Leisure Media, the global media business for professionals working across all the leisure industries, has launched a raft of new publications that have been created for leisure architects, designers, investors and developers.

The company has set up a new global division called CLAD – the Community of Leisure Architects and Designers – to drive the venture.

Commenting on the launch, Leisure Media CEO Liz Terry said: “When our first magazine – Leisure Management – launched in 1980, most leisure buildings were sheds. However, in the intervening years, leisure architecture has come of age as a discipline and many of the world’s leading architects have begun to work in our sector.

“Our vision is to celebrate excellence in leisure architecture and design, to champion the work of the amazing people who are responsible for making these places where we choose to spend our time.”

The new titles include CLADmag – a glossy quarterly, CLADweek, a news and picture ezine, and CLADbook – an annual handbook.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=V5k3t

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Green light for £400m Tottenham stadium

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club has been given the go-ahead to build a new £625m stadium after winning its High Court battle against the sole business standing in the way of its redevelopment.

Plans for the £400m stadium, being built next to Tottenham’s current home of White Hart Lane, were challenged by landowner Archway Sheet Metal Works at the High Court because of a compulsory purchase order of land being approved in July. However, its appeal was rejected after a judge said a compulsory purchase order against the property was not illegal.

Spurs and local authorities – will also include as many as 275 homes, a hotel, a retail area and a public square for community events, such as ice skating or street markets.

It will be funded by a £350m bridging loan facility from HSBC if there is a shortfall until permanent financing or the next stage of financing is obtained.

Other likely elements include a health club, a museum and café. A super-market and University Technical College, specialising in sports science and health – in partnership with Middlesex University, London – opened on the site in 2014.

KSS says the design “responds to the club’s brief for an iconic stadium incorporating modern state-of-the-art facilities, and recreating the intense atmosphere of the current White Hart Lane stadium, to provide the best possible spectator experience.”

The club was aiming to have its new stadium ready for the start of the 2017-18 season, however, the delay in the land purchase means it’s likely to spend a season away from White Hart Lane, with Milton Keynes a likely interim location. Details: http://lei.sr?a=g2z9U

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Health clubs go on the market for £1 each

A Merseyside health club owner is giving ‘budget gyms’ a whole new meaning by putting his premises on the market for just £1 each.

Richard Birchall, owner of the ladies-only Hearts Ladies Health Clubs, is ready to retire and travel the world, but first wants to safeguard the jobs of his loyal staff. He’s placed his two gyms – a 700-member site in Wallasey and a 1,200-member gym nearby Crosby – on the market for £1 each and has unsurprisingly been inundated with offers.

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Fifa has scotched WC compensation calls

Fifa has said it will not pay out compensation to football clubs and leagues unhappy with plans to hold the 2022 Qatar World Cup through November and December, adding that no apology was necessary for the disruption.

A Fifa taskforce made the decision on Tuesday 24 February after determining that temperatures in Qatar during June and July would make elite outdoor sport of any kind impossible in the country. During the traditional World Cup months, temperatures can reach as high as 50°C. Through November and December however, temperatures drop to the mid-20s.

The scheduling of the tournament has been hotly debated since the announcement was made in December 2010. Officials from European football leagues – especially England’s Premier League – said moving the World Cup dates would cause serious scheduling problems for the leagues for three successive seasons from 2020-21 to 2022-23. The scheduling also causes disruption to the African Cup of Nations which will now move to June 2023 as opposed to January.

“There will be no compensation,” said Fifa secretary general Jerome Valcke. “There are seven years to reorganise.”

Despite the traditionally busy Christmas football calendar, the final is tentatively set for 23 December. Valcke says European governing body Uefa and other confederations are keen on 23 December, although 18 December is also a possibility.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=g5U3s

SRA launches pre-election sport ‘to do list’

Increased support for grassroots sports organisations and an emphasis on local physical activity strategies are among the five “asks” for ministers ahead of this year’s General Election.

Launching its “to do list” for politicians, the Sports and Recreation Alliance (SRA) has highlighted five areas it has recognised as crucial for any government to concentrate on.

The five items contained within the Raising the heartbeat of the nation — A five-step plan for a more active population publication are:

1. Support sport and recreation from the grass-roots up, through a fair and sustainable CASC system, the creation of a sports betting right and automatic rate relief for clubs.
2. Increased investment in Initial Teacher Training for primary school teachers to ensure high quality PE, sport and physical activity from the start of the educational journey.
3. Every local authority to produce a comprehensive strategy for physical activity opportunities in response to local needs.
4. Keep the UK the home of world-class sport through major events legislation and resources to protect sporting integrity.
5. A dedicated Minister for the Outdoors to deliver a coordinated strategy to maximise the full potential of the natural environment.

Each point of importance was selected following a year-long consultation with national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).

Emma Boggis, CEO of the SRA, said the launch of the Ministers’ To-Do List is the beginning of a process which will see the alliance working with MPs to ensure ministers understand the role sport can play in creating a healthy society. Details: http://lei.sr?a=K9q6H
**UFC bids to unite combat sports**

The Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) is aiming to bring together British combat sports under one banner, but could face a bumpy road after being forced to withdraw support for April’s European Judo Championships. The move followed a threat from the European Judo Union (EJU) to cancel the event if UFC was to remain involved.

“We love to see sport thrive and athletes prosper, which is why the UFC prides itself on supporting all combat sports both mixed and individual disciplines,” commented UFC’s senior vice-president and general manager of Europe, Middle East and Africa, David Allen.

“Our aim was to help judo reach a new audience, increase promotion, help to sell tickets and create a buzz around the European Judo Championships. It is disappointing to see that the EJU cannot see the benefits of collaboration and celebration of all sports.”

**Man City unveils wearable match day app**

Manchester City Football Club (MCFC) has become the first football club in the world to launch a match day app for wearable devices.

Designed for the Android Watch, the CityMatchday Wear app will notify users of key match day moments such as team sheet announcements, goal alerts, penalties and red cards and other select commentary.

Diego Gigliani, director of media and fan relationship management at MCFC, said: “CityMatchday Wear is another example of how we are constantly exploring and adopting new technology with the ultimate goal of improving the fan experience and strengthening fans’ engagement with the football club.

“We recognise the smart watch market is in mind who can’t physically be at every game. “With millions of Manchester City fans worldwide, many won’t be able to watch all our matches live, whether they are in the stadium or watching on TV,” Gigliani added. “For those fans who want to keep up with all the action but are unable to watch the game, having CityMatchday Wear on their Android watches will allow them to go about their busy days while receiving key updates related to our matches as they happen.”

**New web-based resource launched for sports clubs**

Sport England has launched Club Matters – a free web-based resource to help those involved in running grassroots sports clubs.

Designed to help all club officials and volunteers – whether a club chair writing a plan to attract new members, a treasurer managing budgets or a club captain asking existing members what they want.

The resources will offer a wide range of help to clubs, from mentoring and club improvement plans to ways to operate Clubmark – the accreditation scheme for community sports clubs. Over the next eight months, Sport England will hold sessions nationwide to demonstrate the resource. Details: http://lei.sr?r=a=W9w7R

**Truro City Football Club announces stadium site**

Truro City Football Club (TCFC) has announced plans for a new stadium.

Helical Retail, the club’s development partner, has acquired an option from Wycliffe Estates to purchase a site known as Silver Bow, at Threemilestone, for the club’s relocation. The site, to the west of Truro, is directly opposite the entrance to the proposed Langarth Development, which has planning consent for 1,500 houses.

Helical Retail expects to submit a planning application for a football ground and related uses in the next few months.

No details on the stadium’s size or design have been released, but Peter Masters, chair of TCFC said the venue would also host the club’s relocation. The site, to the west of Truro, is directly opposite the entrance to the proposed Langarth Development, which has planning consent for 1,500 houses.

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Tennis legend Andre Agassi has lead the official UK launch of his Bilt by Agassi & Reyes fitness range tie-up with David Lloyd Leisure.

The star showcased the gym kit – a line of fitness machines modelled on his own custom-made equipment honed over a 20-year playing career – at David Lloyd Leisure’s (DLL) Chigwell club on 26 February.

DLL is currently in the midst of a gym transformation programme, which will see innovative design, technology and ‘best-in-class’ equipment installed at a number of clubs.

As part of this, the Bilt range is being rolled out across DLL clubs in the UK and Europe. The training equipment was designed by Agassi and fitness coach Gil Reyes around the pillars of strength, conditioning and safety – three factors that the eight-time Grand Slam champion says kept him on the court during a largely injury-free career.

“I’m delighted that the hard work and passion that has gone into many years of development has been recognised by David Lloyd Leisure,” commented Agassi. “We look forward to developing our relationship further as DLL continue their club improvements over the years.”

The Bilt range, which is designed to provide strength and conditioning training for any sport, features the award-winning Change of Direction (COD) machine, The Power Stride and The Olympic Flat Bench. It is being distributed in the UK by Concept Fitness International. Details: http://lei.sr?a=V7E8w

As far as early-morning workouts go, it’s certainly one worth waking up for. The newly-opened Tower Bridge glass walkway – situated 42m (138ft) above the river Thames – has started offering sunrise yoga classes for those wanting to awaken their chi inside one of the world’s most famous attractions.

The £15 classes offered by London-based yoga teacher Billie Woodcraft kicked off on 16 February, with each of the inaugural eight sessions having sold out well in advance.

Participants hone their downward dog poses on the Purcell Architects-designed glass floors along Tower Bridge’s East and West high-level walkways, which each measure 11m (36ft) long and 1.8m (6ft) wide and can withstand the weight equivalent of one elephant or two London Black Cabs. Mats are provided for the yoga classes, but organisers recommend using gripped gloves and socks to maximise the experience on the new glass floor.

According to the promotional website, the yoga classes are “designed to revitalise and inject energy into Londoners with an exciting and never-seen-before view from inside the most famous bridge in the world.” The innovative fitness offering marks the latest in a growing list of exercise sessions emerging in iconic spaces. In London alone, similar yoga classes are available from Yogasphere, 310m (1,016ft) above London in The Shard, while proposals have recently been put forward to create swimming baths in the Thames.

Elsewhere, history enthusiasts could soon get the chance to cycle along the path of the former Iron Curtain, while Melbourne’s harbour is the subject of plans for an artificial surfing park. Details: http://lei.sr?a=5V9f

HEALTH & FITNESS

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Everyone Health in £5m weight management win

Everyone Health – Sports and Leisure Management’s (SLM) public health division – has landed a £5m contract to drive Notts County Council’s new obesity prevention and weight management services.

The tie-up will see Everyone Health work alongside the council over the next four years to help families across Nottinghamshire manage their weight and lead healthier lifestyles. From April 2015, people in Nottinghamshire at high risk of obesity will be offered a personalised care package, including psychological support and help with increasing physical activity while maintaining a healthy, balanced diet. Details: http://lei.sr?a=f6y9V

Les Mills shuffles top team with double promotion

Les Mills United Kingdom (LMUK) CEO Keith Burnet and customer experience director Martin Franklin have both been promoted as part of a top level reshuffle.

Burnet has accepted a role as Global Markets COO with Les Mills International. The Global Markets role will see Burnet provide strategic leadership to all of Les Mills International global distributors, including its wholly-owned subsidiaries in the US, UK, Nordic, German and China markets. The role was previously based in the Les Mills International head office in Auckland but will now be based in LMK’s London office as part of the company’s strategic desire to move closer to its customers.

The LMK chief executive role will be filled by Franklin, who has impressed through his work leading the 13-strong Customer Experience team.

Les Mills International CEO Phillip Mills said the changes are being made to strengthen the organisational capability of the global business as it moves through a significant phase of growth. Details: http://lei.sr?a=qsm4X

‘Bad science’ holding us back

The weak evidence base underpinning the effectiveness of exercise as medicine is holding the physical activity sector back at a time when it should be at the forefront of public health delivery.

That is the view of exercise experts from the ukactive Research Institute, whose new academic piece brands the failure to demonstrate the clear health benefits of exercise in a real world setting a ‘serious concern’.

The article published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine – calls into question the methods currently used to judge whether exercise is an effective prescription for use in clinical medicine and public health.

Physical activity has long been heralded for its medicinal value, with growing calls for it to be more widely prescribed by practitioners.

Exponents argue that this is especially pertinent in the face of the economic strain of treating preventable non-communicable disease in the UK, a burden that many believe will lead to the demise of the NHS. On the back of several high profile reports criticising the evidence base for exercise, ukactive Research Institute principal investigator Dr Chris Beedie and his team argue in their new paper that too many researchers conduct studies in laboratories and say their findings do not translate to real world practice.

“In controlled trials, the power of exercise to improve health and ward off disease has been demonstrated beyond question,” said Beedie.

“It is however, a serious concern that this evidence does not translate well into real life settings in our communities. Unless better evidence is able to be provided by scientists, the credibility of exercise as a public health tool could be seriously undermined.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=h7G8u

Xercise4Less to launch pregnancy classes

Low cost gym chain Xercise4Less is aiming to help new and expectant mums to stay in shape by rolling out a range of dedicated services.

Spearheaded by 25-year-old health and fitness executive Sarah Philp – herself a mother to 18-month-old Isaac – the programme will start at the gym company’s head office site in Leeds, before eventually becoming available at all Xercise4Less gyms.

As part of this initiative Sarah, who is qualified in Level 3 Personal Training and has just received her Pre and Post-Natal certificate, has recently launched the ‘Xercise4Mums blog’, where she offers tips and advice on maintaining a healthy lifestyle despite having young children or being pregnant.

Philp is delighted that Xercise4Less has backed her proposal, with the gym chain due to launch classes using baby-in-the-body weight exercises this year across its gyms.

“This is something I’m extremely passionate about, as I have faced these challenges personally,” said Philp. “When it comes to the classes, it’s all about combining exercises with the baby to help with the burn, such as baby-carrier squats, lunges, bench press. Also, what better way to do exercise than to team it with bonding with your baby!” Details: http://lei.sr?a=77y3T
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White Cliff wartime tunnel network to open in May

A new attraction on the White Cliffs of Dover is under development, with the National Trust to open up a network of wartime underground tunnels to the public.

Due to open in May, the tunnels at Fan Bay were used for detecting the approach of enemy aircraft during World War Two.

Speaking at a public Dover Society meeting, National Trust visitor experience manager for the region, Jon Barker, said that 70 volunteers are now being sought to act as tunnel guides for the attraction.

The National Trust is currently assessing the interior of the tunnels before starting work on making essential repairs.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=m5N4K

Loch Ness Monster to star in new tourism campaign

The iconic landmark of Loch Ness in Scotland – supposedly home to the mythical Loch Ness Monster – is to benefit from a £2m investment to boost inbound tourism in a move that the government predicts will generate an extra £14m tourism spend by the year 2019.

Announced by chief secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander, the campaign will see extensive advertising of the area, featuring the famed Loch Ness Monster and its other attractions in key tourism markets until 2019.

The campaign, to be run by VisitScotland, is predicted to generate an extra £3.5m a year for local businesses in the Inverness area, equating to roughly £1.4m over the four-year campaign period.

“The Loch is a jewel in the crown of the Highlands tourism industry, which creates and sustains many jobs in Scotland,” said Alexander. “Around the world, Loch Ness is one of the best known places in the UK, so it’s right we place it the heart of our international tourism campaign.”

The Loch Ness scheme is part of VisitScotland’s GREAT campaign. Details: http://lei.sr?a=K5sk

Star Wars experience for Tussauds

A new Star Wars-themed experience is to open at Madame Tussauds London in May, the popular attraction announced last month.

The multi-million pound immersive experience will feature 16 wax-figure characters, including Princess Leia, Jabba the Hutt and Obi-Wan Kenobi, plus a number of walk-in sets to authentically portray some of the franchise’s most famous moments.

At Star Wars at Madame Tussauds, guests will be able to “get close to their film heroes, star alongside them and grab a selfie in specially recreated scenes of some of their favourite movie moments,” said Ben Sweet, Madame Tussauds London’s general manager.

The Merlin-operated attraction has worked alongside Disney, the IP owner, and Lucasfilm in meticulously recreating the characters, costumes and scenery. The move comes shortly after Disney CEO Bob Iger announced the Star Wars franchise would play a much more prominent role in his company’s parks, as the buzz continues to grow ahead of J.J. Abrams’ forthcoming Star Wars movie, due in December 2015.

At Madame Tussauds, visitors will be invited to join Yoda in his swamps on Dagobah!

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Glastonbury founder moots attraction

The founder of the popular Glastonbury Festival in Somerset, has unveiled a £3m plan to create a major tourist attraction telling the fascinating story of one of England’s most historic towns.

Glastonbury Festival founder Michael Eavis is proposing a state-of-the-art tourism and heritage attraction in Glastonbury’s town centre. To be located in the soon-to-be council-owned St Dunstan’s building, the proposed development – which still requires a business plan – has been likened to York’s Jorvik Centre.

“[The festival’s] success has brought notoriety to Glastonbury itself and economic benefits that run into millions of pounds every year,” Eavis told The Western Daily Press.

“At my stage of life, I am now very keen to build a visitor centre in the town that conveys the wonders for the last 3,000 years of history of this place – from the lake village in the levels, through to Joseph of Arimathea bringing Christianity to Somerset and thereby the Abbey itself, plus King Arthur’s famous exploits and legendary battles at Camelot.

“St Dunstan’s House offers us a venue to build a complete history with holograms, films, displays and so on. It will attract thousands of people day after day during the tourist season. This will bring trade and prosperity to this marvellous town for years to come.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=A4J5E
Men prefer company at the spa

Men prefer to spa with loved ones but women prefer to have private solo treatments, according to a consumer survey by the Good Spa Guide.

The survey, based on feedback from 530 respondents, studied the behaviour and opinions of spa-goers. The results show that nearly 60 per cent of men want to spend time with someone they love and 41 per cent of men prefer couples’ treatments to individual therapies. This compares to the 18 per cent of women who prefer treatments with their partners in the same room.

Respondents answered 15 questions in total, such as “why do you go to a spa?” The highest ranking answer to this particular question for men and women, at 82 per cent, was “to get some down time and unwind”. 11 per cent selected the answer: “so I can look good”.

93 per cent of spa-goers feel the facilities are what make for a “perfect spa day”, with 85 per cent saying that good customer service is the second most important aspect of a spa. Being “well looked after” follows at 82 per cent. Poor customer service was the most selected answer to the question: “What ruins a spa day?” 89 per cent of respondents said this was a problem. Noise levels were the second most likely factor to ruin a spa day, at 88 per cent.

Daphne Metland, founder of the Good Spa Guide said: “Many spas are introducing quiet zones or signs. This is appreciated by customers and can help tackle problematic noise levels. Anything to pull a customer back is a bonus and if quiet signs are needed then they should be used.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=48y7k

Work starts on destination spa in Devon

Construction has begun on a £5m luxury spa at Boringdon Hall in the Plymouth suburb of Plympton thanks to the Growth, Acceleration and Investment Network (GAIN).

The network was founded by Plymouth University, Plymouth City Council and Tamar Science Park to accelerate growth and investment in businesses to create wealth and jobs in the south west.

GAIN is a regional partnership of businesses and a grant of £351,000 from its Growth Fund has made the Gaia Spa – expected to generate 50 new jobs – development possible.

Due to open early in 2016, the Gaia Spa will offer guests of the 40-bedroom Boringdon Hall Hotel and day visitors access to 12 treatment rooms, a deep relaxation area, heat treatment facilities, a gym, 14m (46ft) swimming pool and a restaurant. The plans were approved in 2012. The 1,700sq m (18,299sq ft) spa will use the hotel’s own in-house brand of natural products for treatments.

Owned and operated by the Nettleton Group, co-director Diane Nettleton said: “The Gaia Spa will be a destination spa for Plymouth, bringing visitors from across the UK to the area, as well as offering luxurious facilities to local people. When we bought Boringdon Hall four years ago, we had ambitions to create a spa – building on our experience of successfully running the Fistral Beach Hotel and Spa in Newquay.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=U4b2Q

Millford Hall Hotel near Stonehenge plans new spa

Millford Hall Hotel, a Georgian mansion dating back to the 1800s just a short drive from Stonehenge, is planning to add a £500,000 spa to its four-star amenities.

The property is owned by Hughes Hotels, which has brought in consultancy Spa Creators to create the Lime Spa – expected to open in May 2015. Alistair Johnson, managing director of Spa Creators, spoke exclusively to Leisure Opportunities, detailing the company’s involvement in the 175sq m (1,884sq ft) facility’s inception.

“The spa will be managed by the hotel, but Spa Creators’ services will be retained for the first year to support the team in the ongoing operations. It’s a business mentor service offered by us as part of the implementation services,” said Johnson.

There will be three treatment rooms at the spa over two floors, in addition to two relaxation lounges, plus a reception and juice bar. Thermal facilities are to include a sauna, steamroom, heated loungers and experience showers as well as an outdoor vitality pool – all of which will be supplied by Dalesauna. Details: http://lei.sr?a=V4z6s

Popularity of UK cosmetic surgery declined in 2014

The popularity of cosmetic surgery in the UK plummeted in 2014, according to figures from the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (Baaps).

There had been 45,406 surgical procedures in 2014, down nine per cent from 50,122 in 2013. Breast enlargement is the most common procedure among women, but eyelid surgery has overtaken nose jobs to be the most common operation in men.

The industry has been under intense scrutiny since the PIP breast implant scandal in 2012, where thousands of women were fitted with substandard implants from French firm Poly Implant Prothese (PIP). Details: http://lei.sr?a=R9w8w
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Man Utd legends unveil Hotel Football

A quintet of Manchester United legends – led by Gary Neville and Ryan Giggs – unveiled the world’s first ever Hotel Football on 2 March.

The new venture is the brainchild of GG Hospitality – of which Neville and Giggs are directors – and aims to provide a premium themed hotel experience within a stone’s throw of United’s Old Trafford stadium.

The five footballing stars behind the venture – Gary Neville, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and Phil Neville – are the main backers of the estimated £24m complex, also serving as the Old Trafford Supporters’ Club (OTSC).

The 8,000sq m (86,111sq ft) building – designed by AEW Architects – incorporates a 133-bedroom hotel with public space for OTSC members and spectators, plus a new Café Football – boasting a menu designed by two Michelin star chef, Michael Wignall. Taking the football theme one step further, the hotel will feature its own impressive rooftop football pitch which can be hired for unique parties and events for up to 200 people.

Talking about the new development, Gary Neville said: “To make sure that the hotel appeals to everyone, not just football fans, we are working with some of the most talented people in the industry to create something unique and inviting – with a focus on excellent customer service.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z6V5b

IHG report champions ‘trust capital’

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) has launched its 2015 trends report, which identifies the growing importance for companies to build both brand and organisational trust to ensure sustainable growth.

The report, Building Trust Capital: The new business imperative in the Kinship Economy, highlights the need to not only focus on the three Cs of organisational wealth: financial capital, intellectual capital and human capital – but a fourth C must be added: trust capital.

According to IHG, trust capital represents the confidence that consumers have in the credibility, integrity, leadership and responsibility of an organisation and its brands.

This report is the third in a series based on research spanning a three-year period, involving nearly 40,000 interviews with international travellers worldwide.

In addition to the need for trust capital, another trend highlighted by the report is the need to strategically manage both baby boomers (born between 1946-1964) and millennials (born between 1982-2000).

According to the research, millennials prefer experiential relationships with brands, whereas boomers look for brand relationships that go smoothly. Millennials are more apt to be ‘invisible travellers’ than boomers because they are people who can move through the guest journey without caring for people-enabled contact. 67 per cent of boomers say they would prefer to call a hotel and speak with ‘real’ people on-site for information, versus 56 per cent of millennials.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=F2H7A

Aparthotel sector is becoming a force to be reckoned with

New innovations in the hospitality sector combined with evolving trends and market forces mean branded aparthotels and serviced apartments are starting to gain solid recognition as a core part of the hospitality industry.

Defined as branded ‘cook-in’ plus sleeping accommodation with various degrees of hospitality services offered, this sector of the industry often has very specific customer target markets such as the increasingly mobile business traveller, VFR market, leisure travellers and students.

What’s more, independent apartment living with all the benefits of expert hospitality services are a popular and fast-growing trend, particularly for young people and business travellers. As well as dedicated new brands, many of the BHA’s international member hotel brands are adding serviced apartment offers to their portfolios. That’s why it’s vital to have dedicated representation within the BHA membership.

The market share for aparthotels and serviced apartments currently stands at 10 per cent of accommodation in London, yet the Centre for Economics and Business Research suggests that with London’s economy set to expand by 15 per cent over the four years to 2019, there will be an increase in current aparthotels and serviced apartments stock levels by 16.7 per cent (Savills). And while London is the main focus for expansion, regional aparthotels and serviced apartments are also on the increase. The growth of this sector can be attributed to increased consumer demand and greater availability – largely triggered by the 2012 London Olympic Games and the rise of the leisure consumer.

Marie Hickey at Savills says: “While the sector in the UK remains small compared to hotels, accounting for only 3 per cent of hotel bed supply, expansion has been picking up pace with almost 50 new site openings over the last two years. This is opposed to the five openings reported back in 2005, and the outlook remains bright with 3,200 new units in the development pipeline through to the end of 2017.”

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Tourism records tumble again

The tourism industry racked up record inbound figures for 2014, with statistics showing visitor numbers and spending broke new ground.

The most recent International Passenger Survey figures show that overseas visitors spent £21.7bn in Britain last year, a three per cent increase on 2013 and a new record in both nominal and real terms. Meanwhile, the number of inbound visits reached a record 34.8 million, up by nearly 6 per cent on 2013.

But despite the positive figures, there was one area for concern. Visits from China – a market that VisitBritain has been targeting with a number of tourism initiatives – fell 7 per cent year-on-year. One well-placed industry observer told Leisure Opportunities that the drop, coming at a time when the Chinese outbound tourism market continues to grow, suggests the government’s visa policy is in need of a revamp.

The overall inbound tourism gains were powered by a strong showing from North America – Britain’s most valuable tourism source market – which delivered annual visit growth of 4 per cent in 2014 to reach 3.7 million, making it the best year for visits since 2008. As part of the continued focus on this key market, VisitBritain is currently running its Countryside is GREAT campaign in the US to boost visits to a wider range of locations across the country. With 2015 also forecast to be a record year, industry analysts observed the outlook for inbound tourism looks likely to remain rosey at least for the medium term. “The UK’s enduring appeal as a leading tourist destination doesn’t appear to be suffering from the strength of sterling with almost 2.5 million overseas visitors spending nearly £2bn here in December 2014 alone,” said Mike Saul, head of Hospitality and Leisure at Barclays. Details: http://lei.sr?a=C4X5E

Total eclipse brings Scottish tourism boon

The north of Scotland is preparing for a major tourism boon, in the form of a once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse expected to attract legions of stargazers later this month.

The first total eclipse to darken the far northern regions of Europe and the Arctic for more than a decade is expected to take place at approximately 9.30am on Friday 20 March. The next total eclipse to take place above Britain isn’t due until 2090, so tourists are eager to find the perfect vantage point for the event.

While residents of the Faroe Islands are expected to enjoy the best views – with the country’s hotels having booked up months in advance – outlying parts of Scotland are also expected to enjoy stunning views. Almost 97 per cent of the sun’s disc is set to be obscured in Shetland and the Outer Hebrides, rising to 98 per cent on Skye and Orkney.

Tourism businesses are now preparing to cope with the anticipated extra volume of visitors. Special cruises are being organised to head north towards the eclipse, with many due to call in to port in the Highlands and Islands. “The north-east, Highlands, Orkney and Shetland all boast outstanding natural beauty, but the chance to witness this rare celestial phenomenon will give people yet another reason to visit these regions,” chair of VisitScotland Mike Cantlay told the Aberdeen Press and Journal. “We encourage people coming to make the most of their time by going to local visitor attractions and enjoying our excellent food and drink.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=c4asp
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Work starts on new cultural centre in north London

Work has started on a £25m community and leisure centre in Harrow.

Planning was granted back in 2010 for the project, which seeks to create a 5,000sq m (53,820sq ft) centre, acting as a ‘cultural embassy’ for Harrow’s community.

London and Barcelona-based Mangera Yvars Architects is behind the project. The practice originally set out to provide a space where people of any faith could come together in an informal environment.

Once complete, the centre will house restaurants, a library, an underground sports hall, children's play areas, lecture rooms and areas for prayer and meditation.

The building is being constructed effectively in two halves due to a culverted river flowing across the site. The structure will be blended into the surrounding landscape with the creation of a ‘contemplation garden’ running along the back of the site, and an open public space will come in the form of a courtyard. Details: http://lei.sr?a=C8d6J

Work to soon start on £2bn Covent Garden regeneration

Developer St Modwen aims to have work underway on the £2bn mixed-use redevelopment of New Covent Garden Market by this summer, according to the company's recently-published yearly results statement.

Work at the site of the UK’s largest fruit, vegetable and flower market – a 57-acre area situated next to Vauxhall Cross in the Nine Elms regeneration zone – is being led by St Modwen with joint venture development partner Vinci. Architecture giants BDP and SOM won approval for their plans from Wandsworth Council in November – a “refinement” of the scheme by Foster & Partners and Neil Tomlinson Architects which won planning in 2012.

The plans include an 8ha mixed-use development with a residential element, alongside 13,000sq m (139,931sq ft) of offices and 9,000sq m (96,875sq ft) of leisure and retail. Details: http://lei.sr?a=JSF7y

A rendering of the new equestrian offering at the RDS Arena

Firms win £15m Dublin arena revamp

A consortium of architecture and design firms has been chosen to design a £15m redevelopment of the RDS Arena in Dublin, Ireland.

International architecture firm Grimshaw has been paired with local practice Newenham Mulligan to carry out the overhaul of the arena, following an international design competition run by the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI).

Situated south of Dublin city centre, the RDS arena is a multi purpose venue; used as the home grounds for Leinster Rugby, the stadium also hosts equestrian sports. With the new design plans, it is hoped that the venue will become even more multi-functional, with the notion of hosting music concerts and other professional sports events. It is expected that the redesigned stadium will be included in Ireland’s bid to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

Michael Duffy, CEO of the RDS, said the Grimshaw and Newenham Mulligan proposal “stood out for their understanding of the multi-faceted nature of the development and their vision for the RDS Arena.”

The redevelopment would increase the existing capacity of the stadium from 18,500 to 25,000, aided by the creation of a new stand. Leinster Rugby will continue to play at the arena throughout the redevelopment.

Mick Dawson, CEO of Leinster Rugby, said the revamp “would significantly add to Ireland’s 2023 World Cup bid.”

Sir Terry Farrell’s design for a new financial district for London

Immediate priorities for the project are securing funding and planning permission, with hopes work can start on site in 2016. Details: http://lei.sr?a=c6e9N

£1bn China backing for Docklands scheme

Plans to create a third financial district in London – to rival the City and Canary Wharf – have taken a significant step forward after a Chinese investment firm announced £1bn of backing.

China Minsheng Investment Corp, the mainland country’s largest private investment firm, will join Chinese developer Advanced Business Park (ABP) on the Farrells-designed project, which aims to transform the historic Royal Albert Dock into a mixed use business and finance hub.

“The investment is a strategically important beginning for our exploration in the European market,” said Minsheng CEO Li Huaiizhen. “We will work with global companies to bolster Chinese firms’ global drive.”

Plans were first unveiled for the site in 2013 by ABP and London mayor Boris Johnson. The scheme won planning approval from Newham Borough Council in July 2014, with the expectation that it would add 20,000 jobs and £6bn to the local economy. Work is expected to begin on the site later this year, with the first phase due to be complete in 2017. Details: http://lei.sr?a=U5U7V

How the new community centre will look

Details: http://lei.sr?a=C8d6J
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Promoting physical activity and health in an ageing population

IAN TAYLOR
is chief executive at SkillsActive

As we all know by now, physical activity is a highly cost effective measure in reducing the risk of diseases such as hypertension and diabetes, while fostering social interaction, community participation, and also leading to improved levels of social cohesion.

I am delighted SkillsActive and REPs are taking the lead in developing a training package, which is to be used by exercise professionals involved in a new study - The Promoting Physical Activity and Health in Ageing (PAHA) project - and we will be co-ordinating the delivery of the activity intervention in the UK.

The PAHA project is a tailored intervention for older adults with different functional capacities. Through a supervised and structured exercise programme for 55-65 year olds, PAHA intends to convert currently inactive people into regular exercisers at a level that is beneficial to their health, supporting the EU Guidelines on Physical Activity and the European Week of Sport.

In each one of the eight project partner countries spread across the European Union – Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal and the United Kingdom – three fitness centres will run three trial sessions of supervised exercise for a duration of six weeks, for 15 participants at each session.

The qualification aims to offer a clear pathway towards work

The qualification aims to offer a clear pathway towards work

Active IQ aims to upskill college students

Awarding organisation
Active IQ has unveiled a new two-year college diploma qualification offering an alternative to the BTEC for further education students eyeing a career in the physical activity sector.

Due to launch to colleges in March – in time for a September course start date – the Level 3 Diploma in Physical Activity, Fitness and Exercise Science will equip students with a broad range of knowledge and skills to progress into employment and/or higher education.

Taking two years to complete, with an exit point after year one, the Diploma will provide students with an overview of the exercise and fitness landscape, teach them how to plan and deliver fitness programmes, and will provide entry to the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs) at Level 3. Students will explore fitness and exercise knowledge, technology, personal and professional development, motivational strategy, entrepreneurship and business skills.

“Vocational qualifications have been the focus of significant change over the last 18 months and with the leisure industry rapidly growing, we need qualifications that are of a high standard, truly valued by employers and which provide a clear line of sight to work,” said Active IQ commercial director Jenny Patrickson. “We are working closely with employers to gain feedback on the design, delivery and assessment of our qualifications, so that active leisure qualifications provide operators with graduates who have a high level of knowledge and practical skills.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=y2Q4j

InstructAbility plans northern roll out

InstructAbility, the award-winning programme providing fitness instructor training for people with disabilities, is to roll out courses across the north of England for the first time this year.

Created by spinal cord injury charity Aspire and YMCAfit, the programme offers participants the opportunity to gain a Level 2 gym instructor qualification and gives them support to find a job in the fitness industry.

Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield will be the first northern venue to host the programme as part of its expansion. A selection day is being held on 25 February and anyone interested in taking part is encouraged to apply now. There are plans to run courses in Liverpool and Manchester later this year.

Hilary Farmilo, InstructAbility national project manager, said: “The first InstructAbility courses started in London three years ago and they have proved a real success for supporting disabled people into the workforce and making gyms more welcoming for disabled customers.

“Thanks to Sport England funding we have been able to expand to other regions and I am excited to have our first course in the northern region based in Sheffield and we are planning other courses in Liverpool and Manchester.”

Once qualified through InstructAbility, instructors gain work experience in gyms and encourage other disabled people to get active.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=v4DsN
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Katie Smith, Visitor Services Manager, Heritage Services, the Roman Baths

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Our commitment to product innovation, superior value, cost of ownership, and unmatched customer service has made Johnson Health Tech Co. Ltd., a leading provider of high-quality fitness equipment around the world.

Now in its 40th year of business, Johnson Health Tech Co. Ltd., is continuing its expansion of its international team and is seeking seasoned professionals who are able to help drive growth within its commercial fitness division in two distinct markets, namely Asia Pacific and the Middle East. We are seeking dynamic, committed and proven professionals to join the Matrix team and the JHT family!

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
for Asia (Matrix Fitness)

We require a Regional Director to lead Key Account business development in this region, with a focus on growing new business opportunities and eventually building a team to support them. Large National and regional fitness club chains along with hospitality operators will be the focus to further grow our existing business. Coming from the fitness or hospitality industry will be an advantage but not essential. Key competencies we are looking for:

- Focus on Hospitality market in a rapidly expanding region
- Scope to develop and build a team to support business growth
- Self driven professional capable of seeking out new opportunities
- Able to effectively communicate internally to grow business in region
- Ideally based in South Asia already
- Key strategic position within the Global Development Team
- Required to communicate needs and direction of local market for continued growth
- Management skills
- Prepared to travel throughout Asia Pacific region to develop business

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
for Middle East (Matrix Fitness)

We require a proven Business Development Manager to grow our market share in the Commercial fitness club and hospitality markets in the GCC region of the Middle East. With some of the most exclusive hotels in the world, and a large number of commercial fitness clubs, the GCC represents a significant potential market for our organization. We are looking for a regionally based professional whom may be already in the fitness or hospitality business. The successful candidate will be able to easily identify business opportunities, feed back market requirements and help shape the EMEA region strategy.

- Proven experience of working in Fitness or hospitality sector a distinct advantage but not essential
- Preferably living in UAE, but also possible other countries include Saudi, Qatar, Kuwait or Bahrain
- Energetic and target conscious professional who is capable of managing time and plan effectively
- Strong discipline in Administration and internal communication
- Main focus on Commercial Fitness Key Accounts and Hospitality Fitness sector
- Willing and able to travel throughout the CGG region

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£28,746 - £32,778 per annum

Please note that this salary range is indicative only and all posts are subject to the implementation of the Council’s Job Evaluation pay structure.

An opportunity has arisen for an experienced Manager, to lead a large Sports Development Department working across two diverse geographical areas.

We need someone who is empathetic to the needs of residents with disabilities, those from disadvantaged backgrounds and can help us breakdown the barriers which prevent them from participating in Sports and Physical Activity.

You will need to demonstrate you have worked in a similar role for a minimum of 4 years and possess a thorough understanding of how development work addresses challenges such as physical inactivity and how that impacts on the health and wellbeing of residents.

You will need to have a track record of achieving funding which has led to a number of outcomes being achieved, to include supporting clubs and organisations to become more sustainable.

We require someone with experience and success of managing staff, large financial budgets and developing Business Improvement Plans.

**CLOSING DATE: MONDAY 23 MARCH 2015.**

For an informal discussion, contact Dave Wheeler on (01527) 64252 ext. 3313. For an application form and to apply please visit [www.wmjobs.co.uk](http://www.wmjobs.co.uk)

CV’s will not be accepted. Applicants should assume they have been unsuccessful if not contacted within four weeks.

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all Sections of the Community.

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In September 2014 the Council entered into an exciting new arrangement with Alive Management Limited and Alive Leisure (a charitable company) for the management of its leisure and cultural facilities – which consist of four leisure centres and one arts and entertainment venue.

All three partners are passionate about the provision of sport and cultural facilities and the new venture provides the opportunity to deliver these services in an innovative way, whilst also making the business sustainable and more responsible to the needs of the local community.

We are now seeking two Duty Officers to join our team at this exciting time. New business plans and performance targets are currently being developed and you will have the opportunity to work with the Lynnsport Manager to shape the delivery of services and help embed the new ‘Alive’ brand at this centre.

You will carry out day to day management duties, including ensuring the safe and efficient operation of the centre and supervision of a team of staff, ensuring the highest level of customer service is provided at all times. You must have previous experience working at a supervisor level within the leisure field including the ability to effectively manage, train and motivate staff and to manage budgets effectively. You will also have a working knowledge of Health and Safety Regulations.

Apply online at [www.west-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk) where you can also read the full job details. To find out more about your future in West Norfolk visit [www.workinginwestnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.workinginwestnorfolk.co.uk)

**Closing date: 18 March 2015.**
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Our clubs are not owned by large corporate groups but by individuals who have committed their money, time and energy in to creating clubs where the members matter.

If this sounds like the type of business that you would like to be a part of, we invite you to enquire via our ‘career’ site at www.energiefranchise.com with a cover note including the role and location that you are interested in.

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We are looking to appoint qualified Lifeguards into the role of Leisure and Fitness Assistants within WV Active.

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You will need to possess:
- a current RLSS National Pool Lifeguard qualification that includes the Spine Board module
- a current HSE approved First Aid at Work Certificate

You will also be required to carry out gym inductions for customers as and when required (Level 2 Health and Fitness qualification will be required - training will be provided if necessary for successful candidates).

For further information please contact Paul Yeomans on 01902 552423.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

You will be notified of the outcome of your application as soon as possible after the closing date.

Apply online at www.wmjobs.co.uk/our-employers/wolverhampton-city-council/

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<td>Windsor, UK</td>
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<td>Learn to Swim Manager</td>
<td>Becky Adlington’s SwimStars</td>
<td>Greater Manchester, UK</td>
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<td>Personal Trainers</td>
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<td>Site Safety Co-ordinator</td>
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<td>Southam Leisure Centre, UK</td>
</tr>
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<td>Bristol, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales Manager</td>
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<td>London, England</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Operations</td>
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<td>Hertfordshire, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Recreation Assistant</td>
<td>GLL</td>
<td>Greenwich, UK</td>
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<td>Valley Leisure Ltd</td>
<td>Romsey, UK</td>
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<td>Camp Adventure Supervisor</td>
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<td>Tumford School</td>
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<td>Brio Leisure</td>
<td>Northwich Memorial Court</td>
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<td>Dry Side Leisure Assistant</td>
<td>GLL</td>
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<td>University of Leeds</td>
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<td>Customer Insight Analyst</td>
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<td>Group Exercise Instructors</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT Systems Administrator</td>
<td>Loughborough University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Development Officer</td>
<td>Borough of Poole</td>
<td>Poole, UK</td>
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<td>Team Leader</td>
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<td>Loughton Leisure Centre, UK</td>
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<td>The Gym Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Development Officer</td>
<td>Haringey Council</td>
<td>Haringey, London, UK</td>
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<td>Lifeguard</td>
<td>Everyone Active</td>
<td>Loughton Leisure Centre, UK</td>
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<td>Parkwood Leisure</td>
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<td>Commercial Manager – Sport</td>
<td>Bolton Lads &amp; Girls</td>
<td>Bolton, UK</td>
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<td>Membership Sales Advisor</td>
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<td>Senior Recreation Assistant</td>
<td>GLL</td>
<td>Cambridge, UK</td>
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</table>
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Fitness Motivator - Part Time
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK

Team Leader
Company: Harrow School
Location: Middlesex, London, UK

Marketing Manager
Company: Avigym
Location: Alicante, Spain

Fitness Class Teachers (x12)
Company: SportsJobs4Women
Location: Kuwait

Wellness Centre Manager
Company: SportsJobs4Women
Location: Muscat, Oman

Membership Sales Manager
Company: SportsJobs4Women
Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE

Swimming Teachers
Company: Redditch Borough Council
Location: Redditch, UK

Membership Sales Advisor
Company: énergie group
Location: Wembley, UK

Recreation Assistants
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Thetford, UK

Tennis Development Officer
Company: Lee Valley Reg Park Authority
Location: Lee Valley, UK

Receptionist
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bexleyheath, UK

Fitness Apprenticeship
Company: énergie group
Location: Croydon, Greater London, UK

Studio For Hire
Company: énergie group
Location: Croydon, Greater London, UK

Divisional Business Manager
Company: Fusion Lifestyle
Location: Middlesex, England

Club Support Officers
Company: London Sport Ltd
Location: London

Fitness Motivator
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Acton, UK

Operations Manager
Company: Redditch Borough Council
Location: Redditch, UK

Fitness Coach
Company: Gosling Sports Park
Location: Welwyn Garden City, UK

Personal Trainer
Company: Pure Gym Limited
Location: Wolverhampton, UK

Sales & Marketing Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Portsmouth, UK

Fitness Instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: Cricklwood, UK

General Manager
Company: Nottingham City Council
Location: Nottingham City, UK

Commercial Sales Manager
Company: Performance Health Systems
Location: South, UK

Regional Director
Company: Johnson Health Tech Co. Ltd
Location: Asia

Strategic Development Manager
Company: Johnson Health Tech Co. Ltd
Location: Middle East

Sales Admin Co-Ordinator
Company: Move GB
Location: Bath, UK

Regional Activity Scout
Company: Wiltshire Council
Location: Trowbridge, UK

Gym Manager
Company: NRG Gym Limited
Location: Watford, UK

Gym Manager
Company: Pure Gym Limited
Location: Plymouth, UK

Beauty Therapist
Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Woburn Forest, UK

General Manager
Company: Fusion Lifestyle
Location: Essex, England

Regional Sales Manager
Company: Sports Art Fitness
Location: South Coast, UK

Play Touch Rugby League Licensee
Company: The Rugby Football League
Location: Nationwide, UK

Lifetime PTA Global Maxima
Company: Lifetime
Location: Nationwide, UK

Membership Consultant
Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Sales and Marketing Manager
Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Impact Sales Consultant
Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Various - Field based, UK

General Manager
Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainer
Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Swimming Teacher
Company: Becky Adlington’s Swim Stars
Location: Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainers
Company: Club Training
Location: Nationwide

Franchise Opportunities
Company: Premier Sport
Location: Nationwide

GP Exercise Referral
Company: Focus Training
Location: Nationwide, UK

Group Spa Operations Manager
Company: ESPA International
Location: Farnham, Surrey, UK

Area Wellness Centre Manager
Company: Belmond Hotels
Location: Taormina, Italy

Training Manager
Company: Resense Spa
Location: Worldwide

Operations Manager
Company: Resense Spa
Location: Worldwide

Spa Therapists
Company: The West Bay Club
Location: Isle of Wight, UK

Education Specialist
Company: Sea Life
Location: Missouri-Kansas City, US

Guest Service Host
Company: Sea Life
Location: Minnesota-Bloomington, US

Duty Manager
Company: Legoland Westchester
Location: New York-Yonkers, UK

MT - Head of Operations
Company: Merlin Entertainments
Location: Las Vegas, US

Marketing Coordinator
Company: Sea Life
Location: Arizona-Tempe, US

Attraction Operations Host
Company: Madame Tussauds London
Location: London, UK

Executive – Entertainment
Company: Legoland Malaysia
Location: Johor, Malaysia

Operations Manager
Company: National Media Museum
Location: Bradford, UK

Visitor Experience Supervisor
Company: National Trust
Location: Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, UK

Hylands House Manager
Company: Chelmsford City Council
Location: Chelmsford, UK

SeaQuarium Manager
Company: SeaQuarium
Location: Weston-Super-Mare, UK

Hotel Operations Managers
Company: Gullivers Theme Park
Location: Warrington, UK

Theme Park Duty Managers
Company: Gullivers Theme Park
Location: Worthington & Milton Keynes,
                Nationwide, UK

Marketing Coordinator
Company: Bewilderwood
Location: Norwich, UK

Aquarist Sea Life Jesolo
Company: Gardaland Resort
Location: Castelnuovo del Garda, Italy

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Tom Kerridge stars at PUB15 show

Man-of-the-moment Tom Kerridge was the headline speaker at the first ever PUB15 trade show, which drew large crowds at Olympia London last month.

Kerridge, a TV star and chef-owner of acclaimed pubs The Coach and two Michelin-starred Hand and Flowers, shared his advice on ‘DIY pub management’, nurturing team talent and chffing as a lifestyle, rather than a job.

“Be prepared to do everything yourself. Running a pub is a marathon, not a sprint,” Kerridge said during his address. “The ‘open the doors and they will come’ philosophy is long gone. You have to give people a reason to come to your pub, which means be proactive and attack it.”

PUB15 – billed as the only dedicated trade show for the UK pub industry – featured 164 suppliers from across the pub trade, specialising in everything from bar snacks, spirits, beers, wines and soft drinks, to refrigeration, EPoS, finance, marketing and training.

Building on Kerridge’s insights, profitability featured as a strong theme in the on-stage interviews, as well as in the panel discussions in the ‘thriving local’ themed Business Theatre. Elsewhere within the show, leading beer sommelier Sophie Atherton provided publicans with barrels of advice on the best brews in the UK right now at her pint-pulling pop-up, Sophie’s Bar, where old favourites met lesser-known gems from breweries including BrewDog, Goddards Brewery, St Austell Brewery, Meantime Brewing Company, Dark Star Brewing Co. and more. Details: http://lei.sr?r=D6t3Y

Grab yourself a health club for just £1

Continued from front cover

After putting the two premises on the market for £1 each last month, the gyms attracted more than 20 enquiries in the first three days, a staff member told Leisure Opportunities.

Both clubs currently offer gym exercise, personal training, sauna, spa, tanning and skin rejuvenation treatments, with a combined annual turnover of £700,000. The gyms carry a wide range of classes including Les Mills’ Bodypump, HIIT, Kettlebells Heat Flex Yoga and Zumba. The business is debt free but currently loss making, while the clubs’ premises are rented and new leases are available.

“I don’t need the money and I want to attract lots of interest,” said Birchall. “I want to pass on the business to protect the jobs of my staff so they can continue to provide a good service to club members. This is a great opportunity for a few people with fresh ideas and energy. It will particularly suit new owners with vision and good communication and marketing skills.”

The sites are available separately for £1 each, or can be bought together for a total of £2. The successful buyer will take control of all assets of the business including equipment, a large database of potential members and a dedicated workforce. Details: http://lei.sr?r=R2s9B

Richard Birchall is ready to sell up and retire