

New £25m Stonehenge visitor centre plans unveiled

By **Pete Hayman**

English Heritage has unveiled designs for the proposed new £25m visitor centre at Stonehenge after submitting a planning application for the scheme to Wiltshire Council.

The facility, which is to be built 1.5 miles (2.4km) to the west of the historic site at Airman's Corner, has been designed by London-based architects Denton Corker Marshall to be environmentally sensitive to its surroundings.

A pair of single-storey structures – one glass and one timber – will be built to house exhibitions, a café, a shop and toilets, while a low-key transit



IMAGE: ENGLISH HERITAGE

The visitor centre has been designed by Denton Corker Marshall

system similar to the one used at Cornwall's Eden Project will also be provided.

Existing car park and visitor facilities at the World Heritage Site will be removed and

returned to grassland under the plans, as well as the closure of the A344 and byways within the site to motorised vehicles. A minimal security facility and emergency toilets will remain.

Wiltshire Council will launch a further public consultation as part of the planning process for the scheme, which has been backed by the government and will receive funding from English Heritage, the Highways Agency and the DCMS.

English Heritage's Stonehenge project director, Loraine Knowles, said: "The new centre is designed to blend into the World Heritage landscape which visitors will pass through on their way to the stones.

"It will provide enhanced opportunities for education and interpretation and have first class facilities in keeping with Stonehenge's status as a world-renowned attraction."

Developer submits Battersea Power Station plans

Treasury Holdings UK hopes to transform the derelict site with £5.5bn scheme

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for a £5.5bn mixed-use redevelopment of Battersea Power Station in south London have been submitted to the local authority by developer Treasury Holdings UK.

Wandsworth Council will now decide whether to grant planning consent for the redevelopment of the 40-acre (16.2-hectare) site, which has remained derelict since the 1980s after a series of failed attempts to regenerate the iconic Grade II*-listed building.



The site has remained derelict since closing during the 1980s

A masterplan for the site – drawn up by architect Rafael Viñoly – includes 700,000sq ft (65,032sq m) of restaurant and

retail space, a hotel and a conference centre.

A riverside park, an extension to the Riverside Walk through to Battersea Park and public access to restored historic areas of the power station are also proposed, as well as office space and more than 3,700 residential units.

Rob Tinknell, Treasury Holdings UK's managing director, said: "It is a plan that, vitally, will finally deliver this important site's regeneration and create a vibrant new urban quarter for London."

Golf and rugby set for Olympics

Golf and rugby union sevens will be included in the programme for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, following a vote by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The IOC's executive board had recommended the inclusion of the two sports, which held off competition from five rival bids after an extensive evaluation by the Olympic Programme Commission earlier this year.

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UK attractions report healthy summer

Visitor numbers to ALVA member sites boosted by increase in "staycation" trend

By Pete Hayman

An increase in the number of British residents opting for "staycations" this year has helped boost visitor numbers at some of the UK's leading visitor attractions by 3.4 per cent.

New figures published by the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) has shown that most sites have also reported an increase in retail and catering spend between 1 May and 31 August, compared with the same period in 2008.

Between June and August, the National Portrait Gallery in London reported a 23 per cent increase in visitor numbers, while the National Trust (NT) also saw more people visit its properties during the summer.

Luke Whitcomb, NT member and visitor marketing director,



The National Portrait Gallery experienced record visitor numbers

said: "At property level there's been a real drive this year to focus on the visitor experience."

ALVA, which represents 42 visitor attractions, said many of its members saw an increase in foreign visitor numbers, despite a 9 per cent fall in inbound tourism numbers during the early months of 2009.

Robin Broke, ALVA director, said: "It is most reassuring to see that the 'staycation' trend predicted by ALVA's members has translated into profitable business as it is vital for Britain that our tourism industry thrives, allowing it to maintain employment opportunities and to provide economic growth."

Government plans major asset clear-out

By Pete Hayman

The Tote bookmaker and the Channel Tunnel rail link are among a number of assets that are set to be sold off by the government in a bid to reduce the UK's national debt.

New plans announced by Prime Minister Gordon Brown aim to raise around £16bn from the disposal of state-owned assets in order to make in-roads into relieving the country's financial burden – estimated to reach £175bn by the end of the year.

The Prime Minister unveiled the proposals in a speech to economists in London, which will see the government attempt to sell the Tote bookmaker for the first time since it decided to hold onto the company in October 2008.



Attempts to sell the Tote had been shelved in October 2008

Brown said: "We plan a sale of assets to deal with our debt issues and I've said today that £16bn of assets will be sold within the next two years.

"That includes, of course, the student loan book, the Dartford Tunnel, the Channel rail link; it includes the Tote and includes other facilities and

a property portfolio that will be announced over the next period of time."

However, the measures have been criticised by the Liberal Democrats for trying to sell assets at a time when the full market value will not be achieved, while also not doing enough to deal with the long-term deficit.

Vince Cable, Liberal Democrats treasury spokesperson, said: "Selling off what is left of the family silver is not going to solve the long term problem of Britain's structural deficit.

"With the Government acknowledging just 12 months ago that market conditions were not right for the sale of the Tote, concerns must be raised that this dramatic turn around is due to political rather financial considerations."

Sport England reveals sustainable grants

Plymouth scheme among seven projects to receive share of £10m funding package

By **Tom Walker**

Plymouth City Council has been awarded £2m by Sport England towards the construction costs of the city's new regional sports and leisure centre.

The funding will eat up a fifth of the funding body's Sustainable Facilities Fund (SSF) – a £10m pot of gold for which Sport England received a total of 69 applications.

A total of six other projects across the UK have qualified for SSF funding, while a further four will have to develop their bids with the view of possibly receiving funding.

Manchester City Council and British Cycling were given £3m towards plans to create a National Indoor BMX Centre in Sportcity, while Nottingham Trent University will receive



Plymouth's new £46.5m Life Centre has been handed a £2m grant

£700,000 towards the redevelopment of the university's sports facilities.

Durham University (£500,000), Paignton Community and Sports College (£300,000), Northwram Community Sports & Activity Club (£175,000) and Burnage

Rugby Club (£120,000) completed the line up for this year's funding.

Richard Lewis, chair of Sport England, said: "The high-quality facilities supported through this fund will help us deliver a lasting legacy of increased participation in sport."

FIFA official warns England to improve 2018 bid

By **Pete Hayman**

FIFA vice-president Jack Warner has warned England's bid to host the 2018 World Cup that it needs to do more to earn the right to stage the tournament.

Warner, who is also president of the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football, accused the English bid of "creeping along" and not making the most of its strengths.

According to *The Guardian*, Warner said: "I think England are creeping along. It's better than standing still but I would



Wembley Stadium is to be the centrepiece of England's bid

have thought they would be galloping by now.

"I have seen many other bids, and, while England has all the attributes to be a worthy host

country, I am not convinced they are making the most of those attributes."

However, Football Association chair Lord Triesman told the Leaders in Football event in London that England had learned from its abortive bid to secure the 2006 event.

Triesman said: "We have spent what must seem like a quiet period listening and learning from the football family worldwide. I don't regret that. But I take the point that we now need to put what we have learned to good use as we use our great assets effectively."

IN THIS ISSUE

04 COMMERCIAL

- ▶ Gatwick Airport to be sold
- ▶ Praesepe nets acquisitions

06 HEALTH & FITNESS

- ▶ London baths to reopen
- ▶ New site for Virgin Active

08 TOURISM

- ▶ Brits shun overseas travel
- ▶ Airline pulls check-in desks

10 SPORT

- ▶ Funding for Durham project
- ▶ GCCC submits ground plans

12 ATTRACTIONS

- ▶ RBGE unveils visitor centre
- ▶ Eureka! names London chief

14 HOSPITALITY

- ▶ Carluccio's eyes growth
- ▶ Administration for Tootsies

16 ARTS & CULTURE

- ▶ Manchester venue reopens
- ▶ Disability scheme launched

18 PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE

- ▶ £18m for six UK parks
- ▶ Trent Vale bid successful

19 PROPERTY/TENDERS

20 PROPERTY

- ▶ Green light for film centre
- ▶ Conran plans café chain

22 TRAINING

- ▶ ASA unveils framework
- ▶ New Sports Leaders UK tool

24 TRAINING DIRECTORY

27 JOBS

THE LEISURE MEDIA COMPANY PUBLISHES



IN BRIEF

Nexum reports decline in summer sales

► Nightclub operator Nexum has reported a 1.3 per cent drop in its first half like-for-like sales. Reporting the company's figures for the six-month period to September 2009 Nexum's chief executive, Paul Kinsey, said the results were encouraging in a tough climate. "Gross margin was only slightly down against the previous year," he said. "This was a very pleasing result in a market where heavy discounting is now routine."

Ladbrokes launches £275m cash call

► Ladbrokes has unveiled plans to raise £275m through a new rights issue after reporting a 58 per cent decline in profits for the three months to 30 September 2009. The company has revealed that all employees will have their salary frozen until 2011 and that it would not be paying out a final dividend in 2009 after blaming a lack of Premier League draws for its third quarter slump. It is expected that the proposed cash call will enable Ladbrokes to reduce its debt, which stood at £962m at the end of June 2009.

Sports results hit William Hill Q3 results

► Bookmaker William Hill has blamed an uncharacteristic lack of draws at the start of the Premier League season for a 3 per cent decrease in revenue for the 13 weeks to 29 September 2009. However, the third quarter decline has failed to halt a 3 per cent increase in overall revenue for the year to date, while online revenue increased by 56 per cent, compared with the same period in 2008. William Hill said that reduced costs and higher-than-expected turnover meant that it had not changed its expectations for the full year.

BAA announces Gatwick Airport sale

£1.51bn deal to be primarily used by UK airport operator to reduce existing debt

By **Pete Hayman**

Airport operator BAA, which owns seven UK airports, has announced it is set to sell Gatwick Airport for £1.51bn after it secured a deal with investment firm Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP).

The proceeds from the sale, of which £55m will be dependent on future traffic performance, will be mainly used by the Spanish-owned company to pay part of its existing £9.6bn debt.

GIP, which also owns a 75 per cent stake in London City Airport, is expected to complete the acquisition of Gatwick Airport in December, subject to European Union merger regulation clearance.

Colin Matthews, BAA chief executive said: "Gatwick and its people have long been a central part of BAA and we are proud of the airport's develop-



Gatwick is one of three UK airports BAA has been ordered to sell

ment as one of the world's leading international airports.

"BAA is changing and today's announcement marks a new beginning for both Gatwick and BAA. We wish Gatwick well for the future and are confident that the airport will flourish under new ownership."

Gatwick Airport was put on the market in September 2008 before the Competition

Commission (CC) had completed an investigation into UK airport market competition.

However, the decision to sell the airport has coincided with the start of BAA's challenge against the CC ruling that ordered the operator to sell both Gatwick and Stansted, along with either Edinburgh and Glasgow, in the interests of passengers and airlines

Praesepe nets new acquisitions

By **Martin Nash**

Gaming group Praesepe is set to complete its third acquisition in four months with the £6.3m (US\$9.9m, 6.7m euro) purchase of nine Adult Gaming Centres (AGCs) and four Family Entertainment Centres (FECs) from Case Concepts.

All of the AGC sites will be re-branded under the Cashino marque. The FEC sites, which include Weston-Super-Mare and Burnham-on-Sea in Somerset and Ilfracombe in Devon, as well as sites in South Wales, will continue to trade under their current brand names while they are assimilated into the group. The latest acquisition – which provides



CEO Nick Harding said the deal will expand the firm's portfolio

around 780 gaming machines – was completed on 19 October.

This latest acquisition takes the number of Praesepe-owned sites to 54, expanding its geographical reach into south west England and representing the company's first involvement with the FEC sector.

Gala in £540m equity deal

Beleaguered bookmaker and bingo firm Gala Coral is set to cancel £540m of debt in exchange for 50 per cent of its equity.

Gala Coral's owners – the private equity firms Candover, Cinven and Permira – are in advanced talks with two investment groups, Intermediate Capital and Park Square, with a deal expected by the end of October.

The company has amounted debts of £2.6bn and the new agreement would mean that shareholders would not have to pump extra cash into the firm.

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IN BRIEF

Barrow Council teams up with Pulse Fitness

► Barrow Borough Council has signed a 30-year income share deal on Park Leisure Centre in Cumbria with leisure equipment provider Pulse Fitness. According to the *North West Evening Mail*, the £1.3m deal will see Pulse Fitness maintain the centre on the proviso the council can buy out the company. As part of the contract, the all-weather pitch at the facility will be converted into six five-a-side courts and a 60x40-metre pitch.

One-to-one training still top fitness trend

► A report into the trends in personal fitness training by IDEA Health and Fitness has revealed one-to-one training and small group exercise are the most popular forms of exercise among gym members. The worldwide membership organisation for exercise professionals, has published the results of its *2009 IDEA Personal Training Fitness Programs and Equipment Trends Report*. The survey shows that one-to-one personal training is still the most popular fitness trend with 98 per cent of respondents reporting that they offer it to their clientele.

EHFA reaches 7,000 member landmark

► The European Health and Fitness Association (EHFA) has continued to expand its membership base and now represents 7,000 facilities across 22 countries. Two more national associations have also joined EHFA as members – the Danish DFHO and the Spanish FNEID. EHFA executive director Herman Rutgers said: "We have very ambitious plans in order to get more people active and we need the support from all the stakeholders in the European industry to make things happen."

London baths set for 2010 reopening

Marshall Street Baths currently undergoing major £25m refurbishment scheme

By **Tom Walker**

Westminster City Council (WCC) has confirmed that the Marshall Street Baths in central London will reopen in 2010.

Redevelopment work on the site, which has been closed since 1997 due to safety fears, began in August 2008. The £25m revamp is being carried out by Marshall Street Regeneration company.

SG Interior Exterior is acting as the construction manager for the project and it will continue to oversee and carry out the build and restoration of the listed features for the regeneration of the site.

The new-look facility has been designed by Finch Forman in collaboration with Fulcrum Consulting and design firms PSL Structural Projects and Lucking & Clarke LLP.

When it reopens, Marshall Street Baths will include a fully



The facility was closed to the public in 1997 due to safety issues

restored main pool, a new fitness club and health suite with sauna and multi-purpose dance and exercise studios.

WCC has already signed a management agreement with Nuffield Health, which will manage the new facilities on behalf of the council once the work has been completed.

The scheme will also see 52 homes built, which have been designed by Munkenbeck and

Partners architects, of which 15 will form part of an affordable housing scheme.

WCC's cabinet member for adult and community services Ed Argar said: "The redevelopment of this iconic site is not only of historical significance but also of importance to the thousands of residents, businesses and visitors that it will benefit, right in the heart of the West End."

Fullwell Cross work complete

Fullwell Cross Leisure Centre in Ilford, London, has undergone a £350,000 redevelopment.

Alliance Leisure completed the revamp for Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure, the trust which runs the centre on behalf of the London Borough of Redbridge.

Cosmur Construction delivered the project which included the creation of a new two-floor 180sqm (1,938sq ft) 42-station fitness suite. The new gym space has replaced the café with the addition of a mezzanine floor.

FIA confirms Deane's departure

By **Tom Walker**

After some speculation, the Fitness Industry Association (FIA) has confirmed that chief executive officer Andrée Deane has left the organisation.

In a short statement, a spokesperson confirmed that Deane parted company with the FIA in July, but did not offer any reason for her departure.

A spokesperson for the FIA said: "Andrée has served the fitness industry and the association for many years and we wish her well in the future."

"This is the only statement which will be issued on this matter and the FIA would like to stress that any other comments attributed to the



Deane became the face of the industry at government level

chairman or any of the board members have not been issued by the FIA."

Deane joined the FIA in 1999 and was responsible for its public affairs strategy. Before her departure, she had become the face of the industry at government level and spear-headed consumer campaigns.

Virgin Active unveils Twickenham site

New fitness club included as part of stadium's South Stand development scheme

By **Martin Nash**

Virgin Active opened its 72nd club on 1 October with the unveiling of a new site in the new South Stand at London's Twickenham Stadium.

As part of the stadium development already taking place, Virgin Active Classic Twickenham sits alongside other new facilities including a 156 bedroom Marriott hotel, conference and banqueting facilities, a performing arts centre, a rugby store and new office accommodation.

The site includes a three-storey 50ft climbing wall, as well as three studios designed to cater specifically for mind body, indoor cycling and general aerobic/conditioning.



The new Virgin Active club opened at Twickenham on 1 October

The gym includes a Power Plate Zone, a Trixter X Dream Biking Zone, Star Trac E-Spinner Bikes, a TRX Suspension Training Zone and a Kettlebell Zone, as well as a large free weights area, a full suite of Technogym cardiovascular and

resistance equipment, functional zones and dedicated stretch zones with Technogym flexibility machines.

A 20m, UV-treated swimming pool with spa, steam and sauna facilities is also among the features on offer at the club.

IN BRIEF

New leisure centre for Kettering

Plans have been lodged with Kettering Borough Council for a new leisure centre at Grange Estate in Desborough. If approved, phase one of the leisure centre will include a 125sq m (1,345sq ft) gym and changing rooms, which will be complemented by two outside play areas, a multi-use games area and a four-court badminton sports hall. The second phase will include four additional changing rooms for external users, two squash courts, a 173sq m (1,860sq ft) fitness club and two junior football pitches.

Kirklees unveils new SHOKK Activity Area

Kirklees Active Leisure has unveiled a new £250,000 SHOKK Activity Area at Whitcliffe Mount Sports Centre in Cleckheaton. The new facility, which has been funded by NHS Kirklees, includes a Wireless Dance Mats System, Traverse climbing wall, Target wall, Wushu martial arts tower and Vew-Do balance boards. An additional four portable dance mat sets are being used by schools on a rolling basis throughout the Kirklees area.

GLL takes over Hillingdon facilities

Sports trust Greenwich Leisure (GLL) has taken over the management of four facilities on behalf of the London Borough of Hillingdon. As of 1 October, GLL operates Highgrove Pool, Queensmead Sports Centre, Hayes Pool and Hayes Stadium Sports Centre. The partnership with Hillingdon Council will see £4.5m invested in the centres over the next decade. A further £1m will be invested in the new £15m Botwell Green Sports and Leisure Centre, which will also be managed by the trust when it opens in early 2010.

Government launches Dance Champions Campaign

By **Pete Hayman**

A new campaign designed to get 100,000 people more active through dance ahead of the London 2012 Olympics has been launched by the Department of Health (DH).

The Dance Champions Campaign, which forms part of the Dance4Life initiative, will see the Dance Champions Group travel across the UK to entice people to take part in free mass-participation events.



Dance can improve your health

Free taster sessions, a Dance Summit and a dance directory website are also planned.

The Dance Champions Group will comprise ex-Strictly Come Dancing judge Arlene Phillips, ex-Come Dancing presenter Angela Rippon, professional dancer Darren Bennett and group chair Rod Aldridge.

Public health minister Gillian Merron said: "Our Dance Champions are some of the best known and leading talents of the dance world, but you don't have to be a professional to enjoy dancing and feel the positive effect it can have."

DW Sports Fitness Carlisle site to open in January

A new DW Sports Fitness health club is set to open in Carlisle in January 2010, six months after it was scheduled to open as a JJB club.

The Carlisle site is set to include a swimming pool, a fitness suite, an exercise studio, a Ki studio for yoga and Pilates, changing rooms and a members' lounge and bar.

The company is also set to open sites in Canterbury, Tunstall, Bangor (Northern Ireland), Poole and Milton Keynes.

DW Sports Fitness was formed when Wigan Athletic Football Club chair and former chair of JJB Dave Whelan bought JJB's 50-plus fitness clubs in March this year.

The spectre of increased taxes

APD increases could backfire on attempts to raise revenue



KURT JANSON is policy director at Tourism Alliance

In my last column, I talked about how any new government's treasury team would be running a careful eye over departmental budgets in an effort to identify and eliminate any expenditure they considered to be providing a poor return on the public investment. With this in prospect, it is important to position tourism as being a solution to the financial situation.

Of course, in addition to cutting costs, any new government may also be forced to consider increasing taxation. This could be through targeting specific products and services where the government thinks the increases will not be strongly opposed, such as "sin" taxes on things like cigarettes and alcohol. Aviation is increasingly being seen as falling into this category.

When Air Passenger Duty (APD) was first introduced in the UK, rates were low. However, the rates have increased significantly since 2006, first doubling in 2007 and, in 2009, being replaced by a new charging scheme that will see APD increase by 140 per cent for European visitors and by up to 325 per cent for long-haul visitors in the space of just four years.

While this has increased revenue to the Exchequer, recent work by the Tourism Alliance has estimated that APD will reduce expenditure by tourists to the UK by £1.35bn per annum.

The risk is that tourism-related services, such as aviation, could well be seen as easy targets in the new government's search for revenue. After all, tourists don't vote.

Brits shun summer trips abroad

ONS statistics reveal 12 per cent drop in overseas travel during 2009

By **Pete Hayman**

New figures released by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) have shown that Britons have continued to take less holidays overseas in the three months to July 2009.

According to the latest International Passenger Survey, the number of visits abroad by Britons fell by 1 per cent to 14.9 million, compared with the previous three months, while seasonally adjusted figures revealed a 12 per cent decline to 62.6 million in overseas travel during the 12 months to July 2009.

However, the inbound tourism market has now stabilised despite a long-term decline in visits to the UK. In the three months to July 2009, the number of visits into Britain increased by 2 per cent to 7.7 million, although figures for the 12 months to July 2009 were down by 9 per cent, at 30.3 million, compared to the previous year.



More UK residents opted for 'staycations'

Despite the increase in the number of visitors during the three-month period, the ONS has reported a 3 per cent decrease in tourism expenditure by overseas residents to £4bn, while UK residents' expenditure on visits overseas has fallen by 6 per cent to £7.6bn compared with last year.

Ryanair withdraws all airport check-in desks

By **Martin Nash**



Travellers will be forced to check-in online

Ryanair check-in desks are no longer available at any airport from which the Ireland-based low-cost carrier operates.

Passengers now have to check-in online – at a fee of £5 or €5 – and those who wish to check in luggage will have to use special 'bag drop' desks. The cost of checking in a single bag for a return flight is rising to £30, with a second now costing £70.

Michael O'Leary, Ryanair's chief executive, said the measures were designed to save the airline around £46m a year.

Irish Sea ports combine to attract cruise ships

Six Irish Sea ports have joined forces as part of a new €1.2m (£1m, US\$1.8m) venture designed to attract more cruise ship passengers to Wales and Ireland.

The Celtic Wave project – comprising Anglesey, Milford Haven and Swansea in Wales, and Cork, Dublin and Waterford in Ireland – will provide a significant economic boost to each destination.

Led by the Isle of Anglesey Council, the scheme has secured funding from the European Regeneration Development Fund through the Interreg 4A initiative to promote cross-border co-operation.

The Celtic Wave scheme will market itself as an eco-friendly proposition, encouraging operators to sail around the ports to cut costs and carbon emissions.

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IN BRIEF

Leeds United fails in training ground bid

► Leeds United Football Club (LUFC) has failed to re-acquire the Thorp Arch training facility after it was unable to secure the full support of the local authority ahead of a 15 October deadline. Leeds City Council was poised to purchase the site for £6m and lease it back to LUFC, but the deal fell through due to "uncertainties" that couldn't be resolved by the deadline. However, LUFC has confirmed that it will remain a tenant at Thorp Arch for a further 20-year period under the terms of its agreement with the site's current owner, Barroway Limited.

Six councils to extend free swimming pledge

► Six local authorities are set to extend free swimming schemes to young people after the government revealed that around £1m worth of funding was still available as part of the £140m initiative. Councils in Barnet, Hertfordshire; Broxtowe, Nottingham; East Hampshire; Mansfield; Plymouth and Reading will now give thousands more young people the chance to swim for free, taking the number of councils now offering free swimming to under 16s to 197.

£1.1m Welsh judo centre set to open

► The new £1.1m Welsh National Judo Centre will open to the public at the Welsh Institute of Sport in Cardiff on 29 October. Facilities at the centre, which was built by Welsh construction company Jehu Project Services, will include international competition-standard facilities as well as a sports science and medicine centre. Philip Carling, chair of Sports Council of Wales, said: "Having a dedicated facility for judo in Wales will make a huge difference."

School sport creates "new benchmark"

DCSF study reveals English schools offer an average of 19 sports in PE lessons

By **Pete Hayman**

More than half of all English school pupils took part in at least three hours of sport a week last year, according to research published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

The government's PE and Sport Survey 2008-09 has reported that schools are offering an average of 19 sports as part of their PE lessons, with yoga, circus skills and cheer-leading increasing in popularity.

Nearly all English schools offered football and dance during the academic year, while there has been an increase in institutions offering cycling (50 per cent), golf (42 per cent) and rugby league (34 per cent).



Three quarters of schools in England offered hockey as part of PE

However, the study has revealed a fall in the number of schools providing hockey, fitness, canoeing and rugby union when compared with 2007-08, although longer-term trends have remained stable. The research also showed that

69 per cent of pupils took part in intra-school competition during the 2008-09 year.

According to the DCSF, the report has "set a new benchmark" for ensuring that schools offer at least five hours of sport each week.

Funding boost for Durham University sports plans

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the £6.7m refurbishment and development of new sports facilities at Durham University's Maiden Castle centre have received a grant from Sport England.

The funding body has contributed £500,000 towards the scheme as part of its new Sustainable Facilities Fund, which aims to help establish a lasting legacy from the London 2012 Olympic Games.



The plans have received £0.5m

Durham University's Sporting Futures project includes a new indoor rowing tank, a fencing piste, indoor cricket nets and a

performance analysis suite, as well as new facilities for disabled athletes and an extended sports hall.

The scheme, which is scheduled for completion in October 2010, is set to benefit the 90.2 per cent of university students participating in sport, as well as helping the institution's outreach work.

A university spokesperson said: "We've invested heavily in delivering high performance, participation and outreach."

New Cumbria Academy of Sport proposals announced

A £23m stadium is to be built at Copeland Athletics Stadium in Hensingham, west Cumbria.

According to *Whitehaven News*, the new Cumbria Academy of Sport will comprise a 14,000-capacity stadium linked via a concourse to a leisure centre offering a competition swimming pool, a four-court badminton hall, a gym, internal and external climbing walls and two dance studios.

A shop, café and conference facilities will also be built. The trustees of the academy have hired an as yet unnamed Manchester-based architect to design the stadium, which is scheduled to open within the next three years.

GCCC submits stadium revamp plans

Bristol's County Ground to boast 20,000-seat capacity as part of £10m scheme

By **Pete Hayman**

A planning application for the proposed £10m redevelopment of the County Ground in Bristol has been submitted by Gloucestershire County Cricket Club (GCCC) to the local authority.

Bristol City Council will now decide whether to approve the proposals, which are designed to ensure the venue is able to comply with the England and Wales Cricket Board's criteria for one day international status beyond 2011.

GCCC intends to increase the County Ground's seating capacity to 20,000 as part of the proposals, which also feature a new media centre, improved conference facilities, an upgraded public gymna-



The project is designed to retain the venue's international status

sium and an upgraded education facility.

The club is also planning to include student accommodation for 350 people in order to help fund the scheme, which has been reduced from 550 following the results of a public consultation with local residents.

A spokesperson for GCCC said: "These proposals are crucial to retaining our one day international status beyond 2011 and essential for the future viability of the club. We have received some very positive feedback to our plans from the majority of those consulted."

PCC unveils sports strategy

Plymouth City Council has invited local sports clubs, residents and schools to have their say on a new draft sports facility strategy, which has been drawn up to help improve the city's sports provision.

Proposals being considered as part of the new strategy include a network of indoor sports hubs to act as 'satellites' to the new £46.5m Life Centre; a new swimming pool for the Plymstock, Elburton and Sherford area and a network of climbing walls.

New indoor 3G pitches and new pitches for hockey are also put forward as part of a number of ideas to improve sports provision.

Wembley Arena gets 2012 events



The arena is set to host Olympic badminton and gymnastics events

By **Pete Hayman**

Wembley Arena will be used as a venue for two sports at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games after the Olympic Board decided against a temporary facility.

A planned temporary venue on North Greenwich Peninsula was to host the badminton and rhythmic gymnastics events, but 2012 organisers now intend to use the existing North

London arena for the sports. The relocation of the events are subject to approval from the sports' respective world governing bodies.

Paralympic archery and Olympic and Paralympic shooting events during 2012 will be held at the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich, with the Olympic Delivery Authority due to submit a planning application in the next few weeks.

IN BRIEF

DC Leisure signs squash court deal

► England Squash & Racketball (ESR) is to invest £40,000 in upgrading squash courts at public leisure centres operated by management company DC Leisure. The revamp of courts is part of a new partnership deal between ESR and DC Leisure which will also see ESR deploy 23 development coaches and eight regional coaches at DC Centres. The scheme forms part of the national governing body's long term strategy to increase participation in the two sports by 65,000 new participants over four years and increase footfall through public squash courts.

Kildare leisure centres officially opened

► Two new swimming pool facilities in Athy and Naas, County Kildare, Ireland, have been officially opened by Martin Cullen, the Irish minister for arts, sport and tourism. The K Leisure Swimming Pool complexes in both towns will be operated by Kildare Sports and Leisure Limited, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kildare County Council. K-Leisure Athy boasts a 25m swimming pool with moveable floor, a family changing area, a spectator area, sauna and steamrooms, an aerobics studio and a fitness suite equipped by Technogym. The Naas facility also includes a learner pool.

Cumbria pool scheme moves forward

► Designers have been appointed for a new swimming pool project in Millom, Cumbria. Cambridge-based architects Saunders Boston have been awarded the contract for the facility to replace the town's current pool at a local school. The project is being led by the Millom and Haverigg Economic Development Group.

IN BRIEF

Restoration work starts at Dover Castle

► A £250,000 conservation scheme led by English Heritage to repair brickwork on defences on the northern side of Dover Castle in Kent is now underway. Work on the castle's Spur, which has been heavily fortified since the 13th century, is being carried out by London-based David Ball Restoration. Passages known as caponiers were constructed during the Napoleonic War to provide flanking fire along the ditches around the Spur, two of which will now undergo work expected to take 13 weeks to complete.

New bid to prevent football museum move

► Lancashire County Council (LCC), Preston City Council (PCC) and the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) have joined forces to keep the National Football Museum in Preston. In September, Manchester City Council confirmed that it was in talks with trustees of the museum over the possibility of relocating the attraction to the Urbis centre in order to safeguard its future. However, trustees will now consider the LCC, PCC and UCLAN proposals, which will provide immediate investment and features plans to increase visitor numbers and revamp exhibition spaces.

Aberdeen wheel plans approved

► Plans for a temporary 40m (131.2ft)-high observation wheel in the Castlegate area of Aberdeen have been given the nod of approval by the local authority. Aberdeen City Council has approved the proposals put forward by Great City Attractions, which will own and operate the wheel located between the Mercat Cross and the corner of King Street and Castle Street.

£15.7m RBGE visitor centre unveiled

The new John Hope Gateway facility features a number of interactive experiences

By **Pete Hayman**

A new £15.7m visitor centre has officially opened at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) in Scotland, which is designed to enable visitors to explore a wide range of plants.

Construction of the John Hope Gateway, which has been built at the west gate entrance to the garden, has taken more than two years to complete and boasts a Botanics Shop and the Gateway Restaurant offering views across the site.

A new reception, an interpretive area, a Real Life Science Studio, a teaching classroom, a private meeting room and welfare facilities have also been included in the biodiversity and information centre, which gives visitors a chance to view the work of RBGE through interactive experiences and activities.



Visitors will be given the chance to learn more about biodiversity

A £10m contribution from the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Research and Analysis Directorate provided the majority of funding for the construction of the new visitor centre, which has used a range of sustainable materials.

The remaining £5.7m was raised by a number of funding bodies, including a £3.2m grant from the Heritage Lottery

Fund, as well as contributions from trusts and corporate and voluntary donations.

Cumbernauld-based contractor Xircon delivered the facility, which has been named after John Hope, the 18th century teacher and botanist who was RBGE's regius keeper – the most senior member of staff at the gardens – between 1761 and 1786.

Eureka! names new London chief

By **Tom Walker**

Eureka!, the national children's museum based in Halifax, Yorkshire, has appointed a director for its planned second site in London.

Simone Crofton, the former chief executive of London's Borough Market, has been tasked with leading the development of a Eureka! in the capital.

Crofton will lead the project development in terms of concept and content planning, working with existing members of the Eureka! management on the attraction.

She will also be responsible for developing a business plan and designing a campaign to secure the funds required to open the museum.



Eureka! is planning to open a second facility in the capital

Although in its early stages, Eureka! London is envisioned as a large scale, readily accessible children's museum based in the capital's centre.

Eureka! chair David Jackson said: "Eureka! London is part of our vision to make these extraordinary opportunities for play and learning available to children throughout the UK."

Wave Loch nets Flow House deal

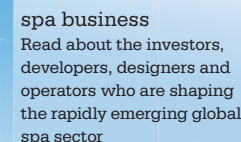
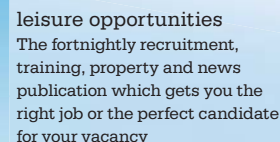
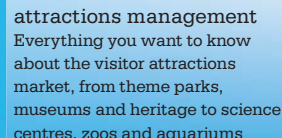
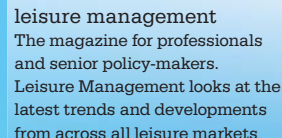
Water ride manufacturer Wave Loch is to launch a new visitor attraction concept called Flow House in early 2010 in Bedford.

Wave Loch has signed a joint venture deal with Bedford-based Bodyflight, which operates an extreme-sport venue close to the town centre.

The Flow House will include a large FlowRider and will complement existing facilities at the Bodyflight site, which include an indoor skydiving tunnel and a fitness club.

The Bedford site will be jointly operated by Bodyflight and Wave Loch, but according to Simon Palmer, operations and development director, future Flow Houses can be delivered in a number of ways.

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IN BRIEF

All Seasons brand arrives in London

► Accor has introduced its budget hotel brand All Seasons to the UK with the opening of the All Seasons Southwark Rose in London. The move follows Accor's acquisition of the Southwark Rose hotel in 2003. As part of the rebrand, Accor has added 21 bedrooms to what had been an 84-bedroom hotel. Christian Rousseau, managing director for economy hotels at Accor, said that this was stage one of a broader expansion of the All Seasons brand.

Costa continues to boost Whitbread

► Pub and hotel operator Whitbread has posted a 3.1 per cent increase in revenue for the six months ending 27 August 2009 after Costa Coffee continued its recent strong performance. The coffee shop chain saw a 20.6 per cent increase in revenue for the first half of 2009, compared with the same period last year, while growth at the Premier Inn hotel business remains stagnant due to a 9.2 per cent fall in RevPAR.

Beach Huts Resorts concept set for roll-out

► A scheme by Beach Huts Resorts to create luxury beach hut developments across the UK is to begin in Whitley Bay. Each of the 21 huts will sleep four to six people. Although similar in appearance to a conventional beach hut, the properties boast a separate bedroom, a fully fitted kitchen, a bathroom and a 24-hour concierge service. Financial director Darren Baker said: "Over the past 20 years cheaper package holidays have caused a huge decline in demand for the domestic holiday and short breaks, with the financial effect on coastal towns being simply devastating."

Carluccio's optimistic over prospects

Italian restaurant chain eyes up further growth after surpassing board expectations

By **Pete Hayman**

Carluccio's, the UK-based chain of Italian restaurants, plans to continue its 2010 opening programme, despite admitting that consumer spending is set to remain affected by the economic downturn.

It comes as the company revealed that it is set to report pre-tax profits above expectations for the year ending 27 September 2009, which included the opening of five UK outlets and its first Dubai site.

A further two stores are set to be opened in Dubai during 2010, although plans to grow its Irish portfolio have been affected by economic difficulties and poor lease terms.

A spokesperson for Carluccio's said: "The board maintains



The chain is set to press ahead with its 2010 opening programme

its positive view of the long-term prospects for the business. Notwithstanding this, the board recognises that pressure on consumer spending will remain for some time with trading conditions for the sector remaining challenging.

"Stores will be financed out of internally generated cash flow and the board believes that the company's strong positive cash position has the potential to allow an accelerated roll out when opportunities arise in a weaker property environment."

TYF offloads Welsh 'eco hotel'

TYF Activity and Education Group has sold the Twr-y-Felin Hotel in Pembrokeshire to hotel operator Retreats Group for an undisclosed sum.

The Grade II-listed hotel is located in a former corn mill within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and boasts 12 bedrooms, a separate four bedroom cottage and a 26-cover dining room.

TYF Activity opened the hotel in November 2007 and marketed the site as Wales' first 'organic hotel'. TYF had secured organic certification from the Welsh Organic Scheme for the site and at the time of the official opening vowed to pursue ethical buying practices.

Capital's eateries report growth



Nearly half of London restaurants reported an increase in profits

By **Pete Hayman**

A new survey of more than 200 London eateries has revealed the sector is showing signs of growth after nearly half saw an increase in profits in September.

According to Business Link's monthly Restaurant Barometer, 25 per cent of eateries in the capital had seen an increase in consumer spend and a 46 per cent rise in customer numbers, when compared with August.

However, many London restaurants are still reporting a decrease in consumer spend and profits, when compared with the same period in 2008.

Ashley de Safrin, business adviser for the hospitality sector at Business Link, said: "These results show that the restaurant sector continues to remain resilient in the face of the economic climate, with 75 per cent of respondents remaining profitable in this time."

Tootsies forced to enter administration

Clapham House withdraws funding and support from "unprofitable" burger chain

By **Martin Nash**

Upmarket burger chain Tootsies has entered administration after its parent company, Clapham House Group, withdrew support and funding.

The other parts of the group, namely the Gourmet Burger Kitchen and The Real Greek businesses, are unaffected by the move and will continue to trade as normal.

Clapham House acquired Tootsies in May 2006 but has blamed the "current economic outlook and the prolonged downturn in trading" for its decision to pull its support and funding from Tootsies.

The Clapham House board also said that it saw little hope of the business generating a profit in the foreseeable future.



Clapham House Group acquired the Tootsies business in 2006

Administrators BDO has sold 11 of the 21 units currently operated by Tootsies to Giraffe Concepts for £2.5m, but also remains confident of securing the sale of the remaining 10 units as soon as possible.

Clapham House Group chair David Page said: "We have taken these steps with great regret, having spent consider-

able time researching alternative strategic options for Tootsies. We believe that this is the best course of action to protect shareholder value whilst minimising job losses."

Giraffe Concepts operates around 30 restaurants, predominantly in London and south east England, as well as five franchises at three UK airports.

Rafayel to open hotel on Battersea's Left Bank



The new hotel forms part of the Falcon Wharf development

By **Helen Patenall**

A new 65-bedroom hotel called Rafayel is to be built at the new Falcon Wharf Development in Battersea, London.

The eco-friendly five-star hotel will also offer 15 apartments, a 120-cover waterfront Banyan Riverside restaurant, a bar, a café and meeting and conference facilities, as well as the Rafayel Wa Michi Wellbeing Spa operated by Content and Wellworld Spas.

Ike Latif of design and development company Latis said: "The concept of the hotel on the capital's new Left Bank in the culturally prosperous environ of Battersea is a key step forward in formalising the renaissance of Battersea."

IHG launches first Indigo properties outside London

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) has signed two new Hotel Indigo properties in Glasgow and Liverpool, the first outside London.

The brand has 27 hotels in North America and has started its global roll out of 59 further properties, with the opening of Hotel Indigo London Paddington in January 2009.

Hotel Indigo Glasgow is scheduled to open mid-2010 with 96 bedrooms and will be

situated within a converted bank building on Waterloo Street.

It is the latest IHG property to be franchised by Chardon Management which also operates other IHG brands including seven Holiday Inn and four Holiday Inn Express hotels in the UK.

There are seven existing IHG hotels in Glasgow: one Crowne Plaza, three Holiday Inn and three Holiday Inn Express hotels.



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IN BRIEF

Theatre plans receive SBC funding boost

► A new open air theatre is set to open in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, in August 2010 after the local authority approved funding for the venue. Scarborough Borough Council agreed to fund the £3.5m construction of the 6,500-seat theatre using a surplus from the first stage of the town's Sands development, which aims to transform 55 acres (22.3 hectares) of the North Bay area into a major tourist destination.

Oldham Council to launch apprenticeships

► Oldham Council is launching a new scheme to create apprenticeship and employment opportunities for young artists. Arts Council England is providing a £55,000 grant for the Art Smart project, which is a continuation of the Gallery 37 Plus national pilot scheme. The council's arts development team will partner with a range of professional arts organisations to work with 26 of the young people who participated in the pilot to take their development to the next level.

Historic London venue set to "take stock"

► The Hackney Empire in London is to close for at least nine months as of January. The theatre is suffering from financial problems and will use the downtime to "take stock". The theatre will continue to run a youth workshop programme, but the majority of staff will be made redundant. A Hackney Council spokesperson said: "Hackney Council and the arts council are working together to provide a package of support to ensure the Empire is able to recover from these difficulties and return to a full programme as soon as practically possible."

Manchester live music venue reopens

Band on the Wall opens its doors after five year, £4m redevelopment programme

By **Pete Hayman**

One of Manchester's most iconic live music venues has reopened to the public, following a £4m scheme to transform the centre.

Band on the Wall closed in 2004 to allow work to get underway on the refurbishment of the jazz and world music venue, which also played a central role in the city's punk scene during the 1970s.

The revamp, which was carried out by operator Inner City Music, included the installation of a new sound system, audio-visual and sound studios, education suites and improved disabled access, as well as work to increase the audience capacity to 300.



Band on the Wall was at the heart of the city's 1970s punk scene

Arts Council England (ACE) contributed £2.5m in order to complement financial support from Manchester City Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Eddie Thomas, music officer at ACE, North West, said: "Through this investment, Band

on the Wall is able to not only build on its reputation as a lynchpin venue on the national touring circuit but also offer new high-level support, development opportunities and information for artists, audiences and young people alike."

£3m Cultural Olympiad disability scheme launched

By **Pete Hayman**

A £3m programme has been launched in a bid to provide disabled and deaf artists with an opportunity to develop artwork as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

Unlimited, one of the UK's largest disability arts schemes, aims to enable talented artists to create a range of artwork leading up to London 2012.

The three-year programme, which also aims to introduce



Cultural Olympiad board chair Tony Hall with Cando2 dancers

audiences to commissions at arts venues, festivals and the Games itself, is split into two

sections; the first will provide a £1.5m fund for commissioning new work, while the second will offer support to artists in order to develop their talent and skills, as well as exhibiting their creations.

Funding has been provided by the Olympic Lottery Distributor, while Arts Council England, the British Council, the Scottish Arts Council, Arts Council of Wales, Arts Council of Northern Ireland and London 2012 also contributed.

New art scheme inspired by Sunderland revamp site

Local residents in Sunderland are to be given the chance to take part in a new art project inspired by the proposed regeneration of the city's Sunniside area.

Pupils from the Hudson Road Primary School have already been working with artist Dawn Lehrer on the Site Verify scheme, which

is centred around a former shop fitters due to be demolished as part of redevelopment plans.

Members of the local community are being invited to the city's thePlace venue every Saturday during October to attend workshops and create art work as part of a rolling exhibition inspired by the Sunniside proposals.



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IN BRIEF

Revamp work starts on Sunderland park

► A Sunderland park – first opened a century ago – has now closed to allow construction work to get underway on a £3.3m restoration of the site. The regeneration of Barnes Park, which first opened in 1909, is scheduled to take 18 months and will include the installation of play spaces for disabled and able-bodied people of all ages. Historic features will be restored, while the scheme will also see the creation of a sensory garden designed to cater for the needs of visually-impaired people and the regeneration of the lake area

Natural environment "critical to prosperity"

► A new report published by Natural England has revealed that investment in the natural environment is "critical" to the long-term economic prosperity of Britain. The *No Charge?* *Valuing the Natural Environment* study claims that the natural environment contributes billions of pounds to the UK economy, while also identifying savings that can be made by looking after the countryside. According to the report, investment in schemes designed to reduce the levels of greenhouse gas emissions from farming by 11 per cent has resulted in carbon savings of around £180m.

Scottish forest bid for Dark Sky status

► Forestry Commission Scotland has submitted its application to see whether Galloway Forest Park in south west Scotland meets the International Dark-Sky Association's (IDA) criteria for stargazing. IDA will now decide if the park's skies are considered dark enough to be awarded Dark Sky status along with the three existing Dark Sky Parks, which are all located in the US.

Six parks to share £18m HLF funding

A range of refurbishment schemes across the UK in line to receive Lottery cash

By **Pete Hayman**

Six parks across the UK are set to be transformed after being handed a share of an £18m funding package from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund.

The cash injection has been made through the Parks for People initiative, which aims to support a range of projects to restore and improve public parks throughout Britain.

Stewart Park in Middlesbrough has received a grant of more than £4.3m to help fund a scheme to provide a new visitor centre, an education venue and a shop, as well as training workshops and two public event spaces.

Improvements will be made to lakes, paths and woodland and a vocational training centre



Bolton's Queens Park will benefit from a new community pavilion

with a café will also be opened to teach horticultural, conservation and catering skills.

Queens Park in Bolton, Lancashire, has been awarded nearly £4.3m to fund a new community pavilion with café and the refurbishment of a Grade II-listed lodge, while Stamford Park in Tameside,

Greater Manchester, has netted nearly £4m to preserve historic buildings and monuments.

Spinney Hill Park in Leicester (£2.6m), St James' Park in Southampton (£1.1m) and Howard Park and Gardens in Letchworth Garden City (£1.8m) were also among the parks to receive funding.

Trent Vale £2.8m funding bid receives green light

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for a £2.8m initiative to celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the River Trent have been handed a funding boost by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The Trent Vale Landscape Partnership (TVLP) has been successful in its bid to secure a £1.6m grant from the HLF, which will be used for a range of schemes between Newark, Nottinghamshire, and Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

Work on the three-year project is set to get underway in 2010, including the creation of heritage trails, the conservation of hundreds of hectares of wildlife habitats and improvements to riverside moorings.

Led by British Waterways, the TVLP comprises a number



Wildlife habitats are to be preserved as part of the new initiative

of public bodies, such as Lincolnshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Natural England.

Rob Fitzsimons, Trent Vale development manager, said: "Thousands of people will be able to get involved in events, activities, training and much

more over the next three years. This is the culmination of four years hard work."

Des Gallagher, HLF casework manager for the East Midlands region, added: "The Trent Vale contrasts the natural beauty of meadows and tidal reaches of the River Trent with the distinctive industrial heritage of the East Midlands."

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Hartlepool Borough Council has carried out an initial feasibility study which sets out a vision for the future and now seeks commercial advice on the most effective options for delivering a mixed use leisure led development in the Mill House area of the town centre.

The new facility is part of a wider plan which brings together a variety of sporting, recreational and commercial interests which could include a hotel, shops, housing and link with the football club and local brewery that both have facilities on the site.

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Please apply for the Tender Documentation, no later than 12 noon on the 9th November 2009 to:- Cathy Daley, Operations Director, Aspire Sport & Cultural Trust.

Email address cathy.daley@aspiretrust.org.uk

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IN BRIEF

Odyssey Trust unveils £100m Belfast plans

► Plans for a £100m mixed-use development on the site surrounding Belfast's Odyssey Complex have been submitted to the Northern Ireland Planning Service. The Odyssey Trust has unveiled its masterplan for the project, which was designed by Dublin-based architects HJ Lyons in partnership with planning consultants Turley Associates to further integrate the Odyssey site with central Belfast.

Grosvenor pulls out of Preston scheme

► Preston City Council (PCC) has announced that plans for a £700m regeneration scheme will go ahead as planned, despite the withdrawal of one of the property companies behind the project. Grosvenor has decided to pull out of the joint venture with Lend Lease in order to focus on a larger portfolio of smaller developments. However, Lend Lease has confirmed that it will continue to work with PCC on the scheme, which was called in by the government earlier this year due to the scale and nature of the proposals.

Tenants' action group plots pubco rebellion

► An action group of tenants and leaseholders is planning a mass "beercott" of pubcos Punch Taverns and Enterprise Inns in a protest against the tied business model. The Pub Revolution group is proposing that tenants withhold rent from the pubcos and break the terms of their leases in what it calls "a bid to ensure the survival of pubs across the country and to put an end to the pub companies".

Green light for major film venue plans

British Film Institute to receive cash boost to fund National Film Centre scheme

By **Pete Hayman**

A new National Film Centre is set to be created on London's South Bank after the government and London mayor Boris Johnson both approved funding for the plans.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown confirmed that the British Film Institute (BFI) will receive £45m from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, as well as a £5m contribution from the London Development Agency.

The £166m National Film Centre will boast five cinema screens showcasing the best of British and world cinema, as well as providing space for cultural events and exhibitions.

Plans include the exchange of programmes and knowledge with partners across the UK,



The BFI already operates the IMAX cinema in Waterloo, London

which will draw on and update the BFI National Archive, as well as using regional archives and the Mediatheque network.

BFI director Amanda Nevill said: "We will be creating something that doesn't exist anywhere else in the world, precisely because we can. It will build on the BFI's 75 year

legacy, bringing together the greatest collections of film on earth with all the excitement and stimulation of emerging cinema into the most creative and inclusive programmes.

"We are a step closer in our ambition to inspire and excite audiences everywhere in a new digital Britain."

Conran set to roll out café chain

By **Tom Walker**

Restaurateur Sir Terence Conran is reportedly planning a new chain of English cafés after he told the *Evening Standard* that he "planned to put an English café on the corner of every high street in London", following the success of his Albion café in Shoreditch.

Albion specialises in British food, serving dishes such as fish and chips and shepherd's pie, and Conran has already negotiated leases on sites in Victoria, Regent's Park and Covent Garden.

He said he was drawing inspiration from Carluccio's, the



Conran aims to roll out the Albion chain across the capital

Italian café chain founded by his sister Priscilla and her husband Antonio Carluccio.

Conran told the paper: "If you look at Albion, it is in many ways a British version of Carluccio's, with a small shop and a café."

Council secures L&G agreement

Plans for the redevelopment of Northampton's Grosvenor Centre could be set to move forward after the local authority secured a deal with Legal and General (L&G).

Northampton Borough Council said that it was a "significant early step towards planning the redevelopment", which will include doubling the size of the Grosvenor Centre, the restoration of historic pedestrian access across the town and new open and covered shopping areas.

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Andrew Winterbottom, Chairman & Design Director, Saturn Group

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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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PEOPLE NEWS

- Alan Davey, chief executive of Arts Council, has been elected the new chair of the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA). Davey will take over the post from Risto Ruohonen, the director general of the Finnish National Gallery. IFACCA, an international network of national arts funding agencies, aims to share knowledge, create understanding and strengthen the capacity of arts councils and culture agencies.
- Premier Training International has unveiled Mark Botha as the company's new global sales and marketing director. Botha joins Premier from Leisure Connection, where he has worked as the company's sales and marketing director since January 2006. Botha will be responsible for all areas of sales and marketing. One of his main tasks will be to drive forward of the organisation's business-to-business and international training division using the National Academy of Sports Medicine training resources and tools.
- LA fitness is strengthening its team with the appointment of Karen Shotbolt as its new HR director. Shotbolt joins as a director on the LA fitness operating board following seven years as UK HRD at Select Service Partners, the international catering and retail group. Working from the group's Doncaster HQ, Shotbolt will be responsible for more than 4,500 LA fitness employees across more than 80 gyms.
- Sara Sowden has been appointed as the new fitness manager at the new Club and Spa at Hoole Hall, the multi-million pound purpose built gym and spa which officially opens on Monday 2 November. Sowden has joined Hoole Hall from Old Hall Country Club in Chester, where she worked as a gym manager.

LEISURE LADDER

CK Academy

CK Academy provides training and qualifications for the health and fitness industry. It has also introduced a range of lifestyle programmes delivered through spas.

GEORGINA JUPP

Managing director

What is your day to day role?

My day to day role is promoting CK Academy in the sectors we work with, overseeing the best team of staff and developing new ideas.

What has been the high point of your career so far?

Deciding to go all out for what I believe in and leaving the safety of paid employment to set up CK Academy.

How would you describe yourself?

Passionate, committed to our industry and solution focused.

How would your critics describe you?

Impatient, a hard task master and a perfectionist.

What keeps you motivated?

Knowing without a doubt we DO make a difference whether with our GP programming or developing newcomers to our industry and most of all working with the best team in the industry!

What would you have done differently?

Not tried to hold on to everything, be clearer about those things I do well and bring on others who have the skills I lack or don't enjoy.

What ambitions do you have?

To position us as the leader in training and qualifications – particularly in developing partnership between healthcare



and the fitness sector as well as in the development and delivery of effective lifestyle intervention programmes.

What's your advice for up-and-coming management?

Go the extra mile. So often it doesn't take much to stand out from the crowd, it requires thriving on responsibility, the ability to motivate and a desire to achieve.

LORRAINE NICOL

Case manager

What attracted you to the leisure industry?

I loved feeling fit and healthy and wanted to learn more. I felt I could make a difference and enjoy being with people.

How did you get to this point in your career?

I believed I could make a difference to someone's health. Over the past 20 years, I have studied and trained hard to increase my skills and knowledge. This allowed me to continually grow and develop.

What are the advantages of working in the industry?

You are given the opportunity to make a difference to some one's health and there are

many directions you can go in.

And the disadvantages?

The pay can be low, the hours can be unsociable, and it is sometimes hard to be taken seriously when interacting with the health sector.

What's the most important skill to possess in your business?

Good people skills is key to being able to communicate with all types of individuals with numerous barriers.

What are your ambitions career wise and personal?

To continue my development as case manager as our business grows and to expand in the future. To continue developing



my yoga teaching skills.

What will your next move be?

To train and develop new members of our team as our business grows.

What advice do you have for people wanting to work in the leisure industry?

You need to be passionate, enjoy working with all types of people, and be prepared to update your skills regularly.



ASA has identified five environments that aim to improve coaching

New framework unveiled by ASA

Four-year scheme to establish new coaching system

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

A new framework to provide a world class coaching environment for England's teachers and coaches has been launched by the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA).

The ASA's Coaching System Team launched the scheme – which aims to develop a "new coaching system" – at its annual conference.

The ASA said that teachers and coaches across all disciplines and the wider coaching workforce will benefit as a result of 'The ASA Develop-

ment Framework for Teaching and Coaching in England 2009-2013' scheme, which will focus on five environments: beginners, talent development, high performance, participation and potential participants.

The national governing body said that previous systems have had the education and qualification of coaches as their main focus, whereas "the new framework is all about developing the potential of participants by creating coaches who can promote learning through ownership, awareness and responsibility".

New tool from Sports Leaders UK

Sports Leaders UK has unveiled a free teaching tool developed to celebrate the London 2012 Games.

Katharine Merry – bronze medal winner for the 400m sprint at the 2000 Sydney Olympics – was part of the team launching the tool at this year's Leisure Industry Week (LIW) held in Birmingham in September.

The new Sports Leaders UK resource is designed to give

young candidates wanting to work in active leisure and sport the opportunity to explore the values of the games and understand how they impact everyday life.

The new resource will be offered as a free download via the Sports Leaders UK website for schools, colleges, local authority sports development teams and other organisations registered with Sports Leaders UK.

Changing the inspection system for the better

Ofsted framework will ensure institutions offer improved skills across the sector

It is true to say that the UK needs to change its ideas about post-16 education and training, and that the recession has brought that aspect into sharper focus. A new inspection framework from Ofsted will reflect the need for a fresh look at skills and how young people acquire them.

As a sector, hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism has the capacity to make a real difference for those who may have struggled with conventional learning, and offers ample opportunity to increase vocational skills, as well as the 'functional' skills of numeracy, literacy, team work and initiative.

For employers, a more highly skilled workforce will mean higher productivity and, in the private sector, greater competitiveness. In the current climate, it's a chance to help ensure survival and a preparedness to take advantage when the upturn comes.

Inspectors will have more chances to talk to employers and learners and, therefore, more weighting will be placed on the responses that these groups give. Both groups will also be able to respond via email prior to the inspection process. This will help how colleges take into account local skill levels and demand, and the extent to which individual programmes increase the learners' vocational skills and employability.

The inspectors will also be able to vary their visits so that the frequency will be more 'proportionate to risk'; a relief for the well-organised and efficient colleges and a warning for those who consistently fail to deliver. Crucially, while all will now be considered for inspection every year, those who are not reaching the required standards will have the chance to rectify faults and raise the impact of improvement quickly.

A sample of outstanding performers will be selected annually, ensuring that all providers are inspected at least once every six years. It's also important to note these inspections can happen at any time and with short notice, normally two to three weeks.

Inspectors will now also be able to take into account the different size and range of provision offered, thus determining the composition of the inspection team and will allow for more specialists to be involved.

Whatever this initiative delivers, it has to be fair for all with the learner taking centre stage, rather than the organisational framework that has dominated in the past.



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GARETH EDWARDS
is education director at Springboard UK. Leisure Opportunities is the official recruitment magazine for Springboard UK

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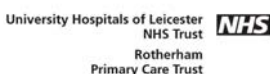
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- 100 hours practical exercise instruction over the past year, with some experience of working with clients with COPD/respiratory disease
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The Coaching Network Officer will be responsible for developing a network of support for local coaches at community level. Working closely with the Governing Bodies of Sport and key regional and local partners, the successful applicant will be a dynamic individual and an expert in networking, with a flair for developing and maintaining mutually beneficial partnerships

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Wednesday 11 November 2009.

Interview date: **Thursday 26 November 2009.**

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We actively promote equal opportunity in education and employment and welcome applicants from all sections of the community.

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Knowsley Council

DIRECTORATE OF WELLBEING SERVICES

Football Development Officer

£24,646 - £26,276 • REF: REC01611

Based within the Council's Sports Development team, we are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual to lead and co-ordinate the development of football throughout the Borough alongside key partners.

You should possess a degree or equivalent and have relevant experience in a similar field. Knowledge and awareness of a broad range of sports development issues is essential, together with the ability to support and work in partnership with internal and external agencies and organisations.

You should demonstrate experience of project management, supporting clubs and groups, organising successful events, performance management and monitoring and evaluation systems.

Knowledge of health and safety policies, customer care, equal opportunities; together with an in-depth understanding of child protection issues in a sporting context, is essential.

You will have excellent communication and organisational skills, including the ability to balance competing priorities and manage a varied workload within deadlines. You will be a team player and demonstrate an ability to work under your own initiative.

You will have the ability to lead and develop staff and partners and facilitate results through others, be flexible and find innovative ways to deliver projects and initiatives to meet key priorities.

For an informal discussion, please call Phil Cantillon (Sports Development Manager) on 0151 443 2157 / 07554 438790.

Applications from all sections of the community are positively encouraged to ensure that our workforce reflects the communities in which we work. Knowsley MBC is a smoke free working environment.



Closing date: 13th November 2009.

For an application form download it from our website at www.knowsley.gov.uk or for a hard copy please ring 0151 443 5000 or e-mail: recruitment@knowsley.gov.uk

NORTH RIDING COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Senior Football Development Officer



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

This position reports directly to the County Development Manager and the role encompasses the following areas:

- Line managing externally funded Football Development Staff
- National Game Strategy delivery:-
 - 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 the 5-11 age group
 - Workforce – developing and delivering a robust workforce plan for coaches, referees, young leaders, referees, welfare officers and volunteers

To apply you need to be of graduate calibre and have experience in sports development and an understanding of the FA's National Game Strategy. You need to be passionate about 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.

This post is a fixed term contract until 30 June 2011 with a view to it being extended. For further information on the role and a job description please phone Steven Wade 01642 717774 or find details on www.northridingfa.com.

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter detailing how you meet the demands of the post, with details of your current salary and your salary expectation for the role marked 'Private and Confidential' to: Tom Radigan, North Riding County FA, Broughton Road, Stokesley, Middlesbrough, TS9 5NY

The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Friday 20th November 2009. Interviews will take place on Monday 7th December 2009.

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

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SPORTS OPERATIONS MANAGER - PARKS AND CULTURE

P04, £37,851 - £40,506

Ref: R23232

This is an exciting opportunity to join the newly formed Community Sports Team. You will play a significant part in the delivery of excellent community sport and will have the responsibility to manage, plan and develop the work of the Council's sports facilities and operations section to ensure services and facilities are promoted, enhanced and delivered in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Hammersmith and Fulham's Community Sports Team is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, committed and motivated individual who has experience in operational sports management. You will have good communication and IT skills and be able to develop sound partnerships with a range of internal and external organisations. Applicants must be able to demonstrate their commitment to customer care and equal opportunities and will excel as part of a team, working to meet targets and deadlines.

SPORTS BOOKINGS OFFICER - PARKS AND CULTURE

Sc4, £20,460 - £22,422

Ref: R23233

This is an exciting opportunity to join the newly formed Community Sports Team. You will play an important part in the delivery of frontline services.

Hammersmith and Fulham's Community Sports Team is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and motivated individual who has experience in sports bookings or administration. You will have good communication and IT skills and be able to demonstrate your commitment to customer care. You will possess excellent numeracy skills with an eye for detail, be able to work on your own initiative, be able to cope with competing demands as well as the working flexibly as part of a small team.

Both of the above posts will require a Criminal Records Bureau clearance.

GROUND'S MAINTENANCE MONITORING OFFICER - PARKS AND CULTURE

PO1, £31,152 - £33,306

Ref: R23234

We are looking for a self-motivated and pro-active individual with relevant Grounds Maintenance monitoring experience. You must have excellent communication skills to assist the Council in making our Parks and Open spaces safe, welcoming, fun and enjoyable places to visit.

You would be entrusted to:

- Administer and monitor Grounds Maintenance contracts within Hammersmith and Fulham's Parks and Open Spaces, H&F Homes and Education sites
- Contribute to a customer focused quality park service
- Help manage, develop and enhance the specification, monitoring and contract processes.

To apply for any of these roles please visit www.lbhf.gov.uk/jobs or call 020 8753 6060 (we use talktalk) or e-mail recruitment@lbhf.gov.uk

Closing date for all posts: 5pm, Monday 16 November 2009.

Committed to equal opportunities and quality services.



Membership sales consultant/advisor to work in a Country Club.

Responsible for Health & Fitness membership.
Experience is essential.

Applicant must be motivated, enthusiastic, and driven towards reaching targets. We are looking for someone who has a personal interest in health & fitness. With a fitness qualification preferred. Responsible for generating new leads, enrolling new members, retention, driving marketing campaigns & communicating them to other staff. Competitive salary and commission as well as bonus' paid on reaching targets. Complimentary Golf & Health membership as well as golf/health membership for partner/spouse. Evenings and weekends will be required. May be required to cross sell Golf memberships, conference, banqueting & weddings.

To apply please send CV & covering letter to Liane Oliver,
Health Club Manager, Bushey Country Club,
High Street, Bushey, Herts, WD23 1TT,
liane@busheycountryclub.com or call 020 8950 2283
Closing Date: Monday 2 November 2009

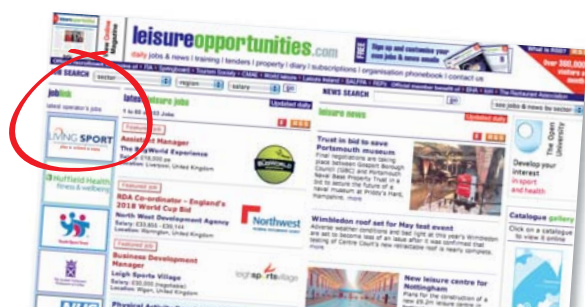
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Fitness Manager Roko Nottingham

Salary: £19000 Plus Commission
Location: Roko Health Clubs, Nottingham
Start: Immediate
Hours: Full-Time including evenings and weekends
Qualifications: Level 3 Personal Trainer, Reps Level 3 Qualification.
Experience: Must have proven track record of Managing a Fitness Team

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Roko Health Clubs provide exceptional facilities for our members at remarkable prices. We not only build great clubs but we are looking for unique individuals to join our team and deliver a service experience without equal in the industry.

We are searching for a Fitness Manager for our Nottingham Club. You must be well organised under pressure, show an abundance of initiative, have a love of Health & Fitness & ability to get on with people from all walks of life. You will be the Oracle of our Fitness Department & fully manage, and drive the team of Fitness Consultants, Personal Trainers & Group Exercise Instructors.

You will need to be dedicated to driving our Fitness Department, through exceptional customer service, great organisation skills, and the ability to drive the team to deliver Personal Training and retention targets. You must be able to guarantee a safe & healthy environment that delivers amazing customer service.

If fitness is your passion, particularly in helping people achieve their goals, plus you've got the talent, personality and desire to hit targets we would like to hear from you. Please send your CV to Julie Bowley, Roko Nottingham – Senior Manager.

E-mail: jbowley@nottingham.roko.co.uk **Tel:** 0115 9827799

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You've a relevant degree (or equivalent) alongside proven experience of the fitness and active leisure industry. We're looking for someone who can confidently lead, ideally with a teaching qualification or A1 Assessor Award. But as long as you're willing to travel, and are passionate about relating to the needs of our learners, we'll provide all the training you'll need.

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Study backs mayor's Thames Estuary airport plans

New report finds "no insoluble issues" to halt proposals for the construction of a new £40bn floating airport

By **Pete Hayman**

A report has concluded there are no major issues preventing plans for the construction of a £40bn floating airport off the Essex and Kent coasts in the Thames Estuary.

London mayor Boris Johnson commissioned the Thames Estuary Research and Development Company (TERDC) study into the proposed airport, which could feature up to six runways to prevent the need to expand Heathrow Airport and meet increased demand.

Engineer Douglas Oakervee, who helped with a similar project in Hong Kong, and Bridget Rosewell, the Greater London Authority's chief economic advisor, formed TERDC to carry out the report.

However, the plans are being opposed by Medway Council, Kent County Council and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

According to the RSPB, the study fails to deal with a number of concerns, including the increased likelihood of birdstrike affecting aircraft.



RSPB reserves on the estuary coast could be at risk from the plans

£36m Surrey Sports Park set for January opening

By **Tom Walker**

A £36m sports centre is set to open at the University of Surrey in Guildford in January 2010.

The Surrey Sports Park is to boast an eight-lane Olympic-sized swimming pool with spectator seating and a 120-station fitness suite supplied by Life Fitness, which used its Journey system in the design of the fitness suite, which intends to stop students "getting bored



Life Fitness will equip the gym

and increase the longevity of their exercise sessions".

Rob Jones, development manager of Life Fitness, said:

"The correct product mix and layout is very important as students often want to pop in for quick gym sessions in between lectures and get bored quickly."

Other facilities will include a 12m climbing wall, three multi-purpose sports halls, squash courts, eight outdoor tennis courts, three artificial turf pitches, 10 football/rugby pitches and two multi-purpose exercise studios.

Work begins on Basildon centre

Construction work has started at the site of the £38m Basildon Sporting Village in Essex, which will boast the county's first Olympic-sized swimming pool when complete.

Community Solutions for Leisure has been appointed by Basildon Council to build the complex, which is set to open in 2011.

CONTACTS BOOK

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