

## Ashmolean Museum relaunches after £61m revamp

By **Pete Hayman**

The Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology in Oxford has reopened, following a major £61m redevelopment.

A 10,000sq m (107,639sq ft) building – designed by Rick Mather Architects – has been built in order to double the museum's existing display space and will comprise 39 new galleries, including four temporary exhibition spaces.

Exhibition design company Metaphor has worked alongside curators on the development of the Crossing Cultures Crossing Time strategy, which will see the lower ground floor galleries explore links between



The original museum building was designed by Charles Cockerell

objects that are common to different cultures, such as money, reading and writing.

The upper floors have been organised in chronological order to allow visitors to chart

the development of ancient and modern civilisations, including orientation galleries to introduce key themes.

Facilities at the new museum building will also boast an

education centre, conservation studios and Oxford's first rooftop restaurant, The Ashmolean Dining Room.

The Western Art galleries in the original Charles Cockerell-designed Ashmolean building have also reopened after being closed for 10 months for refurbishment.

BAM Construction was the lead contractor on the project, which also involved project manager Mace; audio-visual specialists Machine Shop, New Angle and Sysco; lighting designers Kevan Shaw; and interpretation consultants Tim Gardom Associates. Display case producers Meyvaert also helped with the scheme.

## Pure Gym to unveil new health club in Edinburgh

Fitness operator to open new Scottish site as part of plans to expand portfolio

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

Fitness operator Pure Gym is poised to open its first health club in Edinburgh in December.

The 170-station, 15,000sq ft (1,394sq m) "no frills" gym – which will feature equipment by Matrix Fitness – will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Membership will start from £12.99 a month.

The new health club will also boast changing rooms, sunbeds and personal trainer services.

Pure Gym chief executive, Peter Roberts said: "In the



Matrix Fitness has equipped Edinburgh's new Pure Gym

current economic climate, people from all walks of life are watching their budget and we are offering the ideal gym

package to customers at an affordable price.

"Similar gym concepts have been hugely popular overseas in countries such as Germany and the US and we believe Pure Gym will be very popular throughout Scotland."

Roberts founded Luminar Leisure in 1989 and the Golden Tulip hotel chain in 2002, which was subsequently sold to Whitbread in 2007.

Pure Gym is also opening sites in Wolverhampton, Leeds and Manchester and plans to have 20 UK sites by 2012.

## Wembley posts £31m losses

Wembley Stadium's owners have posted pre-tax losses of £31m for the year ending 31 December 2008 after it incurred interest payments totalling £26.2m and £10.8m in bank fees.

Wembley National Stadium Limited now plans for the venue to break even within the next five years after seeing a £13.1m decrease in total losses to £23m in 2008 compared with the previous year.

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## Childhood obesity figures "levelling off"

New study suggests a decline in the number of overweight young people in the UK

By Pete Hayman

Research by the National Heart Forum (NHF) has suggested that an increase in obesity levels among UK children may be starting to "level off".

The study compared previous forecasts based on data from the Health Survey for England with updated forecasts based on data collected between 2000 and 2007.

The rate of increase in obesity levels may now have entered decline, with forecasts for 2020 predicting a fall in the number of overweight boys aged between two and 11 years old to 17 per cent, while the number of obese boys in the same age group is expected to fall to 13 per cent.

The proportion of overweight girls is set to be cut in half to 17



Government initiatives have helped children become more active

per cent, while the number of obese girls could decrease to 10 per cent.

The criteria that determines whether a child is either overweight or obese is dependent on age and gender. It is governed by the UK90 scale, which compares previously collected data with recent

statistics. The International Obesity Task Force scale – based on six countries including the UK – is also used.

Professor Klim McPherson of Oxford University, who is also NHF chair, said: "These trends present a more positive picture that obesity may be levelling off in children."

## Further success for £140m swimming initiative

By Pete Hayman

New quarterly figures released by the government have shown an increase in the number of young people and senior citizens taking advantage of the £140m free swimming initiative.

A total of 5.9 million free swims were taken across the UK between July and September, compared with 4.4 million during the first quarter, with more than 250 local authorities signed up to the scheme.

During the three-month period, young people aged 16 years old and under made 4 million visits to pools, while 1.9 million people senior citizens took advantage of the free swimming initiative.

Culture secretary Ben Bradshaw said: "More than 10 million free swims so far is



There has been an increase in the number of free swims taken

testament to how this scheme is tapping into a desire among people to get active.

"More councils are offering more people the chance to swim for free – and each and every local authority that is part of the scheme deserves credit for backing it, often with their own money as well, and

seeing the benefits that free swimming can provide every day for local communities."

Funded by five government departments, the scheme is being delivered in partnership with local authorities, the Local Government Association, Sport England and the Amateur Swimming Association.



# New ski complex planned for Sunderland

Indoor facility could form part of major plans to redevelop the Stadium Village site

By **Pete Hayman**

A new indoor ski centre could be built at Sunderland's Stadium Village as part of multi-million pound development proposals that have been discussed by the local authority.

A blueprint for the Stadium Village site – the area that surrounds the city's Stadium of Light venue – were considered by Sunderland City Council's (SCC) cabinet on 4 November.

The development could also boast an ice rink, additional leisure facilities, specialist sports retail outlets, bars and restaurants as part of attempts to revitalise the area between Hay Street and the Metro line.

SCC and regeneration agency Sunderland arc are behind the proposed scheme, which will complement the existing



**A new indoor ski centre could help to regenerate the derelict site**

Stadium of Light and £20m Sunderland Aquatics Centre, as well as forming part of the wider revamp of the area.

SCC leader Paul Watson said: "A facility like an indoor ski slope with snow would enhance the great sporting venues already on offer and play a

huge part in boosting the city's role as a visitor destination."

David Walker, Sunderland arc chief executive, added: "We have already received strong interest from leisure developers across the country who are excited by the potential Stadium Village brings."

# BT set to reopen Tower's revolving restaurant?

By **Pete Hayman**

A revolving restaurant located on the 34th floor of the iconic BT Tower in London could be set to reopen to the public for the first time in nearly 30 years.

According to the *Sunday Times*, a number of high-profile chefs have been lined up by BT to oversee the rooftop restaurant, which will be revamped ahead of its scheduled opening in late 2011.

The original restaurant was opened in 1966 but was closed to the public in 1980 - partially due to security fears. However,



**The BT Tower now boasts a new LED information display**

it is still used by BT for corporate and company events.

A spokesperson for BT declined to comment on the plans, saying a decision had yet

to be made about whether the restaurant would reopen.

Meanwhile, a 360-degree LED information display has been unveiled at the top of the tower – between its 36th and 37th floors – in order to mark 1,000 days until the start of the London Olympics.

BT chair Sir Michael Rake said: "As one of the most iconic and well-known landmarks in London, it's only fitting that the BT Tower is used to generate pride and excitement amongst Londoners today – 1,000 days to the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games."

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**IN BRIEF**

**IHRSA predicts profitable autumn**

► The health club sector should anticipate a profitable autumn, according to the latest Monthly Trends Survey from the International, Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association (IHRSA). IHRSA's latest survey of 56 participating clubs, which encompasses August club performance, has revealed "steady to improved" club attendance by members and non-members, with 80 per cent of clubs indicating increased visits in August compared to 2008.

**Funding secured for Hartsdown centre**

► Hartsdown Leisure Centre in Margate, Kent, is to undergo a £1.6m refurbishment. Thanet Leisureforce plans to build a new gym to double the number of stations currently on offer, as well as two exercise studios for classes, a soft play facility and a café. The existing reception and changing areas for the sports hall will also be revamped.

**Balance training good for the elderly**

► Simple balance exercises can make a difference in preventing older gym members from having slip and fall accidents. Instability and loss of balance is a common ailment among older adults. According to a report by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, falls in the senior population cost the US government alone more than US\$20bn (£12.1bn) per year. Writing in the October issue of the *IDEA Fitness Journal*, Dr. Evan Osar claims that while low-impact exercises such as yoga and swimming can benefit many clients, resistance and body weight training should also be included to increase muscle strength and help create a sense of well-being.

# £30m revamp scheme for LA Fitness

UK health club operator unveils proposals for complete overhaul of 83 properties

By **Tom Walker**

Private equity-owned gym chain LA Fitness has earmarked £30m for a comprehensive refurbishment programme of its 83-strong portfolio of health clubs in the UK.

The investment and new strategy is being driven by the company's chief executive officer, Martin Long, who said he wants to reposition the entire LA Fitness brand.

Long said: "Gyms were originally built to rent out space containing gym equipment – members signed a 12 month contract in January and often didn't come back.

"That suited operators then, but membership is stuck at 12 per cent penetration – and has been for the last few years. If the industry is to break through that it must up its game."

To tackle retention issues, Long has introduced a new



**The fitness group is looking to reposition its entire UK brand**

customer relationship management programme which aims to ensure that staff develop and maintain a relationship with gym-goers throughout the course of their contract.

Each new or lapsed member is treated to a tailored 'Kickstart' programme to identify fitness targets and a personalised training routine to help them achieve their goals. There's a 30-minute review

every 12 weeks, while new IT systems spotlight those who have not been to the club for 30 days or more.

Long added that he was determined to put a halt to what he calls the "devaluation that is hitting the entire UK fitness industry".

"There are so many deals and discounts on offer that customers are not currently prepared to pay more," he said.

## £15m upgrade for Carlisle site

A £15m upgrade is being planned for The Sands Centre in Carlisle, Cumbria.

The project is the result of a partnership between Carlisle City Council, the University of Cumbria and Carlisle Leisure Limited.

Plans include a health and fitness club, a 25m swimming pool with a teaching pool, a multi-court sports hall, sports performance labs and revamped changing areas.

Conference facilities, an expanded main hall and a sports injuries and rehabilitation clinic for the university's School of Sport are also planned.

## Expanded Hampshire gym opens

By **Pete Hayman**

An extended fitness suite has been officially opened at Southampton City Council's (SCC) flagship leisure centre in Hampshire, following the completion of a comprehensive £177,000 refurbishment.

Nolan Davis Contracting carried out the three-month revamp to expand the The Quays 'Eddie Read' Swimming and Diving Complex's fitness facilities by 100sq m (1,076sq ft), increasing the number of stations from 90 to 120.

Life Fitness and Star Trac have supplied equipment – including treadmills, cross trainers and rowers – for the fitness suite as part of the



**SCC funded the £177,000 work at the flagship leisure centre**

SCC-funded project, which has also included an expansion of the core conditioning and free weights area.

Construction work has also included the creation of a new 90sq m (968sq ft) multi-use studio to provide a range of fitness and aerobic classes and community programmes.



# New Year opening for Louth complex

Meridian Leisure Centre set to boast new 25m swimming pool and a fitness suite

By **Helen Patenall**

Meridian Leisure Centre in Louth, Lincolnshire, is scheduled to open in the New Year.

East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) will formally take ownership of the £12m facility in early December, following its completion by Lincolnshire-based company UCS Civils.

Facilities on offer to local residents will include a 25m, eight-lane swimming pool with a moveable floor, a multi-purpose space, a sports hall, a fitness suite and dance studios. External pitches and a multi-activity community area will also be located at the site.

The town's existing swimming pool will close on 29 November for the team of



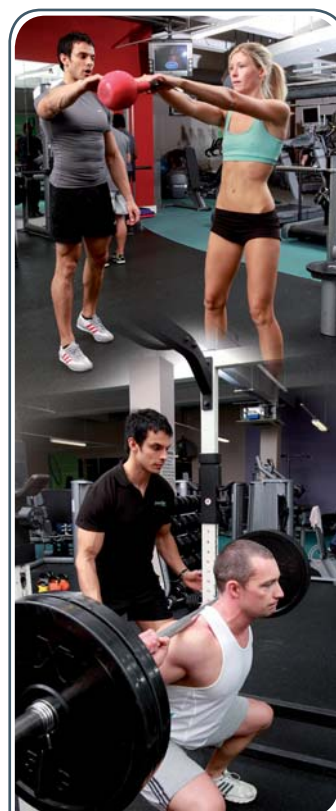
**An architect's model of what the leisure centre will look like**

lifeguards and fitness advisors to transfer and become familiar with the new facility.

Centre manager Iain Dunton said: "It is important the team know the centre inside out because we want to give our customers a safe and first class

experience from the moment they first visit us."

ELDC's portfolio holder for leisure Adam Grist added: "We are working hard to help our community improve their health and this leisure centre will support this effort."



## New research reveals obsession with body image

By **Tim Nash**

A new survey has revealed that 90 per cent of adults believe we care too much about how we look and not enough about how healthy we are.

Commissioned by Central YMCA, the Healthy Attitudes to Healthy Bodies survey also showed that almost a quarter of adults feel depressed about their body shape at some point.

It found that 88 per cent think children are under more



**Too much emphasis on looks?**

pressure about their physical appearance than they were 20 years ago and half of adults

believe image issues should be addressed in primary school.

Central YMCA is using the survey to launch a campaign 'to raise awareness about the extent of society's obsession with body image ideals and its associated negative impact upon the wellbeing of children, young people and adults'.

Rosi Prescott, Central YMCA's CEO, said: "This survey illustrates a deep public unease about the growing focus on body image ideals."

## Sporta partners Change4Life campaign

The Sports and Recreation Trust Association (sporta) has been accepted as a national partner for the Department of Health's Change4Life campaign.

The agreement will see the group, which represents more than 100 cultural and leisure trusts across the UK, creating a standalone

campaign for its members that is set to run next autumn.

Spearheading the campaign, sporta's representative for London and the South East, Phil Rumbelow said: "About 80 per cent signed up to support a sporta campaign on the spot, which equates to more than 100 centres."

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## IN BRIEF

### Revenues increase for Cineworld Group

► Cineworld Group has reported total revenues up by 6.5 per cent on the previous year for the 43 weeks to 22 October. Box office revenue was up by 10.9 per cent and retail by 5 per cent, although other income – mainly screen advertising revenue – saw a fall of 26.9 per cent. The figures come against a backdrop of what the company calls 'exceptional Q3 trading last year' due to the success of the blockbuster *Mamma Mia*. Cineworld also confirmed that it will shortly be opening a 10 screen cinema in Aberdeen and a five screen cinema in Witney, Oxfordshire, increasing its estate to 77 cinemas and 790 screens. The two new theatres will be the first in the company to have digital projectors in every auditorium. For the final quarter, Cineworld's film line-up includes *2012*, *Sherlock Holmes* and *Avatar*, which it believes will help the company to deliver continued growth for the full year.

### Snow dome complex proposed for Blackpool

► A multi-million pound snow dome is being planned for the land formerly allocated for a supercasino in Blackpool. The plans, which would also include shops, bars and a hotel, have been put forward by Greenbank Partnerships. Blackpool Council is currently looking into the proposal and has given Greenbank permission to conduct a feasibility study. The council's leader, Peter Callow, told the *Blackpool Gazette*: "This will put Blackpool in the big league. We're talking about something that can change the face of the resort." The Central Station site was earmarked as a possible supercasino location, before the government scrapped the idea altogether.

## Rank Group opens two new G Casinos

Coventry and Dundee casinos expand company's portfolio to nine UK properties

By **Pete Hayman & Tom Walker**

The Rank Group has opened two new G Casinos, taking the total number of properties in the portfolio to nine.

The Ricoh Arena casino in Coventry has benefited from a £1m reconfiguration since it was acquired by Grosvenor Casinos in a £650,000 deal from Isle of Capri in April 2009.

Opened on 29 October, the 44,000sq ft (4,088sq m) casino will form part of Rank's plans to expand the G Casino brand to 20 sites by the end of 2012, with a further G Casino scheduled to open in Sheffield before the end of the year.

The G Casino at the Ricoh Arena boasts a restaurant operated by West Midlands-based Mahir's Experience; a sports lounge; a bar and one of the largest poker rooms in the UK; as well as 20 gaming tables and 20 gaming machines.



**G Casino Coventry general manager Paul Davies at the launch**

The launch of the Coventry site follows just a week after the opening of the G Casino in Dundee, Scotland.

The £5m, 30,000sq ft (2,800sq m) club boasts a restaurant, a bar, a sports lounge and a poker room as well as a wide range of traditional casino games and gaming machines.

Phil Urban, managing director of Rank's casinos

business, said: "At the heart of G Casino's success over the last three years has been a very simple ambition to give our customers a great night out and we look forward to achieving that in Dundee."

The first G Casino opened in Manchester in 2006. Since then six more G Casinos have been added in Aberdeen, Blackpool, Bolton Luton, Thanet and London's Piccadilly Circus.

### First hmvcurzor cinema unveiled

Music retailer HMV and cinema operator Curzon have opened a cinema at an HMV store in Wimbledon – the first in a planned UK-wide network of store-based cinemas.

hmvcurzor will be run as a joint venture between the two companies and is situated on the store's unused second floor.

The venue has three screens with a combined total of 263 seats, a fully licensed café-bar and a merchandise area.

HMV hopes to be able to roll-out the hmvcurzor concept to more locations across the country.

## Jongleurs chain to be rebranded?

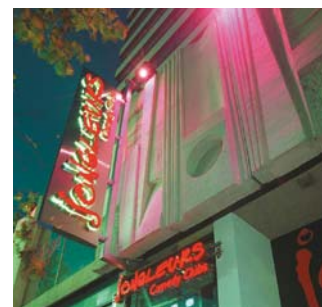
By **Luke Tuchscherer**

The license for the Jongleurs comedy club chain will revert to its founder as of 2 January.

Intertain, the new company that saved 60 Regent Inns sites from administration – including 10 Jongleurs clubs – is able to use the Jongleurs name until control reverts to Maria Kempinska, who founded the brand in 1983, next year.

A statement from Intertain said: "On 20 October 2009, Intertain Limited acquired 10 live entertainment venues as part of a package of 60 trading assets, from the joint administrators of Regent Inns."

"Intertain has now entered into a brand licensing agree-



**Intertain faces rebranding the Jongleurs portfolio of clubs**

ment with Jongleurs Comedy Limited to continue to run these 10 venues as Jongleurs Comedy Clubs until 2 January 2010," the statement added.

After then, it isn't known whether Intertain will rebrand the clubs or come to a new arrangement with Kempinska.





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## IN BRIEF

### 2010 reopening for Birmingham baths

► Birmingham City Council (BCC) has confirmed that Newtown Baths is set to reopen in early 2010 after it secured funding for the restoration of the facility. Newtown Baths closed earlier this year after traces of asbestos were found in the building's ceiling and roof, but work is now set to start on a £140,000 scheme to remove the asbestos and install new structural supports. BCC cabinet member for leisure, sport and culture, Martin Mullaney, said: "Re-opening this pool is a major boost and this terrific news clearly demonstrates our commitment to community pools here in Birmingham."

### Fetcham sports pavilion to be demolished

► A sports pavilion at the Cock Lane Recreation Ground in Fetcham, Surrey, is to be demolished after Mole Valley District Council ruled that it was no longer safe. The condition of the pavilion, which was last used in December 2008, has deteriorated over "a number of years" and the council has said that it is no longer economically viable to repair the structure.

### Batley unveils new sports centre

► Batley Sports and Tennis Centre in West Yorkshire has reopened its sports hall following a refurbishment. The six-badminton court hall has been closed since the summer and now boasts new heating, ventilation, lighting and Taraflex flooring. The work is part of a £4.6m project at the centre which will also see a revamped 40-station gym open in January and the refurbished and redecorated swimming pool unveiled next summer. The facility is managed Kirklees Active Leisure.

## £8m for National Indoor BMX Centre

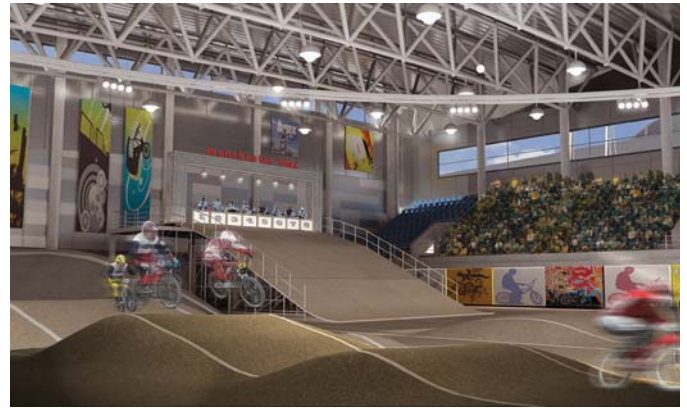
Venue to host international competitions and offer British squad training facilities

By **Pete Hayman**

A new £19m National Indoor BMX Centre is set to be built in Manchester after the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA) provided the remaining £8m needed to fund the scheme.

Located at Sportcity, to the east of Manchester, the facility will be the first covered BMX venue of its kind in the UK and will attract more than 120,000 visitors each year. It will also host a number of national and international events.

The 15,300sq m (164,688sq ft) National Indoor BMX Centre will provide a link to the Manchester Velodrome to form a new National Cycling Centre, offering the British cycling



It is hoped the centre will attract more than 120,000 visitors a year

squad facilities across a wide range of disciplines.

Facilities at the new BMX complex will include a 100m x 70m (328ft x 230ft) cycling track, seating capacity for 2,000 spectators, a café and office accommodation for the

national governing body, British Cycling.

Other facilities at Sportcity include the National squash and tennis centres, the Regional Athletics Arena and the English Institute of Sport North West Support Centre.

## Tottenham Hotspur submits redevelopment plans

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the Northumberland Development Project, which will include a new 56,250-seat stadium for Tottenham Hotspur Football Club have been submitted to Haringey Council.

The projected capacity of the stadium has been reduced from 58,000 after the club revised the plans to incorporate a new 63-row, single-tier stand, which it hopes will create "the most atmospheric stadium in Europe".



Rendering of the new stadium

In addition to the proposed stadium, the multi-million pound Northumberland

Development Project also includes a public square, a hotel, new space for the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation and a supermarket, as well as new homes.

The new stadium, originally designed by architects KSS Group as a 60,000-seat venue, will be built on an area of land covering 20 acres (8.1-hectares). The site incorporates the club's existing White Hart Lane ground, as well as an adjacent industrial area.

## Flood-damaged Cheltenham cricket facility reopens

The cricket hall at the leisure@cheltenham leisure centre in Gloucestershire has fully reopened to the public following a multi-million pound refurbishment.

The centre was badly damaged during the 2007 floods and the multi-use sports hall – the last part of the revamp to be completed – has been forced to stay closed until now.

The £200,000 redevelopment of the hall included new flooring, doors and cricket netting and a full internal re-fit of changing facilities. The hall is one of only a handful of indoor facilities in the UK which provides specialist cricket performance characteristics.



# Eton Manor's Olympic plans approved

Legacy mode to include hockey and tennis centre operated by local park authority

By **Martin Nash**

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has been granted planning permission for Eton Manor, which will be used by Olympic and Paralympic swimmers to train for London 2012, and by Paralympic athletes competing in the wheelchair tennis events

During the Olympic Games, Eton Manor will house three 50m swimming pools, one synchronised swimming pool and one water polo pool that will be used during the Games for training. During the Paralympic Games, Eton Manor will host Wheelchair Tennis.

In legacy the centre will be converted into a hockey and tennis centre, with the facilities being owned, operated and



**Eton Manor will host the wheelchair tennis competition during 2012**

funded by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.

The permanent elements will include a hockey centre with two competition pitches, a tennis centre with four indoor and six outdoor courts and five-a-side football pitches.

The mountain bike trails, which will form part of the VeloPark, will also be extended onto Eton Manor.

Start of construction on the facility will be in spring 2010, with completion by the summer of 2011 for test events.

## IN BRIEF

### RFU reports increase in operating profit

► The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has reported a 66 per cent increase in operating profit to £18.9m for the 12 months ending 30 June 2009, when compared with the previous year. According to the RFU, an increase in the number of international fixtures staged at Twickenham Stadium helped to boost its results for the year, as well as a reduction in depreciation following a review of the venue's new South Stand facilities.

### Work on Trump's resort gets underway

► Work has begun on Donald Trump's £1bn Scottish golf resort. The Aberdeenshire course, designed by Gareth Hoskins Architects, is yet to receive full planning permission for the entire development, but early work – such as stabilisation of the sand dunes and the laying of marram grass turves – is to begin already. The 500-acre course – which Trump claims will be the "greatest golf course in history" – will boast two 18-hole golf courses designed by golf architect Martin Hawtree, which will be separated by a clubhouse open to guests and visitors, a caddyshack, a short-game practice area and a driving range.

### Newcastle United "no longer on the market"

► Newcastle United Football Club (NUFC) has confirmed that owner Mike Ashley has decided against selling the club after Tyneside businessman Barry Moat failed in an £80m takeover bid. Ashley put the Coca-Cola Championship club up for sale in June for £100m, but despite reported interest from a number of prospective buyers, NUFC has been unable to secure a new owner and will now remain under the control of the sportswear tycoon.

## WRU opens new training facility

A £4m National Centre of Excellence near Cardiff, designed to provide elite training facilities for the Welsh Rugby Union, has been opened by first minister Rhodri Morgan.

Players selected to represent the Welsh international rugby union teams at all levels will train at the centre, which is located at the Vale Resort, Hensol, and boasts three outdoor pitches with external skills training zones.

One of the three pitches is fitted with an all-weather surface and floodlights in order for it to be used day and night all year round. The second pitch has also been equipped with floodlights.

## UK towns to stage major events



**Elite athletes are set to compete in events at towns across the UK**

By **Pete Hayman**

UK Sport, the national high performance sports agency, has unveiled plans to hold a major sporting event every two weeks in the lead up to the London 2012 Olympics.

A list of 64 events has been drawn up by the agency, which will incorporate 30 Olympic and Paralympic sports and has been developed in partnership with regional authorities and

national governing bodies to include 20 cities and towns.

Towns such as Dorchester, Hereford and Largs are in line to host an event over the next 1,000 days in addition to the English Open Table Tennis Championships in Sheffield.

UK Sport chief executive officer, John Steele, said: "We believe this is the most comprehensive programme of events that any host country has ever put together."



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## European travel sector recovering

Sector could experience tentative growth during second half of 2010

By **Tom Walker**

Travel demand across the continent is stabilising and 2010 could see some tentative growth, according to a new report by the European Travel Commission.

According to the *European Tourism 2009 – Trends & Prospects* report, the rate of decline – which fell significantly in the first half of the year – slowed in the last two to three months and demand for air transport and accommodation seems to be returning to levels comparable to 12 months ago. However, this refers to volume as opposed to value, as the recession has driven down prices.

International arrivals are expected to stabilise over the last four months of the year and perhaps show some growth.

Leisure travel continues to outperform business travel, in line with trends seen in the first six months of the year. However,



**Tourists are returning to European cities**

the International Federation of Tour Operators said that despite many tour operators selling out this summer, travel sales have continued to drop sharply in favour of self-tailored or independent travel, particularly in the UK.

## York tourist centre set for 2010 opening

By **Pete Hayman**



**The centre is due to open by Easter 2010**

A new visitor information centre is set to open in York in early 2010, following the completion of a £900,000 scheme to replace the existing tourist facility.

The Visit York Information Centre, which is housed within a Grade II-listed building on Museum Street, will feature a range of technology to offer local residents, visitors and businesses information about the area.

Euros will be accepted as payment for goods and services, while a range of locally sourced products will be showcased.

## BAA announces sale of Gatwick Airport

Airport operator BAA, which owns seven UK airports, has announced it has secured a deal to sell Gatwick Airport for £1.51bn after it agreed terms with New York-based 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.

Gatwick Airport was originally put on the market in September 2008.



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## IN BRIEF

### Supperclub to open new London property

► Supperclub, the avant garde nightclub chain that originated in Amsterdam, is to open a site in London. Located on the site of the Subterranea nightclub near Portobello Road, the club will feature three separate areas: Bar Rouge, a 150-capacity bar area, Salle Neige, a dining area with a mezzanine floor, where guests famously eat on oversized beds and Bar Noir, a private area that operates on a guestlist policy. As with Supperclub sites globally, the London club was designed by Dutch firm Concrete, which has worked on projects such as the Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart, Germany.

### Minimum alcohol price plans "not illegal"

► Scottish health secretary Nicola Sturgeon has refuted claims that the Scottish Government's plans to introduce a minimum price for a unit of alcohol would contravene European legislation. On 22 October, the European Court's Advocate General said that separate attempts by the French, Austrian and Irish governments to introduce a minimum price for tobacco violated European Rules and restricted competition. However, Sturgeon said: "It is entirely inappropriate and irrelevant to translate an opinion on tobacco to the totally different issue of minimum pricing of alcoholic products per unit of alcohol for public health reasons."

### Holiday Inn planned for MediaCityUK

► A new 218-bedroom Holiday Inn is set to open at Salford Quays, Manchester, after Peel Leisure secured a deal with InterContinental Hotels Group to form part of the MediaCityUK scheme. The hotel is scheduled to open in autumn 2010.

## Sector secures music licence victory

Hospitality operators set to receive refunds after years of excess charges

By **Pete Hayman**

The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) and the British Hospitality Association (BHA) have been successful in a long-running legal dispute over playing music in public areas.

Pubs, restaurants and hotels could now receive a share of up to £20m in refunds after the Copyright Tribunal ruled that fees set by Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) were too high.

The tribunal has ruled that PPL – which collects royalties on behalf of performing artists – will only be allowed to increase tariffs by 10 per cent in a move that could save the industry around £5m a year.

PPL has announced that it intends to appeal the ruling in



**Pubs have been overcharged for their entertainment licences**

the High Court, although if the challenge fails, the company faces the prospect of paying at least £50 interest-free in refunds to businesses who have paid excess charges since the tariffs were altered in 2005.

BBPA chief executive Brigid Simmonds said: "This is a major

victory for the industry – not to mention the fully justified prospect of refunds.

"It's been a long struggle, but worth it. We'll be doing everything we can to ensure any appeal case is heard quickly so that the matter of repayments can be settled."

### Tandem picks up Coco Mo's

Tandem Bars is to reopen Coco Mo's restaurant in Newcastle after acquiring it for an undisclosed sum from the administrators of Absolute Leisure.

The 270-cover restaurant has been redeveloped and rebranded as Rosco's and will be operated by restaurateur Ross Arceri, who previously managed Uno's in Newcastle. Agents Christie + Co acted on behalf of administrators Begbies Traynor on the sale.

Absolute Leisure was placed in administration in May 2009 and its portfolio – including the Lounge nightclub in Newcastle and the New Angel Hotel in Whitby – was put up for sale.

## Hotels in the capital recovering



**Profitability per room in London increased during September**

By **Tom Walker**

Hoteliers in the capital managed to improve profitability and increase total revenue per available room (TrevPAR), during September, according to the latest HotStats survey by TRI Hospitality Consulting.

Gross operating profit per available room (GOP PAR) among London hotels increased by 43 per cent compared to August 2009.

Average room rates during the month increased by around 13 per cent compared to August, a month that is driven by discounted leisure related demand. According to TRI, average room rates are now 4.8 per cent below the same period last year.

Jonathan Langston, managing director, TRI, said: "Strong volume in the capital is a sign of increased UK and Eurozone consumer confidence."





Proposals for the new five-star hotel have now been mothballed

## Edinburgh hotel scheme blocked

Scottish Government turns down £250m proposals

By **Martin Nash**

Plans by Tiger Developments for a £250m scheme in the centre of Edinburgh, which would have included a 17-storey, leaf-shaped Intercontinental Hotel and a Travelodge, have been turned down by the Scottish Government.

Although passed by the city council in 2008, a public enquiry into the project – designed by Richard Murphy Architects and also featuring offices and retail space – found that the 17-storey hotel would dominate the area in the city's

Haymarket district, impacting on views of St Mary's Cathedral spires and Edinburgh Castle and be out of keeping with the city's world heritage status.

Graham Birse, of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, said: "With this conclusion ministers have done nothing to encourage sustainable development in our capital city at a time when the longest recession in living memory is making deep and painful inroads into our economy.

"The project was ready to roll, and offered £250m investment, 2,150 jobs and a five-star hotel."

## IHG plans new Westminster property

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) has unveiled plans to open a new 254-bedroom hotel in Westminster, London, in a bid to build its presence in the capital ahead of the 2012 Olympics.

The new InterContinental London Westminster hotel, which is scheduled to open in late 2011, will occupy the former Queen Anne's Chambers building near New Scotland Yard.

IHG has secured a 20-year management deal with Splendid Hotel Group to operate the property, which will join the company's Park Lane property as the second InterContinental property to open in the capital.

Proposed facilities at the London Westminster hotel include 218 guest rooms, 23 studios, 12 suites and a presidential suite, as well as a gym and a club lounge.

## Still not out of the woods, but doing well

The hospitality industry has survived the recession better than most expected

Looking through the British Hospitality Association's (BHA) latest publication – *British Hospitality: Trends and Developments 2009* – it becomes clear that the hospitality industry is still moving forward, despite a recession widely regarded as the worst in living memory.

Hotel insolvencies so far (the coming winter period will be a testing time) have been few, as the publication reveals. Only 178 hotels in 2008 (but possibly more than that in 2009) is hardly a significant number in a sector with over 46,000 establishments. And though restaurant insolvencies, at 778 in 2008, are higher than in 2007, this is a sector that is notorious for failed businesses even in the best of times.

What is also encouraging is that almost every establishment that has gone into insolvency has re-opened under new ownership. Furthermore, despite the recession, the hotel industry is continuing to expand with more than 11,000 rooms opening in 2009 and a further 40,000 planned for the period 2010-2015.

Since the present boom started in 2003, over 85,000 new rooms have been added to UK hotel stock, just over half (55 per cent) in the budget sector – the biggest hotel construction period in the industry's history.

Of course, the recession has had an impact and the recession is discouraging some investment. More than 30 hotel developments have been put on hold or abandoned because developers have either been forced into administration or have faced planning problems. Funding has been another issue. Some of these projects already had hotel companies lined up to operate the development.

So the hospitality industry is not yet out of the woods. But the new BHA *Trends...* publication does show that the industry has survived better than most people had expected. There is a long way to go to until we can return to 2007 levels of confidence and profitability, but we are heading along the right path. Investment still needs to be encouraged and standards must be enhanced, not just maintained. Value for money must be self-evident.

The next 12 months will no doubt be difficult, but the hospitality sector has shown its ability to survive in the bad times as well as the good.



**BOB COTTON** is chief executive of the BHA. *Leisure Opportunities* is a member benefit of the BHA. To order your free copy, call 01462 471915

## IN BRIEF

### Homes plan for Jersey tourist attraction

► The Living Legend attraction in St Peter, Jersey, could be set to close under plans unveiled by the park's owners in August to build 65 houses on the site. According to the *Jersey Evening Post*, the Lewis family said a fall in tourism had led to the need to seek an alternative use for the 5.5-acre (2.2-hectare) site, which boasts a karting complex and two adventure golf courses. Managing director Chris Lewis told the newspaper: "We are continuing to operate as a visitor attraction for the foreseeable future. A decline in tourism has forced us to look at alternatives."

### Weston pier revamp reaches landmark

► Work has started on erecting the frame of the new Pavilion building on the Grand Pier in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. More than 100 tonnes of steel per week will be used to form the structure of the building, which has been designed by Bristol-based architect, Angus Meek. In total, more than 1,100 tonnes of steel is being supplied by local firm Hayley Engineering for the restoration project.

### Lapland park pair to face trial

► Brothers Victor and Henry Mears will face trial over the Lapland New Forest park, which caused uproar in December 2008. The pair are due to appear before Bournemouth Crown Court after they pleaded not guilty to misleading consumers at a recent magistrates' hearing. Established at Matchams on the Hampshire/Dorset border, the Lapland New Forest attraction – owned and operated by the brothers – was forced to close after less than a week after more than 2,000 complaints were lodged with local councils and the RSPCA.

## 'Disney' makeover for Alnwick Castle

Former Disneyland Paris chief named new chief executive of Harry Potter castle

By **Martin Nash**

Christian Perdrier, the former vice president of Disneyland Paris, has been named as the new chief executive at Alnwick Castle in Northumberland.

His appointment is part of a move by the castle's owners, the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, to increase both visitor numbers and revenue at what is one of the UK's largest inhabited castles.

Perdrier said: "Alnwick has huge potential, with benefits for both the Northumberland community and the North East as a whole. The castle and garden attract tourists from around the world and we will ensure our new approach benefits as many businesses in the region as possible."

It is hoped that Perdrier, who formed part of the Dubailand team in the Middle East – a



Alnwick's chief executive Christian Perdrier (left) with the Duchess

complex of theme parks and hotels in Dubai – will help to transform the castle's fortunes.

In addition to the castle – renowned as the location for Hogwarts School in the Harry Potter films – the estate also includes Alnwick Gardens, a separate enterprise containing the world's largest tree house. The two venues attract around 800,000 visitors a year.

The Duchess said that the appointment of Perdrier as chief executive "can do for visitors to Alnwick what Walt Disney has done for children and families all over the world."

"While we don't expect to convert the castle into the Magic Kingdom, I greatly admire the Disney effect and look forward to seeing how we can attract visitors in the future."

## Longleat unveils new attraction

By **Tom Walker**

A new £1.3m interactive exhibit – Animal Adventure – has been unveiled at Longleat Safari Park near Warminster, Wiltshire.

Featuring a number of themed, planted areas, Animal Adventure is aimed at children and has been designed to give visitors the chance to get closer to a number of animals.

The featured areas include a Butterfly Garden, Rabbit World, Guinea Pig Village and a new themed ferret enclosure.

Darren Beasley, head of the Animal Adventure attraction, said: "Animal Adventure will allow us to take interaction with animals one step further as we actively involve our visitors in keeper-led tasks."



The new attraction is aimed at families and their children

"The build has been complicated and we unreservedly apologise that the attraction is opening later than intended."

"We felt, however, that it was imperative to get the build absolutely right not just for the welfare of the animals involved but also for the visitors."

## Paultons Park hit by planning blow

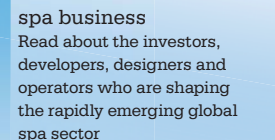
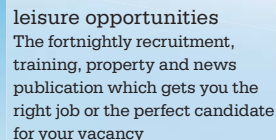
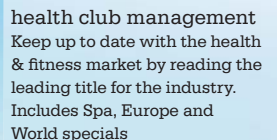
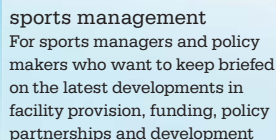
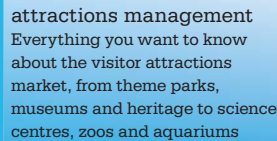
Paultons Park has been refused permission by the New Forest National Park Authority to keep two rides it opened without receiving planning consent.

As previously reported in *Leisure Opportunities*, the Hampshire theme park was forced to retroactively apply for permission for its existing Edge and Cobra rides, which it opened without the proper planning permission.

The rides are located on an area of land that has been used for less than 10 years as an amusement park and therefore require separate applications to the four other rides – located on an approved area of land – which were constructed at around the same time.



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## IN BRIEF

### Indigenous spa planned for Scotland

► A new spa is to open within the luxury Blythswood Square Hotel in Glasgow, Scotland, with the redevelopment of one of the city's most famous buildings, the former Royal Scottish Automobile Club. Covering 10,000sq ft (929sq m), the spa will feature indigenous Scottish treatments designed by spa director Matt Laird in conjunction with the organic product house ILA, as well as therapies using Anne Sémonin products. There will be nine treatment rooms, including a double suite.

### Cornish Eco-hotel opens in Morgan Porth

► The Scarlet eco-hotel in Morgan Porth, Cornwall, has launched on a clifftop overlooking the Atlantic Ocean with a 9,149sq ft (850sq m) spa. Using Tri-Dosha ayurvedic products as well as Voya seaweed preparations, the treatments offered are holistic in focus, there being seven different types, all representing a series of journeys.

### Cowshed Carnaby launches in Soho

► A new concept store and spa created by the Cowshed brand has opened in central London. Located in Soho, Cowshed Carnaby has been created to showcase the brand and follows the original Cowshed Relax Spa at Babington House in Somerset, and a sister site in Notting Hill, London. A range of signature treatments are offered, such as manicures and pedicures, while the store also boasts a number of 'speedy' therapies for the time-poor. All treatments use Cowshed's own product range which features organic and fair trade botanicals, all of which are naturally-based.

## Luxury spa launches at manor house

Grade II-listed Hoole Hall's new spa includes 14 treatment rooms and a large pool

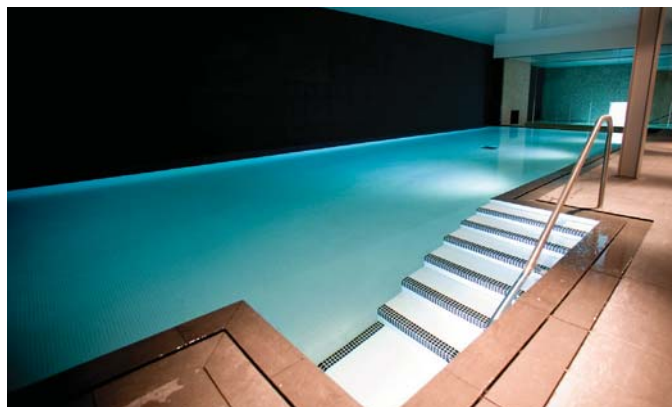
By Sarah Todd & Tom Walker

An £8m, luxury spa opened to the public on 2 November in Chester, Cheshire.

The Club and Spa at Hoole Hall has been built in the grounds of the former 18th century Hoole Hall manor house, which is now the Doubletree by Hilton Chester hotel. The Grade II-listed 72-bedroom hotel is owned by Sanguine Hospitality.

Located in the hotel's walled garden, the spa will offer a total of 14 treatment rooms, including two couple suites, a relaxation area and a 18m swimming pool, an experience pool and a plunge pool.

There will also be a Finnish sauna, steam room, Rasul



The 18m swimming pool is adjacent to a spa experience pool

chamber, a hammam and a meditation room.

The spa's large fitness suite will include a gym, two dance studios and changing rooms.

The opening of the spa is part of a multi-phase £26.5m redevelopment of the property

by Denozon Contracts and Falconer Chester Hall Architects.

Sara Sowden has been appointed as the new fitness manager at the spa, joining Hoole Hall from Old Hall Country Club in Chester, where she worked as a gym manager.

## ISPA announces new board members for 2010

By Tom Walker

The International Spa Association (ISPA) has revealed its 2010 board of directors, including four new members.

For the second year, chair Jean Kolb will lead the board, with the four newly elected board members being Dr Kathryn Dundas, the CEO of Sublime Energy Medical Spa; the group director of spa for Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, Andrew Gibson; Ella Stimpson,



Andrew Gibson, one of the new ISPA board directors

spa director at The Broadmoor; and Paul Schmidt, the owner of Living Energy Design.

Each member of the ISPA Board volunteers their time to help to lead the global association and develop plans for both enhancing membership and boosting the spa industry through research events and education.

Kolb said: "I'm honoured to lead the members of ISPA, which will continue to provide valuable resources and opportunities to its members that will help them through this turbulent time."

## Clarins Most Dynamisante Woman of the Year

The Clarins Most Dynamisante Woman of the Year award has been announced.

The initiative recognises exceptional British women who work to help sick or underprivileged children, and rewards their charity with a donation of £30,000. The 2009 winner has been named as Julie Perry, a trained nurse and

social worker from Elton, near Peterborough, who founded the Indi Project.

Perry's charity helps homeless and orphaned children she first encountered while on a family holiday in Timboni, Kenya. The Indi Project has already resulted in a new school, attended by 233 children, which has been built in Timboni.



## Cultural Olympiad schemes unveiled

Twelve projects will share total grant funding of £5.4m made available by ACE

By **Pete Hayman**

Arts Council England (ACE) and Olympic organisers have announced the 12 regional cultural schemes that have been commissioned for a major project as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

More than 2,000 entries were received as part of the 'Artists taking the lead' initiative, which saw independent panels of artists and producers select the 12 regional commissions that will now receive a share of a total grant of £5.4m.

Developed throughout 2010 and 2011, each project aims to celebrate the UK's cultural heritage and highlight contemporary issues in the lead up to the London 2012



**Alfie Dennen and Paula Le Dieu have been selected from London**

Olympics. Nine projects will represent each English region, while three others have been selected to represent Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Among the commissions is a scheme by artists Alfie Dennen and Paula Le Dieu to provide

LED panels on the roofs of bus stops in London to provide an opportunity for commuters to interact with one another.

Meanwhile, an eco-friendly watermill will be floated on the River Tyne in the North East region by the Owl Project.

## GLL unveils new London community arts centre

By **Pete Hayman**

Leisure trust Greenwich Leisure (GLL) has unveiled a new community facility in Plumstead, East London, designed to offer local residents access to a range of arts and sports activities.

Among the activities provided by the Warehouse Sports and Performing Arts Centre are Royal Academy of Dance ballet classes, drama improvisation for pre-school



**The Warehouse in Plumstead**

children and musical instrument tuition as well as classes in musical theatre.

Football, gymnastics, martial arts and badminton will also be included as part of the new centre's provision, which is located at Greenwich Council's former Plumstead Leisure Centre and incorporates classes and groups formerly held at the Woolwich Tramshed.

Centre manager Ali Steele said: "We have given the centre a face-lift with new reception floor, new dance flooring, mirrors, a new colour scheme and a new logo.

### IN BRIEF

#### Tate unveils movie legacy project

► Aardman, the animation company behind Wallace and Gromit, is set to team up with arts organisation Tate and Legacy Trust UK to create a new movie made for and by children. The Tate Movie Project, which will also involve creative agency Fallon, will see Tate and Aardman run production workshops across the UK in order to inspire children aged between five and 11 years old to contribute their ideas to the movie. A national network of museums and galleries, teachers and children's services, will also be involved to ensure that children from a range of backgrounds are given the chance to participate.

#### New lease of life for Derby Theatre

► A theatre threatened with closure when its owner entered administration in 2007 has reopened after being handed a new lease of life by the University of Derby. The Derby Theatre - formerly known as the Derby Playhouse - reopened its doors to the public on 7 October after the university acquired a 99-year lease on the venue from administrators in April.

#### Harley Gallery gets £78,000 Lottery grant

► The Harley Gallery in North Nottinghamshire has been awarded a National Lottery grant of £78,000 to develop two touring exhibitions. Arts Council England, East Midlands, awarded the grant for the two exhibitions, both of which will go on show in 2011 in Nottinghamshire before embarking on a nationwide tour. The first will be Nora Fok - A retrospective exhibition, from January 2011 to March 2013, and the other will be From Txt to Texture from March 2011 to March 2013.

### Neath hall restoration scheme underway

Construction work has started on a £9m scheme to restore the Gwyn Hall in Neath, South Wales, two years after the venue was severely damaged by fire.

Swansea-based contractor John Weaver has been appointed to carry out the scheme, the first stage of which includes stonework repairs,

cleaning and re-pointing. The main restoration work is set to get underway in the New Year.

When complete, the restored Gwyn Hall, designed by Holder Mathias Architects, will feature a ground-floor theatre with retractable seating, a cinema and a café. The venue will also be fully inclusive for all ages and abilities.

## IN BRIEF

### DEFRA grant for West Midlands park

► Sutton Park in the West Midlands has received a £1m boost in recognition of its status as one of the UK's most significant parks. The park, in Sutton Coldfield, has scooped a Higher Level Stewardship grant from DEFRA worth £954,240 over the next ten years, plus Forestry Commission Woodland Grants and additional funding for scheduled ancient monument status from English Heritage. The Higher Level Stewardship grant will fund heathland restoration works, countryside restoration in other sensitive areas of the park, proposals for woodland management, improved visitor experience and scientific and archaeological research.

### Former mine undergoes revamp

► The former Water Haigh coal mine between Woodlesford and Swillington near Leeds, West Yorkshire, has been transformed into a new woodland park. Funding for the scheme, which was carried out by Leeds City Council's parks and countryside team, was provided by landfill communities fund Biffaward, Green Leeds Limited and the Forestry Commission. Work included the installation of signs and interpretative panels, a new seating and picnic area along the edge of the Trans Pennine Trail, new footpaths and the planting of new saplings.

### Trust acquires Rushmere Park

► The Greensand Trust has partnered with Central Bedfordshire Council to acquire Rushmere Park near Leighton Buzzard. The 210-acre park, which was formerly owned by the Stockgrove Park Estate, has been in private ownership for a number of years.

## BW to launch Caledonian canoe trail

Revamped canal to feature low level access pontoons and new campsites

By **Martin Nash**

British Waterways Scotland – in partnership with the Highland Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland and the Scottish Canoe Association – has developed plans for a new 100km (62-mile) canoe trail from Fort William to Inverness.

The new Great Glen Canoe Trail is designed to capitalise on the growing canoe tourism market, currently estimated to increase 25 per cent year on year. It will also add to the contribution in tourism spend from the Caledonian Canal, currently estimated to make up 14 per cent of the total tourism spend in the Highlands.

At present, around 2,500 paddlers visit the Caledonian Canal spending around



It is hoped that the 62-mile trail will attract visitors of all ages

£750,000 per annum locally. As well as the canal corridors, the Caledonian travels through four lochs, including Loch Ness.

The canoe trail will feature a wide range of amenities, such as low level access pontoons at each of the canal's locks and bridges, informal campsites with open side shelters, fire pits

and composting toilets, and dedicated car parking facilities.

As well as the development of an interpretative plan for the route, there will also be a website, a trail map and, it is hoped, a canoe festival.

Subject to funding, the Great Glen Canoe Trail will be completed by spring 2012.

## Westonbirt unveils £10m treetop canopy proposals

By **Pete Hayman**

Westonbirt – The National Arboretum near Tetbury, Gloucestershire, has unveiled plans to construct a new £10m treetop canopy experience.

The Forestry Commission-operated attraction is set to consult with visitors between 24 October and 5 November in order to determine what the canopy experience will be, with five short-listed options including a walkway and a rising platform.

In addition to the treetop experience, a sustainably-designed Gateway Building will be built at the entrance to the Arboretum, which will aim to provide visitors with an insight into the role of the attraction. The Westonbirt Project will also feature a new purpose-built



The treetop adventure will be within the popular arboretum

learning facility, which will cater a range of lifelong learning schemes, a new plant propagation centre and improved car park facilities.

Director of the Westonbirt Project, Miranda Winram, said: "Westonbirt is a national treasure – loved and valued

by thousands of people around the region.

"With all this support, we aim to conserve our wonderful heritage and unrivalled tree collection and make Westonbirt the place to find out more about the importance of trees in our lives."





## Partnership Development/ Franchise Opportunities

**Aston University** owns and operates an outdoor recreation centre set in 48 acres of green belt land. The complex currently consists of 6 grass pitches, a cricket table, floodlit synthetic surface, 4 squash courts with a changing pavilion containing bar and catering facilities which are used for functions and special events. The centre is located ½ mile from the M6 at the heart of the Midlands motorway network. There is also a large car and coach park for approximately 140 vehicles.

The university is seeking to increase overall levels of income from the centre through the development of new activities. The recreation grounds contain a number of areas which could be redeveloped for sport and recreation and the university is seeking to investigate partnership or franchise arrangements for these activities.

Individuals or organisations who are currently involved in franchise or partnership arrangements are invited to contact Mike Kirkman, Head of Sport and Recreation on **0121 204 4624**, e-mail – [m.kirkman@aston.ac.uk](mailto:m.kirkman@aston.ac.uk) for an initial informal discussion.

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Management of Southwood Golf Course, Farnborough, Hampshire

**Rushmoor Borough Council** is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI's) from suitably experienced and qualified companies who wish to be considered for selection to tender for the full management of Southwood Golf Course from April 2010 for up to 9 years.

**Interested parties are asked to submit EOI's and to include their:**

- Company name, address, contact name and registration number
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## IN BRIEF

### Council considers Taunton pool plans

► A new swimming pool could be built in Taunton, Somerset, under plans to improve the town's swimming provision being considered by Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC). According to a report put before the Community Scrutiny Committee on 13 October, the two existing swimming pools – Station Road and St James Street – are "coming to the end of their useful lives". A feasibility study, carried out by Strategic Leisure, put before the council in 2005 found that a new pool would cost around £10m, although TDBC will update the findings to take the scheme forward. The six-lane 33m swimming pool at Station Road first opened in 1974, while the St James Street Pool dates back to 1935.

### W London Leicester Square topped out

► Construction work on the W London Leicester Square hotel has reached the topping out phase. Designed by Jestico and Whiles Architects, the hotel is being built by Irish developer, the McAleer & Rushe Group, and is set to open in October 2010. The 194-bedroom hotel will be owned and operated by Starwood Hotels and Resorts and will include 10 two-level luxury branded residences, a signature spa, a SWEAT-branded health and fitness club, a destination restaurant and a Living Room-branded night club. It will be the first of two W-branded hotels to open in the UK next year. The other, in Manchester, has been designed by architect Ian Simpson and is scheduled to open by the end of 2010.

## Council approves £330m village plans

Major Forestmill development given the green light by Clackmannanshire Council

By **Pete Hayman**

The £330m Forestmill village development, which is set to be built near Alloa, Clackmannanshire, has been given the green light by the local authority.

Clackmannanshire Council's decision to award planning permission follows the Scottish Government's announcement in June that a public inquiry into the scheme had been scrapped due to the approval of the Clackmannanshire Structure Plan 3rd Alteration.

Fife-based developer The Muir Group now expects work to get underway on the project within the next three years, which will include a 100-bed-room hotel and a championship-standard golf course.

A range of community and leisure facilities – such as a



The Muir Group is behind the plans for the Forestmill development

bowling green, tennis courts and a leisure centre – and a housing scheme are also proposed as part of the development, which will see the restoration and upgrade of Meadowhill open cast mine.

Clackmannanshire Council's planning committee convener, Alistair Campbell, said: "Our

work with The Muir Group over the past decade has brought this application to fruition and their commitment to developing in Clackmannanshire further demonstrates the attractiveness of Clackmannanshire as a location with good transport links and which offers an excellent quality of life."

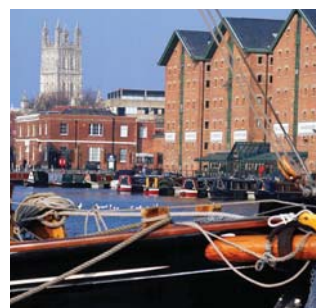
## Gloucester receives £11m boost

By **Pete Hayman**

Plans for the regeneration of Gloucester city centre have been handed a boost after receiving £11.2m from the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA).

The Economic Linkages project to improve public areas and streets between the city centre and a £400m Gloucester Quays retail development is in line to receive £7m.

It is hoped that the funding package, of which the remaining £4.2m will go towards the completion of the Gloucester Docks scheme, will help the city to fulfil its economic potential.



The docks will receive funding

Ian Knight, SWRDA area director, said: "The fact this project has made it through a tough process following substantial budget cuts at the RDA, shows the economic significance of Gloucester's docks and city centre."

## Argyll hotels net HIE funding

Plans for a major £7.4m refurbishment of two hotels in Argyll, West Scotland – the Ugadale Hotel in Machrihanish and the Royal Hotel in Campbeltown – have been handed a £1.2m boost by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

US-based Southworth Development is behind the scheme through its Kintyre Development Company subsidiary, which also owns the new Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club – an 18-hole links course opened in July.



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#### CONTENT:

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#### SPEAKERS:

**John Treharne**, CEO, The Gym Group - the largest and fastest expanding of the UK's low cost Gym operators.

**Ray Algar**, Managing Director, Oxygen Consulting. The company provides strategic business insight to organisations connected to the global health and fitness industry and has recently completed assignments for adidas and Unilever.

#### PROGRAMME

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<b>6.45pm</b> Speakers	£55.00 + VAT member guests
<b>7.30pm</b> Panel Discussion with Q&As	£90.00 + VAT non members
<b>7.45pm</b> Refreshments and networking	
<b>8.30pm</b> Close	

**TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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## IN BRIEF

### ATP's tobacco deal angers health body

► The World Health Organisation (WHO) has voiced its concerns over the sponsorship deal between a prestigious ATP tennis tournament and Imperial, one of the largest tobacco manufacturers in the world. The Basel ATP World Tour 500 tournament in Switzerland will be sponsored by Davidoff, Imperial's luxury brand of goods which include cigars and cigarettes. Tobacco advertising has been banned by the EU in all its member states since 2005, but Switzerland is not in the EU, thus the sponsorship is legal.

### Leisure passport for Tees Valley

► Tees Valley Leisure has become the latest leisure trust to launch its own 'leisure passport' scheme. The initiative, run in partnership with Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and supported by Sport England, will aim to encourage people to take up sport and physical activity. People applying for a passport are awarded up to 25 per cent discounts on selected leisure and sport activities at five leisure centres in the region.

### Haven expands free swimming offer

► Holiday park operator Haven Holidays has teamed up with the Swimming Teachers' Association to offer free swimming lessons to guests at its parks. Haven will run its Learn2 Swim programme for free at all of its 35 parks during 2010. Marcus van der Gaag, Haven's sports and leisure director, said: "We are very proud of our association with the STA. Many of our guests say that being on holiday is an ideal time to have swimming lessons, especially if they are on the holiday park for a week or more and can fit in three or more sessions."

## National Trust unveils branded foods

New product range will be made available at supermarkets and includes pale ale

By **Pete Hayman**

A new range of branded food and drink – including potatoes, beer and meat products – is to be rolled out across the country by the National Trust (NT).

The phased launch of the trust's eponymous products is now underway, with items having been inspired by both the organisation's own produce and from traditional recipes.

Potatoes grown on 420 acres (170 hectares) of NT-owned land at Trehill Farm in Pembrokeshire, Wales, will be sold at supermarkets from early October, while three varieties of bread will be offered by the trust's tearooms and restaurants across the UK.

NT tearooms and restaurants, as well as independent



The new products will use potatoes grown on NT-owned land

licensees, will also sell Viceroy India Pale Ale, which is brewed by the Westerham Brewery in Kent and uses hops from the trust's last remaining hop garden at Scotney Castle.

Rob Macklin, NT head of agriculture, said: "We are

running several campaigns that promote the idea of sustainable food, but this is the first time that we have been able to put our ideas into practice by creating a range of high quality, but affordably priced, foods and drinks."

## Vending machine rethink urged

By **Pete Hayman**

Leisure centres are undermining efforts to increase health levels among young people by stocking junk food in vending machines, according to the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

A BHF report, called *Fit Choice*, has blamed a lack of regulation for allowing a range of leisure facilities – including ice rinks, bowling alleys and park cafés – to offer unhealthy products in an environment where children go to get fit.

Prepared on behalf of the BHF by the Food Commission, the study found that vending machines at each of the 35 venues surveyed in the London area stocked products high in fats, salts and sugars.

The BHF said that leisure facilities were undermining efforts to increase the number



The BHF said machines should not offer unhealthy products

of children becoming fitter and more active by offering the type of products that are no longer advertised on children's television or sold in school vending machines.

Less than 50 per cent of the venues visited displayed fresh fruit as part of the food offer, while just two facilities provided the nutritional information that could better inform children and parents.

### £82m Premier deal for bank

Barclays has secured an £82.25m agreement that will see the bank extend its sponsorship of the Premier League for an additional three years from 2010-11.

The deal, which will run through to the end of the 2012-13 season, will enable the bank to own global title sponsorship rights for the competition, as well as UK and international television accreditation and advertising rights.

Richard Scudamore, Premier League CEO, said: "Barclays' commitment is critical to helping us put on a top quality football competition that is watched and enjoyed by fans across the world."





A total of 200 people will be given scholarships in hospitality

## Scholarship scheme for Scotland

Sixth round of initiative secures £100,000 of funding

By **Tom Walker**

The Hospitality Industry Trust (HIT) Scotland has launched a £100,000 scholarship scheme to help leisure, hospitality, travel and tourism businesses in Scotland inspire their employees during the recession.

Applications are now being received for an emerging talent scholarship scheme, which aims to identify 200 ambitious and talented individuals to attend training courses.

HIT estimates that the programme, now in its sixth year, could potentially return more than £1m through new skills, promoting best practice,

improving staff retention across the industry and raising aspirations to encourage professional development.

Previous recipients have attended the Disney Institute in Florida, Ecole du Hotelier in Lausanne, Switzerland, and Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration in New York state. Aspiring chefs have been placed in Michelin starred kitchens and sommeliers with top wine experts. HR, marketing and events staff are also covered through the scheme.

Entries close on the 11th December 2009 and the scholarships will be announced in February 2010.

## Fit for Sport reports 2009

Fit for Sport, the healthy lifestyle activities provider, has reported a 14.5 per cent increase in children's activity levels of those taking part in its nationwide Fitter Schools UK Challenge.

More than 14,500 school children are currently receiving healthy lifestyle education each week through Fit for Sport, which has also

seen 7 million UK families engage in the Fitter Families initiative during 2009.

Working in partnership with local authorities and primary care trusts, the free, nationwide Fitter Families scheme aims to provide families with the opportunity to improve health and fitness as part of the organisation's pledge to "keep the future fit".

## The future is secure for another five years

SkillsActive is moving forward with a new license and remit for delivery

**A**fter months of waiting, I am delighted to say we have finally been officially relicensed as the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Active Leisure and Learning. Following a rigorous relicensing process by the government, we were not only successful in having our five year license renewed, but also judged as a good SSC with a number of outstanding areas, namely employer engagement, leadership, project management and delivery. And I am thrilled with this assessment, as our sector employers are our bread and butter and if we're not delivering on their behalf then we're doing something wrong.

Over the last five years our focus has been on increasing the demand for skills, along with raising the quality of skills provision, creating a fit for purpose system of training, and lobbying funding agencies and policy makers to invest in this employer-led framework. This can be demonstrated in a variety of ways, for example the development and delivery of apprenticeships. These programmes have developed and rapidly grown in a sector with no tradition for such structured work-based programmes and more than 4,000 apprentices have been certificated in the past 12 months.

The development of a broad range of S/NVQs that have become established across the industry – there has been a 30 per cent increase in people completing their qualification, and we have issued around 22,000 certificates already this year. We should also not forget our National Skills Academy, which since its creation, has led to a one-stop shop for the industry to access quality assured training and support in four out of nine English regions.

Our renewed license is based on a new five year plan of delivery. We need to ensure all qualifications in the sector are on the new Qualifications and Credit framework – in which case they have to be the qualifications employers want their future workforce to have. We need to ensure our National Skills Academy continues to expand across the whole of the country and look at ways it could work within the home nations.

The fact that we have been relicensed is a testament to the commitment and passion of my staff who are working tirelessly on behalf of the sector. So for me, right now, it's important to recognise how far we've come and say with pride that we're going in the right direction. But it's also just as important to recognise the journey has only just started and we've a long way to go. However, working together, I know that we'll get there.



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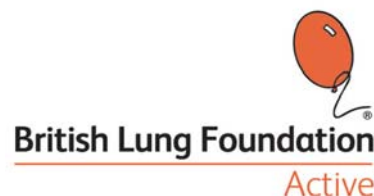
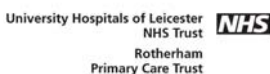
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**Carmarthen Leisure Centre  
Duty Supervisor x 2**

£17,161 - £21,519 (Scale 4/5)

Ref.: 007452

A key role supporting the Centre's Co-ordinator in the effective management and supervision of operational and financial performance maintaining a high quality service delivering programming and promotion, Operations / health & safety plus learning and development. If applicants do not currently hold a pool plant qualification, successful applicants will be expected to gain it within 6 months of appointment.

For an informal discussion please contact Gary Price on 01267 224700 or e-mail [gprice@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:gprice@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

**Amman Valley Leisure Centre  
Duty Supervisor**

£17,161 - £21,519 (Scale 4/5)

Ref.: 003045

A key role supporting the Centre's Co-ordinator in the effective management and supervision of operational and financial performance maintaining a high quality service delivering programming and promotion, Operations / health & safety plus learning and development. If applicants do not currently hold a pool plant qualification, successful applicants will be expected to gain it within 6 months of appointment.

For an informal discussion please contact Andrew Sellick on 01554 774757 or e-mail [asellick@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:asellick@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

**Closing Date:  
27th November, 2009**

Apply online [www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

Application forms are available from 01267 234567 or e-mail [direct@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:direct@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) or apply online



[www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk)



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Community Services  
Sport and Arts

**Partnership Director  
CSW Sport**

£43,128 - £46,276 pa

Ref: MS/240/09

Temporary - March 2012

**Are you able to lead a dynamic team that will be working in sport for Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire?**

CSW Sport and Physical Activity Partnership is recruiting a new Director to take the organisation forward to 2012.

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**Closing date: 21st November 2009.**

**Interview date: 7th December 2009.**

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**We no longer accept emailed application forms.**

★ This post is exempt under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and as such an appointment to this post will be conditional upon the receipt of a satisfactory response to a check of police records via the Criminal Records Bureau.

This authority is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



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## Cheshire West & Chester Council

### Regeneration & Culture Department

## Sport Development Officer (Sports & Events) (2 posts)

£21,519 - £24,646 p.a.

Ref: CWC362

## Sport Development Officer (Community)

£21,519 - £24,646 p.a.

Ref: CWC363

## Assistant Sports Development Officer

£16,830 - £19,126 p.a.

Ref: CWC364

We are looking for people to deliver Chester West and Chester's "Active and Healthy People agenda".

We are looking to recruit staff with good communication skills, who can work on their own but also be part of our forward looking team to lead and assist in developing sporting, leisure and health opportunities.

A leisure qualification and appropriate experience of working in the health and leisure industry with particular experience of working with schools, clubs and coaches. Knowledge of sports, community participation and health programmes is essential. Experience of working with other sports organisations/agencies including Sport England would be an advantage.

All posts require a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) enhanced check

- Developing of opportunities for all sections of the community
- Implementing of participation and health programmes
- Community training and developing volunteers
- Supporting wider community health events

Closing date for all posts: 27th November 2009.

To apply visit [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)  
Application forms to be returned to [jobs@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:jobs@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)  
or apply online quoting relevant reference numbers.

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Sorry no CVs.

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applicants from all sections of the community.

Visit: [cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)



Cheshire West and Chester



St. Helen's

## LEISURE ASSISTANT

Harrow/Watford area - c£15,000

40 hours per week

Outstanding dual use leisure complex includes 25m pool and fitness suite. Centre is used by our 1150 pupils, open for lettings and home to a thriving swim school.

You will work in a small team responsible for day to day running of the centre. You will be a qualified lifeguard (NPLQ) and desirably have a pool plant operators certificate.

Benefits include pension scheme, free lunches, uniform and use of the fitness facilities.

Closing date: 24th November 2009

For an application form and job description please go to [www.sthn.co.uk/jobs](http://www.sthn.co.uk/jobs)

For the welfare and security of our girls this post will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.

## SALES EXECUTIVES REQUIRED



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Five Different Regions: Midlands, North West, North East, South West & Wales, Scotland

- Basic + Commission Structure to be high income earner
- Applicants must have good energy, strong personality and be prepared to travel

Interviews will be taking place during the next few weeks.

Please send your CV as soon as possible to: [keith.morton@panattasport.com](mailto:keith.morton@panattasport.com) or call 07947 610364.

[www.leisureopportunities.co.uk](http://www.leisureopportunities.co.uk)

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e: [leisureops@leisuremedia.com](mailto:leisureops@leisuremedia.com)







## UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Facilities Directorate  
Sport and Physical Activity

## INSPIRE THROUGH EXCELLENCE

## Operations Manager

The University of Leeds is the UK's second largest higher education institution and widely regarded as a world leading research intensive university. We are transforming our sporting provision to meet our vision of becoming a leading sporting institution and will open our new £12.5m Swimming Pool and 200 station Fitness Suite shortly.

We are seeking to appoint an Operations Manager to assume responsibility for many of the new facilities. You must be

- Experienced in delivering stretching targets in a commercial environment
- Able to set and manage the highest standards of customer service
- A proven leader with experience of managing large teams of staff

Read more about our new facility on [www.leeds.ac.uk/sportsrevolution](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/sportsrevolution) and our existing facilities on [www.leeds.ac.uk/sport](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/sport)

University Grade 7 (£29,704 - £35,469 p.a.)

Informal enquiries to Mr W.J.C. Butterworth, email [w.j.c.butterworth@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:w.j.c.butterworth@leeds.ac.uk), tel +44 (0)113 343 4921.

To download an application form and job details please visit [www.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.leeds.ac.uk) and click on jobs. Alternatively these may be obtained from James Winn, Sports Administration Officer, email, [sport@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:sport@leeds.ac.uk) tel +44 (0)113 343 5080. Job ref 211097

Closing date 24 November 2009

Interviews will take place on 2 December 2009

WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY [www.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.leeds.ac.uk)

## SHAPING YOUR FUTURE



## Solihull College

Solihull College is a leading provider of Further and Higher education in the West Midlands, awarded good grades in its 2006 OFSTED inspection and now self assessing as outstanding in many areas. The College has embarked upon a major new building project to develop the existing campus in the south of the borough.

## NVQ Football Tutor / Coach

Post No: RD/01/11

£22.31 per hour

Are you an experienced UEFA 'B' Coach who is interested in extending learners skills and understanding of football coaching and performance? With teaching and/or assessing experience, you will be required to teach on NVQ Coaching Level 2 Apprenticeship Courses on the Solihull College Football Development Scheme. The successful candidate will be required to drive a Minibus therefore a full driving licence is essential. It would also be an advantage to hold a teaching qualification and/or an assessor qualification or be prepared to work towards.

Closing date: 24th November 2009.

For further information and an application form, please telephone 0121 678 7058 (answerphone). Alternatively, for further details email: [HR@solihull.ac.uk](mailto:HR@solihull.ac.uk) or visit: [www.solihull.ac.uk](http://www.solihull.ac.uk) or write to Solihull College, Blossomfield Road, Solihull B91 1SB.

Solihull College is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.



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[www.solihull.ac.uk](http://www.solihull.ac.uk)

## DC LEISURE

Developing Community Leisure

DC Leisure, the UK's leading management provider operating 111 facilities nationwide, have an immediate vacancy for a

## Regional Technical Support Manager

Due to the continual growth and importance of DC Leisure's technical and environmental commitments we wish to appoint a Regional Technical Support Manager to support the needs of both existing and new business opportunities.

## The principle role of this senior position will be:

- Supporting the Group Technical Manager on all Building Services technical and environmental related issues.
- Promote and progress DC Leisure's corporate commitments in relation to the Technical, H & S and Environmental QMS
- Providing technical support to Business Development in the preparation and delivery of new and renewed management contracts.

Suitable applicants will have demonstrable experience in a Building Services related discipline, (preferably within the leisure industry), an awareness of the onset of the Carbon Reduction Commitment legislation with a proven track record and qualified to either degree or HND standard in a Building Services or FM related subject.

The position will be based at the Company's Head Office in Bagshot, Surrey but will involve extensive travel to the various nationwide Centres with the occasional overnight stay. Salary negotiable with company car.

Please send CV with covering letter by Friday 20 November to: Peter Richmond, Group Technical Manager, DC Leisure Management Ltd., 2 Freemanle Road, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5LL Or [peterrichmond@dcleisure.co.uk](mailto:peterrichmond@dcleisure.co.uk)

For an informal discussion please contact Peter Richmond on 07760 373932

DC Leisure is an Equal Opportunities Employer

## Where do your talents lie?



The Country Club Group currently own/operate five golf clubs all located in the South East of England.

Thanks to a combined £7M investment, two of our sites at Cranleigh and Slinfold have been transformed into modern golf & country clubs, with brand new 5-star health and fitness facilities including gyms, swimming pools, fitness studios, crèches, spas, treatment rooms, palatial locker rooms and extensive food and beverage facilities.

With one eye firmly on the future and our growth ambitions for 2010, the company now wishes to meet self-motivated, ambitious, hard-working individuals across key positions relating to the operations of similar premium-end 'country club' facilities.

If you're interested in learning more about our company and potentially joining our team, visit [www.ccgcareers.com](http://www.ccgcareers.com)

or send your CV by post to: Matthew Orwin, Country Club Group, Mill Ride Golf Club, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8LT

Achieve your potential



COUNTRY CLUB GROUP

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- ▶ Your company logo as a button on leisureopportunities.co.uk which clicks either to a landing page or directly to your website.
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**£800 per month + vat**

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- ▶ Your company logo as a button on leisureopportunities.co.uk which clicks either to a landing page or directly to your website.
- ▶ The vacancies will also be listed on leisureopportunities.co.uk and will feature in all relevant e-zines.

**£1200 per month + vat**

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- ▶ A featured job on the leisureopportunities.co.uk e-zine for the duration of the booking.
- ▶ A designed advert on the job details page.
- ▶ Your job on the “featured jobs” pull down menu.

**£1500 + vat**

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- ▶ Discounts available for multiple jobs.



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**For further details contact the Leisure Opportunities team on +44 (0)1462 471747**

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Tel: +44 (0)1462 471747 Fax: +44 (0)1462 433909

**Job board: [www.leisureopportunities.co.uk](http://www.leisureopportunities.co.uk) E-mail: [leisureopps@leisuremedia.com](mailto:leisureopps@leisuremedia.com)**



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- Basic + Commission Structure to be high income earner
- Applicants must have good energy, strong personality and be prepared to travel

Interviews will be taking place during the next few weeks.

Please send your CV as soon as possible to:  
**keith.morton@panattasport.com** or call 07947 610364.



VisitEngland

## Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme Manager

Salary: £34,000

Do you care about quality and the visitor experience?

If so, we want to hear from you.

VisitEngland is the national tourism body which promotes England to the British. The Industry Services team within VisitEngland currently runs nineteen different quality assurance schemes including one for visitor attractions (VAQAS). Our key aim is to increase the quality of the visitor experience.

We are seeking a tourism professional who is looking for a fresh challenge. Applicants will be self motivated, outgoing and be used to running a team and working within budget to targets set. Based in London, the Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme Manager is responsible for the development of VAQAS, scheme recruitment of visitor attractions, the running of the assessment team and also managing the migration of data to a new database. You must have IT and presentational skills and be prepared to travel in England and spend some nights away from home. You will also be in possession of a clean driving licence.

For further details and to apply,  
please visit our career page on  
**www.visitbritain.org/aboutus/careers**

Closing date for applications: 22 November 2009



# news & jobs at [www.leisureopportunities.co.uk](http://www.leisureopportunities.co.uk)

## Gateshead Football Club unveils new stadium plans

Blue Square Premier outfit reveals ambitious proposals for 9,000-capacity venue to boost region's 2018 bid

By **Pete Hayman**

Gateshead Football Club (GFC) has unveiled plans to develop a new 9,000-capacity stadium on a derelict site formerly occupied by North Durham Cricket and Rugby Club.

The proposals, announced a week after the club confirmed it intends to become a full-time professional club in 2010, form part of wider efforts to boost GFC's bid to gain promotion to the Football League.

Plans for the stadium include a 2,000-seat main stand, a

medical room, dressing rooms, a reception, club offices and media facilities as well as executive boxes and space for matchday hospitality.

The venue, which will boast a 105m x 68m (344ft x 223ft) FIFA standard pitch, will form part of Newcastle/Gateshead's bid to be included as a host city for the 2018 World Cup.

GFC chair Graham Wood said: "We have achieved an awful lot over the last few years and the construction of a new stadium in a central location is pivotal to our aspirations."



The venue will boast a 2,000-seat main stand and dressing rooms

## University of Leeds set for £12.2m leisure complex

By **Pete Hayman**

A new £12.2m swimming pool and fitness complex – one of the largest to be built at a UK university – is set to open at the University of Leeds, West Yorkshire, in summer 2010.

Construction company Willmott Dixon is building the new facility, which has been designed by the London-based architects behind the 2012 Olympic Aquatic Centre, S&P.



Plans boast an eight-lane pool

Facilities will include a 25m, eight-lane swimming pool with a partially moveable floor, capable of hosting water-based

sports such as water polo, sub aqua and canoe polo.

The centre will boast a 200-station, 900sq m (9,688sq ft) fitness suite equipped by Technogym, a health suite with a sauna and a steamroom and changing rooms.

Conference and meeting delegates visiting the university will have the chance to take advantage of the facilities when complete, as well as students, staff and the local community.

## Historic Town Pier reopens

Members of the public have been given the chance to access the Town Pier in Gravesend, Kent, for the first time since March 2009 after it reopened on 6 November.

The historic pier was forced to close earlier this year after Q Breweries, the previous tenant of the Riva restaurant, was placed into administration.

## CONTACTS BOOK

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