Champneys health spa resorts have entered into partnership with the National Health Service (NHS) to offer the diabetes education programme, Desmond. The programme will be at the resorts at Champneys Tring in Hertfordshire and Champneys Springs in Leicestershire. Desmond is an NHS programme developed by the Leicester Diabetes Centre teaching people with Type 2 diabetes to manage their condition and is delivered by more than 90 NHS trusts. Continued on back cover

US-based health club chain Equinox has revealed plans to open two new full-service properties in London.

The premium operator, which opened its first UK club in the capital’s upmarket Kensington area in 2012, said the two new clubs will form part of plans for a “continued expansion throughout London in the coming years”.

The first of the new clubs, located at 12 St. James’s Street in central London, will open its doors in 2017 while the second – set to be located in Shoreditch – will be launched in 2019.

“St. James’s and Shoreditch represent two unique communities in our city,” said Gentry Long, managing director of operations in the UK.

“Each, like Equinox, are grounded in substance and elevated in style. Knowing that there is significant demand for the Equinox lifestyle in London, we feel confident that our offerings will further enhance the culture of these already vibrant neighbourhoods.”

Long added that the concept for the St James’ club will be an “intimate addition to the company’s portfolio” and will distinguish itself from other health and fitness clubs in the marketplace with additional luxury amenities and by introducing a capped membership structure.

The club’s interior will be created by renowned Hong Kong-born designer Joyce Wang, while global architecture firm Woods Bagot has been appointed to build out plans which preserve original details of the historic building, fusing old and new to create a unique backdrop for what Equinox describes as an “exclusive experience”.

The club will offer Tier X, Equinox’s bespoke, performance-driven health coaching, a boutique spa and lounge café.

Equinox currently operates 83 upscale, full-service clubs in the US and Canada, in addition to the single site in London. Details: http://lei.sr?a=s5r9e_O

Champneys and NHS partner for diabetes plan

Champneys health spa resorts have entered into partnership with the National Health Service (NHS) to offer the diabetes education programme, Desmond.

The programme will be at the resorts at Champneys Tring in Hertfordshire and Champneys Springs in Leicestershire. Desmond is an NHS programme developed by the Leicester Diabetes Centre teaching people with Type 2 diabetes to manage their condition and is delivered by more than 90 NHS trusts. Continued on back cover

Equinox to open two new clubs in London

Threat to parks a ‘threat to activity’

The threat to the existence of the UK’s public parks is a threat to the nation’s physical and mental health, a select committee has been told by a number of leading experts.

While 2.6bn visits were made to Britain’s 27,000 public green spaces last year, council budget cuts have had an impact on their maintenance, with funding falling from £3.1m to £2.6m over the last two years.

One of the experts making the case for parks was ukactive strategic projects director Will Smithard, who said they are “fundamental assets” which are “key to breaking down the barriers to activity people face”.

Citing a University of Exeter study, he said that outdoor exercise delivers an “estimated £2.2bn of health benefits” to English adults each year and parks should not be overlooked in terms of the role they play in this. Details: http://lei.sr?a=K8w8b_O
**Call for more tech at stadiums**

Professionals involved in the development of sporting venues and arenas should investigate the merits of technology such as augmented reality and virtual reality in terms of how they could enhance the overall spectator experience.

That is the view of Pascal Vuilliomenet, vice president for innovation and technology transfer at the EPFL Research Institute in Switzerland and co-curator of the Olympic Museum’s new exhibition on past, present and future stadium design.

“We can project ourselves in the future and see how technology can enhance new experiences for spectators,” Vuilliomenet told Leisure Opportunities. “Something that will always remain is the evolution that being in a stadium creates from feeling like one single person to part of a crowd. Together, by sharing an event you will experience things that you cannot experience alone in front of the TV.”

Technologies ready to be used include augmented reality, virtual reality and smartphones— which can provide information and statistics about the on-field action, allow people to share their feelings with other fans, and give them access to different camera angles.

“Take an Olympic stadium as an example,” he said. “You may be watching the athletics and you’re sitting in front of the pole vault but you’re also interested in the 100 metres taking place on the other side of the stadium. With a smartphone, you can watch from a second site. You get to both be inside the stadium and feel the atmosphere, while getting a better view through a screen.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q9w6j_O

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**World Cup strengthens grassroots**

Record revenues for the Rugby Football Union (RFU) contributed to a 5 per cent increase in the organisation’s investment in the grassroots game. The national governing body spent a total of £34.1m on rugby development over 2015-16, up £1.6m from the previous 12 months.

Money was invested in the RFU’s All Schools programme—which is working towards programmes in 750 state schools by 2019—as well as implementing rugby programmes in 750 state schools by 2019— as well as its Young Rugby Ambassadors project first launched in 2013.

Female rugby and touch rugby also received a greater investment than it had previously.

The extra funding was made possible by the record £407.1m revenues the RFU made during a year in which England hosted the Rugby World Cup. Around £55.7m was also ploughed into the professional game.

Ian Ritchie, RFU chief executive, said that 2015-16 was a “truly exceptional year”.

Hosting the 2015 World Cup boosted the RFU’s coffers over the year.

“Despite the huge disappointment of England’s early exit from our home Rugby World Cup, by running the widely acclaimed ‘most successful Rugby World Cup ever’ we have delivered significant investment into rugby both at home and globally,” he added.

“The legacy will continue to benefit our community clubs and the sport at every level and throughout the country.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y4v3q_O
**‘Flexible’ Luton plans unveiled**

The architect behind Luton Town FC’s proposed new stadium has lifted the lid on its plans, with the emphasis on flexibility.

Manuel Nogueira, the founder of AndArchitects, told delegates at the Major Events International Summit that the 17,500-capacity stadium would be built with the capability of adding temporary tiers, and an extensive space for the public.

During non-matchdays, local people will be encouraged to use the outside piazza, and a balcony which gives a view of the pitch from the exterior.

"The piazza will have cafes and restaurants. On non-matchdays people can go up to them, and use the balcony to view the pitch with the floodlights lit at 10 per cent," said Nogueira.

"That pitch will form part of the urban fabric on all non-matchdays."

He revealed that his firm is working with Luton Town to explore ideas, some with a technology focus, about what can be implemented within the outside concourse. The space would also allow other temporary buildings to exist. The stadium is being earmarked for a central part of Luton and is one of two developments which are in for planning permission.

The club has acquired the Newlands Park area, where it is hoping to build offices and retail outlets to pay for the stadium.

Nogueira said that the club will find out if its plans are successful early next year.

*Details: http://lei.sr?l=a=s2K5M_O*

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**PM commits to elite funding boost**

Prime Minister Theresa May has promised that the government will honour the financial commitments pledged by the previous cabinet to fund elite sport ahead over the next Olympic cycle to 2020.

Last November, then chancellor George Osborne increased UK Sport’s exchequer funding pot to £1.48bn (£1.81bn, €1.64bn) to prepare for the Games in Tokyo in four years’ time. During a speech delivered to celebrate the achievements of Great Britain’s Olympic team in Rio this summer – where the team broke previous medal haul records with a total of 67 – May confirmed that would remain the case.

She said: “Last year the government announced a 29 per cent increase in funding for elite sport. It was a bold statement about our determination to invest in your success.

"And that financial commitment will continue under this new government. In four years’ time, I want to see another great parade like today’s after another great summer of success in Tokyo 2020.”

There had been concerns that the economic impact of Britain leaving the European Union would trickle down to elite sport funding, but during an interview with *Leisure Opportunities* earlier this year, UK Sport chief executive Liz Nicholl said the quango had received “no indications” that exchequer funding was at risk.

“If we continue to perform as a system and continue to support our athletes to make the nation proud and inspire the next generation to get active and participate in sport we are providing huge value," Nicholl said.

*Details: http://lei.sr?l=a=T4c2v_O*

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**Threats to FA funding ‘still there’ if body fails to reform**

Karen Bradley, secretary of state for Culture, Media and Sport, has echoed her predecessor and warned the Football Association (FA) that it will lose government funding if it fails to reform.

During her first Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee hearing since her appointment in July, the Staffordshire Moorlands MP said the DCMS has been “on the record” that the football governing body would lose money if it did not diversify its board and improve its governance.

She said the FA was “well aware of the concerns” held by the government and that she expected the organisation to “improve its arrangements”.

*Details: http://lei.sr?l=a=x4n8D_O*

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**EPL to fund autism-friendly facilities for fans**

English Premier League (EPL) football clubs will be able to bid for money to create specific areas in their stadiums for supporters with sensory difficulties following a successful initiative in Sunderland.

The fund is being made possible by the league and BT Disability Programme in association with disability sport charities The Shippey Campaign and The Lord’s Taverners. Sensory rooms create calm, noise-free environments for children and adults, with difficulties such as autism, who want to watch live football.

The first sensory room was opened at Sunderland’s Stadium of Light last year after the co-founder of the Shippey Sensory Room was established, Karen Bradley, secretary of state for Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee hearing since her appointment in July, the Staffordshire Moorlands MP said the DCMS has been “on the record” that the football governing body would lose money if it did not diversify its board and improve its governance.

She said the FA was “well aware of the concerns” held by the government and that she expected the organisation to “improve its arrangements”.

*Details: http://lei.sr?l=a=x4n8D_O*
Gymbox, the London-based gym group, will establish new sites in the capital after securing £39m worth of investment. Business Growth Fund and HSBC have provided the backing, which will initially see the 13-year-old chain launch a new gym in Farringdon.

The former has provided £13m of equity finance – bringing its total investment in Gymbox up to £25m – while the giant bank group has ploughed in a further £26m in debt finance.

Once open, Gymbox’s new Farringdon site will become the firm’s largest gym. It includes a three-lane running track, Olympic-sized boxing ring and London’s largest free weights area.

The organisation currently has eight gyms and 22,000 members. It’s chief point of differentiation is its focus on fun, with colourful work out areas and DJs playing music.

Richard Hilton, chief executive of Gymbox, said: “We continue to revolutionise the fitness industry by ensuring that working out is as much fun as going out. With this funding package and the ongoing support of my management team, BGF and HSBC there is a lot more we can and want to do.”

Gymbox’s plans to grow its presence across the capital were first revealed in February, when brand director David Cooper said the chain remained open to a number of other options for its format, including boutique offerings if the right property becomes available. Details: http://lei.sr?a=k4J4Y_O

3d Leisure has continued the roll-out of its in-house brand, which it launched earlier this year to target clients who want a ready-made branding solution for their fitness sites.

A leisure centre in Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, has become the third property to be operated under the fledgling 3d Health & Fitness brand, joining sites in Corby and Weymouth in the portfolio.

According to 3d Leisure’s operations director Paul Ramsay, the brand has been designed to offer a mid-market solution focused around small group personal training within an affordable membership price.

He added that the group is looking to have up to 20 sites operating under the brand by the end of next year.

“We selected three very different sites for our initial launch to make sure that the concept works in three different markets – education, hotels and stand-alone,” Ramsay said.

“We are already seeing great results and plan to launch in many more existing and new sites over the next 12 months. Once we have a detailed proof of concept then we may well offer a franchise model as we have already had some enquiries on this front.”

The UK-based company is also looking to expand into Europe, with the opening of an office in Greece. It will be headed by country manager Yianni Patsani, who has experience of major development and turn-around projects for spas and health clubs. Details: http://lei.sr?a=s2Y9w_O
**Health & Fitness**

**ukactive matches startups with industry veterans**

Startup businesses in social media, data and wearable technology are being encouraged to develop products and services aimed at promoting physical activity as part of a mentor initiative launched by ukactive.

The not-for-profit health body will match the fledgling organisations with large organisations in the physical activity sector throughout its 12-week ActiveLab programme. Investors in health and fitness, as well as other experienced industry individuals, will support businesses which have developed innovations which can benefit the private, public or third sectors. Details: http://lei.sr?a=H3A8Q_O

**Revamped Tenby Leisure Centre opens its doors**

Tenby Leisure Centre in Pembrokeshire has reopened following a £1.7m redevelopment.

Improvements at the Pembrokeshire County Council-owned (PCC) centre include the installation of a new fitness suite equipped with Technogym kit, the addition of a new exercise studio and the refurbishment of the changing rooms.

The redevelopment works were carried out by contractor WG Evans and managed by PCC’s in-house technical services team.

The redevelopment is part of the council’s £25m Leisure Facility Investment Programme, designed to improve the region’s sports and fitness provision.

PCC chair Tony Brinsden said: “We are very proud of the improvement in leisure services over recent years, and this refurbishment is the last piece of the jigsaw in our £25m programme.

“We hope the fantastic new facilities at Tenby will make an enormous difference to the health and wellbeing of people in the area and give them more opportunity to become more active, more often.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=U7N5s_O

**£8m eco-friendly centre for Hampshire**

Holly Hill Leisure Centre in Fareham, Hampshire, has officially opened to the public.

The £8m centre houses a six-lane, 25m swimming pool, a learner pool and a health club with a 100-station gym floor and group exercise and cycling studios. Outdoor facilities include two football pitches, a children’s play area and a multi-use games area.

The centre is owned by Fareham Borough Council, which has appointed Everyone Active to manage the site.

Built by Balfour Beatty, the centre took more than a year to construct and includes a number of eco-friendly solutions designed to improve the building’s sustainability.

These include new approaches to pool lighting design and ventilation – all developed by multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy Hydrock – which use up to 80 per cent less energy and require less maintenance than conventional solutions.

A spokesperson for Hydrock said: “Gyms are traditionally designed with full mechanical ventilation to manage air flow during peak periods and high occupancy. However, they also experience prolonged periods of low or non-occupancy, meaning traditional ventilation systems are high in capital and operational cost.

“We designed a CO2 controlled mixed mode passive ventilation system that responds to changes in airflow, successfully reducing costs.”

The natural habitats which surround the building have also been preserved and will be managed by the council’s Countryside Service. Details: http://lei.sr?a=8B3A_O

**App incentivises Londoners to move**

Londoners are being encouraged to participate in physical activity with the launch of an app which distributes rewards for taking part. The app uses geofencing technology, which recognises whether app-users are attending a certain class, and then offers them a reward based on their participation in that session.

From this month, classes and projects run by EMDF, London Youth and Access Sport will use the tech and log the people taking part. The app was developed by healthy lifestyle company Bounts, and funded by London Sport and the Greater London Authority as part of a drive to digitise sports.

Initial findings from the app’s trial period will be revealed during London Sport’s Sport 2.0 – The Digital Revolution Continues conference in November.

Richard Croker, programme manager at London Sport, said the project was an "exciting opportunity to observe the potential impact of reward-based technology on people’s behaviours".

“Anything that helps encourage Londoners to spend a little more time on sport or exercise is worth exploring, and we believe that technology has a huge role to play in helping to get more people taking part,” he added.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=h7C6u_O

Classes will use geo-tagging to see which app users are taking part
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Global wellness economy worth US$3.7 trillion

Researchers Ophelia Yeung and Katherine Johnson, from the Global Wellness Institute (GWI), revealed the results of their latest research on the global wellness economy at the Global Wellness Summit last month.

They found the total value is US$3.7tn (£3.0tn). This represents five per cent of the global economy and half of all health expenditure. In arriving at this figure, Yeung and Johnson included data on “ten industries which enable consumers to pursue their own wellness lifestyle,” including spa, health and fitness, alternative and complementary medicine and beauty.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=t6E2M_O

Champneys buys Eastwell Manor

UK spa health resort operator Champneys has acquired the historic Eastwell Manor in Kent, set within 3,000 acres of lawns and grounds 30 minutes outside of London.

Champneys will operate the hotel under the title of Champneys at Eastwell as of 1 November, and will offer health and beauty treatments in line with its other resorts.

The hotel has origins dating back to the Norman conquest, and includes 62 bedrooms and suites, two restaurants, a spa and leisure facilities. It maintains many traditional features, such as carved panel rooms and large baronial stone fireplaces.

The hotel will complete a refurbishment programme by summer 2017, and will be Champneys fifth resort spa in the UK.

Champneys has also made investments in its locations in Forest Mere and Tring over the past year and further transformations are planned for Champneys Henlow and Champneys Springs.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=y9u4U_O

Center Parcs to add pop-up spas

Aqua Sana Woburn Forest, Center Parcs’ in-house spa in Bedfordshire, England, will host three pop-up spas from different product houses from January to June, 2017.

Skincare brands Voya, Comfort Zone and ESPA will each have a four-week slot in the retail space at Aqua Sana, as well as use of a treatment room at the 7,000sqm (75,347sq ft) spa, which boasts 22 treatment rooms.

“Each product house is unique in its approach, and offers different types of treatments and products for spa guests to learn about and experience,” said Kay Pennington, Aqua Sana group spa manager. “It’s a first for Aqua Sana, and something completely new for our guests – we can’t wait to see what they think.”

Italian product house Comfort Zone’s pop-up spa will take place from 24 March - 20 April, and will include workshops and seminars on diet and lifestyle as well as the brand’s signature treatments.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=M6r5W_O

The new luxury clinic will launch during November

ESPA Life opening

Margaret Dabbs clinic

ESPA Life at Corinthia will be the first first hotel spa in London to launch a foot and hand clinic in collaboration with Margaret Dabbs London. The new Margaret Dabbs London clinic will open in November, and will comprise of one treatment room and six nail therapist chairs.

The clinic will offer a full range of treatments for hands and feet, including the signature Medical Pedicure, Bunion Prevention Therapy, Biomechanical Assessments and Fungal Nail Laser Therapy, each using products from the Fabulous Hands and Feet collection of Margaret Dabbs London.

“Our exciting partnership with Margaret Dabbs London offers a natural evolution of our wellness offerings, extending a wonderfully holistic approach to hand, feet and nail care,” said Laura Vallati, spa director at ESPA Life at Corinthia.

All medical treatments will be performed by qualified podiatrists who have been fully trained in Margaret Dabbs’ techniques.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=M6r5W_O

ESPA Life at Corinthia will be the first first hotel spa in London to launch a foot and hand clinic in collaboration with Margaret Dabbs London.
Our Timexpert C+ (A.G.E) treatments utilise the benefits of Ume Extract and Vitamin C to prevent and reduce the effects of glycation, whilst revitalising the skin for a brighter, illuminated tone. After one session, 97% of clients declare their skin is smoother, more radiant and healthy*.

“Since partnering with Germaine de Capuccini, we have seen record retail sales of up to 90% against treatment revenue.”

Senior Spa Manager, Loch Lomond Golf Club

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*Self-assessment test on 123 individuals after 1 treatment
ATTRACTIONS

London Zoo aviary added on to “at risk” list

London Zoo’s aviary is among the most recent additions to Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Register, with wider concerns over costs for at risk heritage sites thanks to the conservation deficit.

According to Historic England, the overall conservation deficit – the difference in the cost of repair compared to the end value – has increased substantially, driven in part by a skills shortage affecting both architects and tradespeople, with the average now standing at £652,000.

Overall, there are fewer entries on the 2016 Register (5,341) compared to 2015 (5,478) but fewer are economic to repair. Details: http://lei.sr?a=5sa5R_O

Science Museum’s £6m Wonderlab launches

London’s Science Museum has launched the latest part of its museum-wide transformation, with the introduction of its new £6m permanent exhibition – Wonderlab: The Statoil Gallery.

Featuring a wide range of live demonstrations and immersive experiences, Wonderlab is the UK’s largest interactive science attraction.

The new space features a range of more than 50 exhibits across seven zones, all centred around “the wonder of science and mathematics”, with a team of science communicators on-hand to explain how the science works. The gallery is also home to three live demonstration areas and a 120-capacity showspace, which the Science Museum says was inspired by the Royal Institution’s Faraday Theatre.

Among the exhibits on display in the new gallery, visitors will be able to ride a giant rotating model of the solar system to understand why we have seasons and take part in live science shows featuring electricity, rockets and lessons about space. Details: http://lei.sr?a=T8V4r_O

Attractions failing on healthy food

Some of the UK’s top visitor attractions are failing when it comes to serving healthy food to children, according to new research. Out to Lunch – an annual survey by charity organisation The Soil Association – found that 75 per cent of lunchboxes sold at popular attractions across the UK did not include a portion of vegetables or salad, while more than half included sweets but no fresh fruit.

Soil, which supports sustainable food and organic farming in the UK – looked at the UK’s top 20 most popular family attractions, with research undertaken covertly by visiting parents, menu reviews and a questionnaire.

London’s Natural History Museum (NHM) and Brighton Pier ranked joint bottom of the list, with both attractions scoring 22 out of a possible 150. According to Soil, NHM “declined to disclose basic information regarding the environmental sustainability of its food”, while parents also reported a lack of fresh vegetables or salad in children’s lunchboxes. For Brighton Pier, the survey noted “junk food, appalling service, and enough sugar to sink you to the bottom of the English Channel.”

On the other end of the scale, Cornwall’s Eden project was came top with 99 out of 150, followed closely by Chester Zoo with 82 out of 150. Of the 20 attractions surveyed, only the Eden Project, Chester Zoo and Durham Cathedral could reliably say where their meat was sourced from.

The survey also showed that 75 per cent of children’s lunchboxes didn’t include any option for vegetables or salads. Details: http://lei.sr?a=z6m7j_O

Horse racing museum opens

Newmarket’s £4.1m National Horse Racing Museum has opened to the public more than 25 years on from its original inception.

Celebrating more than 350 years of sporting history, the attraction has been designed by Mather & Co and gained Heritage Lottery funding in 2012 worth a total of £4.25m, with funding also coming from Forest Heath (£1.3m), Suffolk County Council (£1m), the Wellcome Trust and a number of private individuals and doners.

As part of the multi-million pound transformation, the historic Palace House now displays a collection of sporting artwork dating back as far as the 17th century, while the Kings Yard stables has become a home to exhibits telling the story behind racing.

Rothschild Yard has also become the new home for charity organisation Retraining of Horses. The yard now features small displays and interactive hands-on exhibits about the charity, as well as a viewing area where visitors can observe the horses being trained on-site.

Central to the new gallery spaces is the architecturally significant spine wall, the original external wall from the Trainer’s House. Using a considered design approach, Mather have created an object and graphic display which sits in front of the wall, exploring the history of the jumps and flats whilst interpreting and showcasing the wall itself as an exhibit. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z3S8u_O
Lanesborough to open exclusive spa

Following the reopening of The Lanesborough in London last year, the Oetker Collection will introduce an 18,000sq ft (1,672sq m) spa and wellness centre in early 2017, marking the next stage of the hotel’s evolution.

Designed to be “one of London’s most exclusive private members fitness and health clubs,” The Lanesborough Club & Spa will offer club members and hotel guests access to international experts in the fields of fitness, beauty and wellness. The hotel has partnered with fitness and lifestyle programme Bodyism, which will create tailored programmes on fitness, nutrition and therapies for members.

With interiors by 1508 London, the spa is inspired by the ceremonial spaces and intimate areas of a Roman Bath Spa. 1508 London has reimagined the classical aesthetic of the hotel, with an aim to create a balanced hybrid of luxury club and lounge with a fitness and spa retreat.

The interiors feature British details including silk wallpapers, wood paneling and leather upholstering, and peacock blue satins, deep green silks and bronze trims complement the oak, marble and stone features.

The Lanesborough Club & Spa will be accessed via the hotel as well as a members-only entrance on Grosvenor Crescent. The Lanesborough is Oetker’s only UK property. Details: http://lei.sr?a=x8b3C_O

Landmark London set for revamp

The Landmark London, one of the UK capital’s most famous Victorian-era hotels, is undergoing an extensive renovation overseen by design studio Alex Kravetz.

Over the next two years, the hotel’s 291 guest rooms and Spa and Health Club will be given a facelift as the hotel fights to compete in the city’s increasingly competitive luxury hospitality market.

In a bid to minimise disturbance, a small selection of guest rooms will be refurbished each month. The design team will add modern luxury amenities and a calming neutral colour palette. In the early months of 2017 the spa’s three treatment rooms and 15-metre chlorine free indoor swimming pool will be refreshed, along with the health club gym.

“We want to continually invest time and effort into improving the hotel’s facilities to keep the hotel at the forefront of people’s minds as one of the leading hotels in London,” said general manager Andrew Batchelor. “The renovations are all part of our journey to make the overall guest experience the best it can be.”

Located in the district of Marylebone, the Landmark London was the last of the city’s railway hotels. The Gothic structure was designed by architect Robert William Edis in the 19th century to be the most opulent hotel in the country.

Last August, the hotel’s ballroom and grand ballroom were renovated with new carpets, paintwork and marble restoration. Details: http://lei.sr?a=z7Myd8_O
New event explores music in tourism

The relationship between music and the UK’s vibrant tourism economy will be explored at a conference in Liverpool next year.

Taking place at the Titanic Hotel between 16-17 February 2017, the inaugural Music Tourism Convention is the first of its kind, with the event consisting of "TEDx Style presentations and engaging, diverse panels. The event is organised in partnership between Visit Britain, Marketing Liverpool and music promoter Sound Diplomacy.

Recent statistics suggest that music tourism contributes £3.7bn (US$4.5bn, €4.1bn) in direct and indirect spend to the UK economy, with Britain’s wide array of festivals and events drawing 9.5 million people annually.

Confirmed speakers at the event include Sally Balcombe, CEO of VisitBritain; Mike Clewley, Cultural Tourism officer for the Greater London Authority; Yaw Owusu, creative director of Nothin But The Music; and Jo Dipple, CEO of UK Music.

“Music is an important part of our competitive tourism offer and events like the Music Tourism Convention are crucial to building on the connection people have with British music and inspiring more visitors to come and explore the incredible music experiences on offer here,” said Patricia Yates, VisitBritain director.

“From tracing the footsteps of the Beatles in Liverpool to watching your favourite artists take the stage at our world class concert halls and festivals, there are so many amazing moments to be had in Britain.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=V8t3u_O

Coastal Pass scheme gets funding

VisitEngland has awarded the National Coastal Tourism Academy (NCTA) funding from its Discovery England Fund to trial a new Coastal Pass across the east coast of England.

The concept is a travel tool that will allow tourists to create their own itineraries by watching interactive videos drawing attention to various coastal locations and attractions. To initially be trialled by holidaymakers from the Netherlands, the scheme will extend from the Port of Hull down to Harwich in Essex, covering hundreds of miles of coastline including the likes of Skegness, Cleethorpes and Cromer.

The pass will include themed itineraries for both international and domestic markets, with a focus on touring the coastline, taking part in active experiences, and exploring arts, culture and heritage. For the scheme, the NCTA is working in partnership with ferry companies, accommodation providers, restaurants, and east coast destinations to pilot the tool.

“The Discover England Fund is designed to encourage international visitors to explore the regions of England,” said Samantha Richardson, NCTA director.

“The Netherlands is the joint third largest international market to Britain’s coast and has direct routes into the major ports of Hull and Harwich, so targeting this market and highlighting the wealth of attractions spanning the east coast seemed a natural fit,”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=s8C8P_O
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How do you design an Olympic stadium?

The design and engineering of Olympic stadiums is the focus of a temporary exhibition at The Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Stadiums: Past and Future explores the facilities cities have built to host the Games – from the Olympia in Ancient Greece through to modern architectural icons such as Frei Otto’s Munich Olympic Stadium and Herzog and de Meuron’s Bird’s Nest in Beijing.

Curated by Geraint John, senior advisor at UK-based sports architects Populous and former chief architect at the GB Sports Council, the multi-media exhibition considers the engineering innovations used to build flexible Olympic venues and the environmental, social and economic challenges of creating stadiums that can have a long-term positive impact on the city where they are built.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=W7H7S_O

Hospitality designer HBA reveals expansion plans

International hospitality interior design firm Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA) have announced a major expansion into Western Europe with the opening of two new offices in London – one of which, called MUSE, will focus on bespoke, high-concept boutique projects.

In addition to opening the new divisions, the firm have also appointed a new principal to its main London office. Matt White, who has 25 years of luxury hospitality design experience, including at HBA Singapore, will drive development for the firm in Europe, “raising the bar in designing the finest hotels, resorts, restaurants and spas.”

MUSE will open in early 2017. Led by HBA designers Inge Moore and Nathan Hutchins, it will cater to clients seeking specialised, one-off hospitality projects.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=j3m9g_S_O

Casement Park plans scaled down

New designs for the controversial Casement Park development in Belfast have been unveiled after opposition from local residents halted original plans.

Ulster Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) has put forward designs for a reduced size arena to quell concerns raised by locals about the quality of their lives being impacted on matchdays.

The body has also put forward a “sustainable transport strategy”, which includes coach travel and park-and-ride options, to improve “ease of access” and reduce congestion.

According to the Ulster GAA, stage one of the community consultation process received 91 per cent support following the proposal adaptations; however an Irish News report has suggested that the development has “not been signed off by key safety advisors”.

Tom Daly, chair of the Casement Park Project Board, said the changes demonstrated Ulster GAA’s “willingness to engage, listen and evolve the development plans”.

The scaled-down projects will see the capacity capped at 34,500

Footballing trio Rio Ferdinand, Mark Noble and Bobby Zamora have launched an innovative urban regeneration model designed to use sport and leisure to bring new life to communities.

The Legacy Foundation was formed to build new developments in the UK with high-quality social, affordable, rented and privately-owned homes. Community and sporting facilities are central to the project and are the main hook to raise aspirations, well-being and quality of life for residents.

A 22-hectare site in Kingsland, north of Houghton Regis – one of the most underprivileged areas in the UK – will be the first location to implement the Legacy model.

Central Bedfordshire Council is helping to fund the scheme, and owns the land on a 125-year lease from the Department of Education.

Architects HawkinsBrown were appointed to design the masterplan for the site – which includes a Legacy sports hub and leisure centre, swimming pool, outdoor football pitches, a health centre, a new education campus, a subsidisedcreche, open greenspaces and more than 1,800 homes.

“Sport and leisure can be a unifying force,” Zamora told Leisure Opportunities.

“From a design perspective, we want to make sure there's lots of green space, because that's really important for wellbeing. We don’t want it to be concrete blocks.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=U3s5W_OO

Read Leisure Opportunities online: www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/digital

Twitter: @leisureopps

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WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Roehampton Playing Fields, Dover House Road, London SW15

Concession contract for the management and maintenance of Roehampton Playing Fields and redevelopment of the existing pavilion (“the Site”)

Wandsworth Borough Council is seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced and competent suppliers for the management and maintenance of Roehampton Playing Fields and redevelopment of the existing pavilion for a 30-year term.

Expressing an interest

To express an interest in the opportunity, Suppliers must submit proposals in accordance with the instructions set out in the Request for Proposal (RFP) which is available at www.delta-esourcing.com

Suppliers must register on this site to respond, although those already registered will not need to register again and will be able to use their existing username and password. Please note there is a password reminder link on the homepage.

Suppliers must log in, go to Response Manager and add the following Access Code: 98Y4W2CXNU. Suppliers should then follow the on screen instructions.

Completing the first stage of the procurement process

Completed Outline Proposal for the Site in accordance with the instructions in the RFP along with any supporting documentation must be submitted through the portal by 12 pm (noon) on 18th January 2017.

Details of the selection criteria are provided within the RFP. If you have any questions with regards to this opportunity, please use the message facility available via the Delta e-Sourcing portal.

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- A 10% discount on property advertising in Leisure Opportunities magazine
- A dedicated LPF monthly email bulletin, delivered straight to your mailbox
- Access to the full listing of all our members

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Emmerson, LPF Administration
E: info@leisurepropertyforum.org
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**TRAINING**

### New course for early years trainers

A new exercise training initiative is looking to equip professionals working with very young children with the adequate skills to confidently deliver physical activity programmes to children as young as two years old.

Targeting Early Years’ practitioners, teachers and childminders, Active IQ Level 3 Award in Supporting Physical Development and Physical Activity in the Early Years will be delivered in partnership by training providers YSD i-Academy and Active IQ.

The course has been designed to provide learners with the knowledge and skills they'll need to deliver "fun and meaningful" physical activity to children aged two to five-years-old.

It also aims to provide a sustainable approach to physical literacy and address the social and emotional wellbeing of young children in readiness for school.

Jenny Patrickson, managing director of Active IQ, said the course has been designed to help instructors install in children a love of physical exercise – and by doing so help tackle childhood obesity.

"The need for high-quality training among people who work with young children has never been greater, with a lot of talk about combatting childhood obesity," she said. "By equipping early years teachers and trainers to deliver fun and meaningful activities, we hope to help YSD i-academy to start to turn the tide with this new qualification."


### Arts diversity scheme launched

Art Council England (ACE) has announced a £4.6m diversity scheme for the nation’s arts and culture sector. Divided into two parts, the funding will be split between theatre and culture, with £2.6m going towards museums to increase diversity within the sector, and £2.1m to support the creation and touring of new plays by black and minority ethnic theatre makers.

The museum and gallery strand, dubbed Change Makers, will offer grants of between £100,000 and £150,000 to support 20 National Portfolio Organisations and Major Partner Museums to host training placements for disabled and minority ethnic leaders from across the country with bursaries.

Leading on projects – and supported by tailored development programmes – the Change Makers will be able to gain the relevant experience, skills and confidence needed to compete for artistic director, chief executive or other senior leadership positions in the future.

"We’re committed to ensuring the diversity of England is better reflected at a leadership level across the arts and cultural sector," said Abid Hussain ACE director for diversity.

"Through our Change Makers programme, these twenty disabled and black and minority ethnic leaders will have an inspiring and transformational opportunity."

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East Hampshire District Council has commenced an exciting journey for the future provision of its leisure facilities. The Council is currently engaged in a procurement exercise which will result in the appointment of a Joint Venture partner, who will work with the Council from April 2017 to manage and develop East Hampshire’s leisure facilities. The preferred partner will be appointed in December 2016. The extensive facility development plans include provision of new Leisure Centres in Alton and Whitehill and Bordon, and substantial refurbishment of the Taro Leisure Centre in Petersfield.

We are seeking the right person to manage this high profile project and work with the appointed Joint Venture Partner to maximise the commercial and social returns arising from the substantial investment in a new, modern and attractive leisure offer for East Hampshire.

Reporting to the Head of Commercial Development, you will drive this exciting opportunity and play a key role in delivering on one of the Council’s strategic priorities.

For an informal discussion, please contact:
Chris Bradley, Head of Commercial Development
chris.bradley@easthants.gov.uk
Tel: 01730 234089
Closing date: 8th November 2016
Interview date: 16th November 2016

For an application pack please visit our website, www.hampshirejobs.org.uk or telephone (023) 9244 6543.

NO CVS OR AGENCIES PLEASE.

Spa Manager

New Spa Opening March 2017
Interviewing taking place in November
Position Commencing December 2016

New Spa to compliment our existing 4* Hotel due to open Spring 2017. Working as a Spa Manager within this family run business is more than just a job. You have the chance to really bring your ideas to life alongside a team who are dedicated and passionate about exemplary customer service.

The new Spa will have:
• 8 treatment beds, luxurious relaxation areas thermal facilities with 10 spa experiences and vitality pool
• We are currently recruiting for a spa manager to take up this exciting project from pre-opening and launch through to daily operation.
• The Spa offers a range of therapies from ritualistic spa treatments to express hair and beauty

Requirements and Duties:
• The successful applicant must be NVQ level 2 & 3 qualified or equivalent and hold 2 years management experience minimum.
• We are looking for a strong manager who is dedicated to achieving business results through management of people, KPI’s, and demonstrating competency in all aspects of Spa Management from pre-opening through to daily operations.
• These will include performance management of the team, income generation, achievement of profit expectations, implementation of promotions and processes, cost management and maintaining high standards within the Spa environment.
• In addition, you will be expected to deliver treatments within this role.
• A level of computer based competency will be required to operate and manage the spa booking and management system

The role will involve:
• Driving pre-opening sales & bookings to achieve a financial opening target in sales
• 1-2-1 meetings with the Spa team with consistent coaching and mentoring
• Rostering and managing columns on the booking system with correct deployment
• System Management (bookings and paying off correctly)
• Customer Service and dealing with complaints
• Stock Management
• Recruitment / Training needs of the team
• Upholding Standards in the Spa – Cleanliness/ Staff presentation
• Performance Management of the team
• Health and Safety Management of the Spa
• Hitting Financial requirements for 2017 budget
• Your performance is measured through objective KPI measures such as profit retail performance, profit conversion and mystery shopping
• Previous management of teams is essential

Package Details:
• Salary – Competitive
• Other benefits discussed on application

How to apply:
If you feel that this is the ideal job opportunity for you and you feel you fit all of the criteria required then please send your CV to
enquiries@yeoldebellspa.co.uk
For more details on the following jobs visit www.leisureopportunities.co.uk or to advertise call +44 (0)1462 431385
A growing consumer appetite for fitness and a hive of investment activity within the health club sector could see the value of the UK fitness sector increase by up to £1.1bn by the end of 2016.

The Rise of the Activity Sector report, published on 18 October by non-profit health body ukactive, predicts a 17 per cent increase in the value of the gym sector during 2016, reaching a total market value of £7.7bn by the end of the year.

Valuation specialist Mazars and sponsorship experts Nielsen Sports conducted analyses for the report, which underlines the “latent potential in the fitness market” and points to strong consumer demand as evidence that the sector won’t be “thrown off course by the choppy waters of Brexit”.

The entry of low-cost club operator The Gym Group onto the London Stock Exchange is seen as a sign that investors are becoming “enticed by the sector’s strong growth prospects”.

The report ranks Britain’s gym market as the largest in Europe and predicts the sector will be among the ‘shining stars’ of the UK’s post-Brexit economy – partly due to British firms accounting for six of the 19 mergers and acquisitions to take place in the European fitness market during 2015.

Nick Bishop, managing director, Morgan Stanley, Head of Leisure EMEA, said: “As we can see from the flurry of recent investment activity, there is significant investor interest in the physical activity sector, driven by strong growth prospects.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=j7e4M_O

Investor interest in the low-cost club operators has buoyed the sector

Fitness sector to ‘shine’ post-Brexit

Champneys partnering with NHS

“Lifestyle-related diabetes has become one of the fastest-growing health problems in today’s society,” said Louise Day, fitness and wellbeing director at Champneys. “A toxic mix of stress, low activity levels, poor diet on top of a possible inherited risk are being held responsible. Fortunately, positive lifestyle changes can make this condition manageable and reduce the risk of long-term problems.

“We will guide and empower people with the condition towards a lifestyle-change approach to personal diabetes control. Our experts will be on hand to help guests find practical ways of improving their overall health and maintaining a positive approach to this condition.”

The courses at Champneys are catered for both those with established and newly diagnosed diabetes, as well as those at a high risk of developing the condition as a result of raised blood sugar levels or family history.

The programme, which is run as part of an overnight retreat and as a day retreat, will include three core elements that cover diet, activity and education. The education will be delivered by Desmond educators, and the nutrition and fitness elements by Champneys.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=j7e4M_O

Continued from front cover

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