon seeks an experienced General Manager for its 30,000 Sq ft facility.



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Applications by Email to: l.fitzgerald@lifestyles-lb.com
Closing Date for applications is August 30th 2009
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Further details may be obtained from our web site or from the Personnel Department 01258 484602 personnel@bryanston.co.uk
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New Yorkshire CCC museum set for 2010 opening

Mather and Co appointed to create first purpose-built cricket attraction at an English ground outside London

By **Pete Hayman**

Mather and Co, the Cheshire-based museum design consultancy, has been appointed to create a new purpose-built museum dedicated to the history of Yorkshire County Cricket Club (YCCC).

The attraction, which will be housed in the East Stand at the Headingley Carnegie ground in Leeds, West Yorkshire, is set to open in summer 2010 and will be the first museum of its kind at an English county cricket club outside London.

An audio-visual theatre and a range of interactive exhibits will enable visitors to explore the 150-year history of YCCC, while the club's first minute and score books have been restored for public display.

YCCC chair David Hall said: "Mather and Co presented an impressive range of concepts to interpret Yorkshire Cricket's decorated history and demonstrated its ability to balance new technologies with historical artefacts, which will appeal to a wide audience for many years to come."



The new museum is set to include a range of interactive exhibits

Major revamp of Buckinghamshire club complete

By **Tom Walker**

The Marlow Club in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, has completed a revamp of its facilities which included the installation of the Milton Circuit equipment.

Including six pieces of resistance and six pieces of cardiovascular equipment, the new Milton system cost £90,000 to install and will be arranged in a circuit format. This will allow users to either



A Milton system was installed

join a class or complete a work-out on their own.

The club is the first facility in the UK to have installed the

Milton system, which allows members to complete an express cardiovascular and muscle work-out in 35 minutes.

Other facilities include three large exercise studios, two squash courts, a 20m indoor swimming pool and an Annabel's-branded beauty spa.

Jon Williams, manager at The Marlow Club said: "The arrival of this new equipment is a massive statement in terms of taking the club forward."

HUFC proposes stadium revamp

Hereford United Football Club (HUFC) has announced plans to expand its Edgar Street stadium.

The scheme includes a new 2,000 capacity stand, while land is being reserved behind the stand for future development of leisure and retail services.

HUFC hopes the stand will be completed by the end of 2009-10 season.

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