Second Victoria & Albert Museum planned for Dundee

By Pete Hayman

A feasibility study outlining plans to establish a £42m sister site for London’s Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum in Dundee, Scotland, has been discussed at a two-day conference.

An independent study, commissioned by the Universities of Dundee and Abertay Dundee, Dundee City Council and Scottish Enterprise and carried out by Whetstone Partners and Conran Group, examined the potential impact of the scheme on Scottish creative industries and local tourism. It is hoped that a new landmark building, at the heart of a new waterfront development, would house the proposed facility.

Plans would see it act as a national hub for contemporary arts, inspired by Dundee’s art and design heritage, which includes comics, animation and computer gaming.

The report said: “Dundee should celebrate being the birthplace of Grand Theft Auto as well as The Beano. If curated carefully, to avoid nostalgia or parochialism, these two themes could provide a useful bridge to popular culture.”

Among the guest speakers at the ‘V&A at Dundee: Making it happen’ event was Mark Jones, director of the museum, as well as representatives from the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead.

It is anticipated that work could start in the second quarter of 2011, with the new venue set to include around 6,200sq m (66,736sq ft) of internal floor area.

If the plans for V&A at Dundee are realised, the new venue could open in 2013.

British Gymnastics rolls out participation scheme

National governing body aiming to increase number of approved leisure centres

By Tom Walker

British Gymnastics is ready to roll out its National Leisure Centre Participation Scheme (NLCP) after first introducing the initiative last September.

The NLCP’s main objectives are to increase the number of leisure centres across the UK approved by British Gymnastics and participation levels within those leisure centres.

Since its launch, the scheme has been piloted at centres operated by DC Leisure, Greenwich Leisure and Dumfries and Galloway. It will now be rolled out nationally throughout 2009 in the build up to 2012.

Research conducted during the pilot period has shown that participation levels can increase by between 50 and 120 per cent in centres as a result of British Gymnastics-endorsement and improved focus.

It also aims to improve standards of the sport’s delivery, as currently 25 per cent of coaches employed in unregistered centres are either unqualified or have old qualifications.

The scheme is part of the a strategy to increase gymnastics provision throughout the UK.

Tourism suffers recession blues

The UK experienced a drop in foreign visitors last year as the effects of the economic downtown became more apparent, according to new figures from the Office of National Statistics.

In the three months to 31 December last year, figures fell to 7.01 million visits – 12 per cent below 2007’s numbers. Total spend fell to £2.8bn.

Total visits over the festive period plunged 17 per cent to 2.11 million.
Major revamp for Bognor Regis park

By Pete Hayman

Bognor Regis park has undergone a major restoration project, funded by a £2.2m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The scheme, which got underway in October 2007 and is led by Arun District Council, has transformed the landscape of the park, with the creation of a new conservation pond and 2 hectares (4.94 acres) of new parkland.

UPM Tilhill has worked on the project, which has seen the renovation of Bognor Park’s boating lake, the creation of new Italian and Winter Gardens, and a new community facility established in the lodge next to the main entrance. The park’s clock tower has been restored thanks to a £25,000 grant from SITA Trust, with its mechanism receiving a complete overhaul for the first time in 200 years, while a new drainage system has been implemented to improve ground conditions.

Dead and decaying trees have also been removed as part of a new tree strategy, which will see more trees removed over the next three years to ensure a sustainable age structure. Work is still ongoing in certain areas, with new signage and interpretation boards to be installed, while the ornamental pond will also be refurnished.

The Leisure Media Company

London’s Olympic legacy plans announced

By Pete Hayman

Legacy plans for the London 2012 Olympic Park have been unveiled by London mayor Boris Johnson, along with communities secretary Hazel Blears and Olympics minister Tessa Jowell.

The proposals have been developed in partnership with the five host London boroughs, and will see the creation of new communities surrounded by parklands and reclaimed waterways, as well as sporting and cultural facilities.

A public consultation has been launched to allow local residents to have their say on the new proposals, which include leisure activities such as long courses. In addition, it is proposed that the stadium will house the National Skills Academy for Sports and Active Leisure, as well as a centre for the English Institute of Sport. Both the Olympic aquatics centre and the velodrome will be set aside for community and elite sporting use after the Games, while a new arts academy and primary school have been earmarked for the Olympic Village site.

Funding of youth projects a ‘dog’s breakfast’

By Pete Hayman

A funding scheme for sports and leisure projects designed to keep young people out of trouble has been branded as “inefficient, inefficient and bureaucratic” by a government watchdog.

The system, which funds the projects was launched as a “peaceful, efficient and bureaucratic” by a government watchdog. The system which funds the projects was labelled a ‘dog’s breakfast’ by Michael O’Higgins, chair of the Audit Commission, following the publication of a new report looking at how sports and leisure activities can help prevent anti-social and criminal behaviour.
**Heworth leisure centre gets approval**

**By Caroline Wilkinson**

Plans to develop a new leisure centre in Heworth, Newcastle Upon Tyne, have been approved by Gateshead Council. The facility is the last of five new centres to be approved as part of the council’s £29m Building an Active Future programme, designed to improve the community’s health by ensuring access to quality facilities.

Plans for the Heworth centre have been referred to the Government Office North East for final approval, but if completed, could feature a 25m, four-lane swimming pool, a learner pool, a floodlit, surfacing and body-balancing attraction, a fitness suite and a boxing gym. There will also be outdoor changing rooms and a multi-purpose room.

If approved, construction work is expected to begin this summer with the view of being completed in winter 2010. The facility is being built on vacant land opposite Heworth Grange Comprehensive School and, once open, will replace the existing but ageing Felling Pool.

Other centres to benefit from the programme include the new Gateshead Leisure Centre, a pre-training camp for London 2012 Olympics, which has closed under a year-long revamp finished as centres in Blaydon, Dunston and Birtley.

When complete the Gateshead centre will boast a new spectator and viewing area, a cafe, a 650sq m (6,997sq ft) gym and changing areas. The existing swimming pool will be refurbished and a teaching pool will be added as well as a sauna and steamroom, and two fitness studios.

**Smethwick gym revamp finished**

**By Caroline Wilkinson**

The fitness suite at Smethwick Swimming Centre in the West Midlands, has received an upgrade.

The centre, operated by Sandwell Leisure Trust, has seen its upper and lower gyms (split into separate CV and weights areas) refurbished and a new stretching area and floor work room installed. Tuxter mountain bikes have been installed and improved cardio equipment introduced. A number of extra classes will now be offered by the centre, including step, boxercise and Bollywood aerobics sessions.

**Dolphin club revamp completed**

**By Caroline Wilkinson**

The £2m refurbishment of Dolphin Fitness Club in Plymouth, London, has been completed. The independently-operated 929sq m (10,000sq ft) facility underwent a two-phase facelift that resulted in a new swimming pool and a 325sq m (3,500sq ft) gym with 37 stations of Cybex CV and resistance equipment.

There are also three new exercise studios, a sauna, a steamroom, changing rooms and squash courts, as well as a tennis court and a croquet lawn. The centre also offers an independent health clinic providing holistic therapies and a restaurant. Memberships start from £70 per month. This month the club also expanded its class menu to offer kick boxing, salsa and street dancing sessions.

The club’s manager, Jonathan Acott, said: “The gym hadn’t been refurbished for over 10 years and was in need of a good overhaul.”

**Crystal Leisure Centre revamp comes to an end**

**By Helen Patenall**

Crystal Leisure Centre in Sedgefield, West Midlands, has benefited from an £800,000 investment by Dudley Council. The council has spent £500,000 on a new fitness suite for the facility, which includes interactive cardiovascular and resistance machines, a cycling studio equipped with Tuxter bikes, punch bags and free weights.

The new gym has Tuxter bikes

A new reception area, modifications to provide easier access for people with disabilities and maintenance work to the centre’s poolside area complete the refurbishment programme. The facility already features a leisure pool, including waves, rapids, slides, waterfalls, an eight-court sports hall and a 25m swimming pool.

The work, delivered on time and on budget, was jointly funded through a partnership between the council and the private sector health and fitness company Alliance Leisure Services.

**Wellness centre to open in Covent Garden, London**

A new wellness centre is to open in Covent Garden in April. The centre will be opened by International Collective, a talent agency and production company, and will be called I.N.C. Space.

Several of the personal trainers at the centre will specialise in getting actors and dancers into shape for film and stage roles. Members will receive a detailed lifestyle analysis including: postural and muscle balance assessment; health screening; fitness assessment; goals discussion; nutritional planning and one-to-one training. There will also be a range of classes including yoga and pilates.

**GSSG plans to open at least 50 énergie clubs in the Middle East**

**By Caroline Wilkinson**

The énergie Group has brokered the acquisition of eight Fitness First Clubs in the UK and has confirmed a second franchise agreement with Qatar-based investment group Ghamin Bin Saad Al Saad & Sons Holding Group (GSSG).

GSSG purchased the eight clubs in order to grow investment group’s plans to grow its portfolio of énergie clubs both in the UK and the Middle East simultaneously. The firm plans to invest in 30 clubs in the UK. énergie’s new Management Services division will operate the clubs on behalf of GSSG. All eight sites will undergo a £1m rebranding over the next eight weeks and two of the clubs, in Northampton and Southampton, will be for women only. The other six clubs are located in Inverness and Dundee in Scotland, Rotherham, Milton Keynes, Swindon and EPson.

As part of the deal, énergie has taken a 50 per cent stake in the Milton Keynes site with a view to using it as a national training centre for franchisees. GSSG has also agreed a development pipeline with énergie in the Middle East, which will see the groups open an additional 50 clubs.

**Heworth leisure centre reopens following repairs**

**By Caroline Wilkinson**

Moray Leisure Centre in Elgin, north Scotland, has reopened most of its facilities to customers following a month-long closure for urgent repairs. Freezing conditions over the New Year period resulted in damage to the pipes in the air handling and heating systems. The consequent flood damage has cost around £100,000 to fix. The gym and studio are now back in action, although the air temperature may be higher than normal while the heating system is being reviewed.

**Fit for the Future areas announced**

A pilot scheme of Fit for the Future – which offers gym subsidies to 16- to 22-year-olds – will launch in April in Manchester, Torbay, Newcastle and Suffolk. Torbay was chosen as it has a large population of 16- to 22-year-olds, while the three cities offer a breadth of urban populations. Suffolk was chosen due to its rural perspective. The FIA has contacted its members in those areas to recruit 50 sites to take part in the pilot.

**Yate Leisure Centre revamp complete**

The third and final phase of a £1.8m revamp of the Yate Leisure Centre has been completed. The work included the upgrading of the centre’s poolside amenities. New dry and wetside changing rooms have been built and a new cycling studio has been added. Previous phases saw the introduction of a health and fitness suite, including 90 pieces of Technogym equipment, set in a purpose-designed area overlooking the swimming pool. The centre is operated by South Gloucestershire Leisure Trust.

**energie acquires Fitness First clubs**

Health club operator proposes rapid expansion with 80 new clubs in the pipeline

**By Caroline Wilkinson**

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**Building an Active Future**

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How tourism can beat the crunch
Investment in tourism should be top of the agenda

PHILIP RIDDLE is chief executive of VisitScotland

The current economic situation is never far from our thoughts and I’m often asked what this means for Scottish tourism and what should be done to ensure that we recover well from the current challenges. While the picture is mixed, with some finding it tough and others continuing to do well, business confidence is suffering.

Although this is a complex area, with no one simple answer, the one area that should not be overlooked is investment. We need more focus on areas that will drive sustainable economic growth, such as investment in infrastructure, investment in quality, more cross-selling and a drive to increase capacity and reduce seasonality. These levers for growth are more vital than ever.

One such lever is our national investment plan. This plan will focus on new investment capable of transforming an area and highlight the need for businesses to continually invest in their existing facilities.

Stronger industry leadership based around such a plan would see Scotland taking charge of its own destiny with a more focused, proactive and structured vision for Scottish tourism. But it’s not just about what public bodies are doing: growth for Scottish tourism has to come from all of us.

We shouldn’t forget that tourism can play an important role in supporting the Scottish economy. We should also remember that our industry is both varied and resilient: we have weathered crises before and together we can overcome the current environment.

UKinbound questions PM’s pledge
Trade body calls for delay to introduction of air passenger duty system

By Luke Tuchscherer

UKinbound, the tourism trade association, has questioned the government’s support for the industry and called for a delay in the new Air Passenger Duty (APD) system. Philip Green, the organisation’s chair, was speaking at the UKinbound Convention in Manchester when he called into question Prime Minister Gordon Brown’s recent pledge to support tourism.

“They are supporting us by complicating and increasing APD and by extending the reach of visa costs requirements,” he said. “Is that the kind of support we need? APD adds so much to the cost of a long-haul arrival that any reduction in the currency value will be wiped out. And when the currency is not in our favour, the APD is a huge hindrance.”

Green also mentioned a lack of joined up thinking in government, complaining that policies directly affect tourism where being handled by immigration and transport departments, rather than the DCMS.

It wasn’t all doom and gloom however, as Green praised the government for its acknowledgment of the importance of tourism, saying it was a “huge step forward”.

Ireland records slump in inbound tourism

By Pete Hayman

New figures released by Ireland’s Central Statistics Office have revealed that the number of Irish holidaymakers travelling abroad has exceeded the number of inbound trips for the first time in nearly two decades.

The number of Irish residents travelling overseas in 2008 increased by 2.1 per cent on the previous year, with the number of foreign residents travelling to Ireland decreasing by 2.2 per cent during the same period.

Credit crunch to increase domestic tourism

The UK is set to be Britons’ top choice of holiday destination this year, according to new research.

A survey by Continental Research, the London-based market research agency, revealed that respondents aged 20-54 chose the UK as their most popular destination, while most 55-74-year-olds chose Spain.

The study also said that despite the recession 48 per cent of respondents would not be changing their plans. Of the 34 per cent who said that they would, most are looking to reduce their budget or go for last minute bargains. Overall, 27 per cent said they would be holidaying in the UK rather than another country for their main holiday.

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Sir Alan Sugar

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**Biggin Hill gets £4m leisure complex**

A two-storey facility, including a 25m pool, will replace the town’s existing library

By Caroline Wilkinson

A new £4m swimming pool and library is to be built in Biggin Hill after the scheme was approved by the London Borough of Bromley.

Suffolk-based developer ISG Jackson plans to build the new complex on the site of the town’s existing library, replacing it with a new two-storey facility including a café, meeting rooms and a children’s party area, as well as a 25m, six-lane swimming pool.

Ian Gifford, director of ISG Jackson’s public division, said: “There is a great deal of excitement over the commencement of the new swimming pool and library complex in Biggin Hill and the scheme represents a major investment in leisure amenities by the council. We are confident that once completed, the new facility will become an important focal point for the local community, providing a range of services within high quality, purpose built accommodation.”

It is expected that construction work on the new facility will get underway at the end of February, and it is anticipated that it will be ready to open by early 2010.

ISG Jackson is behind plans for the new pool and library complex in Biggin Hill and the council is convinced it can have benefits across the curriculum too.

**Ripon swimming pool plans postponed**

Plans for a new £3m swimming pool in Ripon, North Yorkshire, have been postponed by Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) due to the economic downturn.

The scheme was to be funded from the sale of the city’s existing spa baths and through prudential borrowing, but HBC is currently unable to afford the revenue costs of repaying loans. Under plans outlined in December 2007, the new complex would have included a six-lane, 25m pool and a learner pool.

**Cardiff ice rink scheme on track**

A new permanent ice rink is to be built in Cardiff Bay after the city council and Cardiff Devils ice hockey team reaffirmed a commitment to the project.

The Devils currently play at a 2,000-seat temporary rink at the city’s International Sports Village, which opened in November 2006 with a contract for it to be replaced within five years. Cardiff Council leader, Rodney Berman, insisted that the scheme remains on track within the time frame to provide a permanent facility, and that the economic downturn has had no impact upon the plans.

**Leisure centre to replace Sleaford pool**

North Kesteven District Council has decided against investing in the town’s swimming pool, preferring instead to build a new leisure centre in Sleaford.

The executive board concluded that “it is not cost effective to refurbish the existing swimming pool as it no longer meets modern standards and the costs involved are prohibitive”. A detailed feasibility study will now be undertaken to analyse the scope of the project.

**Sutcliffe confirms plans for new anti-doping agency**

Sports minister Gerry Sutcliffe has confirmed a national drugs testing agency, provisionally called UK Anti-Doping, will be launched by the end of the year.

The national anti-doping organisation (NADO) will take on the testing and education responsibilities which are currently performed by the high performance sport agency, UK Sport.

New powers are also set to be granted to the agency to ensure that Britain is at the forefront of anti-doping in the run up to the London 2012 Olympic Games, with £7.2m to be invested in the NADO in 2010-11. This marks a 60 per cent increase on the current anti-doping budget of £4.5m.

**DCSF calls for more cricket in school**

Ed Balls challenges schools across Britain to find innovative ways to use cricket

By Pete Hayman

A competition has been launched by the Department for Children, Schools and Families for schools to find innovative ways using cricket to improve standards across the national curriculum.

Details of the scheme were revealed by children’s secretary, Ed Balls, at the Sports Colleges Conference, which is also designed to develop new methods to increase the reach of cricket for young people.

The first challenge is to increase participation in schools and clubs by focusing on getting more girls involved, small-sided games, and increasing the number of young people who become officials, umpires or scorers.

Raising standards across a range of subjects is the second challenge, enhancing young people’s learning through the way the history of the sport reflects the development of Britain’s former colonies, as well as using maths and statistics to analyse the game.

Balls said: “From the village green to the Ashes tests to playground scratch games, cricket is part of our national identity. “Cricket is one of the most popular sport schools and I’m convinced it can have benefits across the curriculum too.”

Cricket could provide far-reaching benefits in a range of subjects

**Isle of Man plans shelved**

Plans for the major redevelopment of a sports stadium, the Isle of Man, have been put on hold by the local authority due to the economic downturn.

Douglas Borough Council is behind the £2.5m revamp of the King George V Bowl ahead of the 2010 Commonwealth Youth Games, but it has been unable to find the private and public funding needed to pay for the scheme.

The council has said, however, that it will still go ahead with a ground survey at the stadium in order to assess future improvements to the pitch before remedial works will be considered.

**New identity for England Squash**

The governing body is hoping to raise the profile of both sports

By Pete Hayman

England Squash has announced that it will now officially be known as England Squash and Racketball in a bid to recognise the increasing popularity of racketball in the UK.

The national governing body is already involved in the promotion and development of both sports, and will adopt the new identity in order to represent its current role.

A new website is being developed to increase participation, as well as raising both sports’ profiles.

**Sunderland to develop cricket facilities**

Crickets could provide far-reaching benefits in a range of subjects

- Nick Rods, chief executive of England Squash and Racketball, said: “Squash has always been a popular sport. Racketball is a newer sport and we’ve seen it revitalise demand for courts. “Therefore, we feel a new, modern and vibrant identity was needed to represent the core values of both sports.”

- Plans to redevelop Flitwick’s leisure facilities in Bedfordshire are finally being put in action. A new football centre will be built on land owned by the county council to make way for a new leisure centre on the town’s existing pitches. Mid Beds District Council and Flitwick Town Council will now submit a full planning application for the football centre and outline permission for Flitwick Leisure Centre this month.

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**SPORT**

**IN BRIEF**

- **Sports Scotland funding for grassroot schemes**
  - Sports Scotland has unveiled a total of £314,105 worth of funding for three grassroot sports projects in the country.
  - Invengordon Football Club has been awarded £62,405 to upgrade its pavilion; Pennon Community Council in Dumfries & Galloway has received £50,000 to assist with the construction of a new multi-use games area at Gannochy Park; while the third grant will see Netherthorpe Bowling Club in Dunfermline receive £11,500 towards the construction of a new pavilion.

- **Harrogate pool to undergo renovation**
  - Starbeck Baths in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, has closed its doors to the public in order to allow work to get underway on a two-month refurbishment of the facility. The centre will reopen on 5 April following the £237,000 revamp, which will include the replacement of floor tiles in the changing rooms, installing new damp proofing measures, and fitting an energy efficient boiler. A revamped reception area is also part of the scheme and is the first stage of a 10-year maintenance plan for Starbeck Baths estimated to cost around £780,000.

- **Councils agree on Flitwick leisure**
  - Plans to redevelop Flitwick’s leisure facilities in Bedfordshire are finally being put in action. A new football centre will be built on land owned by the county council to make way for a new leisure centre on the town’s existing pitches. Mid Beds District Council and Flitwick Town Council will now submit a full planning application for the football centre and outline permission for Flitwick Leisure Centre this month.
Hilton Hotels is to cut costs by £175m in light of falling occupancy.

European chain hotels suffering

HotStats survey reveals difficult times for operators

by Helen Patenall

TRI Hospitality Consulting has published its full-year HotStats survey, revealing a fall in profit, revenue and occupancy for European chain hotels last year. Seven out of the 10 cities surveyed reported decreases in gross operating profit.

The agency’s deputy managing director, David Bailey, said: “Most European hotel operators did not enjoy the same level of success last year. The full-year data will show that the impact of the economic downturn will be evident across the board.”

The survey reveals that:

- The three cities surveyed where branded hotels demonstrated an increase in profits for the full year were Berlin, Budapest and Hamburg.
- *These cities were not overly exposed to the banking crisis and their hotels did not enjoy such a trading boom during 2007, compared to other cities, hence the profit increases on the back of relatively modest performance,* said Bailey.
- London had the highest average occupancy of 82.2 per cent for the full year and enjoyed the most profitable hotel market in the survey.

Hotel insolvencies predicted to rise

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has warned hoteliers in the UK that the current economic downturn will continue to have a real impact on the demand for hotel services.

The fourth quarter of 2008 saw a 100 per cent increase in the sector’s insolvencies, with 36 hotel companies entering an insolvency process — double the amount on the previous quarter.

Analysis of trading conditions for 2008 showed a 98 per cent increase in insolvencies on 2007. The company’s hospitality and leisure director, Stephen Bromme, said: “Experience from previous economic downturns tells us that the hotel industry is hit later in the cycle than other sectors.

This is due in part to extended lead in times for hotel bookings.”

VisitBritain highlights the need for help

Framework Review makes strong case for the government to support the tourism industry

VisitBritain’s recent Framework Review makes an admirable case for the government to take the tourism industry more seriously — something ministers and officials have failed to do. And now the industry, which is worth £10bn annually and employs over two million people, is critically vulnerable in a recession.

The review pulls no punches. It suggests that the absence of sufficient infrastructure investment, and a potential 10 per cent drop in overseas visitor arrivals to the UK over the next five years, could lead to 67,000 fewer jobs and an accumulative loss of almost £10bn by 2012.

If the likely loss of domestic visitors to overseas travel is taken into account, the decline would be 114,000 jobs and the loss would rise to £20bn.

A decline of almost 20 per cent in tourism business revenues, brought on by this loss would in turn lead to business failures as many are small, independent owner-operators with limited financial resources.

Of course, there is an upside. The review says that if the government took a more proactive approach to tourism, overseas visitor numbers would potentially increase to 49 million by 2018, creating a UK tourism market of £136bn and creating more than £50,000 jobs.

The review’s central theme is that the government’s response to tourism has been hesitant and confused. We can only hope the review might encourage it to move more positively.

In the most obvious case, the lack of funding for promoting the 2012 Olympic Games, means that there is a real risk that the full Olympic legacy opportunity cannot be delivered.

Responsibility for tourism is also split between a competing national boards, government agencies, regional development agencies (RDAs) and local authorities. Although all are publicly funded, few bother to work — even to communicate — with each other and therefore waste money.

VisitEngland, representing a country which attracts three-quarters of all overseas and domestic tourists to the UK, has only just been set up.

The organisation may well bring some order to the chaos of conflicting interests, but only if there is powerful leadership. And as the key chief executive appointment is still yet to be made, we have a long way to go.

£5.5m redevelopment of Grade II-listed centre scheduled to get underway in April

by Helen Patenall

Southwark Council has approved a £5.5m refurbishment plan to update Dulwich Leisure Centre.

The Grade II-listed, 19th century building will benefit from an improved swimming pool area, a new gym and new and wet and dry changing rooms. Access for those with disabilities will be incorporated, including hoists into the pool, step-free access and a lift to the first floor studios. Green energy saving features include high-efficiency boilers, roof-mounted solar thermal panels and low energy lighting will also be installed.

In addition, the entrance building and the clock tower on East Dulwich Road will be restored to offer a public space.

Castle View proposals called in

by Pete Rayman

The £150m mixed-use regeneration scheme of Lancaster’s canal corridor, approved by the city council in October, has been called in by communities secretary, Hazel Blears.

The Castle View project, which is being led by London-based urban regeneration company Centros, will now go to a public inquiry later this year, although no date has been set.

Plans feature six public spaces, including a new park leading to the city’s canal, new canal-side restaurants and cafés will be created and major improvements to the Dukeries and the Grand Theatres.

New premises for the Musicians’ Co-operative will also be created, as well as 320,000sq ft (29,729sq m) of retail space and 179 residential units.

Additional spaces, including a new sports facility for the London 2012 Olympic Games, will be created.

The new two-storey handball arena, approved planning permission for the new London 2012 Handball Arena, which will result in 60 job cuts — came after Lloyds turned down the chef’s request for a £200,000 overdraft. As a result, A&M Restaurants, the chef’s holding company, went in to administration on 6 February.

Handball arena plans approved

Plans for the new London 2012 Handball Arena have been given the green light by the Olympic Delivery Authority’s planning committee.

Designed by Make Architects with TWG and Arup, the planning application for the 7,000-seat venue has been recommended for approval when it goes before the Greater London Authority. The arena will stage the majority of the handball events and the Paralympic wheelchair competition.

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IN BRIEF

Telford golf centre plans submitted

Burfurl Golf and Leisure, the owners of the Shropshire Golf Centre near Telford, has submitted plans to build a new 50-bedroom hotel and spa to Telford and Wrekin Council (TWC). TWC is expected to decide by 7 April whether to award planning permission for the scheme, which includes a proposed hotel and spa, and a leisure centre with an indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium, a fitness studio and a restaurant.

Worrall Thompson closes four restaurants

Celebrity chef Antony Worral Thompson has closed four of his restaurants after failing to secure loans. The closures at the Notting Hill, West London; the Lamb Inn and the Greyhound in Oxfordshire; and the Barnes Grill in southwest London — which will result in 60 job cuts — came after Lloyds turned down the chef’s request for a £200,000 overdraft. As a result, A&M Restaurants, the chef’s holding company, went in to administration on 6 February.

Plans have now been submitted for final Listed Building Consent

Cllr Lewis Robinson, executive member for culture, leisure and sport, said: “Dulwich Leisure Centre is going to be vastly improved, and it will hopefully result in a lot more residents attending.”

Phase one of the project is set to commence in April, with completion expected by Christmas. The project has now been referred to the Government Office for London to obtain final Listed Building Consent, which is likely to take four to five years.

The council hopes to secure an extra £1.5m of government funding to secure the future of Camberwell Baths as well.
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LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON
MANAGEMENT OF SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES CONTRACT

The London Borough of Hillingdon invites expressions of interest from companies who are suitably qualified and experienced to provide a full management and operation of 4 sports and leisure facilities. This includes the new Bottled Green Leisure Centre in Hayes Town due to open in late Autumn 2009. The centre includes a 25m pool, leisure water sports, health, fitness & specialist gymnastics facility.

The appointed company and/or organisation will be required to fulfil management, operation, marketing and promotion responsibilities for the successful operation of the leisure facilities in order to achieve the Council’s key strategic aims and objectives. In particular the incoming operator/ organisation; services will be required to demonstrate the council is achieving value for money from the operation to benefit the Borough’s: broad and varied communities.

The Council will be letting a ten-year contract. The contract is due to commence on 01 October 2009 and will be tendered electronically.

Interested organisations will be required to register their interest, from which they will be sent the tender documentation to provide a detailed tender proposal. The tender proposal will be evaluated and a short list of organisations will be invited to a clarification meeting. Site visits will be arranged during the tender process.

Please contact Sally Smith, Procurement Buyer, by e-mail smiths@hillingdon.gov.uk or by letter to London Borough of Hillingdon, Corporate Procurement Unit (15/07), Civic Centre, Lrodbridge, Middlesex UB3 1UW to express your interest.

Closing date for return of Tender Documents is 26th March 2009.

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For further information ring Robert on 01524 730018

Sale of Double Tennis Court Covering and Structure

Erewash Borough Council presently owns a double (2) Tennis Court cover and structure situated in West Park, Long Eaton which has been identified as surplus to current requirements. The council is seeking expressions of interest and subsequent offers from organisations wishing to purchase this asset.

The covering structure is equivalent to two full size tennis courts, measuring 40 metres by 8.8 metres (reducing to 40 metres). The covering is a ‘Walters’ type ‘building envelope’ with an aluminium frame and a polyester and PVC fabric covering. The successful purchaser is expected to make suitable arrangements to remove the structure using competent dismantlers and comply with any relevant Health & Safety legislation. It is believed Lakesmere Ltd acquired ‘Walters’ and they may be able to provide advice and/or names of suitable dismantling and re-erection companies.

It is recommended that prospective purchasers view the structure and surrounding area in order to fully familiarise themselves with their obligations should their offer be accepted. Should a purchaser determine not to visit site then no claim due to a lack of appreciation in terms of site requirements will be considered.

To register your interest, request an offer form and arrange a site visit, please contact Emma Hubball, Personal Assistant to the Acting Director of Culture and Leisure Services, at Sandiacre Friesland Sports Centre, Nursery Avenue, Sandiacre, Derbyshire NG10 5AE.

Telephone: 0115 907 2268 E-mail: emma.hubball@erewash.gov.uk.

Site viewing dates are: 12 March & 17 March 2009.

The closing date for the receipt of offers shall be 12.00 noon on Friday 27 March 2009.

(Pictures are of structure as new and not an accurate reflection of the current condition)
The research involves a number of industry partners

In September 2007, the DCMS published a tourism strategy for 2012 setting out a programme of work to increase and improve access to services for disabled visitors in the UK. An Accessible Stakeholders Forum was set up in April 2008, covering a cross-section of stakeholders in tourism, visitor accommodation, visitor attractions, passenger transport and the hospitality industry. The results of the survey will be analysed by People1st to help inform an industry-led working group on how to improve access for all.

People1st has teamed up with VisitBritain and other leisure industry partners to conduct a survey on disability awareness training in the UK. The aim of the research is to gain a better understanding of the extent to which existing training in the UK tourism industry meets the needs of disabled visitors. The survey is part of the government’s efforts to increase access in the run up to the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Together we can weather the economic storm
By working together, sport and active leisure can overcome recessionary challenges ahead

There is no mistaking that this is a difficult time for the economy. As we move into spring, more job losses and redundancies are reported, along with the downturn in consumer spending and rise in repossessions. Figures among homeowners — there really isn’t much to celebrate.

Let’s not forget that over the last 10 years, however, sport and active leisure has outperformed the rest of the UK economy — four-fold in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA) and employment. Yet the recession will put immense pressure on the sector to maintain its position in the economy.

We are a service sector and therefore we attract discretionary spending. Consequently there is now a real concern that this spending will be hit. During this time it is crucial for SkillsActive to work with employers, to help them through this period of turbulence and maintain their status within both the economy and government agenda.

We’re taking a four ‘R’ approach: Retain: where possible encourage employers to retain their staff, facilitate opportunities to access funding for training and keep people on the ‘shop floor’. Re-skilling: proactively broker training solutions for employers to introduce new skills in the workplace. Re-deploy: encouraging perhaps smaller employers to share both expertise and workplace training. For example, if an apprenticeship programme cannot be completed within one organisation, linking with another to ensure the apprentice can finish the programme. Re-engagement: encouraging employers to open their doors to people who have perhaps been made redundant and offer volunteering places, coaching hours or similar to engage them with the sector.

The key thing about the Diploma, says Sue Beeley, from Sheffield United Football Club, is that it will give sport and active leisure businesses direct input in making young people more aware of what the world of work is actually about. “I have done numerous mock interviews in schools and universities and the majority of students still have a very hazy understanding,” she said.

By coming in to the workplace and seeing inside the professional world for themselves, they will hopefully be much more able to understand what quality and safety, good basic skills, communications skills and strong customer service are important, and why personal attributes like reliability, politeness and enthusiasm will make them much more employable in a competitive world.

Facilities and service operators alike want fresh new talent to drive their businesses forward, but in an increasingly competitive market, only first class employees will set them apart from the rest.

That’s why education for 14-19-year-olds is changing. The new Diploma and the extension of the Apprenticeships programme will give young people the work-ready skills, knowledge and experience employers are looking for.

The Diploma is designed with the help of employers and universities. It gives young people a fully rounded education, with learning in the classroom and work experience, so they can put theory into practice in real-life work situations.

In September 2008, five Diplomas were launched, and in 2010 the Diploma in Sport and Active Leisure will be taught for the first time. It has been developed with industry experts and will help students to build rewarding careers across a whole spectrum of sport and active leisure roles from fitness instruction and coaching to facilities construction and grounds maintenance.

Female coaching scheme launched

Sportscotland has launched a new three-year pilot initiative designed to increase the number of women coaches in Scottish sport, as well as supporting the progression of new and existing coaches.

Women in Coaching hopes to address figures, which show that females only hold a quarter of coaching roles in the UK, while only 8 per cent of national and Olympic level coaches are women.

The research involves a number of industry partners

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18 19
Chronic Respiratory Disease Exercise Instructor Course

BLF bursaries are now available for the May intake of this innovative distance learning course. Developed by Loughborough College, the University Hospitals of Leicester and the British Lung Foundation (BLF), with funding and input from Rotherham PCT, the course has been submitted for endorsement at level 3 on the Register of Exercise Professionals. It covers:

- Physiology and pathology of respiratory disease
- Management of chronic respiratory disease
- Responses to exercise and exercise prescription

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

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

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

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

Danielle Smreczak
Loughborough College
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
Rotherham Primary Care Trust

e: exercise@blf-uk.org
p: 020 7088 5618
w: www.lunguk.org

British Lung Foundation
Reg. charity of England & Wales: no. 306730, Charity in Scotland: no. SC039441

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You will be specifically contributing to improving service performance with respect to the development of new business opportunities, improving marketing of the service and improving service management.

This is an exciting career opportunity for someone with an understanding of:

- Performance management and quality systems.
- Marketing and promotions.
- Research techniques and methodologies.
- Influences and drivers impacting on local authority leisure provision.
- Management information systems.
- Relevant legislation.
- Facility operations.

You will be educated to level 5 (first degree level, or equivalent). A professional qualification in a leisure related field (e.g. leisure management, hospitality, parks) or in marketing, and membership of a recognised professional leisure related institute would be an advantage.

You will require a full driving licence, access to a car and must be prepared to work flexible hours.

For an informal discussion about the requirements of the job and our plans in Watford, please contact Dave Cotts, Parks & Open Spaces Section Head on 01923 278256.

Closing date: Noon on 20 April 2009. Interview date: 7 May 2009.
**Angling Coaching Development Manager** (ref SODM1)

Salary £30,000

An exciting opportunity has arisen in the sport of angling to appoint a Coaching Development Manager responsible for achieving the organisation for increasing the number of qualified, quality and diversity of angling coaches within England.

The Sport is undergoing rapid and radical change following the formation of the Angling Trust, the new National Governing Body for angling in England. We are seeking to appoint a highly motivated individual to lead the development of coach education which includes the management of the Angling Trust Approved Coaches and the development of a Coaching Framework for angling. The role will involve:

- working with key partners to establish a single coach education and training framework for angling
- working closely with sports coach UK, Skills Active and other national partners
- developing a Coaching Strategy for angling
- leading the development of UKCC endorsed angling coaching qualifications, learning resources and workforces
- co-ordinating the work of the Angling Coaching Steering Group
- identifying and building partnerships to increase the delivery of angling coaching qualifications
- identifying and accessing funding and resources to support the development of coaching

The appointed person will ideally have a track record in coach development, managing a department or team of people, be self-assured, confident, highly motivated and an influential team member.

The successful applicant will be required to contribute to the achievement of the Angling Trust Whole Sport Plan 2009-13 and to adopt a flexible working hours approach including evening and weekend work. Training and support will be provided to the most suitable candidates.

**Timescales:**
- completed applications to be received by 16th March
- short list will take place by 17th March
- interviews will be held between 20th and 27th March

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**Duty Manager**

Salary £21,937 - £23,405

Based at Abbey Leisure Centre (Selby, North Yorkshire) you will work a 3 week shift pattern, which will incorporate evenings and weekends, an average of 37 hours per week. We are looking for a highly motivated individual with at least 2 years previous experience and a minimum of 1 year in a supervisory role in the leisure industry.

You will have an up to date understanding of all Health and Safety issues and knowledge of quality systems and performance management. In addition you will have the ability to maintain the centres pool plant equipment and will hold a valid pool servicing certificate. An ISS National Pool Lifeguard Qualification and First Aid at Work Certificate are essential. Trainer Assessor qualifications and/or a recognised Health and Safety qualification would be desirable.

Possession of a current driving licence is essential as you will be a key holder and be required to attend out of hours call out when necessary.

For further informal enquires please contact Laura Fairburn, Assistant Leisure Facilities Manager on 01757 213758 or visit our website www.selbyleisure.co.uk

Closing date: Tuesday 17th March 2009.

Interview date: w/e 30th March 2009.

---

**Sport Volunteer Co-ordinator**

Salary £18,420 + £2,000 LMF 3 year contract

As Sport Volunteer Coordinator you will be responsible for managing and developing Reading’s sport legacy volunteer partnership programme. Building on the success of the initial pilot project this 3-year funded programme will work across the borough of Reading to recruit, train and mentor volunteers, services and organisations in order to support grass roots sport across Reading, resulting in long-term sustainable opportunities to increase participation.

The project’s aim is to build a sustainable community volunteering structure for grass roots sport and physical activity opportunities across Reading

You will need to be organised, motivated and adaptable with excellent interpersonal skills. Experience of project delivery and a good working knowledge of volunteer development is required.

The post will include some evening and weekend work.

For a full application pack please contact Christina Williams on 0118 920 6202 or email christina.williams@nrca.org.uk.

**Closing date:** 20/03/09

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**Fitness Co-ordinator**

Salary £14,545 - £15,247, 37 hour

You will work as part of a team in the Fitness suites at both Abbey and Tadcaster Leisure Centres. You will be in charge of inductions and setting programmes tailored to individuals needs. You must hold either a Level 2 Gym Instructor qualification or exercise to music qualification and a driving licence. A GP referral qualification would be desirable.

For further informal enquires please contact Jared Jones, Fitness Manager on 01757 213758 or visit our website www.selbyleisure.co.uk

Closing date: Friday 13th March 2009.

Interview date: Thursday 2nd April 2009.

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**OPERATIONS MANAGER**

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**North Riding County Football Association**

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The North Riding County Football Association in partnership with North Yorkshire Sport, are looking to recruit a County Football Coach with the necessary skills and experience to make a real difference to the development of grassroots football.

Embracing the FA’s Coaching Philosophy you will be responsible for delivering schools club link programmes that aim to support the pathway for young people from school sport into a structured setting at local FA Charter Standard Clubs. You will also identify and mentor a pool of young leaders to run club based football sessions.

Ideally you should be a minimum of an FA Level 2 coach and have varied coaching experience. You should also have excellent communication and organisational skills and be willing to work some unsociable hours. The post requires the need to travel extensively in the local area. The ability to communicate with a variety of people is essential.

For a Job Description, please contact the Football Development Officer by telephone (01642 717774) or e-mail steve.walsh@nacro.org.uk

To apply please send a CV and covering letter outlining ‘how you meet the demands of the post’ marked Private and Confidential to: The Employment Management Officer, NRCFA, Brompton Road, Stockton, Middlesbrough, TS9 5NY

**Closing date:** 12 Noon Friday 6th March 2009.

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**Football Assessor**

Salary £12,500 p.a.

For a Job Description, please contact the Football Development Officer by telephone (01642 717774) or e-mail steve.walsh@nacro.org.uk

To apply please send a CV and covering letter outlining ‘how you meet the demands of the post’ marked Private and Confidential to: The Employment Management Officer, NRCFA, Brompton Road, Stockton, Middlesbrough, TS9 5NY

**Closing date:** 12 Noon Friday 6th March 2009.

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**Teess Valley Leisure**

**Join Teess Valley Leisure and help shape the future provision of leisure in Redcar and Cleveland**

**Teess Valley Leisure**, a ‘Not for Profit’ leisure trust, has successfully operated a range of leisure facilities on behalf of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council since 1999. It is now in a long term ‘partnership arrangement’ to deliver new and improved facilities and services for the community. The organisation has an outstanding record of excellent career development opportunities for individuals who are willing to embrace change and shape the future of leisure provision in Redcar and Cleveland.

**Operations Manager – Marketing and Business Development**

This is one of two key posts that have been created to best position ourselves to successfully develop and manage the partnership arrangement. Reporting to the Deputy Managing Director, and as a member of the Senior Management Team you will directly influence the development and management of the company. The successful candidate will have a functional responsibility for a portfolio of leisure centres together with a corporate company wide responsibility for Marketing and Business Development.

The post will play a major role in not only delivering quality services but also in developing and shaping the future of the company and the delivery of leisure provision. Candidates should have a recognised qualification in leisure management and sufficient experience to manage the demands of the post. Strong financial management skills and commercial acumen are crucial, together with a track record of achieving tangible improvements in service and facility management.

You will also need a combination of outstanding organisational and communication skills, with the ability to effectively negotiate, lead and motivate and energise teams. The ability to develop strong relationships with customers, staff, stakeholders and partners at all levels. Flexibility and the willingness to challenge convention in leisure service delivery are required for these roles.

**For an informal discussion about this post please contact:**

Kathy Day (General Manager) on 01642 477100

**Closing date:** Monday 16 March 2009

**For full details and an application form ring Teess Valley Leisure on 01642 477092 or e-mail annette.kee@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk**
We are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual who will help develop and co-ordinate sport, health and physical activity for the local community.

You will assist in the development and coordination of sporting opportunities and physical activities with a particular focus on increasing participation amongst groups who are currently under represented. This will encompass a range of coaching programmes, training, education and helping to support the development of new and existing local organisations. You will also have a particular focus on increasing participation amongst BAPE groups. We are looking for a forward thinking, highly motivated and organised individual who will help develop and co-ordinate sporting opportunities and initiatives across the borough, as well as assisting to deliver and expand a number of existing programmes co-ordinated by the Royal Borough and our partners. You will also work alongside a number of local organisations to maintain the progress and innovative partnership work already in place.

The role offers a diverse range of responsibilities and will require some evening and weekend work.

You should:

- be a degree equivalent qualified / National Governing Body Qualifications
- have training or qualification in sports or community development and experience of delivering a variety of sport and physical activity projects
- have the ability to work within a team, partnership work, develop new initiatives, set performance indicators and monitor goals and targets
- be a communicator to improving opportunities for local under represented groups
- be able to prioritise your workload, have good organisational, planning and promotional skills, together with good communication and interpersonal skills to communicate with a diverse audience

For full details and an application pack, see: www.twistockcollege.devon.sch.uk / vacancies or ring 01822 614231 ext. 205.

Closing date: 16 March 2009.
Amber Valley Borough Council

This is an exciting opportunity to work in the Heart of Derbyshire. Amber Valley is set at the foothills to the Peak District, yet it is conveniently close to Derby and Nottingham. You will have the opportunity to work amongst breathtaking scenery in a World Heritage Site.

COMMUNITY SPORTS AND HEALTH CO-ORDINATOR

Do you have a strong background in sports development, schools partnership management, volunteer and activity programming of leisure centres? If so this new post offers a significant career development opportunity working at a successful local authority.

You will develop and deliver community sports plans that co-ordinate with the county sports and physical activity plans and the local Community Sports Network. You will be the Council’s lead officer on a number of strategic working groups, including the Children and Young People’s Partnership and the Older People and Healthier Communities Partnership utilising sport to stimulate social and physical regeneration.

You will also work closely with the Council’s private sector leisure centre contractor to agree and monitor sports development and healthy lifestyle plans to ensure that the recent £22 million investment in three new community leisure centres delivers the strategic leisure outcomes set out in the project agreement.

Appointment to the above post is subject to an enhanced check endorsed by the Criminal Records Bureau. This check is being made under Section 11(1) of the Protection of Children Act 1999.

Closing Date: 17 March 2009

On completion of this job an application form is accepted.

Applicants are invited to apply online at www.ambervalley.gov.uk or call the 24 hour hotline on 01773 841666. During office hours you can ring 01773 570222 (Minicom 01773 841490), for a job pack quoting the appropriate post reference number. You can also visit the Council offices to collect a pack. Email: personnel@ambervalley.gov.uk

Amber Valley Borough Council is an equal opportunities employer.

Regional Officers

Five posts located in the South West (ref RDO1), South East and London (ref RDO2), East (RDO3), West Midlands (ref RDO4) and the North East (ref RDO5).

Salary £22,000 to £25,000

An exciting opportunity has arisen to appoint a network of additional Regional Officers to build the capacity for the development of angling within the regions of the National Governing Body (NGB) to campaign for the promotion of the sport and the water environment on behalf of the Angling Trust.

The sport is undergoing rapid and radical change following the formation of the Angling Trust in January 2009. We are seeing to appoint enthusiastic and energetic people to be responsible for increasing and sustaining the number of people participating in angling.

Applicants will be required to support the development of angling clubs and coaches. The Officers will also work closely with Angling Trust Regional Officers in the regions to deliver a wide range of activities and initiatives across a number of sites and across all areas of the sport. The Officers will be required to motivate and drive sites to deliver service and facility improvement being measured by a suite of service standards.

The Officers will be required to ensure the effective and efficient use of facilities, resources and staff; and ensure the necessary controls are in place to control budgetary spend and individual sites to address environmental and other issues affecting their fishing at a local level.

This hands on and challenging role offers the opportunity to lead business Strategy at operational level.

The Officer will be expected to

• lead the development and management of regional plans for angling within local national objectives.
• establish structures at regional, county and local level to promote, increases and support participation in angling
• identifying, and building suitable partnerships which widen the accessibility of angling within the regions
• identifying and accessing funding to deliver the region’s share of the key outcomes set out in the Angling Whole Sport Plan 2007-13
• liaising with key stakeholders and partners within the region that can contribute to and implement regional strategies
• leading local campaigns with Angling Trust members in conjunction with a national campaign team

The appointed officer will ideally have a track record in sports development, managing, and possessing some knowledge of angling as well as self assured, confident, highly motivated and influential team members.

The successful applicants will be required to adopt a flexible working hours approach, including some evening and weekend work. Training and support will be provided to the most suitable candidates.

Timetable:

• completed applications should be returned by 16th March
• interviews will be held between 21st and 27th March
• offers will be made by 8th April

A job pack including a full description and application form can be obtained from David Cawthorne email: david.cawthorne@anglingtrust.org.uk

The posts are subject to a criminal records check through the Criminal Records Bureau before the offer of appointment is confirmed.

The Angling Trust is an Equal Opportunities and Disability Employer.

www.anglingtrust.org.uk

To apply for either post send a CV with a covering letter – including your name on the envelope – to the relevant Regional Officer:

Regional Manager – 2 Posts

Multi site based

£21,348 – £34,107 pa (pay award pending)

Ref: KAL09/072

Two outstanding opportunities ideally suited for an adaptable, flexible individual have arisen to join the leading provider of sports and leisure activities in the Kirklees area.

You will be responsible for the effective operation and performance of a number of diverse sites and, working through direct line management responsibility for a number of Operations Managers; driving the development and implementation of Kirklees Active Leisure’s Business Strategy at operational level.

This hands on and challenging role offers the opportunity to lead initiatives across a number of sites and across all areas of the business. You will be required to motivate and drive sites to deliver service and facility improvement being measured by a suite of service standards.

You will be required to ensure the effective and efficient use of facilities, resources and staff; and ensure the necessary controls are in place to control budgetary spend and individual sites to address environmental and other issues affecting their fishing at a local level.

It would ideally suit a person with broad operational management experience who is able to understand the principles of Business Performance and Financial Management and Quality Systems in relation to the post.

In addition we offer subsidised car loan facilities, essential car user allowance, contributory final salary pension scheme and a flexible working hours approach.

For further information or to apply online please visit www.kirkleesactive.co.uk

Closing Date: Tuesday 17th March 2009.

Kirklees Active Leisure is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

www.kirkleesactive.co.uk

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We are looking for staff to work during the school holidays in our kids camp based in London, Berkshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Essex, Mid Sussex, Surrey, Kent, Southend, Wokingham and Waltham.

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Activity Managers

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• You will have strong interpersonal and communication skills.
• Ideally you will have a Degree in Sports Coaching or relevant experience.
• Salary: £15,000 – £22,000 (dependant on candidates experience).
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To find out more and apply, please email your CV quoting ref: LOELM with covering letter to careers@esporta.com Alternatively, call the recruitment team on 0118 912 3530.

Visit www.esporta.com

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If you are qualified in Aerobics or Lifeguarding, full of energy and fun, it’s the perfect opportunity. In return, you’ll receive an excellent package including full board and use of activity and watersport facilities.

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Revenues per available room (RevPAR) to decrease by 8 per cent this year – but hotels will still make more profit than in 1990's recession

By Caroline Wilkinson

UK chain hotels are facing the most challenging trading conditions in 17 years.

According to analyst TRI Hospitality Consulting, hotels in London will experience a 10 per cent dip in 2010. RevPAR, UK hotels will maintain profit conversion at a higher level than they did in the early 1990's recession.

London hotels are set to record a sharp drop in RevPAR this year

Merseyside's waterfront revamp plans submitted

By Tom Walker

Plans for Merseyside's waterfront redevelopment have been submitted to Wirral Council.

The scheme focuses on the Northbank East section of Birkenhead Docks, and is part of a bigger £4.5bn project, named Wirral Waters, one of the largest regeneration projects in the country.

The scheme is part of a larger £4.5bn Wirral Waters initiative of close partnership working between Wirral Council and Peel, clearly demonstrate all parties’ belief to this scheme.

Lindsey Ashworth, director at Peel Developments, said: "This is an important milestone at Peel Developments, said: "This is an important milestone in the life of Wirral Waters. It's the start of a very long journey that will take many decades to complete."

Wirral Council leader Steve Foulkes added: "These applications, which are a result of close partnership working between Wirral Council and Peel, clearly demonstrate all parties’ belief to this scheme."

REPs plans regional events

Following on from the Register of Exercise Professionals’ (REPs) Welsh Convention in January, two new dates have been set for conventions in Scotland and the north of England.

Both conventions will be held during the summer, with venues and speaker line ups to be confirmed later this spring.