London's Marshall Street Baths set for reopening

By Pete Hayman

Marshall Street Baths in Soho, London, is scheduled to reopen to the public on 26 July, following the completion of a £25m renovation led by Westminster City Council (WCC).

The historic 160-year-old baths, which fell into disrepair after being closed for more than 10 years, have undergone work to restore the original Sicilian marble-lined pool and green Swedish marble walls.

A new purpose-built leisure centre has also been created at the site, with new fitness areas, a sauna and health suite and dance studios among the new facilities at the venue.

WCC’s development partner, Marshall Street Regeneration, has carried out the work at the Grade II-listed building, which has also comprised the development of 52 new homes.

Resolution Property is a partner in the Marshall Street Regeneration joint venture and ISG InteriorExterior was construction manager for the project, which will now see the property removed from English Heritage’s ‘Buildings at Risk’ register. Nuffield Health has been appointed by the council to operate the baths.

WCC cabinet member for community services Steve Summers said: “Despite the tough economic climate, Marshall Street Baths highlights Westminster’s commitment to providing a high standard of local services for our citizens. “This exciting redevelopment demonstrates our continued commitment to ensuring all our residents have access to high-quality, state of the art and affordable sport and leisure facilities right on their doorsteps,” he added.

Major £3m transformation for Theatre Royal Bath

Historic venue to benefit from enhanced front-of-house and backstage facilities

By Pete Hayman

Theatre Royal Bath’s Main House has closed for two months in order for work on a major £3m refurbishment programme to be undertaken at the historic venue.

Exeter-based contractor Midas is working in partnership with Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios on the scheme, which aims to revamp front-of-house and backstage areas in order to preserve the Main House.

Existing facilities will be improved, the foyer will be remodelled, decor will be updated and access for disabled visitors upgraded as part of the scheme.

Theatre Royal Bath will continue to stage productions at its Ustinov and egg venues, with the Main House due to reopen on 7 September.

General manager Eugene Hibbert said: “Midas started preparatory work in March for four months, during which time the theatre remained fully operational whilst preliminary work was undertaken. “Now the Main House is closed, the final and most important stage of the refurbishment transformation is taking place.”

Dublin’s Aviva Stadium opens

Dublin’s 50,000-seat Aviva Stadium – formerly Lansdowne Road Stadium – has officially reopened. The stadium, which will be the new home of both Ireland’s national rugby and football teams, is a joint venture between the Irish Rugby Football Union and the Football Association of Ireland.

Funding of €191m (£159.6m) was provided by the government for the project, which cost just under €410m (£342.6m).
£10m scheme to 'revive' school sport

New project designed to encourage competition between young people in England

By Pete Hayman

A new Olympic and Paralympic-style competition for young people in England has been launched by the government as part of efforts to 'revive' competitive sports in schools.

Sport England will distribute up to £10m of Lottery funding to help create a sports league structure for primary and secondary schools, leading to a national final held in the run up to the 2012 London Games.

The competition, which has been unveiled by education secretary Michael Gove and culture secretary Jeremy Hunt, forms part of efforts to create a lasting sporting legacy from the 2012 Olympics.

Schools will compete against each other in local league structures starting in 2011, with successful athletes and teams qualifying for up to 60 county finals. The most talented performers would then be selected for national finals.

The plans will also encourage schools to organise in-house Olympic-style events to ensure children of all abilities have the chance to compete, with Paralympic elements to cater for disabled young people.

Hunt said: "I want to give a real boost to competitive sport in schools using the power of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games to encourage young people – whatever age or ability – to take part in this new competition."

Kids will compete in a number of Olympic and Paralympic sports

Funding boost for UK postal museum proposals

By Pete Hayman

The British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA) has been handed a boost from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards a scheme to establish a new £19m home in Swindon.

BPMA has moved closer to securing a grant worth more than £2.6m to help in its bid to provide public access to the BPMA’s collection are red pillar boxes and postal vehicles, as well as examples of every British stamp issued since the Penny Black in 1840.

Development funding worth nearly £118,000 has been awarded towards the new Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios-designed Postal Museum and Archive at a former railway works in the heart of Swindon. Among the items included in the BPMA’s collection are red pillar boxes and postal vehicles, as well as examples of every British stamp issued since the Penny Black in 1840.

The new centre will be sited alongside English Heritage, the National Trust and STEAM – the Museum of the Great Western Railway at the Swindon location, and also aims to provide an educational programme for young people.

BPMA director Adrian Steel said: "HLF money will allow us to embark on the next stage of this exciting project to bring this human story of communication, industry and innovation.

"The Chain Testing Works in Swindon is an ideal home for our collections and offers an opportunity to restore and reopen this landmark building."
DCMS reveals world heritage candidates

Nearly 40 historic sites to be considered for inclusion on UK’s UNESCO submission

By Pete Hayman

Nearly 40 UK locations have put themselves forward to be considered for World Heritage Site status, according to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Tourism minister John Penrose has published a list of applications for the country’s Tentative List of the 38 sites looking to be included in the UK’s submission of candidates to UNESCO in 2011.

Among the sites bidding are the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter; Historic Lincoln; Merthyr Tydfil, Wales; Offa’s Dyke on the Anglo-Welsh border; and the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean. Brunel’s Great Western Railway; Chatham Dockyard, Kent; the Dover Strait; Jodrell Bank Observatory near Manchester; the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads and the Lake District are also among the bids that will now be assessed by an independent panel.

Penrose said: "Any list that includes Jodrell Bank, the Forth Bridge, Blackpool and the Turks and Caicos Islands certainly doesn’t lack variety. But what all 38 sites have in common is a wow factor and a cultural resonance that makes them real contenders to sit alongside The Pyramids and Red Square in this most distinguished of gatherings."

Work underway on £750m Scottish golf scheme

By Pete Hayman

Work has now started on US billionaire Donald Trump’s new £750m golf resort at the Menie Estate, Scotland.

According to the BBC, heavy machinery has now moved onto the site after plans for the scheme’s championship golf course, driving range, short game area and putting green were given the green light.

Full planning consent for the latest stage of the project was approved by Aberdeenshire Council’s Formartine committee on 29 June, with a guarantee to reinstate the site if the golf course is not completed.

Further applications, relating to the hotel and housing parts of Trump’s golf resort development, are yet to be determined.

A spokesperson for the council said: "The committee heard the application before them would only allow construction of the championship golf course to begin."

Jodrell Bank is one of the 38 sites vying for world heritage status
IN BRIEF

Goals reports increased half-year sales

Goals Soccer Centres has reported that overall sales for the six months to 30 June 2010 are "slightly ahead" of figures for same period last year. Like-for-like sales remained stagnant due to adjustments for a year-on-year revenue loss of £300,000 incurred earlier this year when facilities were shut due to poor weather. However, the group said it remains on track to meet its opening plans for 2010 and 2011, with new venues in Liverpool and Etham set to increase its portfolio to 35 UK sites.

Tollymore centre reopens after revamp

The Tollymore National Outdoor Centre in Bryansford, County Down, has reopened following a £5m revamp. The centre, which is funded and managed by Sport Northern Ireland, underwent a complete refurbishment which saw all its existing facilities being upgraded, as well as new facilities added. The centre boasts a purpose-built kayaking pool, indoor and outdoor rock climbing and full catering facilities. The centre is Northern Ireland's National Centre for Mountaineering and Canoeing activities.

Biggin Hill swimming pool unveiled

Charitable leisure trust Mytime Active and Bromley Council have opened a new swimming pool and library complex in Biggin Hill. Among the facilities at the Biggin Hill Memorial Library and Pool is a six-lane, 25m swimming pool; community meeting and party rooms; a library; changing rooms and a MyCafé. Mytime Active was established in 2004 to manage leisure facilities on behalf of the council, with the Biggin Hill venue set to host the trust’s Swimming Academy.

Former sports minister criticises FA

National governing body slammed by Richard Caborn for being “unfit for purpose”

By Pete Hayman

Former sports minister Richard Caborn has criticised the running of English football’s national governing body, the Football Association (FA).

Caborn, who was a member of Tony Blair’s government between 2001 and 2007, told the BBC that the organisation had been unable to “stand up to its responsibilities“ and was not fit for purpose.

The criticism of the FA comes in the wake of England’s poor performance at the 2010 World Cup, while the body has also been hit by the departures of chief executive Ian Watmore and chair Lord Triesman.

Caborn told the broadcaster: “The FA need to say we have to look at ourselves very seriously and we need to modernise ourselves. In Germany in 2000 there was a repositioning of the governance of German football.”

However, FA director of football development Sir Trevor Brooking expressed confidence that English football has "sound foundations" to build on.

Writing in the Sunday Times, Sir Trevor said the new national football centre at Burton-upon-Trent would provide England with a much-needed facility for development and training.

Green light for Old Trafford ground redevelopment

By Pete Hayman

The multi-million pound redevelopment of Old Trafford cricket ground, Manchester, has received the green light after the government said it would not call in the scheme.

Government Office North West has backed Trafford Council’s decision in March to approve the plans, which were put forward by Old Trafford Partnership and will enable preparatory work to continue.

The partnership – comprising Ask Developments, Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC) and Tesco – hopes the scheme will attract £70m of investment to halt local economic decline.

Plans will see the transformation of a 50-acre (20.2-hectare) site – including a revamp of the ground to meet the England and Wales Cricket Board’s criteria for international status.

LCCC chief executive Jim Cumbes said: "Government Office North West has backed the council’s recognition of the important role the club plays in supporting Trafford’s economy."

Children keen to try ‘new sports’ ahead of 2012

A vast majority of school children are keen to try out less traditional Olympic and paralympic sports if given the opportunity, according to research by Lloyds TSB bank.

Nearly 90 per cent of school-aged children are keen to try a new Olympic or Paralympic sport. Parents support their children's enthusiasm, with 84 percent agreeing that they would like their children to try a new Olympic or Paralympic sport at school.

Six out of ten parents cited the Games as inspiring their children to do more sport, although the research found a clear lack of opportunities for children to gain access to less traditional sports.
Study reveals stadia spending growth

English clubs’ investment increases by 5 per cent to nearly £200m in 2008-09

By Pete Hayman

English football clubs spent nearly £200m on stadia and facilities during the 2008-09 season, according to new research from the Sport Business Group at Deloitte.

The latest Annual Review of Football Finance revealed that clubs spent £196m in the period – up 5 per cent on the previous 12 months.

Capital expenditure by Premier League clubs, however, fell to its lowest level since 1996-97. Clubs in the Coca Cola Championship spent £69m – an increase of 60 per cent on 2007-08. Cardiff City’s new £47m stadium and the £16m investment in Brighton and Hove Albion’s new ground comprised the majority of spending in the Championship and League One respectively.

Mark Roberts, senior manager in Deloitte’s Sports Business Group, said: “The primary reason for the drop off in investment by Premier League clubs in 2008-09 is mainly due to there being no major stadium construction projects in progress.”

Deloitte also revealed that if England’s bid to host the 2018 World Cup is successful, it could act as a catalyst for development, including potential new venues for both Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool.

Cash boost for Midlands tennis

Edgbaston Priory Club’s development programme is set to benefit from up to £5m from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA).

Cash will go towards the creation of a bespoke venue with permanent grass show court for the AEGON Classic, the LTA’s annual international women’s event.

Plans are also afoot for a new six-court indoor tennis centre to support the club’s development programme, which aims to boost community access.

The indoor facility will form part of a major revamp of the club, which will also comprise new squash, gym and leisure provision and a refurbished clubhouse.

Three cities bid for 2018 Games

By Pete Hayman

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has confirmed that three cities have been approved as candidates to host the Winter Olympics in 2018.

All three applicants – Munich, Germany; PyeongChang, South Korea; and Annecy, France – were unanimously backed by the IOC’s executive board at a meeting held in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 22 June.

The IOC’s executive board took the decision following a technical analysis of each bid, which included the cities’ potential to stage a successful event and a range of infrastructure assessments.

Annecy has been asked to review its venue concept, but all three will now have the chance to submit their Candidature File by 11 January 2011, ahead of a visit by the IOC’s evaluation commission.

IN BRIEF

MCC issues Test cricket ‘call to action’

Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has urged the International Cricket Council and full member nations to take “immediate” action to secure the future of Test cricket. The introduction of a new World Test Championship and day/night matches are among the proposals put forward by the MCC’s world cricket committee in a bid to revitalise the longer form of the sport.

Other recommendations include ensuring that pitches offer a “fair balance” for both batsmen and bowlers and investment in marketing to boost audiences.

New £3.9m cycling plan for Scotland

The Scottish Government has unveiled its new £3.9m strategy designed to increase the number of cyclists and ensure that 10 per cent of all trips are made by bicycle by 2020. Improved cycle training in schools and the creation of new routes across the country also form part of the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland, which was launched by Scottish transport minister Stewart Stevenson.

The new strategy will see £2.5m invested in Scottish cycle infrastructure and £300,000 for child training.

Redditch swimming pool plans approved

Plans for a new multi-million pound swimming pool at the Abbey Stadium site in Redditch, Worcestershire, have been given the green light. Redditch Borough Council has approved the scheme, which will include a six-lane, 25m pool with accommodation for 300 spectators. The facility is due to open in spring 2012. Work on the pool will follow the installation of a new sports hall floor at the leisure centre, which has already been completed.
**IN BRIEF**

**Cancer charity backs north west sunbed ban**

The North West Cancer Research Fund (NWCRF) is backing a bid to ban sunbeds in gyms and spas across the region. The charity is offering its support to a campaign which aims to encourage all gyms and spas to ban sunbeds. Anne Jackson, chief executive of NWCRF, said: “We are challenging gyms and spas across the North West to remember that they are in the health business and offering the use of sunbeds is a complete contradiction in terms.”

**IHRSA publishes 2010 global report**

The health club industry posted a solid performance in 2009, according to the IHRSA 2010 Global Report. Global industry revenue reached US$67.2bn (£44.2bn) from a total of 128,500 health clubs and 119.5 million members. With more than 42 million members, the market in Europe alone has been estimated to be worth US$10bn (£6.6bn).

**Work starts on new Bilston leisure centre**

Shepherd Construction has started excavation work at the site of Wolverhampton City Council’s new £15m leisure centre in Bilston, West Midlands. The firm is moving around 10,000m3 of soil from the site ahead of the main build phase of the development, with 6,000m3 being donated to the WCC’s Bowmans Harbour project. When complete, the new 5,600sq m (60,278sq ft) facility will incorporate an eight-lane, 25m swimming pool, a learner pool and a health and fitness suite.

**Fitness First backs inclusion initiative**

Health club operator Fitness First has had the first group of its UK clubs accredited through the Inclusive Fitness Initiative’s (IFI) National Sports Foundation (NSF) Programme. The chain has become one of the first major operators in the commercial sector to commit to the programme, with a total of 24 Fitness First clubs now accredited to the scheme.

As part of the accreditation process, personal trainers have been offered training at levels two and three of the training programme in order to suitably train disabled members.

Fitness First has also worked with its equipment suppliers to have a selection of machines, which have been IFI-accredited.

Fitness First managing director John Gamble said: "Fitness First is committed to making the world a fitter place with no exclusions and we are pleased to be making these changes with immediate effect. "It is a landmark step forward for the fitness industry and we are proud to be the first major health club group to offer this."

IFI national director Sue Catton said: “Fitness First has taken a lead, acknowledged that the commercial sector must seek to proactively include disabled people, both financially and legislatively, and that action is required to ensure that inclusion is adequately addressed. This sends a very powerful message and we hope that all commercial operators will realise that this agenda must be addressed and cannot be ignored.”

**Scunthorpe site taking shape**

A new leisure centre being built in Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, is taking shape as work continues on the construction of its domed grid shell.

London-based Andrew Wright has designed The Pods, with Nottingham-based S&P Architects appointed as ‘delivery’ architects. Buro Happold and Bowmer and Kirkland have been selected to lead the build element.

Due to be completed in May next year, the venue will include a 390sq m (4,198sq ft) fitness studio, a 25m swimming pool and a dance studio.

**Djanogly leisure facility unveiled**

The £6.4m Djanogly Community Leisure Centre in Nottingham has opened to the public.

The centre – designed by Archial Architects and built by ISG Regions – includes a 25m, six-lane swimming pool with full moveable floor; a changing village; a 50-station fitness suite supplied by Technogym; sauna and steam rooms; and a dance/activity studio.

Archial senior associate Justin Catton said: “As Djanogly Community Leisure Centre is situated within the grounds of the Norman Foster Associates-designed Djanogly City Academy, certain aspects of its design – such as the overhang-ing eaves and the colonnade – take their cue from the academy in order to complement the existing architecture.”

Djanogly Community Leisure Centre forms part of Nottingham City Council’s wider £32m Leisure Centre Transformation Programme, designed to improve local sports provision.
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BHA chief calls for government action

Ministers urged to “take tourism seriously” in order to fulfil the sector’s potential

By Tom Walker

Sir David Michels, president of the British Hospitality Association (BHA) has called on the new coalition government to “take tourism seriously”.

Speaking at the BHA’s annual luncheon at Grosvenor House, London on 29 June, Michels said that the industry needs more support from the government and that everyone would gain if the industry is able to fulfil its potential.

“First and foremost, I would like to see the government leave us alone; with fewer regulations. This will cost nothing, but it will relieve the hospitality industry of mostly meaningless cost. That will leave us all to deal with what matters most: our customers,” he said.

Sir David called for the government to "leave the industry alone"

Leisure and hotel insolvencies stay high

The number of hospitality businesses going into insolvency has increased slightly, despite a national drop in insolvencies. According to the latest Insolvency Index from Experian, May saw total insolvencies fall to the lowest level since January 2010 and an 18 per cent fall in the total number of business insolvencies during May.

However, in the ‘leisure and hotels’ sector there were 123 insolvencies this May, compared to 121 in May 2009.

Four new pubs for Greene King

Pub operator Greene King has bought four pubs from Punch Taverns for a combined total of £5.3m.

All four are food-led destination pubs, located in Northampton, Nottingham and Aberdeen.

According to Greene King chief executive Rooney Anand, the pubs generated pre-tax profits of £342,000 during the year to August 2009.

Anand said: “They are freehold retail sites in great locations currently trading below their potential. We expect to convert the sites into our market-leading pub restaurant brands, Hungry Horse and Eating Inn, further strengthening our position in the UK market.”

easyHotel unveils Dubai property

The Dubai property is the operator’s first venture outside Europe

By Martin Nash

easyHotel Dubai, Jebel Ali, the UK-based budget hotel chain’s first venture outside Europe, is scheduled to open on 1 August.

The new six-storey, 216-room property – inside the Jebel Ali Free Zone on Sheikh Zayed Road – will be run by Istithmar Budget Hotels FZE, a division of the Istithmar World group.

In line with the ‘easy’ brand ethos, rooms will be priced on the basis of ‘the earlier you book, the less you pay’, while the property’s launch will be celebrated with a special rate of double rooms on sale from AED99 (£17.90) per night.

The new hotel also remains true to the brand’s ‘no frills’ approach, where services such as luggage storage, early check in, late check out, vended snacks and drinks and wi-fi internet access will be charged at a supplementary rate.
Vision Hotels designed to provide "accessible breaks"

By Pete Hayman

National sight loss charity Action for Blind People has announced the launch of a new not-for-profit hotel operator to offer accessible breaks for disabled people.

Vision Hotels currently manages four hotels across England, which have been adjusted to incorporate wet rooms and textured surfaces and including facilities such as talking alarm clocks, large button phones and dog areas. The four properties operated by the group are located in Teignmouth in Devon; Aldwick, near Bognor Regis, West Sussex; Lake Windemere, Cumbria; and Weston-super-Mare in Somerset.

Vision Hotels head Paul Morrison said: "Accessibility is continually ignored within the sector and we can prove that simple adaptations can make a big difference and in turn, increase guest numbers. "We have the same aims as anyone else in the catering and hospitality sector: to provide an excellent level of service that makes our customers re-book time and time again."

Not-for-profit operator launched

Vision Hotels designed to provide “accessible breaks”

Clifden Hotel in Teignmouth is one of the operator’s properties

Sports events market scores for excellence

Matchday hospitality provision is helping to drive up standards in customer service

According to a recent report, sport and leisure continues to be a key growth industry, with nearly 50 per cent of adults playing sport at least once a week, while the fitness and leisure market is worth around £3.8bn. At the same time, sport attracts large numbers of spectators, especially major events such as the Grand National, Henley Regatta and the FA Cup Final.

The provision of food and beverage at all these events has long been an integral activity. Indeed, the word 'hospitality' can have two quite different meanings when related to sport. It can, of course, mean the catering support provided for teams and spectators, but it also has connotations of something altogether more glamorous; the hospitality tent or box, where clients and guests are entertained in considerable style as if they were dining in a Michelin star restaurant. Indeed, the high standards achieved by event caterers often match the excellence of the sports personalities engaged on the pitch, the track or the court.

Close relationship of excellence has resulted in some quite interesting developments, where hospitality and sport have worked closely together. One example is the Lilleshall National Sports Centre in Shropshire. In addition to its role in providing training facilities for more than 20 different sports and specialist facilities for elite athletes, Lilleshall is also home to a number of sporting governing bodies, as well as a community centre hosting more than 80 local sports clubs.

Keen to reflect the levels of sporting excellence achieved at its premises, the centre decided that it was essential for all its hospitality facilities to be of the highest possible standard. To help drive the process, the management team employed the Institute of Hospitality’s Hospitality Assured Standard for Service and Business Excellence.

The Hospitality Assured process encourages businesses to look at their own operation from the customer’s perspective and to see where improvements should be made to benefit the business. Using the standard and reviewing how they do business using the 10 steps allows businesses to see how well they are doing in relation to their own aspirations. In addition, being assessed and scored allows them to compare their performance with others operating in their sector and with other Hospitality Assured businesses in general.
Spa expansion planned by Bannatyne

By Sarah Todd

The Bannatyne Group has announced it will create four new spas as part of a £15m investment programme for 2010-11 in the UK.

The new developments will include spa additions to a number of the company’s health clubs, as well as a hotel acquisition in the form of the 26-bed Charlton House Spa Hotel in Shepton Mallet, which has recently been bought from the administrators.

The hotel will be extended to increase the number of treatment rooms and introduce a fitness area. Bannatyne also has planning permission to add spas to its Banbury and Broadstairs health clubs, taking its UK spa portfolio to 30, while a new spa location has been identified by the company in Shrewsbury; plans for this are thought to be in the early stages.

The company is planning to invest in its existing portfolio of spas with a programme of refurbishments and redesigns across the estate.

Most recently, the Bannatyne Group has invested £300,000 on its spa facilities in Inverness, Scotland, and Chafford Hundred in Essex.

Brand extension for women-only Sanctuary spas

By Sarah Todd

The women-only Sanctuary spa brand is to be extended with a series of ‘High Street’ day spas opening around the UK.

The first in a series of the High Street spas will open Cambridge’s Grand Arcade this month, followed by Hill Rise in Richmond and then Bristol’s Cabot Circus in Quaker’s Friars.

Each facility will offer five treatment rooms, comprising three multi-purpose treatment rooms and two Skin Spa/Medi treatment rooms. There will also be two Champagne nail bar manicure stations as well as a further two mani/pedi stations in the spa area. A relaxation room and a skin diagnostic area with a skin camera complete the offering.

Treatments will include some of the most popular signature treatments from the Covent Garden menu as well as new elements such as lava shell massages. A medical spa element will also be offered, to include offering Botox, fillers, endermologies and IPL.

‘Good beats’ at spas a recipe for a healthy heart

Spas that offer personalised music choices to guests may be onto a winner, according to findings from the University of Maryland Medical Center in the US.

A 2008 study led by cardiologist Dr Mike Miller found that listening to your favourite music may be good for the heart. When study participants listened to tunes that they knew made them feel good or joyful, the inner lining of their blood vessels expanded to increase blood flow. Most participants selected country music as their favourite and heavy metal as the opposite. (For more details, see p.11 of Spa Vision in Spa Business 10/2)
The Spa Business Handbook is the ultimate reference guide for the international spa market. Published in January 2010 as a comprehensive resource for operators and suppliers worldwide, it will be read by key decision makers including leading hotel and spa operators, suppliers, developers, consultants and other experts. It will also be distributed at key spa events.

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IN BRIEF

Future of Hurst Castle lighthouse secured

A historic lighthouse at Hurst Castle in Lymington, Hampshire, has been saved for the nation after English Heritage acquired the property from its previous owner, Trinity House. First brought into use in 1911, the Low Lighthouse is situated on the castle’s ramparts. The 70ft (21m)-high structure replaced a previous lighthouse built in 1866 to protect shipping in the Solent. The Low Lighthouse was taken out of service in 1997.

Report urges 'tougher' petting farm rules

An investigation into an outbreak of the E.coli 0157 bacteria at Godstone Farm and Playbarn in Surrey last year has called for tougher measures to be introduced. Professor George Griffin – professor of infectious diseases and medicines at St George's, University of London – was asked to review the cause and handling of the outbreak by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Griffin criticised the farm’s "inadequate" risk assessment and said the HPA had shown a "lack of public health leadership" in its handling of the outbreak once it had started.

Blackstone sells Merlin stake to CVC

Luxembourg-based CVC Capital Partners has acquired a 28 per cent share in UK-based visitor attractions operator Merlin Entertainments. The stake was sold by Merlin’s largest shareholder, private equity giant Blackstone Group, which had originally hoped to float the business. As markets remain volatile, however, Blackstone has agreed to offload its shareholding in Merlin, five years after it acquired the company from Hermes Private Equity in a deal worth £102.5m.

New museums strategy for Wales

Assembly Government launches plans to attract new audiences to region’s museums

By Pete Hayman

Museums across Wales will have to be “smart and innovative” in order to attract new, younger audiences and encourage more volunteers, according to the Welsh Assembly Government.

“W
tl heritage minister Alun Ffred Jones launched the country’s "first-ever" museum strategy at Swansea Museum, which addresses three key areas for attractions to focus on over the next five years.

The Assembly Government’s new strategy calls on museums across the country to contribute towards local communities and help promote lifelong learning opportunities; continue the preservation and development of collections; and manage sites more effectively.

Attractions will also have to develop ways of encouraging more volunteers to get involved; to attract more children to visit; to share exhibitions with other sites; and contribute towards efforts to grow the Welsh language.

"The museums of Wales play a critical part in both preserving this rich heritage and in sharing the excitement of their stories locally, nationally and internationally," said Jones.

Ropes course for Edinburgh Zoo

By Tom Walker

Edinburgh Zoo has added a large high ropes adventure as one of its main new attractions for the 2010 summer season.

Supplied by UK-based Innovative Leisure, the new Sky Trail has been designed to blend into the surrounding landscape with its jungle-themed and outdoor wilderness-style colours.

The course has been installed adjacent to the award-winning £6m Budongo Trail chimpanzee enclosure, providing participants with a ‘chimps eye view’ of the enclosure and perhaps a chance to imitate some of the climbing exploits of the adjacent inmates. The trail consists of an 80m (262.5ft) long track, 6m (19.7ft) above the ground, and takes up to 25 participants at any one time, providing an hourly throughput of approximately 100.

Edinburgh Zoo’s commercial director Gary Wilson said: "It is great to have this type of play equipment beside a chimpanzee enclosure where the kids can interact with the chimps."

His Excellency the Governor has appointed a Commissioner for the Museum, the Rt Hon Sir George Younger KCB, CMG, QC, GBE, who will be called on to develop ways of encouraging visitors to explore the rich history of the castle and encourage more volunteers to get involved. He also wishes to recommend improvements to the visitor facilities and the site’s future use for educational and cultural purposes.

Welsh museums are being encouraged to attract younger visitors

“I urge museums to develop different ways of working and look beyond existing structures, to explore further joint working and innovative ways to generate income.

"Our first national museums strategy for Wales offers realistic action that museums can take to improve services and demonstrate the benefits of museums to everybody."
Woodland Trust reveals new-look brand

UK conservation charity adopts “new approach” following major strategic review

By Pete Hayman

A new strap-line – More Trees, More Good – has been adopted by the Woodland Trust as part of a “fundamental shift in approach” to its conservation work across the UK.

The organisation has relaunched its brand following the completion of a major internal strategic review, with the new look designed to reflect its long term vision to increasing the amount of native woodland.

As part of its new vision, the Woodland Trust is aiming to plant 20 million native trees across the country a year; a significant increase on the current 6 million trees planted every 12 months.

A series of projects will be unveiled under the More Trees,

The trust has adopted a new strap-line as part of its brand revamp

More Good brand, including a team of advisers to offer guidance on planting trees and accessing government funding as part of large-scale schemes.

The Woodland Trust also plans to share some of the costs and provide expertise for smaller projects and ensure that free or reduced-price tree packs are made available to community groups and schools.

Woodland Trust chair Clive Anderson said: “We realise 20 million trees is a huge task but an increase in tree-planting rates is essential, and we can’t do it alone.”

Tourism plan for Norfolk Broads

The plan is designed to create "a new awareness" of the Broads

By Martin Nash

The Broads Tourism Forum and the Broads Authority have combined to create a new image for the Norfolk Broads under the tagline ‘Britain’s Magical Waterland’.

The area is one of Norfolk’s largest tourism draws as well as one of the UK’s most popular destinations for boating and angling holidays. It is also a haven for some of Britain’s rarest birds and wildlife.

The campaign describes the Broads – a member of the National Parks group – as "a magical place where land and water, people and nature meet.*

Broads Tourism Forum chair Ian Russell, said: “We need to create a new awareness and perception of the Broads, ensuring that it is understood by all as a unique destination.”

IN BRIEF

New £1.7m PR scheme for Irish Sea towns

A £1.7m project is being launched to improve the perception of four towns on both sides of the Irish Sea. The three-year BRAND project centres on Rhyl and Holyhead in Wales, as well as Athy and Dun Laoghaire in the Republic of Ireland. All four towns have a history of regeneration projects, and all have difficulties in the way in which they are perceived by residents, businesses and the tourism and hospitality sectors.

Brighton and Hove Albion nets ground deal

Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club has announced that its stadium at Falmer, East Sussex, will be called the American Express Community Stadium after securing a sponsorship deal with the company. The financial and network services provider is one of the area’s largest private-sector employers and has finalised a “multi-year naming rights” agreement with the League One club, which aims to move to the 22,500-seat venue in time for the 2011-12 season.

BP’s sponsorship of Tate Britain criticised

A number of artists have signed a letter that criticises BP’s continued sponsorship of Tate Britain following the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of the US. The letter – published by the Guardian – said the BP logo was a “stain on Tate’s international reputation” and the other museums and galleries that accept sponsorship from the company. Oil companies, including BP, have also been accused of sponsoring arts institutions to divert attention from “their impacts on human rights, the environment and the global climate”.

Woodland Trust reveals new-look brand

UK conservation charity adopts “new approach” following major strategic review
Seaside tourism remains 'healthy'

New research moves to disprove ‘myth’ of declining coastal economies

By Pete Hayman

New research carried out by a team from Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) has revealed that the seaside tourism industry in England and Wales remains ‘healthy’.

The report, called The Seaside Tourist Industry in England and Wales, claims that the idea of coastal resorts having suffered as a result of increasing numbers of foreign holidays is a “myth”.

Peter Hampson, director of the British Resorts and Destinations Associations, said: “What the Sheffield Hallam report tells us is that in many places around the coast the seaside tourism industry is still alive and well – and growing.

“The seaside tourism industry has been written off too often. This report highlights its resilience.”

Professor Steve Fothergill from SHU’s Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research led the team. He added: “What our figures show is that even in the face of stiff competition from holidays abroad, Britain’s seaside towns have been able to retain and even expand much of their core business. The British seaside tourism industry remains a major employer.”

Jersey tourism body to receive States support

Jersey Tourism will receive £500,000 towards UK marketing activity after the island’s government approved fiscal stimulus bids from the economic development department.

The tourism agency is one of two of the island’s industries to be awarded funding after bids were green lighted to encourage wider economic growth.

Jersey’s treasury and resources minister, Philip Ozouf, said: “Over the past two months, market conditions in the UK have changed significantly and we have seen a market downturn in arrivals and forward bookings.”

The additional funding is complemented by a £500,000 contribution from the Jersey Hospitality Association.

IATA reports increase in passenger numbers

By Pete Hayman

Airlines reported an 11.7 per cent increase in passenger traffic in May, compared with the same period last year, with figures now above pre-recession levels.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) study, however, revealed that capacity only increased by nearly 5 per cent, behind the rate of increase in demand. IATA director general and CEO Giovanni Bisignani said: “Passenger traffic is now 1 per cent above pre-recession levels, while the freight market is 6 per cent bigger.”

One of the things that went almost unnoticed in the lead-up to the election and during the development of the coalition agreement afterwards was the near hiatus in the promulgation of new legislation. Oddly enough, without the ongoing flow of legislation, businesses were able to operate perfectly normally.

Now, with the agreement in place, government departments are starting work again trying to figure out how to turn the initiatives that it contains into new legislation. What is really needed is a proper review of legislation affecting the tourism sector. In the coalition statement, the government said that it will take steps to improve the competitiveness of the UK tourism industry, recognising the important part it plays in our national economy.

With there being no funding to do this, one of the only mechanisms the government has available to increase competitiveness is the reduction of regulatory burden. And with John Penrose formerly being the shadow minister for business responsible for developing the Conservative Party policy on reducing regulation, he is now perfectly placed as tourism minister to undertake such a review.

Conducting a comprehensive review of the regulation impacting the sector could form the basis for developing a strategy for subsequently improving its competitiveness; a strategy that could be implemented without cost to the government and help provide real benefits to the tourism industry.
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ACE reveals £19m cost-cutting plans

Funding agency outlines how it will implement savings after its budget is reduced

By Tom Walker

Arts Council England (ACE) has revealed the measures it will be forced to take in order to implement the £19m cuts imposed on its budget by the coalition government.

The funding reduction is in addition to an earlier in-year reduction of £4m, confirmed in the April 2009 Budget, which means that the Arts Council’s original 2010-11 budget has been reduced by a total of £23m – from £468m to £445m.

In a statement, ACE announced that to alleviate the blow, it has withdrawn £9m of the Arts Council’s historic reserves, access to which was previously blocked by government. The emergency funding means that the cut to regularly funded organisations’ income from Arts Council in 2010-11 will be limited to 0.5 per cent.

The cuts will include £9m from the Arts Council’s historic reserves; £6m from savings due to the postponement of a major public engagement project and cuts to audience development plans.

ACE’s budget for the next three years (2011-14) will be decided in the government’s Spending Review, for which results are due in the autumn.

Funding shortage puts Hornsea arts plan in doubt

By Luke Tuchscherer

Plans for a new £5m arts venue in Hornsea have been placed in doubt due to a lack of funding.

The scheme was given the green light by East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) in May, with the authority agreeing to put up £3m towards the total cost of the venue.

However, ERYC is still waiting for a decision from regional development agency Yorkshire Forward on the remaining £2m.

Council leader Stephen Parnaby, said: “The council will of course continue to do all it can to support this project but the outlook for the new centre in its present form is not good. "If we could have moved faster, I am confident we could have got the funding package sorted and been getting on with the job to the benefit of Hornsea residents and visitors."

A 313sq m (3,369sq ft) auditorium capable of accommodating 300 people, a 65sq m (700sq ft) stage area and changing facilities are among the plans for the new venue.

Scottish government formally unveils Creative Scotland

Creative Scotland – the agency tasked with supporting and developing the country’s arts and creative industries – has been formally launched by the Scottish Government.

The organisation, which will be the first public body in Scotland to have equal legal status for its Gaelic (Alba Chruthachail) and English names, is based in Edinburgh and is chaired by Sir Sandy Crombie.

Its responsibilities will include the identification, support and development of excellence in arts and culture and the promotion of understanding and appreciation of the sector, as well as to increase participation.
**UK parks receive summer cash boost**

Four sites to receive share of more than £6m as part of joint HLF/BIG initiative

By Pete Hayman

More than £6m worth of Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Big Lottery Fund (BIG) grants have been awarded to four parks across the UK as part of the Parks for People scheme.

A further 11 parks will net a share of more than £1m worth of development funding as part of the initiative, which will help towards a range of projects that aim to restore historic features and enhance landscapes.

Wallsend Parks in Tyne and Wear has secured nearly £2.5m – the largest share of funding – towards the restoration of the Vinery Wall and Fernery in the Hall Gardens, as well as to train volunteers to be guides.

Priory Park, Dudley, has been handed nearly £1.8m, which will go towards major improvements, such as repairs to the priory structures and a revamp of the 19th century parklands. The pavilion will also be upgraded.

Middleton Park, Leeds, has been awarded nearly £1.5m and Marine Cove Gardens, Burnham-on-Sea, has secured £344,200 as part of the confirmed awards, which will help to improve each park.

HLF chief executive Carole Souter said: "Summer is finally here, and it’s the perfect time to enjoy our public parks. It’s important everyone in our towns and cities has somewhere free, green and open to enjoy in their leisure time."

**Aberdeen city square revamp plans move forward**

By Pete Hayman

An international design competition for a multi-million pound overhaul of Aberdeen’s Union Terrace Gardens has been given the green light by local councillors.

Aberdeen City Council (ACC) backed proposals to move forward with the City Square Project, having already approved an offer worth £50m towards the scheme from businessman Sir Ian Wood.

Designers and architects from around the world will soon be invited to submit ideas for the gardens project, with Sir Ian contributing up to 50 per cent of the competition costs.

The £140m development will include reclaiming 5 acres (22 hectares) of land by raising the site and covering a dual carriageway, a cultural hub and an outdoor performance stage.

Water features that recognise the importance of Aberdeen as a major North Sea port, an amphitheatre and green space are also proposed as part of the project.

ACC leader John Stewart said: "Clearly there are risks – and what we have to do now is assess and evaluate them. The only way to do that is move forward to the next stage of the project. To stop now would leave us all wondering ‘what if’."

A project management board will be set up to offer strategic leadership in the scheme's early stages, which will comprise two councillors and representatives from a range of organisations.

**IN BRIEF**

**New coastal path opens in North Wales**

Welsh environment minister Jane Davidson has launched a new 27-mile (43.5km) coastal path between Prestatyn and Llandudno in North Wales. The path – developed with Welsh Assembly Government and the European Regional Development Fund funding – aims to provide walkers and cyclists with improved access to the coastline. The route will also contribute towards plans for the creation of a path around the entire Welsh coastline by 2012 as part of the One Wales commitment.

**DCC unveils `lost species' memorial plans**

A new landmark memorial – designed to increase awareness of “lost species” of animals and plants – will be created on Portland after the plans were backed by Dorset County Council.

The council’s cabinet agreed to provide a one-off £30,000 grant from its special projects budget towards the £150,000 development stage of the Mass Extinction Memorial Observatory scheme. Two further pledges from private benefactors will also help to finance the development stage of the project, which will cost between £3-5m and will be completed in 2012.

**New walking trail to celebrate poet’s work**

A poem written by Dylan Thomas on his 30th birthday has been used to inspire a new walking trail in Laugharne, South Wales. The trail – being developed by the Laugharne Corporation – will guide visitors through an area of woodland detailed in A Poem in October and will feature interpretative panels. Carmarthenshire County Council and Menter Bro Dinefwr contributed nearly £13,000 towards the creation of the trail.
Future delivery of Holywell Mead Leisure Complex (formerly an Outdoor Lido)

Wycombe District Council is inviting Expressions of Interest for a Partner to develop and manage Holywell Mead Leisure Complex, which was an outdoor Lido until it closed in 2009 because of financial pressures. The facility has historically played an important role in providing leisure opportunities for residents and visitors at a prominent location in the town.

The Holywell Mead facility was built in the 1950’s, based around a 33m outdoor swimming pool, and a 22.9m teaching pool. It is located on The Rye, the central and largest park in High Wycombe, and a recreation destination for residents from throughout Wycombe District and beyond. In addition, the Rye Centre (formerly known as The Environment Centre and currently operating as a community centre) is adjacent to the pool and included in plans for the future of the complex. This offers the opportunity for a more coordinated site masterplan and integrated delivery solution in future.

The Council’s key objective for the future of the site is to secure continued community leisure use. Wycombe DC is therefore looking for an innovative leisure Partner to deliver the Council’s vision of an attractive and vibrant family-oriented leisure destination while delivering a value for money solution, with no revenue cost to the Council.

In order to achieve this, the Council is willing to be flexible over the future facility mix. Whilst retention of water-based activities would be welcomed, interested parties will have the opportunity to respond with appropriate solutions for best meeting community leisure needs, and the Council is willing to consider alternative and potentially innovative leisure and recreation solutions which continue to deliver community leisure use on the site.

All Expressions of Interest to this process are required to register their interest and to complete the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) by 1200 hours on 27th August 2010. A Bidders Open Day will take place on the 3rd August 2010.

Those companies passing the pre-qualification evaluation process will receive an invitation to tender in early October 2010.

To register and receive the PQQ pack, which will be sent out electronically, please email: catherine.silva.donayre@wycombe.gov.uk
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Chichester plan set to be put on hold

Plans for the future development of Chichester, West Sussex, could be put on hold after the local authority called for two elements to be clarified. Members of Chichester District Council’s (CDC) executive board have been recommended to delay the Core Strategy until issues regarding local infrastructure provision and future government planning proposals are resolved. CDC leader Myles Cullen said: “The government will also want councils to demonstrate that they have sufficient land available for housing – so the requirement for a five year housing land supply may well continue. We are seeking further clarification on this issue, which is also a concern for many of our neighbouring councils.”

CYC names preferred York stadium site

City of York Council (CYC) has selected the Monks Cross site as its preferred location for the development of a new multi-million pound community stadium. Initial plans for the 6,000-seat venue, which will provide a home for York City Football Club (YCFC) and York City Knights rugby league team, include 3G pitches and health and fitness facilities. CYC’s executive chose Monks Cross ahead of three other locations, which include YCFC’s Bootham Crescent ground, Mille Crux/North of Nestle and Hull Road/Heslington East University campus. Amateur organisations and members of the community will be able to use the proposed stadium when complete.

Council reveals £7m Bath Spa payout

BANES’ recouped cash over two-year period following settlement of a legal dispute

By Pete Hayman

Bath and North East Somerset Council (BANES) has revealed that it made a return of less than £7m from the Bath Spa scheme, following the settlement of a legal dispute.

In November 2009, the local authority said that it had settled its long-running legal battle with contractor Carillion and architect Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners over the rising cost of the project.

In BANES’ statement of accounts, figures showed that the council received nearly £2.8m for the financial year ending 31 March 2010, which adds to a £4.177m payout made in 2008-09.

Carillion launched legal proceedings against the council in August 2008 in a bid to claim £2.4m, before BANES issued a counter claim for £21m over the development, which eventually cost a total of £45m to complete.

Thermae Bath Spa was first mooted in 2000 but ran into delays due to faulty paintwork and waterproof floors. The spa finally opened in August 2006 more than four years late and nearly three-times over budget.

The statement of accounts, said: “The settlement reflects a legal agreement that takes into account the claims made by the council against the architects and contractors, as well as claims that were previously being made against the council.”

Trust launches heritage resource

By Martin Nash

The Prince’s Regeneration Trust, concerned about the increasing number of important historic buildings ‘at risk’ across the UK, has launched an online resource called Sustainable Heritage: An online toolkit for asset management.

Research by the trust showed more than eight per cent of such buildings are owned by local authorities and the new resource is designed to help these and other public bodies make informed decisions about the future of heritage assets.

Once a historic building falls out of use it becomes at risk from dereliction and decay, unless a new use can be found for it. It is at this stage that Sustainable Heritage aims to provides information about how to ensure historic buildings remain viable and contribute positively to the community.
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Timed are hard for charities to get the level of funding that is required for us to carry out our important work for the industry. So we have to come up with new and easy ways to make some cash and for most of us, what can be more natural than drinking tea? And for many top hotels, serving tea is just part of routine good service – whether it’s a solitary cuppa or an elaborate, quintessentially British mid-afternoon ritual involving cakes, scones and sandwiches.

So, as the 17 hotels participating in Springboard’s ‘Serve Tea to Start a Career’ event were delighted to discover, raising money for charity can be actually quite simple. By going about their normal business of serving afternoon tea on 3 July, they were in fact helping to raise vital funds for Springboard’s Summer School Programme. Most, like The Goring, Royal Garden Hotel and Swissotel The Howard chose to pass on all or half of their afternoon tea takings to Springboard.

We’re very grateful to the hotel industry for their terrific support for this simple but effective fundraising activity. The idea came about as we wanted to take out much of the hassle of fund-raising for hoteliers. This time, there were no tickets, no tables or seats to buy. They could sit back and help a young person start a career simply by serving Afternoon Tea. Springboard will invest all the proceeds to ensure that students leaving school and college this summer can make an easy transition to the industry.

Newly-crowned Catey manager of the year, David Morgan-Hewitt, who as managing director of The Goring helped to hatch the idea with Springboard, said: ‘The wonderful thing about this very successful initiative is that none of the hoteliers had to do anything except sign up. Customers just came, drank tea and gobbled up cream cakes while as hoteliers we knew that once again we were helping to support one of our most important industry charities.”

While their support may have seemed effortless, the impact of each hotel’s commitment will be huge. Every £500 raised means that one school or college leaver aged 16-25 years will have the chance to complete a three-week structured training and work placement programme designed to support their transition from school to work or full-time education. It will also equip them with qualifications linked to a job.

Naturally, a second ‘Serve Tea to Start a Career’ campaign is already being planned for next year.

SAM COULSTOCK is customer relationship director at Springboard UK
Norman Basson confirms retirement

Premier Training International founder to leave industry after a number of years

By Pete Hayman

Norman Basson, founder of Premier Training International (PTI), has decided to retire after a number of years working in the health and fitness industry.

Basson founded the training provider in 1992 and confirmed his decision to retire after unveiling the company's new £550,000 flagship academy, which opened in Finsbury Park, London, in June.

Formerly a physical educationalist, sports coach and physiotherapist in the Army Physical Training Corps, Basson has also run his own physiotherapy practice, health and fitness club and training centre.

Premier Training International chief executive Debra Stuart said: "Norman’s passion has always been about delivering on quality and making people feel special."

Tegelaars announces retirement from FIA board

Harm Tegelaars, a board director and current treasurer of the Fitness Industry Association (FIA), has announced that he is to retire from his roles at the organisation.

Tegelaars – one of the FIA’s founders and a former chair of the organisation – now aims to focus on his duties as president of the European Health and Fitness Association.

Fred Turok, FIA chair, said: "Harm has been one of the pillars of the industry and a major force in the FIA ever since our inception: his wise counsel will be sorely missed."

Tegelaars – one of the FIA’s founders and a former chair of the organisation – now aims to focus on his duties as president of the European Health and Fitness Association.

PEOPLE SHORTS

Thurrock Council has announced that Graham Farrant is its new chief executive after being unanimously chosen by the members’ appointment panel. Farrant will take over from interim chief executive Bob Coomber on 2 August after being given final approval at a special meeting of the full council on 30 June. Farrant has joined the council from consultancy mmpgenesis.

Lord Young of Graffham has been named as the new chair of the Jewish Museum London. Following a long career in law, business and politics, Lord Young has held many positions within leading Jewish and cultural institutions. He was chair of British ORT in the 1970’s, a post he relinquished on joining the government, but became president of the World ORT Union in 1989.

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- Reduce staff first aid training costs
- Offer first aid training to your customers
- Start a new Business
- Course includes the CIEH Level 3 Award in Training Skills and Practice
- We also provide the CIEH Level 3 PTLLS

sales@goodskillstraining.co.uk
www.goodskillstraining.co.uk

Chronic Respiratory Disease Exercise Instructor Course

BLF bursaries are now available for the September 2010 intake of this innovative distance learning course.

Developed by Loughborough College, the University Hospitals of Leicester and the British Lung Foundation (BLF), with funding and input from Rotherham PCT, the course has been submitted for endorsement at level 4 on the Register of Exercise Professionals. It covers:

- Physiology and pathology of respiratory disease
- Management of chronic respiratory disease
- Responses to exercise and exercise prescription
- Managing breathlessness
- Referral pathways

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

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

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

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

e: exercise@blf-uk.org
t: 0207 688 5618
w: www.lunguk.org

British Lung Foundation

Reg. charity of England & Wales - no. 326730. Charity reg in Scotland - no. SC038415
MA Sport Management and Leadership

This new and innovative course is of particular relevance to experienced professionals such as sport managers and administrators and others involved in the sport and leisure industry who wish to develop their skills in management and leadership.

The programme offers opportunities for professional, personal and career development and focuses on applied and experiential learning. Modules include principles of management and leadership, organisational strategy, planning for business performance and leadership in sports organisations.

Teaching Pattern
Two years part-time comprising six two-day blocks per year. Year three - final research project.

Further Information: Dr Nicola Bolton
email: njbolton@uwic.ac.uk
or css@uwic.ac.uk
Tel: 020 2041 6591
uwic.ac.uk
You, and a £10 million sports and leisure organisation.

The perfect combination.

Chief Executive
£60k + excellent benefits, final salary pension
Based in Barnsley

BPL operates 15 sites spread across Barnsley and Bassetlaw, which include everything from golf courses to football pitches, swimming pools to party venues. We employ over 700 people and have a turnover of above £10 million.

We aim to make sure the people of Barnsley and Bassetlaw enjoy access to the very best sporting and leisure facilities. You will provide leadership, drive and vision, creating a performance-led culture that generates high standards of customer service and quality. It calls for a senior management background in a fast paced, customer-oriented service environment, with the character, charisma and confidence to champion change and lead by example. Strong strategic, business planning and financial management skills are essential.

For a discussion about the role please call the Chair of BPL, Dr David Hicks on 01226 702710.

For further details and to apply go to www.bpl.org.uk

If you do not have internet access, you can request an application pack by calling 01226 738672.

Closing date: 28th July 2010

With a rich and varied history that extends as far back as the third century, Abu Dhabi is the largest of the seven emirates and capital of the United Arab Emirates. TDIC was created to develop real estate assets held by the government of Abu Dhabi. Our primary objective is to support the efforts to increase tourist and business visitor numbers over the coming decade, by creating truly unique destinations.

To support our new developments on Desert Islands, we currently have the following opportunities:

Tourism Services Manager, Sir Bani Yas Island, Abu Dhabi
This role is responsible for managing and maintaining a harmonious relationship with the hotel organization ensuring that we provide a positive experience for guests from arrival to departure. Key responsibilities include the day to day management and coordination of staff, tourism-related activities, guest reservations and transfers via air, sea and road. You will be instrumental in imparting to the guest the rich legacy of the island from its varied archaeological history to the rich beauty of its flora, fauna and marine life through our tourism initiatives.

Experience: Ten years as a Tour Manager with a recognized international tour operator, destination management company or similar position in a tourism field.

Qualifications: Diploma in Tourism or Hospitality

Please submit your CV to careers@tdic.ae

Ref TSM01

Adventure Tourism Guides, Sir Bani Yas Island, Abu Dhabi

With a strong focus on customer service, you will have experience in dealing with a diverse client base within a 5 star environment. This is a fast paced physically demanding role, where you will lead both land and water activities, sharing the island’s unique history with guests and ensuring a VIP experience from arrival to departure.

Experience: Minimum 3 years within the tourism field with relevant tertiary and field qualifications. You must hold a current driving licence.

Land based activities: Archery, nature and wildlife walks and drives, mountain biking.

Water based activities: Have RYA and STCW 95 Certificates. Sailing, diving, waterskiing, snorkelling, rowing, sailing.

Please submit your CV to careers@tdic.ae

Ref ATG01
Mount Batten Watersports and Activity Centre have 2 vacancies within their Watersports and Activity Department. We require...

- an experienced and self motivated WATERSPORTS AND ACTIVITY MANAGER, with outdoor learning qualifications needed to maintain and develop the Centre programme within a Management team. Salary £25,000 per annum.

  To provide leadership and training to the Team, take responsibility and accountability for the management of the Centre’s activities, monitoring the quality of provision. Ideally educated to degree level in a business or leisure Management discipline, with considerable relevant work experience, you will have an in depth knowledge of a range of water sports and outdoor activities, leisure and hold teaching qualification in at least two activity related disciplines. A friendly, approachable, enthusiastic, and self-motivated individual, you will have experience of management of teams, financial planning and budgets, developing and implement business plans.

- an experienced and self motivated EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER / SENIOR INSTRUCTOR with outdoor learning qualifications needed to maintain and develop the Centre Education Programme. Salary £18,000 to £22,000 per annum.

  To take responsibility and accountability for the management and accountability for the management of NVQ or equivalent aspects of outdoor learning by teaching and supervising a team, and contribute to the strategy of the Centre. Ideally you should have relevant work experience, you will have in depth knowledge of a range of water sports and outdoor activities, leisure and hold coaching qualification in at least two activity related disciplines. A friendly, approachable, enthusiastic and self-motivated individual, you will have experience of teaching and delivering NVQ or similar education programmes.

  With both positions you will possess excel and communication and problem solving skills and have the ability to work flexibly to meet the needs of the service. Also successful candidates will be subject to a CRB check.

For further details and an application pack, please contact: Human Resources, Mount Batten College, West Street, Moulton, Northants NN3 7RR.

Telephone: 01604 491131 Fax: 01604 645273 Email: jobs@moulton.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: July 30, 2010

POSITIVELY PROMOTING EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Lecturer in Sport

As part of the Macclesfield Learning Zone, the Learning Zone Sixth Form College (LZ6) provides high quality education and state-of-the-art facilities.

Lecturer in Sport

PTHP - £20.95 - £21.83

Offering a comprehensive range of qualifications, the Sports Department at LZ6 is seeking to appoint an experienced Lecturer in Sport to join our highly committed team.

You will teach on a range of Sport programmes at all levels, including preparing lesson plans, assessment and marking of coursework and taking pastoral responsibility for students. You will also contribute to quality assurance and new course development and marketing.

You will have a degree or equivalent in Sport or a related subject, plus a teaching qualification to Cert Ed/PGCE or equivalent. Level 2 English and Mathematics qualifications are essential, along with a competency in using MS Office. You will have recent experience of teaching young people up to Level 3, and ideally up to Level 5.

Closing Date: 12.00 noon, 29th July 2010

For further details visit www.macclesfield.ac.uk/vacancies or contact the Customer Service Team, Macclesfield College, Park Lane, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8LF Tel: 01625 410009 Email: recruitment@macclesfield.ac.uk

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All appointments will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure check and satisfactory references. The College is committed to equality of opportunity. We welcome applications from all sections of the community, particularly from members of ethnic minority groups.
South Yorkshire Sports Partnership is looking to appoint two new positions to the Team. South Yorkshire Sport is the County Sport Partnership covering the South Yorkshire sub-region and is hosted by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. The Partnership offices are based at The English Institute of Sport in Sheffield.

Coaching Development Manager
Grade 8 (SCP 34-37) £28,636 - £30,851

Full-Time 37 hours per week
Temporary Fixed-term Contract until 31 March 2011 (with, in principle, funding for a further year until March 2012)
Ref: CSN/50063059

South Yorkshire Sport are looking for an exceptional individual to complete our development team that will drive the implementation of the Partnership’s Strategic Plan and our Enhanced Specification of Coaching Services as funded by Sport England.

You will develop and manage a South Yorkshire Coaching Support Network that will put in place a coordinated system that will recruit, deploy and support coaches across the county.

As part of a national network of similar officers you will work closely with sports coach UK, the national governing bodies of sport and local authority partners to ensure their coaching needs are met. This will entail putting in place a county infrastructure that will provide more effective coaching across South Yorkshire recognising the crucial role that the HE/FE sector has to play.

You will be experienced in working within the sports development field, preferably in the development of coaches. You will also be an excellent communicator with a background of working with a wide range of partners, and experience of managing projects from their inception through implementation to review.

For an informal discussion regarding this post, please contact Helen Cund, Partnership Network Manager, South Yorkshire Sports Partnership on 0114 223 5672 or email helen.cund@sysport.co.uk

Athletics Network Development Officer
Grade 5 (SCP 22-25) £19,621- £21,519 (pro rata)

Part-Time 20 hours per week
Temporary 1 Year Fixed-Term Contract
(with, in principle, funding for a further 2 years)
Ref: CSN/50063060

Guided by, and reporting to the South Yorkshire Athletics Network, your primary role will be to support the development of the Network and deliver development outcomes as determined by the Network Delivery Plan.

The main focus of the McCain South Yorkshire Athletics Network is to raise participation levels in the sport through close collaboration with a range of deliverers and stakeholders and to develop athletes, coaches and officials to support and sustain the sport of athletics.

You will also provide a range of development services to the Clubs and representatives in the McCain South Yorkshire Athletics Network and support the development of athletics in the South Yorkshire sub-region.

Fully licensed, with a level 2 or above UKA coaching qualification, you will be experienced in working with clubs and coaches, preferably in the sport of Athletics. You will have a good knowledge of coach education systems and the structures of Athletics in England.

You will also be an excellent communicator with a background of working with a wide range of partners, and experience of achieving change.

For an informal discussion regarding this post, please contact Steve Gaines, South Yorkshire Athletics Network (Chairman) on 01302 538408 or email SandJGAINES@aol.com or Helen Cund, Partnership Network Manager, South Yorkshire Sports Partnership on 0114 223 5672 or email helen.cund@sysport.co.uk

Application packs for either post can be obtained from www.barnsley.gov.uk or by telephoning (01226) 772250 and quoting the post reference number. Completed applications should be returned to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

These posts require an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

Closing date for applications: 30 July 2010, at 4:15pm.

Interviews will be held w/c 16 August 2010.

www.barnsley.gov.uk
visit www.leisureopportunities.co.uk or call 01462 471747 for more details on the following jobs

**Community Project Officer 2 posts**  
Company: St Albans City and District Council  
Salary: up to £26,831 p.a. Subject to Job Evaluation  
Location: St Albans, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 15 Jul 2010

**Sports and Recreation Instructor**  
Company: St Dunstan’s  
Salary: £20,431 per annum  
Location: Brighton, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 15 Jul 2010

**Physical Activity Support Officer**  
Company: Fylde Coast YMCA  
Salary: £14,500 pro rata  
Location: St Annes, Blackpool, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 16 Jul 2010

**Operational Support Manager**  
Company: The British Cycling Federation  
Salary: Band 5 (£28k to £35k) + benefits  
Location: Manchester, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 16 Jul 2010

**Healthy Lifestyle Facilitator**  
Company: Fylde Coast YMCA  
Salary: £18,000  
Location: St Annes, Blackpool, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 16 Jul 2010

**Physical Activity Referral Officer**  
Company: Fylde Coast YMCA  
Salary: £18,000  
Location: St Annes, Blackpool, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 16 Jul 2010

**Clinical Assistant Administrator**  
Company: Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service  
Salary: £12,145- £15,725 per annum  
Location: Wigston, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 19 Jul 2010

**Freelance Personal Trainer / Lifestyle Coach**  
Company: Profile Health & Fitness  
Location: London, United Kingdom

**Become a Personal Trainer**  
Company: Premier Training International Ltd  
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 21 Jul 2010

**Become a Sports Massage Therapist**  
Company: Premier Training International Ltd  
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 21 Jul 2010

**Duty Manager**  
Company: Oxford Brooks University  
Salary: £21,565, rising annually to £23,566  
Location: Oxford, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 22 Jul 2010

**Spa Manager**  
Company: Q Hotels  
Salary: £16,000  
Location: Chatham, United Kingdom

**ASA Level 1 & 2 Swimming Teachers and Lifeguards**  
Company: PoolSchools  
Location: Woodford Green / Essex / Surrey, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 25 Jul 2010

**Fitness Professional**  
Company: Future Fit Training  
Salary: up to £30k  
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 25 Jul 2010

**Fitness Manager**  
Company: Parkwood Leisure  
Salary: £15,800  
Location: Devon, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 26 Jul 2010

**Lecturer in Sport**  
Company: Macclesfield College  
Salary: PTHP £20.95 - £21.83  
Location: Macclesfield, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 29 Jul 2010

**Assistant Leisure Club Manager**  
Company: Crowne Plaza  
Salary: £20,000 per annum+incentives+benefts  
Location: London, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 29 Jul 2010

**Sales and Marketing Director**  
Company: Parkwood Leisure  
Salary: £70,000 + benefits inc bonus  
Location: Hartlebury, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 29 Jul 2010

**Trainee Personal Trainer / Fitness Instructor**  
Company: The Training Room  
Salary: £20K-E30K  
Location: Nationwide, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 01 Mar 2011

**Bar / Complex Managers**  
Company: Park Holidays UK Ltd  
Salary: £attractive + profit-related bonus  
Location: Kent, United Kingdom

**Chief Executive**  
Company: Titanic Foundation  
Location: Belfast, United Kingdom  
Closing date: 06 Aug 2010
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Salaries: 28 - 34k plus bonuses and share options

We are seeking to employ a Business Development Manager that will become the heart of our growing fitness education business. You must be an expert at managing time and you need to have a passion for sport and fitness.

Roles & Responsibilities:
- drive the business forward
- generate new business & income avenues
- develop current projects
- administration duties including basic financial reporting
- manage team of tutors and assessors
- design delivery programmes
- develop industry partnerships

Key skills / attributes:
- the ability to sell
- excellent forward planning skills
- superior customer service approach to business
- energetic & hard working
- ability to think outside of the box
- experience in project management

Application process:
Submit covering letter and CV by 30th July 2010

Please email covering letters and CV’s to dan@gfseducation.com

Any enquiries about the position can also be directed to the above email address.

We will only contact candidates that we wish to take through an initial interview. Initial and final interviews will be carried out in August.

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subscribe online: www.leisuresubs.com

Health and Well Being
Hours: 37 Location: Hemswell Avenue, Hull
Fixed term for 3 years due to funding

In Hull we are committed to improving the long-term heart-health of young people and to encourage them to lead more active lifestyles, eat healthy foods and not to smoke. We are seeking three highly motivated, experienced and enthusiastic individuals who will be key in the development and implementation of the Heart Healthy Programme in secondary schools in Hull.

“Hearty Lives Hull” is a programme funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and managed by NHS Hull and Hull City Council.

The schools strand of the Hearty Lives Programme will focus on supporting Secondary Schools to offer a wide range of additional activities promoting physical activity, learning about healthy eating, basic life support and a no smoking message. It will particularly focus on encouraging “hard to reach” groups of young people and their families to get involved.

BHF Healthy Lives School Project Manager (CRB)
Post No. 1047449 Grade 10 (scp 40-43) £33,661-£36,313

We are seeking a highly motivated, experienced and enthusiastic individual who will be responsible for leading the development and implementation of the Hearty Lives Hull: Schools – Additional Learning Opportunities (ALO) Programme in secondary schools in Hull.

You will have senior level experience and a strong background and track record in sports development or health promotion. You will be a highly motivated and enthusiastic manager who shares our passion to improve the health and well-being of young people and their families. You will have strong partnership working skills with the ability to build professional relationships with a range of partners, demonstrating specialist skills in predicting and driving change in a rapidly changing environment.

A relevant degree level qualification is required along with high-level communication and inter-personal skills and the ability to negotiate key targets and actions with a range of partners and providers.

BHF Hearty Lives School Project Officer (CRB)
Post No. 1047450 Grade 4 (scp 15-18) £16,054-£17,161

We are seeking a motivated and enthusiastic individual with a record in sports development or health promotion. You will be a highly motivated and enthusiastic manager who shares our passion to improve the health and well-being of young people and their families. You will have strong partnership working skills with the ability to build professional relationships with a range of partners and to enthuse others in engaging in a range of activities that promote heart health.

A level 2 coaching qualification in at least one sport, good communication skills, experience of working with young people and with secondary school staff and planning and delivering coaching sessions are essential.

Closing date: 30 July
Shortlisting: w/c 9 August Interviews: w/c 6 September

For an informal discussion please contact Alison Cockerill on (01482) 318664 or Julia Potts on 07545512846

For further information and to apply, please visit www.hullcc.gov.uk/jobs or call 01482 300300 (Monday to Friday 8am-7pm and Saturday 9am-1pm).

The Council is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all employees and volunteers to share this commitment.

Hull City Council is fully committed to achieving fairness and equality in employment and seeks to achieve a workforce which reflects the diversity of the community it serves.
Transport for London unveils £25m cable car plans

By Pete Hayman

Transport for London (TfL) has unveiled plans for a new £25m cable car link crossing the River Thames between Greenwich Peninsula and the Royal Docks.

The privately-funded project will result in a new link spanning the river at a height of more than 50m (164ft) – similar to the nearby O2 Arena.

TfL hopes the route, which will be available to pedestrians and cyclists, will be completed in time for the 2012 Olympics and will enable visitors to travel between the O2 Arena and ExCeL in five minutes.

The plans will see the cable car providing a crossing every 30 seconds and carrying up to 2,500 passengers per hour, although the plans are subject to planning permission and funding being secured.

London mayor Boris Johnson said: "Passengers would be able to drink in the truly spectacular views of the Olympic Park and iconic London landmarks, while shaving valuable minutes from their travelling time."

Government announces National Parks budget cut

By Pete Hayman

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has announced that funding to national park authorities is set to be reduced by 5 per cent in 2010-11.

Plans to cut grants allocated to national park authorities form part of a bid to save £162m, which will contribute towards wider government efforts to save £6.2bn.

The Peak District is one NPA affected by the Defra savings

New Forest National Park Authority revealed its funding – a decrease of £426,253. – is one of the most severely affected by the Defra savings and will result in a new link in time for the 2012 Olympics.

Alison Barnes, south London. Richmond Council has working with the Barn Elms Sports Trust – is looking to increase the number of pitches at the venue from 13 to 17, which will be used for football and rugby.

The planned route would link the O2 Arena with the ExCel venue

Barn Elms pitch plans revealed

Richmond Council has submitted plans for four new sports pitches at Barn Elms sports ground in Barnes, south London.

The local authority – working with the Barn Elms Sports Trust – is obviously disappointed at the reduction in our grant but appreciate the difficulties being faced by all public bodies.