The stadium being built for Tottenham Hotspur FC could be used to host eSports matches and events, according to the club’s executive director.

Donna Cullen said that while the Premier League team would not consider launching an eSports franchise, there was an opportunity for the 61,000-capacity venue to host high-profile virtual reality sporting events. eSports events attract crowds of “50-60,000 spectators” in Korea and the US and could prove to be another opportunity to monetise the stadium.

Continued on back cover

Private sector drives gym industry growth

The UK health and fitness industry has continued to grow with the private sector being the main driving force, a new report has revealed.

The 2017 State of the UK Fitness Industry Report shows that memberships rose by 5.1 per cent to 9.7m, which boosted the penetration rate to an all-time high of 14.9 per cent, up from 14.3 per cent in 2016. The figures reveal that one in every seven people in the country is a member of a gym.

Over the 12-month period to the end of March 2017, the number of fitness facilities was up 4.6 per cent to 6,728, from 6,435 in 2016. Total market value grew 6.3 per cent to £4.7bn. A total of 272 new public and private fitness facilities opened in the last 12 months, up from 224 in 2016. The report said: “While the private sector has opened more clubs than those that have closed year-on-year since 2012, the public sector saw more closures than openings for the second year in a row. For the first time in five years, the public sector also saw a slight decline in membership numbers.”

The low-cost market continued to be the main driving force behind private sector growth. There are more than 500 low-cost clubs which account for 15 per cent of the market value and 35 per cent of memberships in the private sector. The UK’s leading operators, in both the private and public sectors (by number of clubs and members), remain the same as last year: Pure Gym and GLL, with 176 and 167 gyms, respectively.

David Minton, director of The Leisure Database Company, which published the report, said the industry is likely to hit several milestones in the next 12 months. The number of gyms is on course to go over 7,000 for the first time, total membership to exceed 10m, market value to reach £5bn and the penetration rate should surpass 15 per cent.

Speaking to Leisure Opportunities, Minton said: “The private sector is on track to hit milestones in 2018. It is entering a golden age.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=k1H5y

Seibold leaves Fitness First UK

Martin Seibold, the managing director of Fitness First UK, has left the company eight months after it was acquired by DW Sports.

The move has ended Seibold’s more-than-decade-long association with the mid-market fitness brand – almost five years of which he spent as MD.

In September 2016, DW Sport – owned by sportswear mogul Dave Whelan – acquired the firm and its whole 62-club portfolio. Following the deal it was revealed that the Fitness First’s brand would be kept, while Seibold was expected to stay on to “work closely” with DW Sports managing director Scott Best.

When Fitness First was acquired, Seibold said: “We are proud to have transformed Fitness First over the past four years and delighted to see the brand retained by DW Sports, which is a respected UK fitness operator.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=U0R9A

eSports lined up for new Tottenham stadium

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Continued on back cover
SPORT

RFL calls for World Cup pledge

Rugby league’s governing body has urged all political parties to reaffirm their commitment to investing in the sport ahead of England hosting the World Cup in 2021.

Last October, the Rugby Football League (RFL) won its bid to stage the showpiece event, holding off competition from a joint bid from the US and Canada.

The bid was backed by the government, which promised to spend £15m to support the event and a further £10m for grassroots rugby league infrastructure, under its Northern Powerhouse initiative. Sarah-Jane Gray, RFL development and public affairs director, wants to see all candidates involved in the upcoming General Election (8 June) make the same pledge.

According to Gray, the event “has the potential to mirror the positive impact that London 2012, the Commonwealth Games 2014 and the Rugby World Cup 2015 had on cities and city-regions”.

Revealing that the tournament will deliver a “direct economic benefit” of £74.6m, Gray added: “Rugby league already delivers a significant dividend for communities in the Northern Powerhouse.

“Support for the event and associated legacy programme will deliver tangible social, sporting, health, volunteering and community engagement benefits to some of the country’s most deprived communities helping address some fundamental inequalities, and will showcase the strengths of some of our foremost northern city-regions.”

Details: http://lei.sr?i=z9O4S

ICC boosts women’s prize fund

The international governing body of cricket has boosted the prize money for this year’s Women’s World Cup by ten times as it aims for complete gender parity within the next 15 years.

Teams taking part will be able to compete for £1.5m in prize money, up from the £154,544 on offer for the 2013 edition of the tournament.

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Northern Powerhouse Games bid?

The mayor of Liverpool has opened the door to a ‘Northern Powerhouse’ bid for the 2022 Commonwealth Games after indicating a willingness to work with Manchester to deliver the event.

Joe Anderson officially wrote to culture secretary Karen Bradley and sports minister Tracey Crouch to confirm the city’s desire to be considered if the UK government decides to press ahead and bid for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

He said he was happy to collaborate on a bid “led” by Liverpool in collaboration with another city if the government so chooses.

“Liverpool has submitted a request for the required information pack and has appointed a ‘world-class’ team headed by Brian Barwick, who will chair the Commonwealth Games Bid Board,” he said.

“We are now progressing at pace with the 2022 Games feasibility study, which will be completed by the end of August 2017.”

Anderson – who is expected to step down from his position when he campaigns to become an MP ahead of June’s General Election – added: “I note with interest that Manchester has announced that it will not submit a bid to host the 2022.

“Against this context, Liverpool is also prepared to lead a ‘Northern Powerhouse’ bid in partnership with Manchester and wider region,” said the mayor. Details: http://lei.sr?a=M9hoA

£4m training ground for Scottish Premiership club

Scottish Premiership football club Partick Thistle will end a 140-year wait for its own training ground by building a £4m complex in a yet-to-be-revealed location.

The club has entered an agreement with Three Black Cats – a company set up by club patrons the Weir family for long-term investments – to develop the facility.

Three Black Cats will own the new training ground and build it to Partick Thistle’s specification before leasing it back to the club on a long-term basis.

The training ground will be used by Partick’s first team, as well as its development, academy and women’s squad. Details: http://lei.sr?a=O7gsy

Paralympian joins Sport and Recreation Alliance

Paralympic gold medallist Anne Usher has been elected to the board of the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

Usher won gold in the Rio 2016 paracanoeing event before retiring from the sport. Formerly known as Anne Dickens prior to her wedding in 2016, Usher has been voted in by the Alliance’s membership and begins her three-year term in July.

Andrew Moss, chair of the Alliance, said Usher’s skills and personal experience “give her a unique insight into the challenges” in the sport and recreation sector. Before becoming a Paralympic champion, Usher was a physiotherapist, amateur mountain biker and sport volunteer.

She is also a patron of mental health charity the River Thames Boat Project, which chimes well with the Alliance’s flagship Mental Health Charter initiative.

Usher said that her “30 years of hands-on experience” as a physiotherapist, volunteer and athlete had equipped her with a “huge amount of empathy that I can bring to board discussions”. Details: http://lei.sr?a=t9T5M

Swindon Town plans training ground

Recently relegated League One football club Swindon Town has secured a site with the intention of building a new training centre.

Club chair Lee Power identified the land formerly occupied by the Twelve Oaks Golf Club to develop the ambitious centre.

Earmarked a new headquarters for the club as well as a training ground, the facility is expected to include a gym, treatment rooms and lecture/training rooms for the first team squad and academy players.

The training ground will house a grass pitch and a 4G artificial surface. A training centre with seven grass pitches and a 4G floodlit surface will also be built on the site for community use.

Money for the project will come from the Nigel Eady Trust – a foundation set up by the wealthy Swindon Town supporter who passed away in 2012. Swindon Town has held initial discussions with Highworth Town Council in an attempt to secure support for the project.

The club hopes it will be developed within 24 months. Power said that it would be the “first time that Swindon Town FC has ever had its own state-of-the-art training facility”.

“We want this new training centre and pitch facilities to be of benefit to the local clubs as well as Swindon Town,” he added.

Earlier this month, the club was relegated to League Two, ending its five-year stay in the third tier of the Football League.

“This is a fabulous opportunity for the Club; we have never had our own dedicated training centre and this will be a massive step forward, particularly for the academy and younger players,” said former player Fraser Digby. Details: http://lei.sr?a=N3p7R
**HEALTH & FITNESS**

**Operators nominated for ukactive Flame awards**

Both ends of the private gym market will be represented when budget brand Xercise4Less takes on country club fitness provider The Club Company to win ukactive’s Flame award for Health Club Operator of the Year.

Three of the former’s sites are also competing to take home the Health Club of the Year (Streamline) award, while The Club Company is represented by its Castle Royal and Benton Hall venues in the Multi-Use Health Club of the Year category.

GLL, Everyone Active, Parkwood Leisure, SIV and Places for People are all vying to become Leisure Centre Operator of the Year.

Details: [http://lei.sr?a=M9N0p](http://lei.sr?a=M9N0p)

**Nuffield Health introduces business health checks**

Nuffield Health has launched a series of bespoke health assessments for UK businesses as it attempts to help tackle work-related illness.

Four personalised health assessment modules have been developed for employees following research by the not-for-profit healthcare organisation into current and future trends of workers’ health concerns.

More than 2,000 participants were surveyed and the top three health concerns were being overweight, fitness and emotional wellbeing, with stress and depression stated as the two key factors.

Weight management, fitness and building resilience are three of the modules to be introduced. Concerns from both men and women at the risk of developing cancer has resulted in the creation of a cancer risk prevention module.

Around 23.3m days are lost due to work-related ill health according to the Health and Safety Executive and work-related ill health according to the Health and Safety Executive and work-related ill health according to the Health and Safety Executive and work-related ill health according to the Health and Safety Executive and work-related ill health according to the Health and Safety Executive and work-related ill health according to the Health and Safety Executive.

Details: [http://lei.sr?a=s9E1U](http://lei.sr?a=s9E1U)

**Ward steps up to be ukactive CEO**

Physical activity organisation ukactive has promoted its executive director Steven Ward to the position of chief executive.

The appointment comes two years after the departure of former CEO David Stalker – a move that saw Ward take up the role of executive director to help drive the not-for-profit forward.

Ward said he had greatly enjoyed his past two years as executive director, during which he has worked with the team to build on the legacy of his predecessor. He added: “Our members are the bedrock of ukactive and our focus will always be delivering against their core commercial agenda. New ukactive initiatives, such as ActiveLab and Future Leaders, are starting to have an impact in this area and we’re now fully-focused on accelerating this momentum and injecting urgency into the physical activity agenda.”

In response to the new appointment, ukactive chair Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson said: “Under Steven’s leadership the organisation has taken great strides over the last few years across a number of areas.

“Across policy, media, business, the investment community, research and innovation, ukactive is in a better position to support the vital work of its members and we as a board are hugely excited by the direction [in] which Steven is taking this organisation. With a great team behind him, we’re confident that the sector can expect major progress from ukactive in the coming years as we intensify efforts to get more people, more active, more often.”

ukactive’s board also praised Ward, who has spent more than a decade with the organisation after joining the team as a policy intern in 2006. It described him as the “ideal candidate” to drive and deliver ukactive’s ambitious strategy.

Details: [http://lei.sr?a=j3M6u](http://lei.sr?a=j3M6u)

**DLL trials ‘group napping class’**

Health club operator David Lloyd Leisure (DLL) is considering rolling out a new fitness class – which consists of nothing but sleeping.

Primarily targeted at exhausted parents, the pioneering new ‘Napercise’ concept consists of 45-minute sleep sessions which – according to DLL – have been scientifically designed to reinvigorate the mind and improve moods.

The first of its kind, DLL describes Napercise as a “new type of wellbeing class” that has been developed alongside sleep expert Kathryn Pinkham.

Upon arrival in the studio guests will find single beds and atmospheric sounds, designed to create the perfect environment for sleeping. DLL completed a pilot of the Napercise classes and, according to marketing manager, Simon Mills, the response made the group consider making the classes a permanent fixture.

“The Napercise class was trialled at the David Lloyd Sidcup club last weekend and was a huge success”, he said. “We received more than 100 enquiries from people wanting to take part, with both parents in need of a nap and exhausted workers in attendance. We’re currently considering rolling the class out to our clubs nationally and looking into logistics as it proved so hugely popular. It seems that there are many of us who are looking to relax and catch up on some much needed sleep and what better way to get 40 winks than combining it with your trip to your local David Lloyd Club.”

Details: [http://lei.sr?a=99EsU](http://lei.sr?a=99EsU)

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23.3m days are lost due to work-related illnesses

Napercise is being marketed as a ‘new type of wellbeing class’

Steven Ward has been with the organisation since 2006

4 Read Leisure Opportunities online: www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/digital Twitter: @leisureopps ©CYBERTREK 2017
Fitness sector needs closer GP links

Physical activity advocate Dr Zoe Williams has called for support and funding for new initiatives designed to forge closer links between the fitness sector and GP surgeries across the country.

Williams is one of the nominated ‘clinical champions’ who’s spearheading the new RCGP (Royal College of General Practitioners) initiative to make physical activity and lifestyle a clinical priority for GPs across the UK. She said: “The overall aims of the project are to provide the primary care workforce with focused, reliable, evidence-based information to prevent and manage lifestyle-related diseases.” This has now progressed into a work plan which the team is keen to progress over the next three years – but it will, says Williams, rely on partners to turn this into a reality. Conversations are already taking place with both ukactive and Sport England, but Williams is keen that individual operators also embrace the agenda.

The first goal is to create ‘Active Practices’, whereby links would be forged between GP practices and local activity providers. In a bid to boost activity levels across the board, the latter would be invited into the practice to run physical activities for patients and staff alike. “The GP surgery shouldn’t be a sedentary place,” says Williams. “We need to get GPs talking about activity on a daily basis, but we also need to get them up and moving.”

Dudley considers £25m leisure centre

A plan to build a new £25m leisure centre could be among proposals considered by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC) as it looks to overhaul the region’s active leisure provision. The council said it has made “a firm commitment” for sweeping modernisation of its fitness facilities – which could see existing centres being redeveloped and a new one built in the town centre.

A spokesperson for DMBC said the council had abandoned earlier plans to demolish all three existing centres – in Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge – and replace them with two new facilities. Alan Lunt, strategic director at DMBC, said that while the three centres could still have a future, they were all in “desperate need of repair” and would require an investment of more than £3m.

“A detailed assessment is under way to determine the preferred future model of provision of affordable and sustainable leisure centres within the borough of Dudley,” Lunt said. He added: “These proposals are very much about creating improved leisure facilities that are not only fit for the future, but also financially sustainable.”

According to the council, the £3m of investment needed in the three existing centres includes £500,000 for a new air handling unit at Halesowen and a further £500,000 on a new roof at Dudley. The Stourbridge centre also needs a new boiler, which is expected to cost around £50,000. Details: http://lei.sr?a=w2z6D
Why it’s important to have a tourism industry deal

WHILE MOST FOCUS is currently on the snap election and the impact that this will have on the UK’s negotiations with the EU, there is another strand of government work which will be equally important for the UK tourism industry – and that is the development of a tourism deal under the government’s new Industrial Strategy.

The main purpose of the government’s new Industry Strategy is to bring together key industries, such as tourism, to work with the government on developing and implementing a package of measures to ensure that the industry is best placed to provide growth and employment for the UK economy in a post-Brexit environment. The aim is to not just smooth the transition for industries, but to help businesses take advantage of the opportunities.

The government has agreed that a tourism industry deal should be comprised of around six key initiatives that will boost productivity and investment to ensure that the tourism industry continues to provide the UK with economic growth and employment.

These key initiatives will address the following issues: making tourism the industry of choice for employees; getting tourism regulation right; improving connectivity for travellers; digitally future-proofing the sector.

The reason a tourism industry deal is so important is because it will cover major new initiatives for tourism-related skills development, deregulation, infrastructure development and digital investment. It will end up being a de-facto strategy for the tourism industry.

As each of these initiatives will be related to issues outside the remit of DCMS, this will be the type of cross-Whitehall tourism strategy that the industry has been wanting for many years – one that draws a range of commitments by different government departments together into one coherent package.

So, while the industry’s focus may be elsewhere at the moment, it is important not to overlook this government initiative.

TOURISM

Irish tourism blunted by Brexit

A weakened pound is keeping British visitors away from Ireland, halting double digit growth spurred by a weakened euro in 2016.

The ongoing fallout from Brexit, which has weakened the value of the pound and strengthened the euro, has had a negative effect on the Irish tourism business, with visitors from Britain dropping 6.5 per cent for Q1 – the first such decline since 2010.

Visitor numbers for the first quarter of 2017 in Ireland grew by 0.6 per cent – a significant decrease on record growth of 17 per cent for the same period in 2016 and 14 per cent in 2015.

Ireland – which shares a land border with Britain and relies heavily on British trade – is expected to be the biggest loser within Europe in terms of Britain’s planned exit from the European Union.

“2016 was a record year for Irish tourism both in terms of the numbers of overseas visitors and the associated revenue generated by them,” said Shane Ross, Ireland’s minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport. “While the overall figures remain positive, the first quarter of 2017 has seen a drop in the number of visits from Great Britain. This provides an indication of the challenge the Irish tourism industry is facing following Britain’s decision to leave the EU. It is a challenge that the government will meet, working with the tourism agencies and the industry.”

Uncertainty surrounding Brexit has seen spending curbed by British consumers, with more predicted ‘staycations’ to take place in 2017 thanks to the low value of the pound. The fact that the Easter break took place in the second quarter may have affected the numbers. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Rgs6d

Whisky film hope for VisitScotland

Scottish tourism chiefs are hoping a film adaptation of Compton MacKenzie’s 1947 novel Whisky Galore will help to boost visitor numbers in some of the country’s lesser-known areas.

Starring Eddie Izzard and filmed across Scotland, the comedy tells the story of a cargo vessel wrecked off a remote fictional Scottish island group. With whisky rationing in effect, when the islanders manage to salvage several hundred cases they must thwart the efforts of the authorities to confiscate the liquor.

The comedy tells the story of a wrecked cargo vessel full of whisky

Working closely with Whisky Galore’s distributors, Arrow Films, VisitScotland has created a map highlighting the locations used in the new film version to shine a spotlight on locations including the Aberdeenshire villages of Portsoy and Pennan, St Abb’s Head in the Scottish Borders and the Central Bar in Glasgow. In addition to being available online, a printed version of the map will be available in selected VisitScotland iCentres, as well as at some of the locations featured.

“Scotland is recognised as an excellent location for film and TV productions, and Whisky Galore has been added to the growing list of films shot here,” said tourism secretary Fiona Hyslop. “This map allows visitors from home and abroad to walk in the footsteps of the actors and actresses that appeared in the film, and they can also enjoy the spectacular scenery that Scotland has to offer.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Ssp2F
A matter of mind over body

The Johnny G In-Trinity Board by Matrix – an innovative incline training platform that builds strength, deepens flexibility and improves balance, coordination and agility.

It’s about your balance; both in mind and well-being.
WEARABLES THAT DRIVE ROI.
GET RESULTS WITH MYZONE®.
According to their recent industry survey, ACSM has officially named 2017 the year of wearable technology for the second year running. Contact MYZONE® to learn how to enhance paid programming, lengthen member retention through gamification, and drive ROI by increasing new member engagement in the first 90 days.
SPA & WELLNESS

Extensive men's section at Olympia Beauty show 2017

This year's Olympia Beauty show in London will look to reflect the growth in the male beauty sector by featuring a large 'Health and Beauty for Men' section at the event.

The specialist zone will include a live stage, with 12 brands coming together to unveil the latest trends in men's wellness. Recent innovations to hit the sector will be demonstrated live on stage, demonstrating why the male market is rapidly growing in importance for the spa and wellness industries.

Held on 1-2 October 2017 at the Olympia exhibition space in London, the two-day show is now in its 13th year and attracts more than 18,000 delegates and 500 brands each year.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=O4u8N

Vivamayr opens first clinic outside Austria in London

Medical detox centre Vivamayr has opened its first location outside of Austria on London's Harley Street this month.

The clinic offers patients an introduction to modern Mayr medicine, a natural cure based on intestinal cleansing that combines medical detox, personalised diets and holistic healing treatments.

The day clinic is led by Vivamayr's senior medical team, Dr Harald Stossier, Dr Sepp Fegerl, Dr Christine Stossier and Dr Doris Schuscha, who will each have a weekly residency at the clinic.

The clinic primarily offers diagnostic consultations, as well as a curated selection of therapies, including diagnostic blood tests, intravenous infusions, oxygen therapy, manual abdominal treatment, applied kinesiology and stress testing.

Vivamayr London will also host cooking classes with Vivamayr chefs from its residential locations in Altauussee and Maria Worth, who will demonstrate how to adapt the Mayr diet at home.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=I2C6k

Center Parcs' Forest Spa concept

Thirty years after it first opened, Center Parcs has unveiled its new Forest Spa concept at its 1,500sq m (16,146sq ft) Sherwood Forest location, showcasing 26 new spa experiences in a completely redesigned two-storey spa.

"This is not just a refurbishment, but an evolution of our brand," said Sue Goddard, group leisure manager. "We don't want to wait until our spa concept shows its age – we want to innovate, and we want to stay ahead of other spas."

The £3m renovation took its inspiration from the resort's surrounding forest, as well as from forests around the world, from Nordic landscapes to the high-altitude Chilean Arenal forest.

The forest spa concept is an extension of Center Parcs' Aqua Sana brand, and will be used in the upcoming Longford Forest – the brand's first location in Ireland – which is due to open in 2019. Elements from the concept will also be incorporated into the other four Center Parcs locations in the UK.

At the Sherwood Forest spa, six zones showcase an assortment of heating and cooling rooms, including a heated outdoor pool, foot spas, outdoor hot tubs, steamrooms, saunas, an ice cave and a selection of relaxation rooms.

Decléor, Elemis and CND provide treatments in the spa's 21 treatment rooms, and an anaerobic digestion plant near Sherwood Forest will provide almost all the heat and power needed for the spa, helping to reduce the spa's carbon footprint.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Vsp5Y

Cranstoch Bay Spa to open in June

The owners of Crantock Bay, a leisure development near Newquay in Cornwall have announced plans to open a boutique day spa in June.

Owned and managed by the Eyles family, the spa will be the latest stage in the ongoing project to transform the former Crantock Bay Hotel into luxury, self-catering apartments and supporting leisure facilities.

The development now houses a selection of high-end, short-stay apartments ranging from two to four-bedroom properties, an on-site restaurant and a leisure and health club with a heated indoor swimming pool.

The 725sq m (775sq ft) spa, scheduled for a mid-June launch, will have three treatment rooms and will be open to guests staying in the holiday apartments as well as non-guests.

According to Nina Eyles, co-owner of Crantock Bay, the boutique spa will focus on offering a local, Cornish experience. Designed by Newquay-based Whitrow Design, the spa will use Made For Life by Spiezia products in its treatments – with every product made by hand in Cornwall using organic herbs, flowers and oils. Eyles adds that one of spa's USPs will be to offer non-toxic treatments to cancer sufferers. "We will offer treatments for those going through cancer," she said.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Jsd8m
HOTELS

SACO readies first Manchester site

Lifestyle hospitality developer SACO Property Group has acquired its ninth site as part of the ongoing expansion of its Locke aparthotel concept.

Whitworth Locke will be the group’s first hotel in Manchester. It will offer 150 rooms alongside amenities including a gym, multiple independent food and beverage offerings, co-working space and meeting rooms.

The scheme will be located on the site of the former Atrium Serviced Apartments close to Piccadilly Station. SACO – the development arm of SACO The Serviced Apartment Company – has acquired the property from real estate funds managed by Blackstone.

The hotel will be extensively refurbished to bring it in line with the existing Locke brand. Whitworth Locke will have a phased opening, beginning in March 2018 and completing by June 2018. SACO, which aims to bridge the gap between contemporary lifestyle hotels and design-led serviced apartments, opened its first Locke property in East London in October 2016. A second in Edinburgh, called Eden Locke, will open in July.

The group is now targeting further acquisitions in Paris, Berlin, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Dublin and Hamburg, in addition to bolstering its presence in other major UK cities. The brand’s portfolio will exceed 2,000 units by 2020.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=T2V9C

World Leisure secures hotel job

Pool design expert World Leisure has bagged the contract to provide a 20m leisure pool, spa, sauna and steam room for the £19.9m Village Hotel being built in Portsmouth.

The Leyland-based firm is working with construction company WillmottDixon on the project, which is being built in the city’s Lakeside North Harbour.

Due for completion in autumn 2017, the hotel complex will include 153 rooms, conference facilities and a leisure club with swimming pool, gym and fitness studio.

The hotel’s design has been billed as an “evolution” of the current Village Urban Resort offer, which are more compact and able to fit in with a “more central urban area” – generally smaller in size.

London-based 3DReid is the architecture studio that has designed the resort.

The deal represents the strengthening of the relationship between World Leisure and Village Hotels. The pair have worked on four projects, most recently the latter’s site in Glasgow, Scotland.

World Leisure delivered a similar installation of a leisure pool, spa, sauna and steam room at the Glasgow site.

Simon Smith, managing director of World Leisure, said: “We are delighted to have won this contract, our fourth for the Village Hotel Group, and are looking forward to unveiling the completed facilities in autumn 2017.”

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

While Brexit continues to cause uncertainty, the devaluation of the pound appears to be doing nothing but good for our tourism industry. According to official statistics from VisitBritain, the UK welcomed 5.2m visitors in January and February – up 6 per cent on the same period last year.

Overseas visitors also spent a record £2.7bn in January and February, up 11 per cent on 2016’s figures. At the same time, hotel data from STR says that during the first three months of 2017, the hotel industry in London posted its highest revenue per available room (RevPAR) for any first quarter on record. The market’s absolute RevPAR level of £101.50 was an 11.3 per cent increase compared with Q1 2016.

While this is undoubtedly excellent news, it does come with a caveat. The STR data is not a true like-for-like comparison because Easter, which depresses the revenues of business-oriented hotels, occurred in March last year but April this year.

London and the rest of the UK have always been two very different markets. HRS Global Hotel Solutions says that average room rates outside the capital have fallen significantly in many UK cities during the first quarter of 2017 – good news for travellers on a budget but not so good for hotel managers, unless the more attractive prices continue to stimulate a significant uptick in demand.

And demand really is the central question here, especially given that 20,000 new rooms are to be added to the UK’s hotel supply by the end of 2017, with 7,000 of these due in London. Over the last five years, net hotel supply in the capital has risen by 17 per cent, according to Alix Partners.

Can the London hotel market cope with such sustained levels of new supply? The answer has to be yes. The prospects for such a thriving international city remain positive. However, the other side of the coin and the one that concerns hotel managers the most is recruitment and retention.

As Brexit uncertainty persists, who is going to fill the hundreds of new hotel positions needed over the coming months and years?
V&A introduces secondary school education scheme

The Victoria and Albert (V&A) museum is using the £100,000 prize it received in 2016 for winning the Art Fund’s Museum of the Year to launch a programme to support art and design education in secondary schools.

Called DesignLab Nation, the scheme will be aimed towards 11-16 year olds, supporting the GSCE for Design and Technology and bringing together secondary schools, museums and local design firms. It will be trialled with Culture Coventry the body responsible for the Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry Transport Museum and Blackburn Museum, and will launch in September.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=M4E8I

Girl, 11, dies after Drayton Manor water ride accident

An 11-year-old girl died after an incident on a water ride at Drayton Manor Park in Drayton Bassett, Staffordshire, UK.

Named by police as Evha Jannath, the girl from Leicester was at the theme park as part of a school trip. Emergency services were called to the site on 9 May after the girl fell from the park’s Splash Canyon ride.

A statement from the police force said: “Evha sadly died after falling from a water ride at the theme park. She was recovered from the water and received advanced life support from ambulance crews before she was flown to Birmingham children’s hospital where she later passed away.”

Reports have suggested that the girl stood up during the ride, where up to six people sit in a large round inflatable raft. It is suggested she hit her head and fell into the rough waters. The police have said a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation has begun.

The Intamin-produced ride has been in operation since 1993. Comprising 21 boats, it is described as a river rapids attraction.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=r5t3L

Election delays tax relief scheme

The British Government has deferred a tax relief aimed at helping to cover the costs of developing permanent, temporary or touring exhibitions in order to pass its Finance Bill before the General Election on 8 June.

The relief, which would have come into retrospective effect from 1 April 2017, would have allowed organisations fitting the criteria to claim a rebate on “VAT incurred on most goods and services purchased in order to grant free rights of admission to collections” – something which previously only applied to either national or university museums and galleries.

Granting a subsidy of up to £80,000 for non-touring exhibitions or £100,000 for touring exhibitions, chancellor Philip Hammond made the pledge to broaden the scope of the Treasury’s museums and galleries tax relief in November, following the delivery of his Autumn Statement.

According to the Treasury, there has been no policy change in terms of the relief. However, until a new government is in place there is now no guarantee the provision will come into effect.

“It’s a shame that the museums and galleries tax relief has been deferred to a new parliament as it would have potentially benefited many museums and galleries throughout the UK,” said Sharon Heal, director of the Museums Association.

If the provision comes into force, the government will review the tax relief in 2020, which will expire in April 2022.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=ins7b

Year-long Tomorrow’s World event

The BBC is partnering with a number of UK institutions and charities to launch a year-long season of science and technology programming under the broadcaster’s iconic Tomorrow’s World banner.

Backed by scientist and broadcaster Brian Cox, the BBC will team up with the Science Museum Group, Wellcome, The Royal Society and the Open University to help ensure that Britain remains a driving force for both technology and innovation in the years to come.

Connecting the BBC’s audiences with the brightest minds and institutions in science and technology, Tomorrow’s World will produce more than 40 hours of television, a range of programmes across the BBC’s radio networks, a series of podcasts, and digital offerings, made in collaboration with its partners.

For the Science Museum Group – made up of the London Science Museum, Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, The National Railway Museum in York and The National Media Museum in Bradford – a live show titled Britain’s Greatest Invention will air from the group’s venues, with a public vote determining which inventions have been of most influence and importance in their lifetime.

“The marriage of our world-class collections, expertise and rich programming with the BBC’s worldwide reach is a truly exciting prospect,” said Ian Blatchford, director of the Science Museum Group.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=x4a8S
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**Chipperfield wins concert project**

David Chipperfield has overcome stiff competition to win the high-profile design competition to create a 1,000-capacity concert hall in Edinburgh.

Adjaye Associates, Richard Murphy, Allies & Morrison, Barozzi Veiga and KPMB were all in contention for the commission, but the vision outlined by Chipperfield's practice was enough to sway the developers of the £45m venue; the city's first new performance building in 100 years.

The concert hall has been proposed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) as its new permanent home and will be located behind the historic Dundas House at 36 St Andrew Square. In addition to a "world class" auditorium, it will feature recital and recording space "to rival the best in Europe."

In addition to chamber music, the venue will also host jazz, folk, rock, pop, electronica and classical performances, as well as solo and song recitals and small dance ensembles. The architectural shortlist was compiled by IMPACT Scotland, the charitable trust overseeing the project.

Explaining why David Chipperfield Architects were chosen as the winners, the trust's chair, Sir Ewan Brown, said: “Their approach to designing the interior of the new venue was intriguing, well-expressed and demonstrated a desire to create spaces that would welcome visitors and performers alike.”

The building is expected to be completed by 2020, according to IMPACT Scotland.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=x5f2C

**Populous complete new Lord’s stand**

Sports architecture practice Populous have completed the redevelopment of the Warner Stand at the world-famous Lord’s Cricket Ground in London.

Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the owner of the ground, tasked the architects with designing a stand that delivers an enhanced spectator experience, hosts significantly upgraded facilities and “ensures Lord’s retains its competitive advantage as the premier and most prestigious ground in the world to play and watch international cricket.”

Located between the Grade II listed Pavilion and the Grand Stand, the new stand was envisioned by the design team as “deliberately bold and contemporary in nature but, at the same time, sympathetic and sensitive to its place within the most historic of sporting arenas.”

Replacing the original Warner Stand, which was completed in 1958 and no longer considered fit for purpose, the design of the new 2,922-capacity stand seeks to contribute to the character of the ground, improve views of the on-field action and exceed best practice standards for accessibility.

It is fully inclusive for spectators with disabilities and mobility needs and the time it takes to travel between the seats and amenities has been decreased.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=K8q1d

**Saracens to revamp Allianz Park with community feel**

Saracens Rugby Club will have the chance to enhance its community and charitable credentials after being given the green light to revamp its ageing West Stand.

Barnet Council’s decision to allow work to go-ahead will see the Premiership Rugby club’s Allianz Park increase its capacity from 10,000 to 10,500, but its work away from the rugby field is also due to benefit.

The multi-use arena has become an essential hub of community, education and sporting activity in Barnet. The West Stand’s redevelopment will improve the community sports facilities the stadium offers, as well as the facilities used for the Saracens Sports Foundation, which works with disadvantaged locals. Heath Harvey, chief executive of Saracens, said the Allianz Park improvements would “maximise its positive impact on our community.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=O5m5z

**Plans submitted for £5.2m Stone Leisure Centre**

Plans for a new £5.2m leisure centre in the market town of Stone have been submitted to Stafford Borough Council (SBC).

The proposals feature a six lane, 25m swimming pool and a health club with an 80-station gym floor and fitness studios. With a total floor space of 2,880sq m, the plans meet Sport England recommendations for indoor sport and leisure facilities – and therefore could qualify for grant funding from the grassroots quango.

If approved, the new centre would see the town’s public swimming and fitness facilities be gathered under one roof. The SBC-run swimming pool in Stone is currently based at Alleyne’s Academy and is used by the school under a shared agreement with the local authority. To be built on previously developed land at the town’s Westbridge Park, the Stone Leisure Centre plans are at the heart of a £9.5m masterplan for improving the town’s leisure provision.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y0o5a
Invitation for Expressions of Interest
For the provision of leisure activities within Enfield parks

Enfield Council welcomes expressions of interest from experienced providers to provide leisure activities within the borough's parks.

Enfield has some 124 parks and open spaces and would like to explore the opportunity to offer exciting activities to the community. This may include cycle hire, bouncy castles, Pitch & Putt/Adventure Golf, Segways, Adventure Activities, Water Activities where appropriate (e.g. Grovelands Park – boating).

Licences will be considered for up to 10 years which may be either seasonal or annual.

For this opportunity the Council will hold a two-stage process as indicated below.

Stage 1: Applicants wishing to submit an expression of interest should provide the following information:
- Name or Company Name
- Contact details (address, phone number, email address)
- Preferred parks
- A brief summary (up to 300 words) of proposal and how the park would benefit.

Expressions of Interest including the information requested may be sent by email to: Tina Heather, Senior Contracts Officer - tina.heather@enfield.gov.uk and must be received no later than 2pm on Friday 2nd June 2017.

Stage 2: Those organisations that have submitted a suitable proposal will be invited to submit a more detailed business case for consideration by the Council. Instructions will be provided by the Council describing the timetable and documentation that will be required for the formal evaluation process.

The Council reserves the right to cancel this process at either stage and is not obliged to accept any offer.

www.enfield.gov.uk

Development Opportunity:
Stanborough Park, Welwyn Garden City

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council invites informal expressions of interest to design, build and operate an exciting new leisure facility in Stanborough Park including wet adventure play and a community pavilion.

One of the most popular leisure destinations in the area, the Park comprises a wide mix of activities from water sports on the two large lakes to a high and low ropes adventure course.

The site, a former outdoor pool and lido complex, lies within the north side of Stanborough Park. Benefiting from excellent road and rail connections, the Park attracts an estimated 192,000 visitors per year with up to 1.3 million people living within a 30 minute drive.

We are seeking a committed and experienced organisation to help us realise its potential and deliver a first class leisure facility for residents and visitors to the borough.

A market engagement event day is being held on Wednesday 14 June to provide an opportunity to discuss the project, different procurement routes, and how the tender requirements are drafted to enable prospective bidders to submit competitive bids.

Interested parties should contact Andrew Harper, Procurement Manager, by no later than Friday 2 June 2017.

Contact information
E: a.harper@welhat.gov.uk
T: 01707 357371

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**TRAINING**

**Sport workforce needs to adapt**

The workforce in the sport sector will need to become more adaptable and flexible if the government's physical activity ambition is to be recognised, according to the chief executive of one of the largest County Sports Partnerships (CSP) in the country.

The *Sporting Future* strategy put forward by the government laid out a number of desired outcomes, including the engagement of hard-to-reach demographics and cross-sector working between sport, health, transport and other industries.

GreaterSport – the CSP overseeing a population of 2.8m in Greater Manchester – has linked up with organisations like Public Health England (PHE) to put physical activity at the top of the agenda.

However, chief executive Yvonne Harrison told *Leisure Opportunities* that there would need to be a “huge workforce development scheme” for the sport sector to effectively engage with traditionally inactive communities and develop partnerships with other interested bodies.

“The workforce is important because if we just assume that the existing work can solve the inactivity crisis assume that if we give the NHS a line about the benefits of being physically active, then that’s not going to cut it,” she said.

Instead, Harrison said those working on the ground in the sport sector need to tailor their approach to the vast amounts of insight being collected around motivation, relationships with physical activity and behaviour change.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=JQ9h

**Dementia training for swim staff**

Almost 600 leisure centre staff have been trained to help dementia sufferers take part in swimming as part of scheme launched by Swim England.

Swim England – formerly known as the Amateur Swimming Association – launched its dementia-friendly swimming programme in 2015 in a bid to improve the lives of some of the 800,000 people living with the condition in the UK.

Talking at the Healthy Stadia Conference in London, Swim England health and wellbeing manager Jamie Hooper revealed that since the launch 557 members of staff have completed Dementia in Leisure Environment training with the support of the Alzheimer’s Society.

An additional 185 have become Dementia Friends – a nationwide initiative aimed at “changing people’s perceptions of dementia”.

As a result of the training, 45 pools are now delivering dementia friendly sessions. A further 104 are expected to follow suit.

To increase the number of people with dementia swimming, Swim England has developed partnerships with housing associations and health organisations.

The governing body is also working with charitable organisations such as the Alzheimer’s Society, Age UK and local Dementia Action Alliances.

“It’s about raising the profile of swimming and physical activity, especially to those living with people with dementia,” said Hooper.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=a1e4s

Yvonne Harrison joined GreaterSport as chief executive in 2014

Leisure centres have altered to aid dementia sufferers

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For full details please visit www.shenleyleisure.org.uk
These posts will be subject to DBS checks. (Previously CRB)
For an application form please e-mail mark@shenleyleisurecentre.co.uk
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<td>York</td>
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<td>Apprentice Swim Teacher</td>
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<td>Receptionist (Casual)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apprentice Swim Teacher</td>
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</table>

For more details on the following jobs visit www.leisureopportunities.co.uk or to advertise call +44 (0)1462 431385.
Recreation Assistant (Lifeguard)
Company: Coral Reef
Location: Bracknell, UK

Apprentice Swim Teacher
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Swimming Instructor
Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Kettering, UK

Recreational Assistants
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Torbay, UK

Maintenance Manager
Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Exeter, UK

Golf Services Assistant / Chef
Company: Glendale Golf
Location: Nottingham, UK

Call Centre Manager
Company: Jump Arena
Location: Stevenage, UK

Cafe Assistant / Receptionist
Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Banbury, UK

Swimming teachers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Bishop's Stortford, UK

Fitness Instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: Bromley, UK

Summer Recreation Assistant
Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Banbury, UK

Swimming Teachers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sunderland, UK

Membership Sales Consultant
Company: énergie group
Location: Northampton, UK

ASA Level 2 Swim Teacher Required
Company: Filton Town Council
Location: South Gloucestershire, UK

Corporate Business Consultants
Company: Everyone Active
Location: South East, UK

Front of House Receptionist
Company: Castlehaven, Sutton, UK

Operations Assistant
Company: Shenley Leisure Centre Trust
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Club Manager
Company: énergie group
Location: Preston, UK

Leisure Assistants
Company: Monmouthshire CC
Location: Monmouthshire, UK

Casual Netball Coaches
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Senior Operations Assistant
Company: Shenley Leisure Centre Trust
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Physical Activity and Arts Strategic Manager
Company: North Kesteven DC
Location: Lincolnshire, UK

Swimming Teachers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Bedford, Warwicksire, UK

Development & Regeneration Project Manager
Company: Wycombe District Council
Location: High Wycombe, UK

Personal Trainer
Company: Anytime Fitness Leigh
Location: Leigh

Swimming Teachers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Recreation Assistant / Lifeguard
Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Windsor, UK

Aquazone Swimming Instructors
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Cardiff, UK

Leisure and Technical Services Manager
Company: Swale Borough Council
Location: Sittingbourne, UK

Swimming Instructor
Company: Swimming Nature
Location: Various locations, UK

Apprenticeships
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainers
Company: Matt Roberts
Location: London, UK, UK

Sales and Marketing Manager
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainer
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

General Manager
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various

Membership Consultant
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

Impact Sales Consultant
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: National role, UK

Trainee Personal Trainer
Company: The Gym Academy
Location: Nationwide, UK

General Managers
Company: The Gym Group
Location: Nationwide

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

Beauty Therapists
Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Longleat, Wiltshire and Woburn, Bedfordshire, UK

Beauty Therapists
Company: Lifehouse Spa and Hotel
Location: Frinton-on-Sea, UK

Beauty Therapists
Company: Lifehouse Spa and Hotel
Location: Frinton-on-Sea, UK

Senior Front of House Manager
Company: Chessington World of Ad
Location: Chessington, UK

Operations Director
Company: Chessington World of Adv
Location: Chessington, UK

Group eCommerce Director
Company: Merlin Entertainments Grp
Location: Chessington, UK

Theatre Manager
Company: Parkwood Entertainment
Location: North Devon, UK

Arcades Manager
Drayton Manor Park
Company: HB Leisure
Location: Tamworth, UK

Maintenance Director
Company: Legoland
Location: California, United States

Marketing and Sales Coordinator
Company: Madame Tussauds
Location: New York NY, United States

General Manager
Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: San Antonio, United States

Marketing Manager
Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: San Antonio, United States

Retail Team Leader
Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: Michigan, United States

Senior Trade Sales Manager
Company: Madame Tussauds
Location: New York NY, United States

Operations Manager
Company: The Eye Brand
Location: Orlando, United States

Executive Assistant
Company: Madame Tussauds
Location: New York NY, United States

Maintenance Assistant
Company: Camel Creek
Location: Waiheke, Cornwall, UK

Catering Supervisor (Part-time)
Company: Coral Reef
Location: Bracknell, UK

Maintenance Technician
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Cardiff, UK

Catering Team Leader
Company: Coral Reef
Location: Bracknell, UK

Catering Assistant
Company: Coral Reef
Location: Bracknell, UK

Catering Assistant (part-time)
Company: Coral Reef
Location: Bracknell, UK

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Sport volunteers should get paid leave

Public sector workers should be entitled to at least three days of paid leave if they wish to volunteer in grassroots sport, according to the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

The opportunity to volunteer, said the Alliance, would “benefit both employer and employee” and would “make vital skills available” for not-for-profit sport organisations.

Larger private sector firms should also be urged by government to incorporate the policy over time. The recommendation is one of several published in the body’s manifesto ahead of the 2017 General Election, which calls on the incoming government to put sport “at the heart of an active nation”.

While campaigning ahead of the 8 June vote will focus mainly on the political parties’ Brexit stance, the Alliance has made clear its desire to see policies such as corporation tax cuts for grassroots sports clubs and the Soft Drinks Levy – which will see millions of pounds pumped into school sport – remain intact regardless of the result.

Other recommendations include: the delivery of the Duty of Care recommendations made by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson; putting physical literacy “on the same footing” as academic literacy and numeracy; and the requirement for local authorities to maintain a public register for sport and physical activity assets.

Emma Boggis, chief executive of the Sport and Recreation Alliance, said the organisation wanted to see sport and recreation “being used as part of a cross-departmental approach, which means making sure the scale of funding matches the scale of ambition” for physical activity. Details: http://lei.sr?a=O3S8F

Safe-standing and eSports at Spurs?

Continued from front cover
In a separate interview, Populous’ Brian Mirakian told Leisure Opportunities that the arrival of eSports arenas to mainstream sport was a matter of “when not if”. Populous is the architect behind Tottenham’s new stadium.

As well as Premier League football matches the stadium will host at least two National Football League (NFL) matches per year, as well as concerts and other events.

Addressing the Telegraph’s Business of Sport Conference 2017, Cullen also told delegates that she thought spectator standing would eventually make a return to the Premier League in the form of safe-standing.

Last November, Leisure Opportunities revealed that Populous had designed the stadium to accommodate safe-standing if the government relaxed legislation around it, although there has been no suggestion that this will happen at any point soon.

Cullen expects safe-standing in the Premier League

Safe-standing allows those attending the match to stand up for all, or a portion, of the match, with a rail partition between spectators.

The initiative – which has been trialled by Celtic in Scotland – has been backed by the Football Supporters’ Federation. Details: http://lei.sr?a=RoG7z