London and the southeast of England accounted for two-fifths of the annual tourism spend in the UK in 2011, according to recently released official figures. The area accounted for an estimated £50bn out of £125bn spent on tourism in 2011 and overall, tourism spending in London was more than twice that of any other region or nation of the UK.

The data, produced by the Office for National Statistics will now be used by local economic development bodies and tourism agencies to identify each region’s strengths, weaknesses and tourism potential.

[Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q5u9q

Bannatyne Group eases debts with sale and leaseback

The Bannatyne Group has announced a £92m deal with M&G Investments for the sale and leaseback of the ground leases for 39 Bannatyne’s Health Clubs.

The company has been grappling with debts resulting from a £180m loan from the failed Anglo Irish Bank, which was nationalised by the Irish government in 2009, and the deal will help the group clear these loans, according to a statement. Chair of the The Bannatyne Group Duncan Bannatyne had previously tried to buy out the debt with an offer of £111.5m earlier this month.

Bannatyne said: “M&G can see the long-term value of our business and has agreed to be our landlord over a very long lease term. “Our premium business is successful, sustainable and profitable and we believe it is an ideal tenant to provide M&G’s investors with regular, reliable returns.”

The move has been described as a “quasi-ground lease arrangement” where the initial rent is set at a lower percentage of market rental value, designed to minimise the risk of the rent becoming unaffordable for the tenant.

A spokesperson for The Bannatyne Group told Leisure Opportunities that the running of the 39 clubs in question – which are scattered across the UK – would not be impaired, as the lease is only for the land, so the buildings themselves will not be affected. “It will be very much a case of business as usual,” they added.

All of the sites will be leased to Bannatyne Fitness Ltd – which is part of The Bannatyne Group and operates over 60 health clubs – for 125 years on a full repairing and insuring basis with contracted annual reviews linked to inflation. The portfolio comprises 26 freehold and 13 long leasehold properties.

[Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q4a9r

Government starts UK fitness campaign

The government and mayor of London have launched a new initiative designed to promote physical activity across the UK, with the aim of ensuring a lasting legacy of London 2012 and as part of a long term vision for a fitter nation.

Moving More, Living More builds on the belief that action on physical activity needs to be a long term effort and is best tackled through a team approach across government and all sectors.

By bringing together individuals and key organisations such as local authorities, businesses and employers, it is hoped the move will involve partners across sectors; highlighting good practice and identifying and tackling the barriers which prevent people from being active.

Helen Grant, Minister for Sport said: “Getting people more active is an essential focus for us, not only across Government, but for clubs and organisations around the country.”

[Continued on back cover]

London and southeast dominate tourism spend

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[Continued on back cover]
Girls4Gold scheme pays off for Yarnold

Lizzy Yarnold’s skeleton gold medal at the Sochi Olympics was only the 10th gold in British winter Olympic history but is however, the second gold medal in skeleton in as many Winter Games, following Amy Williams’ success at Vancouver in 2010.

Add to that the fact that GB Skeleton has won medals in every Games since its re-introduction in 2002 and it is clear that Team GB is becoming the dominant force in the sport.

Yarnold was discovered through Girls4Gold – the most extensive female sporting talent recruitment drive ever undertaken in the UK.

Lizzie was considered for a range of sports before being identified as an athlete who could excel in skeleton. She then advanced to become one of four athletes to join British Skeleton’s National Lottery Funded World Class Programme.

Natalie Dunman, who manages the talent identification programme, said: “I can still recall when Lizzy arrived at the first testing phase and it quickly became apparent to the team she had the potential to succeed in elite sport.

Grant calls for women to be offered more sport

Sports minister Helen Grant has called for women to be offered a wider choice of sports in order to increase the number of females playing sport.

In an interview with the Daily Telegraph, she expressed her worries that women were being put off by memories of being forced to play football at school.

She added there was a need to “step back and actually ask women what they want and give it to them. “There are some wonderful sports which you can do and perform to a very high level and I think those participating look absolutely radiant and very feminine such as ballet, gymnastics, cheerleading and even roller-skating,” Grant said.

Her comments come after the most recent Active People Survey showed that the number of women playing sport has declined since the 2012 Olympics.

“Active People Survey showed that the number of women playing sport has declined since the 2012 Olympics. “Our research show that 51 per cent of girls old girls meet recommended activity levels. “It is crucial we address this and we are pleased to see that the sports minister agrees with us that girls need to be offered a variety of activities in school. It is unacceptable that only 8% of 14-year-old girls meet recommended activity levels. Details: http://lei.sr2a=a9Y8C
The Irish Sports Council has provided an overview of its strategy for 2014 by announcing a €25m (£20.4m) investment programme for the whole year.

The core activities of 59 Governing Bodies of Sport will receive €10.6m (£8.7m), while €583,000 (£477,000) will be dedicated to Women in Sport activities across the national governing body (NGB) sector.

The National Network of Local Sports Partnerships will receive €5m (£4m) to support its work in promoting participating in sport and physical activity.

€8.7m (£7.1m) will be invested directly into high performance sports bodies and will continue to build on the success of high performance sport in Ireland which saw a record 67 medals achieved last year at European and world events across a multitude of sports.

With the Special Olympic Ireland Games taking place in Limerick in June, an additional provision of €200,000 (£163,000) has been made available to Special Olympics Ireland.

In addition to High Performance, Governing Bodies and Participation, the Council will continue to lead the development in areas such as Anti-Doping Coaching, the Institute of Sport, National Trails and Research.

In 2013, more than 200,000 people took part in local participation programmes while mass participation events such as the An Post Cycle Series and Operation Transformation national walks and fun runs attracted more than 35,000 participants. Details: http://lei.sr?a=f8c2q

A growth in cycling numbers could lead to huge UK health benefits and a reduction in NHS spending, according to a report conducted by Cambridge University and commissioned by British Cycling.

The report has found that if cycling made up 10 per cent of all trips, compared to the current rate of 2 per cent, Britain would benefit from an equivalent of more than one million years of healthy living measured over a decade.

This is in part due to lower rates of activity-related illnesses that can develop in people who do not partake in enough regular exercise.

The research suggests that even small changes in behaviour could bring important health benefits to Britons.

The report suggests that if people took five minutes from the average of 36 minutes spent in a car each day and passed this time onto using a bike, the NHS would see a 5 per cent decrease in illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease.

As well as large health benefits, the study has also found that if one in ten journeys in the UK were made by bike, the NHS could make savings of up to £250m each year.

The report was commissioned by British Cycling as it seeks to campaign to improve everyday cycling in the UK, with the research being used to help launch a 10-point manifesto labelled Time to Choose Cycling. Details: http://lei.sr?a=A5P5e

Non-league football side Worcester City is planning to build a new £1.1m stadium capable of holding 4,130 spectators, should plans for a supporters trust to take over the club come to fruition.

The new ground, which could be ready by the end of 2015, would include a 500-seater stand and a 3G all-weather floodlit surface.

It would be built alongside a proposed new swimming pool and gym on land next to the existing leisure centre, which is due to be demolished in 2016.

The club appears to have been saved from potential closure by sidestepping its originally planned move to a new home at Nunnery Way. If it had been tied into the deal to build a new stadium, the Conference North outfit could have faced closure after the emergence of financial difficulties, including a capital gains tax bill of £400,000.

Should the supporters’ trust succeed in a club takeover, it will be looking to gain funding through a community share scheme, similar to that run by FC United of Manchester, to allow supporters to invest in the project. Details: http://lei.sr?a=h3H5V
Microsoft launches fitness app for Windows Phone

Microsoft is the latest company to join the fitness app trend by releasing the Bing Health & Fitness Windows Phone app.

Initially released in beta format through the Windows store, the pre-release version offers a combination of fitness, health and nutrition-tracking features.

The app includes more than 100,000 foods to track the user’s daily calorie routine, nutrition information for more than 300,000 food items, health indicators, symptom checker, information on human body in a 3D visualisation, exercise tracker along with video browsing for workouts and yoga poses.

The app was originally launched with Windows 8.1 in 2013 and will be the see the existing software jump from the desktop OS to mobile devices. Details: http://lei.sr?a=V9e5V

ACSM releases top 10 fitness trends for 2014

The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) has released the results of a survey predicting the worldwide top 10 fitness trends for 2014.

Leading the way is increasingly popular high intensity interval training (HIIT), which involves short bursts of activity followed by a short period of rest or recovery, usually conducted over a 30-minute period.

For the first time in the survey’s history, body weight training has appeared in the list covered the top 10 fitness trends for 2014.

Another intriguing entry into the trends list was the application of age-appropriate methods. Entering into the results at number seven, the trend conveys the extra effort that fitness professionals are taking to create age-appropriate fitness programs to keep older adults healthy and active.

The list’s eighth entry is also closely related to age, with the idea of functional fitness looking to improve people’s balance and ease daily living. Details: http://lei.sr?a=V9e5V

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ukactive event examines inactivity

Key academic thinkers in the area of physical activity and exercise met with leaders from the leisure industry and public health in London on Wednesday, to discuss solutions to the UK’s inactivity crisis.

The event was hosted by not-for-profit health body ukactive, whose recent report Turning the Tide of Inactivity highlighted the extent of the crisis and reached an estimated 24 million UK citizens thanks to extensive media coverage.

Speakers including Professor Greg Whyte OBE and Dr Chris Beedie joined ukactive CEO David Stalker in calling for a move ‘from knowledge to action’ when it came to reversing the growing numbers of physically inactive people in the UK.

The findings and ongoing ‘real-world’ research carried out by ukactive’s Research Institute also gave food for thought for delegates, including an in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of varying methods of exercise interventions.

Having raised the profile of physical inactivity as a top-tier public health concern, the ukactive report was revisited as part of the agenda, but it was the drastic need for more data and better use of existing data that was the theme throughout.

“There needs to be more research across all demographics, across all age spans and across all diseases around physical activity and its benefits,” said Greg Whyte.

Dr Chris Beedie, of ukactive’s Scientific Advisory Board, said exercise needs to become the ‘medicine of choice’ when it comes to altering lifestyles and quality of life outcomes.

London Aquatics Centre ready goes public

The London Aquatics Centre, which was home to the London 2012 Olympics, has opened its doors to the public.

For low rates, people will be able to swim in this Zaha Hadid-designed centre, where Tom Daley and Ellie Simmonds won medals for TeamGB.

“The venue has been converted into a sport and leisure facility for the whole community, hosting arguably the best aquatic facility in the world,” said deputy managing director of GLL, Peter Bundey. “With access available to local and London swimming clubs, it will be a unique training venue for our stars of the future.”

The centre includes two 50m pools, the competition pool used for lane and fitness swimming, plus a training pool for family and fun sessions.

With a 25m diving pool, platforms of up to 10m, as well as a dry diving zone, with a trampoline, harness and foam pit, for divers to practise their technique, this will become the home of high performance diving in the UK.

Other facilities include a gym, café and creche. Much of the temporary seating has been replaced by 2,800sq m of glass and doors to allow natural light into the venue.

National and international competitions will be hosted at the venue, but the first big event will be a swimathon for Sport Relief at the end of March.

GLL will be charging £3.50 for pay as you go swimming sessions, or £29.50 a month for membership. Details: http://lei.sr?a=17K2n
Scotland legacy campaign launched

The Scottish Government has introduced 'Fit in 14', a campaign designed to inspire people in workplaces throughout the country to get more physically active.

Launched by Commonwealth Games and Sport Minister Shona Robison, the initiative forms part of Scotland’s first ever national Physical Activity Implementation Plan, A More Active Scotland – Building a Legacy from the Commonwealth Games.

Explaining the rationale behind it, Robison said: “Small measures like taking the stairs instead of the lift, or going for a walk during a lunch break are great steps forward towards a healthier lifestyle.”

The scheme has been developed in consultation with NHS Health Scotland and other key partners and focuses around five areas: Environment, Workplace Settings, NHS & Social Care, Education Settings and Sport & Active Recreation, identifying key milestones within these for a 10 year period after the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this summer.

Joanne Bannatyne opens Durham facility

Joanne Bannatyne has expanded her growing chain of CrossFit-affiliated gyms with the opening of CrossFit Jacana in Durham, less than a mile from one of ex-husband Duncan’s health clubs.

Joanne, who divorced the entrepreneur and TV personality last year and was also managing director of Bannatyne’s Fitness, has opened the Belmont Industrial Estate club with business partner Lee Howe.

The move has generated press headlines as it comes a few months after Joanne Bannatyne took out a large advert near her former husband’s Darlington offices, to promote her CrossFit DL2 gym with the slogan “Welcome Your New Neighbours”.

But she says the new opening is purely about business, with CrossFit Jacana fitting the brand’s industrial setting profile and being ideally located to attract new members.

“Given who she was married to, there is always going to be interest in Joanne’s activities, but she’s just focusing on the gyms and building the business,” says Joanne Bannatyne’s spokesperson.

“For us it was all about finding the best site in an industrial setting to open Durham’s second CrossFit gym – the fact Bannatyne’s is nearby didn’t even come in to it.”

Like Joanne Bannatyne’s three other gyms in the northeast, the 5,000sq ft (465sq m) club operates under the CrossFit banner. Details: http://lei.sr?a=H5m4K

Organisations of all sizes across Scotland are being encouraged to get involved, with supermarket giant Asda being the first organisation in the country to pledge its support.

Feroz Pater, head of people at Asda, said: “We know that our people are one of our greatest assets and with a big year of sport ahead - including the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup - 2014 is a perfect opportunity to encourage colleagues and customers to make physical activity part of their daily life.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=C3U2z

The Mossa programme will be available from user’s own homes

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ATTRACTIONS

Shrek attraction coming to London

Merlin Entertainments has agreed a deal with Hollywood studio DreamWorks Animation to open attractions based on the Shrek movies, with next year’s London opening scheduled to be followed by five more locations worldwide.

The attractions will take visitors on an interactive adventure featuring characters from the franchise and will see an initial roll-out of six attractions up to 2023, with the London opening expected during Q3 of 2015.

The announcement marks the first time Merlin has worked with DreamWorks to create a branded entertainment attraction based on a globally recognised franchise. It also marks DreamWorks’ first foray in helping produce an attraction of this scale by licensing the use of its characters and stories.

Shrek’s Far Far Away Adventure will debut on the original film’s 15th anniversary at County Hall, close to Merlin’s other attractions in the South Bank area including the London Eye, Sea Life Aquarium and London Dungeon.

Work gathering steam for new Hello Kitty secret attraction

Work on Drusillas Park’s new Hello Kitty Secret Garden attraction is gathering at pace, as the Sussex-based theme park saw the installation of the first of three children’s rides ready for the Garden’s spring opening.

Once completed, the attraction will be the first official permanent Hello Kitty attraction in Europe, with the park recently installing a Hello Kitty tea cup ride, constructed by Zamperla in Italy.

The park will see the installation of a sky hopper ride by Zamperla in the coming months, before the introduction of a Hello Kitty car ride which is being manufactured in Germany by Metallbau-Emmeln.

Bringing the attraction to Drusillas has been the park’s biggest investment to date and is expected to cost around £1m, with a deal being signed last year with Japanese company Sanrio, which created the Hello Kitty character and owns the licence.

Drusillas is a popular family theme park, with the UK attraction featuring a mixture of animals and rides, while receiving around 350,000 visitors each year.

Details: http://lei.sr?r=a=zzf8n

MK Bowl proposed for major indoor waterpark

Milton Keynes National Bowl could become home to the UK’s largest indoor waterpark, with the leisure development also potentially featuring a new sports village and a venue for events.

The plans are proposed by Moirai Capital Investments, which has been granted preferred bidder status by the Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP).

The developer believes the attraction would create around 650 full and part-time jobs, with the project costing in the region of £26m.

The sports village is to include a range of sports facilities, which can be used by visitors and locals alike, with the centre also accommodating MK Cycling and providing an option for an international team training camp for the Rugby World Cup next year.

It is also thought that a new headquarters for Badminton England, which has already been granted planning permission, will be constructed as part of the development.

If a commitment contract is signed and plans go ahead, the Bowl Arena will also see a number of enhancements through investment, in a bid to ensure the Bowl improves its position as an important event venue in Britain.

“Moirai’s proposals offer an exciting opportunity to enhance MK’s leisure offer and provide a major tourist attraction that will boost Milton Keynes’ profile as a vibrant place to live and visit,” said independent chair of the MKDP John Duggan.

Details: http://lei.sr?r=a=W5R5C

HLF offers £10m funding pool for anniversary events

After announcing last October that it will be making £10m available for anniversary and commemorative projects over the next four years, the Heritage Lottery Fund is now open to applications through three funds.

Sharing Heritage is for smaller projects, with grants for £1,000-£10,000; Our Heritage is for those between £10,000 and £100,000 and Heritage Grants is for large projects between £100,000 and £2m.

As well as a host of events nationwide to mark the centenary of the start of WW1 this year, there is likely to be events recognising the centenary of Dylan Thomas’ birth this year, the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo in 2015 and 50 years since England won the football World Cup in 2016.

Details: http://lei.sr?r=a=zzf8n
What other reason do you need to buy Matrix equipment?
European travel market recovery starts to take off

A leisure travel recovery is underway in France, Germany and the UK, with consumers who skipped their holidays when times were tough now feeling confident enough to return to the market, according to a recent report by travel industry research authority PhoCusWright.

The share of adults who took at least one holiday over the past year jumped four per cent in France (to 70 per cent) and Germany (to 72 per cent) compared to 2012. In the UK, the share increased three points to reach 78 per cent.

“Macro-economic trends are taking a slight turn for the better, with some stating that the recession is over,” said PhoCusWright analyst Marcello Gasdia. “The picture still isn’t rosy, of course, but things are starting to pick up. I wasn’t sure whether that would show up in my data, but it did.”

ETOA partners with Digital Tourism Think Tank

The European Tour Operators Association (ETOA) has announce a new partnership with the Digital Tourism Think Tank, which provides thought leadership to the tourism industry in digital marketing best practice.

The new partnership gives ETOA members access to the Think Tank’s expertise in digital marketing and research via a series of classes and events, the first being the Mobile Strategies Masterclass that took place on 25 February in London.

Tom Jenkins of ETOA with the Think Tank’s Nick Hall

Ad showcases sounds of Britain

VisitBritain has launched two new international advertising campaigns as it seeks to build on the momentum from 2013’s record tourism figures.

‘Sounds of GREAT Britain’, is an interactive advert which incorporates British sounds – such as the pouring of a cup of tea and Big Ben – into a reworked version of Rudimental’s chart-topping hit ‘Feel the Love’.

Online viewers can create their own version of the advert, by selecting the sounds they like the best and from this can plan a UK trip around the famous venues – the advert includes Buckingham Palace, Stonehenge and Shakespeare’s Globe – where they would be able to hear the sounds featured.

The £2.5m global film campaign, commissioned by VisitBritain and created by ad agency Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe/Y&R, will run on popular websites like Youtube and Spotify, across key target markets Brazil, China, the USA, India, Gulf states and throughout Europe.

Meanwhile, a separate campaign targeting the UK’s most lucrative market for tourism – the US – was launched in conjunction with online travel agency Expedia.

The TV ad, scheduled to appear across American networks during prime-time viewing events including the Oscars and Sochi Winter Olympics, draws on the parallel between fairy-tales of castles, knights and queens to the real world and Britain’s attractions.

The tourism agency hopes the campaign can re-energise UK interest in the US, from where visitor numbers have fallen in recent years as travellers have become more adventurous.

Cut Tourism VAT campaign buoyed by debate

Campaign group Cut Tourism VAT scored a minor victory in the Houses of Parliament last month when Members called on the government to re-examine the case for reducing VAT on the tourism sector.

During a debate in Westminster Hall, 25 MPs voiced their views on the matter, with a large number speaking in favour of a cut.

MP for South Down Margaret Ritchie, who called the debate, said: “To have a reduction in VAT is very important from the perspective of economy and jobs. Tourism is an absolutely vital industry for our islands, providing 10 per cent of GDP and supporting over two million jobs.”

Cut Tourism VAT, a pressure group supported by a number of tourism-linked companies and associations, wants the government to follow the example of 24 other countries in the European Union in applying reduced rates of VAT on key tourism services such as visitor accommodation.

“We are delighted at the all-party support shown for reduction in this first debate on Tourism VAT in parliament,” said Graham Wason, chair of the Cut Tourism VAT campaign.

“All except the Minister responding were convinced of the need for a cut on VAT for visitor accommodation and attractions and many references were made to evidence, using a Treasury approved financial modelling system, of the positive impact for the UK economy this would have.”

Details: http://lei.sr/a=G3W5b
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HOTELS

Scottish castle to become hotel

Russian princess and former model Olga Roh has revealed plans to convert Aberdeenshire's Inchdrewer castle into a luxury boutique hotel.

The 46-year-old descendant of Tsar Nicholas II bought the property with her husband last year, for a fee reported to be in the region of £400,000, which led to Roh also inheriting the title of Baroness of Inchdrewer.

Roh plans to restore the castle in order to create a family home, alongside an eight-room hotel.

"I think if you asked many Russians in London about Scotland, most of them wouldn't have a clue," said Roh.

"But I come from a much more traditional Russian family and know about history and the links between our two countries over the centuries."

"I really hope that the people of Banff will welcome us and not just see us as some crazy outsiders and oddballs who try to fit in."

The 16th-century tower house – which is classified as a category A listed building and offers a commanding view over Banff Bay – was in a "mainly ruinous state" when Count Mirrlees bought the fortress in the early 1900s but it was partially restored and made wind and watertight by 1971.

No work has been carried out since then and the buildings at risk register states: "The castle is restored, though the interior is left uncompleted and the project is abandoned. External inspection finds the semi-restored building has deteriorated and is now on the cusp of ruination."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=P8g4b

Theme park replaced with resort expansion

An abandoned Wild West theme park in Cornwall, UK is to be replaced by a £50m expansion to a holiday resort to come later this year.

On the site of the Spirit of the West theme park – which closed in 2009 – the investment will see the area turned into a luxury holiday spot by Retallack Resort & Spa.

The development, which has been granted planning consent by Cornwall Council, will cover 81 acres and include a tourism training academy, 325 luxury rental properties and an indoor leisure village with a swimming pool, gym, function space, gym, restaurant, café and office space.

The plans include an academy to train budding tourism professionals in all facets of the self-catering tourist industry, in which Cornwall leads the way in the UK.

The proposed training facilities will be among the best in the south west and will develop young talent looking for a career in tourism.

Construction consultant Edmon Shipway is part of the development team along with Hunter Page Planning.

The Retallack Resort currently has a number of leisure facilities including a health club, spa, kids club and a simulated wave surface surfing wave.

Retallack also opened its newest restaurant, The Green Room, in February this year with MasterChef winner James Nathan working as executive chef. Details: http://lei.sr?a=e2B3t

Details: http://lei.sr?a=i8264b

While the monumental weather pattern has been dominating hospitality and tourism headlines over the past few weeks we should not allow a large and unending raincloud to distract us from other important matters. Indeed 11 February 2014 saw a ray of sunshine – at least in political terms – as the House of Commons hosted the first ever debate on tourism and VAT.

The result of tireless lobbying and campaigning from all corners of hospitality and tourism, including the BHA and its members, the case for a VAT reduction in hotel & accommodation, restaurants & catering and visitor attractions are strong. Our sector makes a convincing case that British hospitality and tourism businesses should compete on a level playing field with our European competitors. Indeed, research shows that a cut from 20 down to 5 per cent would create 80,000 jobs and create a £2.6bn surplus for the Treasury over ten years from extra income and other taxes.

What marks the House of Commons debate out is the level of grass roots engagement, not least from BHA members who have invested time, energy and passion into lobbying their MPs and encouraging them to join the Commons debate.

The first ever parliamentary debate on tourism VAT in the Commons saw an excellent turnout of 28 MPs, with all sides of the political spectrum coming together to put pressure on Treasury minister David Gauke to reconsider the government's reluctance to reduce VAT.

What is particularly compelling about this campaign is the power of grassroots campaigning, not least social media. In this case even the smallest hospitality business had a voice, empowered with the opportunity to engage with their local MP and educate them on the Cut Tourism VAT campaign.

There is still much work to be done but our collective voice is starting to be heard. Through communication, and most notably social media, small shoots of recognition are growing and our collective grassroots campaigning is, and will continue to, make an impression on the decision makers.
Distributors from 24 countries gathered in London on 20-24 February for the very first international distributor conference by British skincare brand Elemis.

“Our aim is to achieve substantial growth in the next five years and the majority of that will be growth in international markets,” said Elemis’ managing director Séan Harrington. “We have an exciting long-term vision of how we expect to grow, which we shared with the distributors.”

Central to the expansion, is the launch of Elemis Biotec – a machine that combines technologies such as ultrasonic peeling, microcurrent lifting, galvanic rejuvenation, light therapy and oxygen infusion, with actives and hands-on touch. On top of that, distributors were presented with the 12 product launches and promotional programmes planned for 2014, plus other new product developments that are in the pipeline over the following three years. 

Details: http://lei.sr?a=o20oF

The report has laid out a number of ways to improve regulation in the sector

The British Association of Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology (BABTAC) has said the UK government’s review of regulations towards cosmetic interventions does not go far enough in terms of consumer protection.

BABTAC stressed that it is in no way critical of the review, but believes that the industry will continue to have a “buyers beware” focus, leaving the responsibility for safety with the client rather than the service provider.

The government report laid out a number of key suggestions to help improve regulation, which include improved and formalised standards of qualifications and training, regulation of all providers in the form of a voluntary paid register and supervision of non-healthcare providers by regulated professionals.

BABTAC has raised concerns that regulation of non-healthcare providers could lead to an increase in costs, while also reducing competition because of heightened bureaucracy.

There is also a concern that this could lead to an increase in consumer prices, without necessarily increasing safety for patients.

In light of the study, the association has presented the idea that trained, advanced therapists are entirely capable of delivering safe treatments. Therefore the hiring of often hard-to-find supervisors could drive prices higher, or prevent trained therapists from practising.

The association is hoping that the current review into qualifications being undertaken by Health Education England will help to better define practices and increase standards.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=28f9Q

Paul Scialla, founder of real estate wellness company Delos, has insisted the company’s developments are not just for celebrities and the high-end luxury market.

The company is connected to the likes of musician will.i.am, actor Leonardo DiCaprio and former US President Bill Clinton but Scialla is adamant that Delos developments are not just for the rich and famous and expressed his excitement at the potential that a wellness market combined with the property market presents to everyone.

“Real estate is the largest asset class in the world – it’s worth US$15tn (€111tn, £91tn) – and we’re looking to combine that with health and wellness,” Scialla told Spa Business. “More than US$2tn (€1.5tn, £1.2tn) a year is spent on preventative medical intervention, so obviously – for Delos – there’s a massive economic play.

“We found that what we were offering appealed to every single person regardless of gender, age or income level. It was very clear to us that more people today are focused on health and wellness.”

Delos is also implementing a Wellness Access programme, which will see the core components of the company’s wellness standards added to 1,200 homes, and is working with will.i.am on an affordable housing project in Boyle Heights – a low income neighbourhood in Los Angeles, US.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=r8Y8N
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Sources:
ISPA 2011 U.S. SPA INDUSTRY STUDY
http://searchengineland.com/
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**PROPERTY**

**Boston chair to submit stadium plans this month**

Boston United chair David Newton says he is looking to fund the club’s new stadium project by securing loans from local and central government and hopes to submit a planning application this month.

The non-league football side will gain a new 4,000-seat community stadium as part of a £100m mixed-use project which will also feature an all-weather 3G pitch for community use, plus educational facilities, conference and banqueting facilities.

There will also be a café, education and community facilities, meeting rooms for hire, an all weather sports pitch and a sports hall.

The Quadrant development will include more than 500 new homes as well as retail space and restaurants.

“It’s taken a little longer than anticipated. As transport is a key issue around Boston, we’ve got to make sure we’ve got that right,” Newton told local media. “The main thing is to get a robust application in. But we’re not happy that we’ve slipped into March and we don’t want to be slipping beyond that, although it’s out of our hands at the moment.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q4y9g

**London Welsh bid to develop Witney Town as new home**

London Welsh says it is hoping to end a ground share deal with Oxford United and move to the redeveloped home of now-defunct football team Witney Town.

The rugby union side has been playing at Oxford United’s Kassam Stadium since September 2012 and wants to redevelop the disused Polythene Stadium into a 10,000-capacity ground with 6,000 temporary seats.

Welsh moved from London to Oxford in 2012 and is currently exploring options in an attempt to make its stay permanent. If the club’s move goes ahead and is a success, permanent stands could soon follow as part of a complete redevelopment of the ground.

Assuming planning permission is given, then the club will have to get the ground approved by the Professional Game Board for Rugby Union. Details: http://lei.sr?a=fqG3S

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**£13.5m Hinckley leisure centre to open in 2015**

Hinckley and Bosley Borough Council has appointed DC Leisure to design, build and manage Hinckley’s new £13.5 million leisure centre, which is due to open in 2015.

The operator will maintain the facility for a 20-year period in partnership with local council.

Work on the new facility on the site of the council’s former offices in Argents Mead is expected to start next month with building work to commence in the summer.

It will include an eight-lane 25m swimming pool, learner pool with moveable floor, café, climbing wall, an 8-court sports hall, two workout studios and a 120-station gym fitted with Precor equipment.

The current leisure centre on Coventry Road in Hinckley will remain open until the new facility opens in the summer of 2015.

DC Leisure will take over the reins at this centre when the contract with existing operator SLM expires in April 2015, with leisure centre employees to be retained.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=f2m3t

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**Plans for £10m Harrogate development**

Plans have been put forward for the creation of a £10m leisure development in Harrogate, Yorkshire, inclusive of a four-screen cinema and a host of restaurants.

The project is being proposed by local urban regeneration specialist 4Urban Consulting.

The developer is eyeing the redevelopment of the former Co-Operative building on Station Parade and Albert Street, which is currently occupied by the Beales department store, whose short-term sub-lease expires later this autumn.

“Following detailed research and discussions with prospective tenants, it became clear that the former Co-Operative site, which is outside the prime retail core, is ideally suited for a development of this nature and can add considerably to the overall attraction of Harrogate,” said Paul Lancaster, managing director of 4Urban.

The project’s proposers believe that the scheme could create up to 250 jobs, while also helping to strengthen the town’s leisure offering to both visitors and local residents.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z8p5c

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**Plans for £36m sports centre in Coventry revealed**

Plans to build a new £36m sports centre in Coventry have been unveiled to replace a centre built in 1966 which is haemorrhaging cash – costing around £2,000 per day to keep open.

The replacement venue is expected to be built in Coventry city centre on the current site of the council building Spire House which will be vacated as part of the council move to Friargate.

The 6,500sq m (69,965sq ft) facility will include a water park with slides, a gym, a 25m swimming pool, climbing wall, squash courts and a spa.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=7z3U

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Street League and Decathlon join forces

Street League – a charity which aims to change lives through football – and sports retailer Decathlon have teamed up to help unemployed young people gain access to the workplace.

To mark the new partnership, Decathlon managing director, Steve Dykes was joined by Paul Evans, Street League director of operations, at Street League’s South-East London Academy where 15 young people were given work experience opportunities at Decathlon stores across the UK.

The launch also saw Decathlon donate more than £20,000 worth of sporting equipment which will be deployed across the 96 Street League academies nationwide.

In the first phase of the partnership six Decathlon stores will offer Street League participants the opportunity to gain retail work experience while staff will volunteer their time to mentor participants on the academy programme.

Speaking about the partnership, Steve Dykes said: “The job market is highly competitive and without academic qualifications or relevant experience it is very difficult for youngsters to get a foot on the employment ladder.

“This partnership will signpost youngsters with a passion for sport into our stores where they can learn skills to make them more employable.”

Academy participant, Bianca Murray said: “I’ve really enjoyed the first two weeks of Street League which has included Maths, English and playing football. I’d be really interested in a job in retail and I am hoping that this course will also help me in my goal to teach Street Dance.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z6t4b

Premier and Les Mills launch new course

Premier Training and Les Mills have teamed up to deliver a new exercise to music qualification which will give instructors further employment opportunities whilst they carrying out their training.

The course provides learners with the prerequisite knowledge to go on and complete any of the Les Mills programmes which includes, Bodypump, Bodyattack and Bodycombat among others.

Jean-Ann Marnoch, instructor experience director at Les Mills, said: “Our partnership with Premier is a fantastic opportunity to drive the Les Mills name out to more graduates as we continue with our aim to create a fitter planet.”

Paul Dorkings, Sales Director at Premier Training International, also commented: “This is an extremely exciting partnership for us. We’re thrilled to be working with Les Mills.

With over 15,000 gyms and clubs across 80 countries offering the Les Mills group fitness and team training programmes we know they are the best solution for our learners.

“We’re really looking forward to being involved in the development of our learners and watching them grow into exceptional group exercise instructors.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=m2k7U

As the certification body for apprenticeships in our sectors, all eyes at SkillsActive are on National Apprenticeship Week – a nationwide campaign designed to celebrate Apprenticeships and the positive impact they have on individuals, businesses and the wider economy.

From our perspective, we need to make sure that employers in our sectors are made aware of the benefits that apprenticeships can bring to an organisation. We are in a vibrant, appealing workspace for young people, and apprenticeships are a key mechanism in bringing people to our sector. We must maximise their potential.

As the government-licensed sector skills council for active leisure, learning and wellbeing, we have worked with employers to develop a set of apprenticeship frameworks. An apprenticeship framework defines the requirements for an apprenticeship programme. It is used by training providers, colleges, and employers across the sector to ensure that all apprenticeship programmes are delivered consistently and to national standards. Each framework includes details of the qualifications needed to be completed, the key skills targets, and any other requirements of the apprenticeship.

There were a total of 263,292 apprenticeships certified in the UK last year and our sectors are one of the leaders. This is a fantastic figure and one we should be proud of, however there is still more we can do in the coming year. This is the area where young people want to forge a career in and we have a responsibility to make this as accessible as possible. We are in an exciting space, let’s share this with learners and apprentices and allow them to be a part of the fantastic work we’re all doing.

Apprenticeships ensure that your workforce has the practical skills and qualifications that your organisation needs now and in the future. The mixture of on and off-the-job learning ensures they learn the skills that work best for your business.
Training that works.

CREW understand that staff development can be difficult and time consuming, but we know that your people can make the difference between a good business and a great business.

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“As a direct result of CREW training our fund pot for “Gems of the Jungle” at £5000 in August went through the roof and we amassed a further £18,000 in just six weeks. Brilliant!” (summer season 2011)

Dianne Eade, Newquay Zoo
Head of Finance, Human Resources and Administration

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The Gym Group is the 13th fastest growing company in the Sunday Times Fast Track 100, a top 15 Sunday Times Best Companies to Work For, the only national chain of health clubs to be ‘Investors in People’ accredited and is a National Champion in the European Business Awards.

To help continue this success we’re looking to recruit exceptional General Managers to lead our revolutionary gym membership concept.

Backed by £50 million of funding, The Gym Group has already opened 42 sites, with more opening soon and a fully funded pipeline to open between 15 – 20 new clubs per year for the next few years. Each club has an annual turnover in excess of £1 million, for which managers have full P&L responsibility.

These roles require extraordinary managers with proven entrepreneurial flair and commercial ability, as well as the skill, energy and determination to drive and grow the business. We’re looking for managers who enjoy having the freedom to take charge of all aspects of an operation. Instead of having a huge central operation, we prefer to empower our managers to manage the business.

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THE ROLE

- To oversee the launch of the brand new facility
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THE CANDIDATE

- Must have a proven and successful track record of management experience within a leisure related industry, preferably within the health and fitness sector,
- Must have experience of being responsible for delivering the commercial performance of a Gym or of a significant business area
- Must be passionate about customer service and be entrepreneurial in the way they manage
- Must have a proven track record in driving sales and coordinating local marketing activity as well as of recruiting and managing a successful team
- Ideally will have experience as a General Manager overseeing all business areas within a leisure facility or have substantial experience as a Fitness Manager or other similar operational function
- Ideally will be REPS level 2 or higher qualified or be prepared to qualify

The role a GM is an extremely varied one that offers an excellent opportunity to develop with an exciting and growing business. It is a hands on leadership role, so you will need to be outgoing and ready to get involved in every aspect of running the gym.

HOW TO APPLY:

If you see yourself as an industry-leader of the future, please apply in confidence by submitting your CV with details of your current salary package, via The Gym Group recruitment website: www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/gymgroup
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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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  - Location: Epping Forest, UK

- **Membership Sales Consultant**
  - Company: énergie group
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  - Company: Parkwood Leisure
  - Location: Exeter, Devon, UK

- **Apprentice - Recreation Assistant**
  - Company: GLL
  - Location: Various London Boroughs

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  - Company: Purley Sports Club
  - Location: Surrey, UK

- **Membership Consultant**
  - Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Eton, UK

- **Lifeguard**
  - Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Shipston, UK

- **Sales Supervisor**
  - Company: GLL
  - Location: Chipping Norton, UK

- **Personal Trainer - Self Employed**
  - Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Bishop’s Stortford, UK

- **Part Time Receptionist**
  - Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Southam, Warwickshire, UK

- **Lifeguard / Recreation Attendant**
  - Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Tenbury Wells, UK

- **Fitness Instructor**
  - Company: énergie group
  - Location: Southbury / Leighton Buzzard / Banbury, UK

- **Fitness / Spin Instructor**
  - Company: énergie group
  - Location: Highbury, UK

- **Full Time Fitness Instructor**
  - Company: Magnum Power Force Gym
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  - Company: GLL
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- **Recreational Assistant**
  - Company: Everyone Active
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  - Company: Everyone Active
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  - Company: GLL
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  - Company: Wandsworth BC
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  - Company: Wandsworth BC
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  - Company: GLL
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  - Company: GLL
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  - Location: Croydon, UK

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  - Company: Fusion
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  - Location: Farnborough, UK

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  - Company: GLL
  - Location: Woolwich, SE18 6SX, UK

- **Recreation Assistant**
  - Company: Kingston College
  - Location: Kingston, Surrey, UK

- **Operations Manager**
  - Company: Everyone Active
  - Location: Malvern, Worcestershire

- **Sports Development Officer**
  - Company: National Trust
  - Location: Plymouth, Devon, UK

- **Sports Programme Assistant**
  - Company: Surrey Sports Park Ltd
  - Location: Guildford, UK

- **Sales/Club Manager**
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  - Location: Central London, UK

- **Lecturer in Sport**
  - Company: Myerseough College
  - Location: Preston Campus, UK

- **General Manager**
  - Company: The Gym Group
  - Location: London Chadwell Heath, UK

- **Sports Programme Assistant**
  - Company: Surrey Sports Park Ltd
  - Location: Guildford, UK

- **Centre Manager**
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  - Location: Taunton Deane, Somerset

- **Front of House Receptionist**
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- **Senior Operations Assistant**
  - Company: Shenley Leisure Centre Trust
  - Location: UK

- **Guidance Assessor Manager**
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  - Location: Central London, UK

- **Duty Manager**
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  - Location: Studley Leisure Centre, UK

- **Sales and Retention Manager**
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<td>Maidenhead, Berkshire, UK</td>
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<td>Health and Wellness Advisor</td>
<td>Network Rail</td>
<td>Milton Keynes, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Manager</td>
<td>Fusion</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Valley Leisure Ltd</td>
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<td>Soccersixes</td>
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<td>Foundation Fitness</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Purbeck District Council</td>
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<td>Gymnastics Coach</td>
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<td>Matt Roberts Personal Training</td>
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<td>Amac Training Ltd</td>
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<td>Personal Trainer/Owner</td>
<td>Your Gym</td>
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<td>truGym</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Manager - Sport and Activity Development</td>
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<td>Fitness Industry Education</td>
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<td>GP Exercise Referral</td>
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<td>Spa Therapist / Receptionist</td>
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<td>Trading Manager</td>
<td>Museum of the Royal Navy</td>
<td>Portsmouth, UK</td>
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<td>Head of Marketing</td>
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<td>National Trust</td>
<td>Cumbria and Morecambe Bay</td>
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<td>Visitor Experience Manager</td>
<td>National Trust</td>
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<td>Business Development Manager</td>
<td>The National Trust for Scotland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Executive</td>
<td>Museum of Army Flying</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centre Manager</td>
<td>Games Workshop Plc</td>
<td>Nottingham, UK</td>
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<td>Visitor Centre Director</td>
<td>King Richard III Visitor Centre</td>
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<td>National Trust</td>
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<td>Visitor Services Manager</td>
<td>National Trust</td>
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<td>Consultancy Manager</td>
<td>National Trust</td>
<td>York or Newcastle, UK</td>
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Fake bar to explore drinking habits

London South Bank university’s psychology department has developed a fake bar at a cost of £20,000 to help test reactions to alcohol in an authentic pub environment.

The room is on the fourth floor of the university’s main block, with scientists using a number of different methods to monitor interaction and awareness in relation to alcohol and placebos.

The research is being led by the university’s head of psychology, Dr Tony Moss, who specialises in the cognitive side of addictive behaviour.

The main objective is to understand why and how people drink, with the room linked up to video cameras, allowing students in other rooms to study drinker’s behaviour.

One of the aspects being monitored in the room is how much attention people pay to drink awareness campaigns. To observe this, participants will be asked to wear Google glass type equipment, which helps to keep track of where people are looking in the room.

Other methods of research include replacing alcohol with placebos, using a fruit machine to monitor risk-taking behaviour and installing a jukebox to investigate the types of music that encourage people to drink quicker.

Details: http://leisr?a=a5Y8h

Cameron, Johnson want a fitter Britain

Continued from front cover
Announcing the launch of Moving More, Living More, Prime Minister David Cameron said: “The country was captured by the spirit of the 2012 Games, inspired by our sporting heroes and their achievements. We now need to build on this, creating a nation that’s physically active and improving their health for the long term.

“We need to provide communities with the encouragement to come together and realise the physical and social benefits of being more active. Government, local government, business and community groups must now join together to help make this ambition become a reality.”

The launch took place at Daubeney Primary School in East London, which has one of the UK’s lowest rates of children who can swim.

“My vision is for a healthier, fitter city and we are encouraging Londoners to be more active in their everyday lives,” said the Mayor of London Boris Johnson.

“Our goal is to build on the legacy we are creating from the London 2012 Games, which is already getting thousands of Londoners participating in grassroots sport, thanks to initiatives like our ‘Make a Splash’ mobile pools scheme.”

Details: http://leisr?a=V7S7H