Cost of London's Olympic venues continues to climb

By Caroline Wilkinson

The government has admitted that the cost of certain London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic venues has increased by as much as £196m, but insists that preparation for the Games is "on track and on budget".

According to the government's Olympic Executive Annual Report, the cost forecast for the Olympic stadium – one of five permanent venues at the east London site – has risen to £547m, an increase of £22m since July 2008 and £51m since 2007.

The cost of the aquatics centre has also increased to £251m (the 2007 forecast was £214m), and the velodrome from £80m to £105m; nearly a third of the original cost.

Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) chair, John Armitt, said: "We are managing the budget as an overall envelope. Where there are cost pressures in some areas, such as on venues, we are working to offset these by making savings in other areas, such as the clean up of the site and certain infrastructure projects.

"Work continues to make good progress on site and at this point we are not asking for any more contingency."

In January, following a shortfall in private sector funding, £394m was allocated to the development of the Olympic Village and media centre from the Olympic Funders' Group contingency, the part of the budget designed to guard against risks outside the control of the ODA.

The ODA's programme contingency has also provided £67m, but the government insists that the £9.3bn overall budget remains the same.

JJB receives bids for clubs

JJB Sports has been approached by a ‘number of non-binding indications’ of interest for its chain of health and fitness clubs.

The group's share price soared by up to 70 per cent following reports that the chain could be sold for £55m.

However, JJB Sport said: "There can be no certainty that any of these indications of interest will result in a transaction or as to the terms of any such transaction."
Are we ready to change lives?

Change4Life, the physical activity strand of the government’s £75m social marketing campaign to encourage healthier lifestyles, is starting to generate public interest. However, as families consider flocking to their local gyms Caroline Wilkinson investigates whether the health and fitness industry is prepared for the new ‘unhealthy’ members.

“Gyms must equip themselves properly for growing bodies if they tout for child custom.”

Tam Fry

Richard Millard sports development, DC Leisure

The Change4Life campaign is a very positive step towards improving the health of communities. This is the first time that this type of ‘joined up’ campaigning has been implemented, with different agencies working together for a common goal. DC is working closely with its local authority partners and PCTs to maximise the benefits and opportunities it provides. One of the key challenges is ensuring that details about the facilities and what’s available is clear and accessible, so that potential customers who have shown interest and investigated the website are able to find the information they need quickly and easily. I think it is better now, but all parties could and should have been more prepared and quicker setting this up.

Our centres have started to see people coming in as a result of the advertising, although we do not anticipate a huge influx of people overnight. I believe that Change4Life will be a success because it has longevity and will grow and gather momentum as general awareness increases.

Tam Fry, honorary chair, Child Growth Foundation, and board member of the NOF

The campaign is the only anti-obesity initiative made by this administration that the National Obesity Forum (NOF) has time for. Having watched Whitehall dither around for years trying a bit of this and a bit of that, we finally see a campaign that a team must have worked on for some time. However, by partnering itself with a food and advertising industry which largely caused the epidemic in the first place, the government is taking a risk. Can both sides work in partnership?

The forum’s view is that by chipping in £200m towards this £75m programme, in the form of making it very clear what the government wants, the leisure sector will work with the objectives laid out, and work towards making this a success. On the other hand the forum welcomes the government’s decision to step in and provide funding as many leisure operators have struggled to find the information they need quickly and easily.	

Caroline Wilkinson

UK hotels face toughest trading for 17 years

Caroline Wilkinson

UK chain hotels are facing the most challenging trading conditions in 17 years, according to TRI Hospitality Consulting. The firm predicts that hotels in London will experience a 10 per cent dip in RevPAR this year, followed by a further 0.5 per cent dip in 2010.

UK RevPAR is expected to drop between 8 and 10 per cent this year and by a further 2 per cent in 2010. This scenario is based on the UK economy contracting by 1.7 per cent this year and 0.2 per cent growth in 2010. The number of inbound visitors, which accounts for more than 50 per cent of UK hotel guestrooms, is estimated to have decreased by 8 per cent this year, according to VisitBritain. Jonathan Langston, managing director of TRI Hospitality Consulting, said: “VisitBritain’s forecast might seem modest in the light of the widespread global downturn. Yet, if it continues, the low value of sterling against most major currencies may have a moderating effect on anticipated reductions in inbound tourism.”

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**£2.6m upgrade to first YMCA facility**

Central YMCA has launched following a six-month redevelopment programme

By Caroline Wilkinson

Central YMCA Club, in London, is being relaunched following a six-month £2.6m redevelopment programme.

The 116,000sq ft (10,766sq m) club, which first opened on Tottenham Court Road in 1974, now features an expanded CV zone, a new free weights and cycling studio as well as more exercise rooms, a GP referral zone and changing facilities.

There is also improved disability access to the club’s 25m swimming pool, with the installation of a new hoist and accessible lift, and the introduction of three treatment rooms for holistic therapies.

The improvements have been designed by Cheshire-based Pozzoni, while the new fitness equipment will be supplied by Technogym, Precor and Keiser.

“The changes are dramatic and significant, both in scale and scope,” said Barry Cronin, the club’s executive director.

“The benefits will enable everyone; offering more to those who come here for their regular work-outs, as well as enabling us to meet the high demand for places on our healthy lifestyle, medical referral, community and kids’ activity programmes.”

Gerry Suttcliffe, minister for sport, added: “More people understand why sport matters, and increasingly people with busy lives need facilities close at hand that they can use to stay healthy.

“Nationally, YMCA is the largest voluntary sector organisation, providing help to over half a million people each year through its range of health and fitness programmes.”

For more information: www.morerehabjustasym.co.uk

**Hounslow to get two new leisure hubs**

Four existing centres are to be redeveloped, two of which will feature libraries

By Helen Patenall

Hounslow’s health and fitness offering is to be transformed with the redevelopment of four existing facilities into new leisure hubs.

Since being appointed by Hounslow Council last year, registered charity Fusion Lifestyle has made public its improvement proposals for the borough’s community sport and active leisure services.

Two leisure and library hubs will be assembled at Isleworth Recreation Centre and Feltham Airports, while Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre and New Chiswick Pool will face refurbishment.

Council leader Peter Thompson said: “The combined leisure and library ‘hubs’ will pull together community facilities, and by adding a shared café and social areas, will create a variety of spaces where all members of the community can enjoy a variety of activities.”

Construction on the four centres is expected to begin this summer.

Proposed leisure facilities include changing villages, enlarged gym facilities and exercise studios, the reusing of multi-sport pitches and new créches and improved entrances.

Work on all four centre will start this summer.

**Reading gets new and improved fitness facilities**

By Caroline Wilkinson

An indoor cycling centre has been opened at Palmer Park Sports Stadium in Reading as part of a £380,000 investment in health and fitness provisions by the borough council.

The funding has also been put towards a rewa of Medway Sports Centre’s gym (£200,000), which now offers 35 stations of Matrix CV and strength equipment, and a £50,000 gym upgrade at the

The three-year project aims to get people over 16-years-old to do moderate exercise for 30 minutes at least three times a week. The first GO Active campaign events include the Million Calorie Burn Challenge, which will see all three of Oxford City Council’s Aspieres Fitness Suites offer dedicated equipment for customers to take part in the challenge.

GO Active has received a total of £1.4m, including a £635,490 grant from Sport England’s South East Regional Sports Board.

**Huntingdon revamp enters second phase**

Huntingdonshire District Council has begun the second phase of a £1.5m redevelopment of Huntingdon Leisure Centre.

The centre, in Cambridgehire, is undergoing a revamp which has already seen a new mezzanine floor being created across two existing sports courts.

The new space houses an fitness suite and soft play area. The second phase will result in the introduction of spa facilities, which will include a crystal steamroom, a floral steamroom, a herb sauna and a relaxation area, as well as two treatment rooms offering holistic therapies.

**UK Fitness Network has now launched**

The UK Fitness Network (UFBN), which offers members access to not-for-profit leisure centres all over the country, was officially launched on 1 February.

Following on from the success of the London Fitness Network, which joined up public leisure facilities in the capital, the national network will offer more than 7,000 members access to 120 clubs and leisure centres nationwide.

The UFBN is working with the Fitness Industry Association to expand its partner membership to the trusts in ‘09.

**North Herts Leisure Centre opens PT zone**

North Herts Leisure Centre, operated by Stevenage Leisure, has opened a dedicated 8,000 personal training facility adjacent to the centre as a means of increasing secondary sales.

The 1,935 sq ft (179sq m) facility offers a Matrix Functional Trainer and Tomahawk S Series Bike as well as a stability ball, lunch ball and massage bench.

Personal Training sessions cost £30 an hour or £20 every half an hour.

**Harper’s Wyboston gym reopenes**

By Tom Walker

Leisure Connection has opened a Harper’s-branded health club at a leisure centre in Wyboston, Bedfordshire, after completing a £0.5m revamp at the site.

The new private health club at Wyboston Health and Fitness, managed by Leisure Connection, features equipment from Technogym and Star Trac as well as range of NXT spin bikes and a boxing zone.

The gym has been designed based on a layout system, with designated areas for different exercises or group classes.

The club has been divided into areas for spin, CV, personal training, cables, boxing and entertainment for equipment with entertainment technology. The gym also includes Power Plate vibration machines and the new Precor Adaptive Motion Trainers.

The facility is the latest gym refurbishment by Leisure Connection as part of its rebranding programme of all Harpers gyms across the UK.

The improved gym is supplied by Technogym, Precor and Keiser

**GO Active health and fitness campaign is launched**

The Get Oxfordshire Active (GO Active) project has been launched as part of an effort to increase participation in physical activity.

The three-year project aims to get people over 16-years-old to do moderate exercise for 30 minutes at least three times a week. The first GO Active campaign events include the Million Calorie Burn Challenge, which will see all three of Oxford City Council’s Aspieres Fitness Suites offer dedicated equipment for customers to take part in the challenge.

GO Active has received a total of £1.4m, including a £635,490 grant from Sport England’s South East Regional Sports Board.

**IN BRIEF**

**£5.5m refurbishment for Dulwich Centre**

A £5.5m revamp at Dulwich Leisure Centre has been approved by Southwark Council.

The refurbishment includes a new entrance, a pool area, a fitness suite, wet and dry changing areas and improved disabled access. The project is part of the council’s Leisure Investment Programme, and other facilities in the borough are set to benefit.

The first phase of work, which will begin within the next three months, is expected to be completed by Christmas, with work on the gym refurbishments afterwards.

**Winford centre to be used for GP referrals**

The £10.6m Lifestyle Centre in Winford, Cheshire – scheduled to open at the end of February – could be used as part of a patient referral scheme. Vale Royal Borough Council, which will operate the site, works with the Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust to provide leisure facilities for patients prescribed fitness programmes by GPs and half-price rates.

The centre will include an events hall, a 25m swimming pool, a teaching pool, squash courts, a dance studio and a health and fitness club.

**Health improvement scheme launched**

A scheme to encourage gradual health and lifestyle improvements in Lincolnshire has been launched. Twenty-six qualified specialist health trainers will work with the public to boost their wellbeing. Individuals will be given six sessions with a health trainer, ranging from face-to-face sessions, a phone call to accompanying workshops. The new activity is the scheme funded by NHS Lincolnshire.
IN BRIEF

£0.5m upgrade for Gurnell Leisure Centre
Gurnell Leisure Centre in Baling, London, is set to be transformed thanks to a £0.5m investment. The facility, run by sports trust Greenwich Leisure in partnership with the London Borough of Baling, will benefit from a new health suite and refurbished wet changing rooms. The project follows a gym refurbishment at the site in 2007. Work will be carried out in phases to ensure minimal disruption, and is set to be completed in October.

Bangor Swimming Pool re-opens
Bangor Swimming Pool in Gwynedd, North Wales, has reopened following work to disinfect the centre's swimming pool system after routine tests revealed elevated levels of legionella bacteria last week. The pool, which is run by Gwynedd Council, was re-opened to the public on 27 January, more than a week after it closed as a precautionary measure.

£200,000 shortfall for Thirsk pool
A £607,000 upgrade of the Thirsk Swimming Pool complex in North Yorkshire is £200,000 short of its target. The Darlington & Stockton Times claimed that Hambleton District Council hopes that Sport England will foot the remainder of the bill for the project which includes an extension to the centre's fitness suite and the installation of better changing rooms. The council's facilities manager Steven Lister was quoted by the newspaper saying: “We are trying to improve the facilities for the local community. We hope that by the end of the year we will see increased participation among the elderly and the disabled.”

London's grassroots nets cash boost
LDA funding forms part of London mayor’s commitment to increase participation
£15.5m will be invested in the capital as part of the 2012 legacy programme. This investment is designed to increase participation and to end health inequalities. The funding is being provided by the London Development Agency (LDA), with the mayor exercising his statutory power for the first time to direct the cash from the agency’s budget over the next three years. It is part of Johnson’s commitment, made at the Beijing Olympics last summer, to increase participation in sport and to end health inequalities, as well as attempting to tackle growing levels of obesity and to help motivate Londoners to stay healthy.

The investment is also designed to underpin the delivery of the mayor’s Olympics Sports Legacy Plan in partnership with Sport England and sports governing bodies. Johnson said: “The success of the 2012 Games must not just be judged on the regeneration benefits of the new homes, jobs and skills that will be delivered by this. “In years to come we must be able to look back and see how we used this once in a lifetime opportunity to massively increase sport participation and activity in the capital.”

England confirms World Cup bid
England is hoping to stage the event for the first time since 1966
The host of the 1994 tournament, United States, has also expressed its interest in holding the 2018 World Cup, as have South Korea, Qatar, Russia, Mexico and Indonesia.
Andy Anson, CEO of the England 2018 bid, said: “Our intentions have been well known for some time but there’s a sense of excitement in the fact that we’re now an official bidding nation.”

by Tom Walker

England, Australia and Japan are among a number of countries that have officially declared their interest in hosting the 2018 or 2022 World Cup.

by Pete Rayman

£50m sporting base for Tring? Plans to establish a new £50m sporting base in the Hertfordshire town of Tring have been submitted to Barnet Borough Council. The project, which is being led by Tring Sports Forum, would house the town’s football clubs and feature a swimming pool and an athletics track. According to local paper, The Gazette, Tring School would also move to the new centre and the secondary school’s current land would be sold for housing to help finance the scheme. The Tring Sports Forum includes representatives of local sports clubs and is led by Mayor of Tring Mike James.

by Craig McAteer, managing director of Link4life

The scheme is supported by the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) and the Local Authority. The developers hope to build on the success of the 2012 Olympic Games and to encourage more Londoners to stay healthy.

by Tim Nash

Middleton Arena, a new £15m sport and entertainment centre to be managed by cultural trust
The Middleton Arena includes a sports hall and a 90-station gym
Middleton Arena, a new £15m sport and entertainment centre has opened in Rochdale. The 7,300sq m (78,600sq ft) facility offers a 25m swimming pool and a separate teaching pool with spectator seating, a four-court sports hall, a 90-station gym with exercise and fitness studios, squash courts and a 500-capacity performance and concert hall. Managed by the Rochdale Boroughwide Cultural Trust, Link4Life, the project was the result of a deal agreed between Rochdale Development Agency and Rochdale Borough Council with Tesco. Councillor Peter Williams, chair of Middleton Township Community at Rochdale Borough Council said: “The Arena is fantastic news for local people; the new facilities will encourage residents to be fit and healthy and provide a first class entertainment venue for the region.”

by Pete Hayman

Temporary swimming pool installed in Lambeth
The facility will be free to use
A temporary swimming pool has been installed in an old school hall in Lambeth, South London, as part of an initiative designed to ensure every child in the area will learn to swim. The 12m x 10m (39.4ft x 32.8ft) pool has been set up at the Lilian Baylis School, and will be made available to other local schools and the local community, free of charge.

by Pete Rayman

SNF attacked over free swimming
By Scottish Labour has decried the Scottish National Party for failing to provide school children with ‘free, year-round access to council swimming pools’. The party’s sport spokesman, Frank McAveety, said: “The Scottish government needs to start taking sport seriously. It is really important that we encourage young people to adopt healthier lifestyles and swimming is a great activity.”

Surrey centre reopens after £1.7m refurbishment
The Arena Leisure Centre in Camberley, Surrey, has re-launched following the completion of a £1.7m refurbishment. Funded by the Surrey Heath Borough Council (£1.4m) and the centre’s operator DC Leisure (£300,000), the project included an extension of its Kinetika gym which has increased the number of stations from 89 to 120. The aerobics studio was also increased in size by 50 per cent and a dedicated cycling studio with 20 exercise bikes has been added, as well as a new steamroom and upgraded changing facilities.

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by Pete Hayman

IN BRIEF

New £3m swimming pool for Ivybridge
A new multi-million pound swimming pool is being proposed for Ivybridge Leisure Centre in Devon. The Kingstide & Salcombe Gazette reported that design consultant New Horizons has submitted three options to South Hams Council at the end of January. The centre is operated by Tone Leisure on behalf of the council. The two will be working in partnership on the project, and the council has earmarked £1m for the scheme – estimated to cost around £3m. All three options include a new 25m, six-lane swimming pool and will lead to the loss of an outdoor pool.

NICE offers guidance on getting kids active
The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued its guidance on promoting physical activity, active play and sport for young people. NICE recommends that a five-year national campaign be launched to promote physical activity among children and young people. Recent NICE research showed just 45 per cent of teenage girls and 68 per cent of boys were reaching the recommended target of 60 minutes of moderate exercise a day.

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by Pete Hayman
CELEBRATING SUCCESS

More People, Better Skilled, Better Qualified.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are around 662,000 people working in the sport and active leisure sector, and with the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games on the horizon, it’s one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK. With that amount of people, the sector’s employees could fill Wembley Stadium seven times over.

Between 1999 and 2004 employment in the sector soared, growing at three times the rate of the UK economy, which makes sense as over the last 10 years the sector has outperformed the UK economy as a whole. In fact, the total output for the sport and active leisure sector equalled £8.6bn in 2004.

Sport England’s Active People Survey (England only) estimates that around 8.8 million adults in England regularly take part in sport and active recreation – that’s 21 per cent of the country’s population.

So, with a sector that has more than one in five of adults engaging with it, it’s crucial to ensure more people with the right skills and qualifications are working in it.

THE VISION

As the Sector Skills Council for Sport and Active Leisure, SkillsActive brings together employers, government, stakeholders and training providers to ensure a single industry voice and an employer-led skills training process, SkillsActive was able to make definitive statements about the size and scope of the sector along with the common skills needs and shortages pervading the sector. And through that direct engagement, employer input and demand has directed SkillsActive’s many innovative solutions to address the sector’s needs.

ENGAGING THE SECTOR

GETTING MORE PEOPLE AND KEEPING THEM

The Apprenticeship way

Apprenticeships are a great way to recruit people into the sector; they are designed by employers for employers and are tailored to meet specific sector needs. As employees, apprentices work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills and off-the-job apprentices receive training with a local college. Apprenticeships can improve an organisation’s productivity and profitability, and are an effective means of directly filling skills gaps. Working directly with employers, three Apprenticeship frameworks have been developed for the sport and active leisure sector: the Young Apprenticeship, a programme that is flexible enough for budding sportsmen and women to take while training to become a professional – or to represent Great Britain on the world sporting stage.

“When I set up the business three years ago one of my aims was the development of young coaches. Through my involvement with the Young Apprenticeship I have been delighted with the students who have attended classes. They have hopefully gained experience that they would not have had and I have potentially gained two well-trained coaches for the future, I am delighted.”

Paul Brooker, franchise owner, Little Kickers.

Specialising early

Part of the education reform, the Diploma in Sport and Active Leisure is a new qualification for 14 to 19 year-olds of all abilities. It has been designed, with the help of employers, to meet the skills needs of the sport and active leisure sector, and will prepare young people in England for higher and further education as well as the world of work in an innovative and exciting way, ultimately producing the high calibre of young people that employers need to meet business objectives within the sector.

Alongside employers, universities and colleges have been involved in the development of the diploma in a bid to create what has the potential to become the flagship qualification for all 14 to 19 year-olds wanting a career in the sport and active leisure sector.

“Premier Sport is delighted to be a national employer champion for the Diploma in Sport and Active Leisure. Our mission statement: to provide opportunities to many by becoming the leading provider of primary school sport in the UK, is the reason why it was important for us to become a champion. It allows us to provide this opportunity to the next wave of coaches, young adults looking for a career pathway in coaching, or even developing a business on the back of the skills they learn. Not only does this have an impact on their lives, but it impacts the lives of the thousands of children they will teach as well – a perfect loop.”

David Batch, CEO, Premier Sport.

TRAINING FOR IMPACT, DELIVERING EXPERTISE

Recognition for the outdoors

People who enjoy being on Britain’s mountains can now take a step closer to safety, thanks to new national recognition of a qualification aimed at those who lead walking groups in hills and mountains under winter conditions. Last year, the Mountain Leader Training Scotland, Winter Mountain Leader Award gained a place on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF), giving it national recognition in terms of the level of competence and knowledge required.

Traditionally outdoor professionals have not been valued for the learning and training that they undertake, therefore it’s significant that the Award is recognised at Level 6, which is comparable to a university degree.

This national recognition has given outdoor instructors credibility; and in a sector where safety is paramount, recognition and robustness of qualifications is vital. The SCQF Partnership wanted to assist employers to understand and use the SCQ Framework so SkillsActive was offered the opportunity to have an industry recognised qualification credit rated and levelled.

Employers now know that individuals who have the MLTS Winter Award have achieved a certain level of learning, and employees are using the levelling to inform job reviews and to build credits to become a chartered teacher.

Pioneering activepassport

Encouragingly, the National Employer Skills Survey suggests that around 75% of organisations had funded or arranged training for staff; however there has been a need for clear, consistent data capturing on training. The activepassport was developed as an innovative solution to record all staff training and development. It is a unique web-based resource that records and verifies training and qualifications as well as personal and professional achievements.

The activepassport is sufficiently flexible to work for either small businesses or large companies across the sector, and it promotes a culture of workforce development. It provides a cost effective solution for supporting and managing an individual’s training programme, whether they are paid staff or volunteers.

“Building more swings and roundabouts will do little to improve the play opportunities of our children and young people if we don’t have a skilled workforce to support this investment. It will be essential to include play in children’s workforce development strategies and the activepassport provides a simple and innovative tool that will appeal to many.”

Lindsey Newton, head of development, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council.

DID YOU KNOW?

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Read Leisure Opportunities online www.leisureopportunities.com/digital

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Read Leisure Opportunities online www.leisureopportunities.com/digital

© Cybertrek 2009
The Programme brought an opportunity for employers to collectively identify and agree tailor-made training for their staff – a direct response to the Sector Skills Agreement research in Northern Ireland. Specifically, employers agreed that providing leisure centre reception staff with enhanced customer care and communication skills was a priority. Following a proposal bid process, SkillsActive and the South Eastern Regional College brokered a training package to meet the skills, knowledge and understanding of customer management provision to ‘front of house’ public sector leisure centre staff. To date, three customer care training packages have been delivered onsite in local leisure centres.

"Matching supply with demand has been identified as a major requirement for leisure centres and the development of the Learning Hub concept, within our sector, provides a vehicle to address the skills and productivity agenda throughout the sector.”

Paul Lyness, head of leisure services, Ballymoney Borough Council.

Addressing the coaching need

Research undertaken by sports coach UK reveals that there are approximately 1.2 million coaches in the UK. This research also showed that around half of these coaches do not hold an up-to-date qualification for the sport in which they coach. With participation in sport increasing it is vital that the sport and active leisure workforce have the right people in place. An immediate solution was to unlock funding that would help to alleviate some of the barriers faced by coaches, and ensure that the UK has a pool of qualified coaches to deliver ambitious participation targets. To date over £1m has been brokered for subsidised bursaries for sports coaches in London, the South West and Yorkshire and the Humber.

"The SkillsActive bursary scheme encouraged a group of nine members of our club to attend a UKCC level 1 course. This is excellent for the club as it will bring new ideas into the mix and possibly a fresh approach to parts of our coaching programme. Additionally, the influx of freshly qualified coaches who are keen to put their newly learnt skills into practice will enable the club to lay on more coaching in many different areas. Finally, our new broad base of formally qualified coaches may encourage our casual coaches to take the leap onto the coaching ladder and gain formal coaching certificates. This experience will aid the future development of the club, benefiting members at all levels, as well as enabling us to continue to pursue one of our aims of introducing people to the sport.”

Karen Shaw-Wilson, chair, Regents Canoe Club.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Set Get Go

Twenty four percent of people working in the sector do not have a level 2 qualification, which is equivalent to five GCSEs A*-C. As a result, literacy and numeracy skills are key areas for employers to tackle. Keen to address these skills needs as part of their core work, Positive Futures and the Amateur Swimming Association worked with SkillsActive to help their club develop a workforce and careers planning tool for the sport and fitness sector. The tool brings together literacy and numeracy assessments and practice tests with career planning, and helps put into context the relevance of these essential skills to those working in sport and fitness. It is the first of its kind for the sector based on the adult literacy and numeracy curriculum.

“This is a much needed development that will support the sport and coaching workforce in ensuring that they have the necessary skills and information to follow their chosen career pathway.”

Spencer Moore, head of workforce development, Amateur Swimming Association.

Gaining support for training

Train to Gain is a government funded service for employers designed to help them identify training needs, high quality training solutions and funding opportunities in England. Historically there has been limited uptake of the service among South West employers in the sport and active leisure sector, and as a direct result of the Sector Skills framework for the sector to support its business and professional development. The skills agenda is central to that development and our role is to provide the tools to facilitate this. We bring together a unique range of government priorities – health, social welfare, education and sport within that agenda.

"A key tool is the development of our National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure. With the launch of the Academy, we can provide a totally new offer to the sector and to government in England, with a real capacity to deliver change. In particular we will increase the capacity to deliver the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, the 2014 Commonwealth Games and a lasting sporting legacy for not only London and Glasgow but each and every community across Britain.”

Stephen Studd, CEO, SkillsActive Group.

More level 3 fitness instructors for Welsh gyms

Customer care is top of the list in Northern Ireland

"This experience will aid the future development of the club, benefiting members at all levels, as well as enabling us to continue to pursue one of our aims of introducing people to the sport.”

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SkillsActive

Shaping Skills for the Future

For more information visit: www.skillsactive.com

Spencer Moore, head of workforce development, Amateur Swimming Association.

"Over the past five years we have worked to establish a coherent and integrated framework for the sector to support its business and professional development. The skills agenda is central to that development and our role is to provide the tools to facilitate this. We bring together a unique range of government priorities – health, social welfare, education and sport within that agenda.

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Stephen Studd, CEO, SkillsActive Group.

"Since opening its doors to the public, the Academy has already shown positive signs of great working relationships with employers and partners. The Academy will grow to become a vital tool for learners.”

Mark Lavington, HR manager, PGL.
Leicester music venue forced to close

The venue, which has hosted big-name bands, has been placed in administration.

By Pete Rayman

An iconic live music venue in Leicester, which has hosted some of the biggest names in the music industry, has closed its doors to the public after it ran into financial difficulties. The Charlotte, which is owned by pub company Punch Taverns, has staged gigs by Oasis, Radiohead and the Stone Roses during its illustrious history, but has now been forced into administration.

A spokesperson for Punch Taverns said: “We recognise that it is an important part of Leicester life and we remain committed to its future. “Unfortunately our former licencee’s business has gone into administration, so matters are currently in the hands of practitioners. “Once we know the position from their point of view, we will be able to take steps to re-open the pub and re-open it. We would ideally like to keep the pub as a live music venue and we would be keen to hear from local entrepreneurs who may be interested in talking to us about the future of the pub.” It had been hoped that another Leicester venue, arts centre De Montfort Hall, may be able to help out as The Charlotte faced closure but the manager, Richard Haswell, revealed that nothing could be organised in time.

He said: “If asked, we would do anything we could but it really wasn’t up to us. It was up to The Charlotte itself to ask and I’m fairly sure they haven’t done that. “The news to date isn’t that good. The offer remains as to what we can do to help. It would be very bad news if the venue closed.”

Legal challenge for arena decision

By Tom Walker

Property developer Montpellier Estates is to take legal action against Leeds City Council (LCC) after losing out in the race to build a new multi-million pound entertainment arena.

In November, LCC’s executive announced that the new 12,500-seat venue would be built by the council itself on a 5.1-acre (2.06-hectare) site at Claypit Lane, which is part-owned by Leeds Metropolitan University.

Proposals for the new arena put forward by two developers, including Montpellier Estates, were adjudged to be too costly, and Montpellier Estates has now issued proceedings against the council to obtain information surrounding the decision which it says it is entitled to.

A spokesperson for Montpellier Estates said: “I can confirm that we have issued proceedings against Leeds City Council in connection with the competition to award a contract to develop the Leeds Arena.”

Cineworld in digital upgrade

Cineworld has signed a multi-million pound agreement with NEC to double the number of digital screens in its portfolio.

The company’s deal with Munich-based NEC is to acquire seven digital projectors at a cost of around £4m. Cineworld plans to have 148 digital screens fitted and operational by April this year. Cineworld will boast the largest 3D estate in the UK as a result of the deal, capitalising on the 13.3D films scheduled for release in 2009.
IN BRIEF

Pub operators report continued sales growth

> Three UK pub operators have reported continued sales growth over the Christmas and New Year period despite the economic downturn. Mitchells and Butlers (M&B) revealed, ahead of its annual general meeting, that it had recorded a 1 per cent increase in like-for-like sales for the 17 weeks to 24 January. Meanwhile, Fuller, Smith and Turner announced a 4.5 per cent rise in the 10 weeks to 24 January, increasing its like-for-like sales growth to 2.7 per cent for the current financial year to date. JD Wetherspoon also reported an increase in like-for-like sales, with figures up by 2.6 per cent for the first 12 weeks of the second quarter.

Travelode to build on its first residential site

> Travelodge is planning to develop a £5.5m hotel in Greenwich, London, on a site previously designated for residential use after original plans for the site collapsed. The site was purchased by developer City & Suburban Homes with the view of building 14 flats but, despite planning permission having been granted, the buyer pulled out leaving an opportunity for the group to build a 97-room hotel.

MCH launches new hotel at Bramall Lane

> Millennium Copthorne Hotels (MCH) has opened a 158-room hotel at Bramall Lane, the home of Sheffield United FC. A joint project between MCH and Sheffield United, the Copthorne Sheffield Hotel houses a 56-station health club, a restaurant, a bar and conferencing facilities. The property is the fourth hotel to be operated by MCH at a football stadium.

Jurys Inn secures a £90m hotel deal

> The chain will acquire four new hotels and plans to open another seven in 2009.

By Caroline Wilkinson

Budget hotel chain Jurys Inn has exchanged contracts on four new hotels in England and Scotland in a deal worth £90m. Located in Glasgow, Newcastle, Portsmouth and Bradford, the 200-room (80,000 sq ft; 7,453sq m) hotels in the Glasgow site will be the only 100,000 sq ft (9,290 sq m) hotel offering 230 rooms – are being developed by Jurys’ strategic development partner, McAlone and Rushe. The properties will be operated on long-term leases and are due to open in 2009. There are also seven new openings scheduled for 2009. Simon Jones, Jurys Inn development director, said: “We plan to grow the business aggressively this year and are seriously exploring increased numbers of new site opportunities emerging from the fast changing UK property market. “Developers and land owners struggling with residential or commercial projects will get a positive reception from us as we seek well located sites in prime London locations and in provincial cities. “We continue to look speculatively for new locations as site valuations drop and struggling four star hotels close. We remain proactive and hungry for development.”

Côte to open sixth city site

> French bistro chain Côte has announced that it is to open its sixth site in London at Hay’s Galleria near London Bridge. The restaurant will replace the site of the independent Kwan Thai and will be the seventh in London, joining others in Richmond, Soho, Kensington and Covent Garden as well as the launch site in Wimborne’s Village. Branson Elmon of Davis Coffee Lyons, who negotiated the deal, said: “A consideration close to the figures was paid for the lease, which is a terrific statement in today’s market, demonstrating that the best sites are still creating real, substantial premiums.”

£100m Savoy revamp delayed

> The hotel, owned by Fairmont, will not be reopening in May

By Luke Tuchscherer

The £100m revamp of the famous Savoy Hotel in London has reportedly been delayed. According to the Evening Standard, the 120-year-old hotel will not open its doors until the autumn, despite a scheduled May opening. Canada-based Fairmont owns the hotel and work on the project, designed by Pierre-Yves Rochon, began in December 2007. The works will involve a redesign of the Thames Foyer and River Restaurant and the refurbishment of two-thirds of the 263 bedrooms and suites, plus all the corridors. No specific reasons have been named as the cause of the delay, a Fairmont spokesperson was quoted by the Evening Standard as saying “it’s just one of those things that happens with projects of this size.”

RHG is placed into administration

> The firm’s revenue dropped in the year to January ‘09

By Luke Tuchscherer

The Real Hotel Group (RHG) – the operator of budget chain Purplehotels – has gone into administration, becoming the latest victim of the economic downturn. The firm reported a 7 per cent fall in revenue from £68m to £63m in 2009. The company released the following statement on the Alternative Investment Market: “Following the announcement of the suspension of the company’s ordinary shares on 13 January, the company has been actively exploring all financial and strategic options available to the business in the light of its adverse financial position. “It is with deep regret that the board has appointed administrators, Shay Bannoon and Antony Nygate of BDO Stoy Hayward with immediate effect in respect of its trading subsidiary, the Real Hotel Company (RHC). “The administrators will be undertaking a review of RHC’s assets.”

Fishworks chain gets bought out

> Fishworks, the seafood restaurant chain, has been acquired by Midlands-based entrepreneur Ranjit Boparan for an undisclosed sum.

The remaining sites are based in Bath, Richmond and two in London – on Swallow Street and Marylebone Street. Ranjit Boparan said: “We’re making a significant investment because we absolutely believe in the business and we believe in the brand. “Our strategy is simple - excellent quality, exceptional service and exceptional value to suit the taste, expectations and pockets of our customers.”

Shoddy service does not define British hospitality

I t gets increasingly frustrating when people take pot shots at the British hospitality industry without offering any palpable solutions to changing perceptions and behaviour. It is particularly tiresome when Chris Rodrigues, CEO of Visit Britain joins in.

Recently, The Independent’s front page headline read: ‘Bad service and grumpy Britons put tourism jobs at risk’. The story had Rodrigues complaining about the state of the British hospitality industry saying that shoddy service and high prices are putting foreign visitors off the UK.

Of course it would be foolish and erroneous of me to deny any truth in the comments made and yes, sadly there are those who work in the industry who do not, and are perhaps unlikely to ever, reflect the true definition of hospitality – ‘kindness in welcoming strangers or guests’ (Culinae Concise Dictionary). However, I would challenge anyone to show me an industry where this isn’t the case. Everyone in the hospitality, leisure and tourism industries are essentially a consumer and whenever I run training courses on customer service, I ask people to give me an example of a time when they had experienced poor customer service. Unfortunately this is often an easy task, with people able to relay exactly where, when, how and why it happened. In contrast, ask people to relay occasions where they’ve been wowed by excellent service and they struggle to remember any. It’s a sad habit that many of us are wired to think like this, as it’s clear from the latest UK Customer Service Satisfaction Index that examples of outstanding customer experiences DO exist in this country.

The Institute of Customer Service asked customers to choose from a list of countries, which they believe offered the best service, and 42 per cent rated the UK as number one. The only other country to achieve a notable share of the vote was the USA with its strong reputation for ‘service with a smile’. While these were not hospitality specifics, the Leisure and Tourism category boasted 77 per cent overall.

Expectations are higher than ever and at a time when every penny counts, it’s vital that the consumer feels they’re reaping the most value for their money, regardless of how big or small the budget. Rather than beat on about how bad things are we must begin to look at ourselves both individually and corporately and recognise we need to be the difference.
Ripon Workhouse nets HLF grant

New space will house exhibitions and large research centre on local studies

By Pete Rayman

Ripon Museum Trust has been awarded £623,500 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the refurbishment of a museum at the city’s former workhouse, one of the few visitor attractions of its kind in Britain.

The Grade II-listed building, located within the Ripon Conservation Area, will also undergo restoration work, which will see the Ripon Workhouse Museum enlarged and upgraded.

Empty parts of the gatehouse will be brought back into use, while the archway between the east and west wings will be covered to create a new entrance for the museum. Two small extensions will be created at the rear of the buildings to provide more room.

A number of items currently in storage, including a large 1868 map of the Poor Law Union, will be put on display using the extra space following the work, while the trust’s collection of photographs will be included in a series of temporary exhibitions.

The extra space will also house a new local studies research centre, incorporating a drop-in archive facility, toilets and room for research.

Work is expected to get underway within the next few months, and the museum is set to reopen in August.

Anthony Chadwick, senior curator at Ripon Museum Trust, said: “This generous award from the HLF means that we can now move ahead with our investment of over £1m to deliver so much more at the Workhouse museum.”

Camelot calls in administrators

By Pete Rayman

Camelot Theme Park near Chorley, Lancashire, has been placed into receivership having struggled to compete for visitors with rival attractions in recent years.

Les Ross and Malcolm Shierson from Grant Thornton accountants have been appointed as joint receivers of the attraction, which only operated for 20 weeks each year and was scheduled to reopen on 4 April.

Camelot’s 140-bedroom Park Hall Hotel will continue to trade as normal until a buyer is sought, although plans have already been put forward to redevelop the site into a mixed-use development incorporating residential and retail units, as well as a health and fitness club and a village hall.

Ross said: “Camelot Theme Park has struggled for a number of years to compete with larger attractions such as Blackpool Pleasure Beach and Alton Towers. Visitor numbers had been in decline.”

New museum for Isle of Man

A plan to establish a vintage transport museum on the Isle of Man looks set to take a step forward following further discussions between government departments on how to implement the project.

The Manx Transport Trust has been awarded permission to use an aircraft hangar at Jutby to house a collection of historic vehicles currently stored at Homefield Garage in Douglas.

Talks have been held between the chief minister and the ministers for tourism and leisure, local government and the environment (DLGE) and trade and industry. The DLGE has agreed to rent the facility at a nominal charge.
The Public’s gallery creator goes under
Company in charge of launching interactive attraction enters administration

By Pete Rayman

The company responsible for creating an interactive gallery attraction, yet to open at the West Bromwich arts complex, The Public, has entered voluntary administration.

Bob Bailey and Guy Mander from Baker Tilly in Birmingham have been appointed as joint administrators of The Public Gallery Ltd, which ran into financial difficulties after it was unable to secure further grants for its development.

Bailey said: “Financial problems developed after The Public Gallery was unable to obtain funding. “Regrettably, the company has had to make all 32 of its staff redundant.”

£7m wildlife attraction opens in Middlesbrough

By Pete Rayman

The centre will be used for a range of activities including drama workshops, storytelling, street dance and a community radio station. Programmes include one-off tasters to regular weekly drop-in classes and from accredited courses to holiday activities.

Many activities will be accredited, enabling participants to gain qualifications such as Arts Council England’s Arts Awards and Open College Network credits.

The 1,000-acre (405-hectare) Wild Bird Discovery Centre has taken 11 years to develop, and its facilities include a visitor centre, a café, a shop and classrooms, as well as an adventure playground and an outdoor education zone.

Designed by architects Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall, the site was built by Lumedon and Carroll. It is hoped the site will attract more than 100,000 visitors each year.

The site’s co-founder, Dave Braithwaite, said: “We can finally open the doors of the theatre’s studio annex.

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The perils of being a tenant

Being aware of potential pitfalls could save money

SoCo plans given the go-ahead

£40m Edinburgh scheme will rejuvenate site of devastating fire of 2002

By Caroline Wilkinson

Plans for the £40m mixed-use re-development of the derelict Cowgate district in Edinburgh have been approved by the city council.

The SoCo scheme, led by Edinburgh developer Whiteburn Projects and designed by Allan Murray Architects, is set to transform the site which was ravaged by the Edinburgh Old Town fire in 2002.

Located in South Bridge/Cowgate, the site will host a 200-room hotel, operated by boutique hotelier, Hoxton, which is led by the co-founder of Prêt a Manger. There will also be a new restaurant, festival venue, business centre and a La Belle Angele nightclub – which was destroyed in the fire.

John Shepherd, chief executive of Whiteburn, said: “Our vision is to regenerate this blighted area of our beautiful city which has lain derelict since the devastation of fire in 2002.”

The site was previously host to the J&R Allan department store, which incorporated the Gilded Balloon comedy venue.

dRMM wins Brunel Museum commission

By Luke Tuchscherer

The design competition for the development of the Brunel Museum in Southwark, London, has been won by London-based de Rijke Marsh Morgan Architects (dRMM).

The brief was to make the attraction’s 15m-diameter vent shaft and former stairwell to the Thames Tunnel accessible again since its closure in 1865.

The firm beat off competition from Mataphore, FAT, Softroom, Ash Sakula and Brisac Gonzalez.

Plans revealed for £5.5m Clacton-on-Sea hotel

A seafront hotel in Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, is set to undergo a £5.5m redevelopment if proposals put forward by developers Primero Management are given the go-ahead by Tendring District Council.

Plans for the revamp of the town’s Comfort Inn, which include a 16-lane bowling alley and a rooftop restaurant and bar, have been welcomed by both the council and its regeneration company, InTend, and it is hoped a planning application will be submitted next month.

If the plans are approved, work is expected to get underway in May.

The Leisure Property Forum seminars, and how to join call +44 (0) 1462 471932 or visit www.leisurepropertyforum.org
Expressions of Interest for ‘The Kent Schools Games 2010’

Kent County Council is the largest local authority in England, covering an area of 3,500 square kilometres. It has an annual expenditure of over £1bn on goods and services and a population of 3,5m. The Council provides a wide range of personal and strategic services on behalf of its residents, operating in partnership with 12 District Councils and 289 Parish/Town Councils.

The Sport, Leisure and Olympics Service is part of the County Council’s Communities Directorate and provides a strategic lead for and coordinates the development of sport in Kent. This is achieved by working with the public and by working with and through, a large number of organisations in the public, commercial, private, voluntary and educational sectors.

After the success of the first Kent School Games held in June 2008, Kent County Council will be coordinating the Schools Games programme for 2009/10, aimed at all Schools, culminating in 10 Finals Days with participant numbers ranging from approximately 55 - 1500 on any one day, utilising approximately 52 facilities predominantly in the Canterbury area.

This Expression of Interest is for the 10 Finals Days, Opening Ceremony, Celebratory Event plus additional support as required during the heats process.

The following are an indication of a number of key core elements required from the successful Supplier:

- A fully marked out sports area, all equipment hire including delivery, installation, decommissioning and return.
- A full risk assessment, including welfare planning for the young people involved.
- A Health and Safety register Method Statement and Information pack, full training of all personnel involved with the operation and administration of the event. Ensure that all personnel have had up to date CRB and employment checks. Transport and car park planning.
- The total management of all third party contractors that attend the site during the games. The arrangement and control of all site security. The effective positioning and operation of PA systems and recording equipment.
- The supply of all catering to satisfy the requirement of the competitors and visitors.
- To ensure a full record of the event is developed and retained using various media. Working with the Sport Leisure & Olympics service to ensure marketing, sponsorship, and media coverage is achieved.
- To ensure that adequate event furniture (seating, podiums, toilets) are available.
- Companies wishing to express an interest in this opportunity are requested to apply by the South East Business Portal www.businessportal.southeasttstg.gov.uk.
- The closing date for expressions of interest is 3rd March 2009.
No extra tourism funding for 2012

Government comes under fire for “damaging and short-sighted” policy

By Caroline Wilkinson

The government’s decision not to allocate additional funds to market tourism for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games has been branded as “short-sighted and damaging” by the Tourism Alliance.

The government was expected to provide a one-off payment to help VisitBritain in the run up to the 2012 Olympics but it cut its funding by 18 per cent for 2008-11. However, the minister for tourism, Barbara Follett, has decided against such a boost and said there are “no plans to provide additional funding for tourism in respect of the Games” in this comprehensive spending round.

In response, Bob Cotton, chair of the Tourism Alliance, said: “The decision highlights the DCMS’s lack of understanding of the tourism industry and of its wealth creating potential to the UK economy.”

Five new countries have to face visa checks

Visitors from five countries, including South Africa, are to face new security checks before travelling to Britain following a government review of visa requirements.

The new security measures, including fingerprint visas, will be introduced for visitors from Bolivia, Lesotho, Venezuela and Swaziland after they failed the UK’s new visa waiver test.

Other countries named by the UK Border Agency last year as needing to improve security include Brazil, Malaysia and Trinidad.

Great customer service is the key to survival

When times get tough, we need to concentrate on the customer experience

There’s no excuse for poor customer service in this industry, but in a downturn it’s unforgivably bad for business. Customers want to spend, but need to justify every pound they part with. For businesses, the most valuable customer is a loyal customer and it costs approximately five times more to attract one than to keep one. The financial benefit is clear - if you want to see your way through the recession, step up your focus on customer service.

All routes to great customer service begin with your staff. Motivation, recognition and empowerment are essential in supporting your employees in their customer service delivery. If you want top class performance from your teams, then give them the right tools for the job by providing clear information on your customer service policies and standards. Present guidelines on solutions to customer service situations and underline how success in this area will be measured and rewarded. Recognise achievement to keep the bar high and highlight that customer service is key to the success of your business.

An essential part of the process is customer service training. In recession, you might imagine that CEOs have been shredding their training plans, but polls show that less than a quarter of companies are planning to reduce their training budgets this year. Halting customer service training is a short term solution which ignores a vital ingredient in business success – the paying customer. However, with pressure to cut costs and redundancy rife, some companies simply can’t justify training spend, so it’s important to remember that motivation, training and reward are still essential – but they don’t have to be expensive. SMEs are most motivated by intangible rewards such as support, praise, acknowledgement, involvement, autonomy, learning and development and these can often be delivered at low cost.

It’s time to focus on great customer service and acknowledge the employees that truly deliver it. Right now there is a perfect opportunity for you to do so, while putting the spotlight firmly on the importance of customer service. Entries are being encouraged for the 2009 Olive Barnett Award, which rewards excellence in employees below 30 years of age. Encouraging your staff to enter the Olive Barnett Award will send them the clear message that you value their skills and commitment.
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Quality and Admin Manager
£28,440 to £30,003 p.a. inc

The successful candidate will be focused, able to set and monitor service standards across facilities. You will assess the performance of each site, contributing to improvement plans. You will have a broad range of experience and skills within the leisure sector and be able to challenge, monitor and improve performance.

Youth and Community Officer
£28,440 to £30,003 p.a. inc

The successful candidate will deliver improved access and participation in sports and physical activity. By reaching out to the community, identifying needs and trying to accommodate those within the two centres, you will have experience in outreach work and working with young people and target groups, understanding the issues and barriers preventing them from taking part.

Successful candidates will be required to complete a satisfactory enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure and will work a shift pattern that covers the operational hours of the Centres.

Closing date for the above posts: 9 March 2009.

Duty Officer
£18,675 to £20,616 p.a. inc

We are looking for two Duty Officers to work at Bridge Park Community Leisure Centre (full-time post) and Charteris Sports Centre (part-time post). You will assist in the day to day operation of the Centre and will be part of a team of staff that actively supervise and co-ordinate the operation of all areas of the service. You will be working a shift pattern that covers the operational hours of the centres.

Closing date: 13 March 2009.
FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

MULTI-SPORTS PROJECT
The project will use the power of the football club to increase sporting participation and provide a network of sports clubs. The project will run in partnership with the Football Trust, Sport England and the National Governing Bodies of bowls, table tennis, badminton and volleyball.

Sports Manager
(Ref. CSM) Salary £18-22k in your one, 2 year fixed term contract subject to a probationary period
Essential requirements: experience in sports development with a focus on youth, project management, strong interpersonal/communication skills, flexible and adaptable approach to work, self motivated, able to use own initiative, full UK driving licence.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROJECT
This project is an exciting opportunity to be part of a team tasked to raise awareness and influence positive life changes.

Health Manager
(Ref. CHM) Salary £16-22k in your one, 3 year fixed term contract subject to a probationary period
Essential requirements: experience in sports development or health promotion, strong interpersonal and presentation skills, flexible and adaptable approach to work, self motivated, able to use own initiative, full UK driving licence. A Health Training Certificate 3 level qualification would be desirable.

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter with details of your current salary and your salary expectation for the role marked with your reference number/s to the address below:

John Davies, Hull City FC, KC Stadium, Walton Street, Hull, HU9 8HU or email: mh@hullfc.com

Closing date: Friday 23rd February 2009 Interviews dates: Ref. CSM: 5th March Ref. CHM: 6th March

The successful candidate will undergo a thorough screening process, which will include an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure, to ensure they are suitable for the role.

Closing date: 11 March 2009

www.dumgal.gov.uk

The nature of the position is a feasible, generous opportunity for flexible working, full salary pension and much more.

Outdoor Activities Instructor, Newton Stewart (Ref: 71/1801)
£17,500 – £20,000. Closing date: 6 March 2009.

Based at Strontian Outdoor Activities Centre, you will be responsible for instructing adventure activity sessions to schools and community groups.

A team player, you will effectively work with a range of pupils, youth and adults. Good communications skills and an enthusiastic and pleasant manner are essential.

Outdoor education is essential as are at least 3 of the following: Full NGB awards in climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, hill walking, climbing and orienteering. Qualifications following NGB awards are an advantage. Belaying, canyoning, kayaking, mountain biking, hill walking, climbing and orienteering.

An HMC Pend level qualification in a relevant discipline and a qualification to level 3 in one of the above are desirable. You must have experience and the skills to prepare, organize and deliver training courses. Evening and weekend work will be required within the remuneration for the post. Additional benefits include access to Local Government Pension Scheme, free life cover and relocation package of up to £5,000.

A current driving licence with D1 + E categories is desirable but training may be provided to enable you to drive a minibus and trailer. Informal enquiries to Andy Mason, Outdoor Activities Officer on 07842 708145 or email andrew.mason@dumgal.gov.uk.

This post is subject to candidate vetting through Disclosure Scotland.

Application forms available from Kay Gerr, Staffing Section, Education and Social Work Service, Woodhead, 30 Edinburgh Road, Dumfries, DG1 1NW on (01387) 260449, ext. 64449, email: recruit-education@dumgal.gov.uk to whom they should be returned or apply on-line.

For further information and to apply online, visit our website www.charity擔gov.uk or call (01377) 00176.

Active Generation Officer – £15,370 to £17,244

Funded post of 3 months

This post will help to engage the over 50’s in a programme of sustainable, physically active and help local groups develop community led activities.

Leisure and Cultural Buildings Officer – £26,708 to £28,270

This post will have responsibility for the day-to-day functioning of the three community centres, and will act as the lead advisor to a number of community-run centres. The ideal candidate will probably have a background in managing facilities for the public or a large charitable, which might include leisure management, education or training.

For further information and to apply online, visit our website www.charity擔gov.uk or call (01377) 00176.
Leisure, Culture & Lifelong Learning - Sport & Leisure Development Services

Active Lifestyles Officer (Participation Events)
£19,370 - £21,244 per annum

2 years fixed term contract

We are seeking a dynamic and enthusiastic project officer to co-ordinate and develop a range of community based events that will aim to develop healthier communities and increase local levels of participation in sport and physical activity.

The post will develop a range of partnerships with local organisations to develop, deliver and evaluate a programme of community events to include four key areas such as a running challenge, dance and martial arts festivals and an urban rally.

You will have excellent organisation and communication skills as well as the ability to work with a variety of partners. Experience of successful project management including planning, promotion and evaluation along with event management is required along with the ability to support community volunteers. You will have a sport or health/fitness instructor/development qualification and recent experience of working within a health or physical activity related field.

For an informal discussion about this post, please contact Kate Williams on 01922 653377 / 653504 (24 hr)

To apply visit www.walsall.gov.uk/jobshop

Closing date: 20 February 2009, 12 noon.

#CLUB DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Ref: 2928

#VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Ref: 2929

2 year Fixed Term Contract

£18,882 - £21,244pa

#ACTIVE ADULT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Ref: 2930

£24,331 - £25,940pa

Hours are 37 per week to include evening and weekend working

With support from Sport England’s Community Investment Fund the Bury Sport and Physical Activity Alliance require three dedicated people to take a lead on planning and co-ordinating initiatives to increase participation in sport and physical activity.

Bury Council will host a Volunteer Development Officer and a Club Development Officer to increase volunteering opportunities, high quality clubs and sports club membership.

Bury Council in partnership with NHS Bury will host an Active Adult Development Officer working to engage adults from the most deprived communities in physical activity.

Candidates will need a good awareness of sport and physical activity initiatives, have a passion to ‘Be Active’, together with the ability to work with and engage a variety of partners through excellent organisational skills.

Interview dates: 16 and 20 March 2009.

www.bury.gov.uk

Visit our website to view all our jobs and apply online

IMPROVING SERVICES... DELIVERING PRIORITIES

This Authority is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

For application forms and further details tel: 0161 253 1155 (24 hour). Maxicom: 0161 253 5952.

Closing date: 20 February 2009, 12 noon.

*App and grading review pending.

#Appointment is subject to a satisfactory enhanced disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

We are members of NewPeople – nine Councils, one website, countless opportunities, please see the website at www.newpeople.co.uk.

The Council is committed to Equality and Diversity in employment and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Walsall Council

www.walsall.gov.uk/jobshop

Fitness Manager

£18 – £23k dependent on qualifications and experience based on a 37 ½ hour week

We are currently seeking a highly motivated Fitness Manager dedicated to providing our customers with a first class gym experience.

This is an exciting time to join us as we prepare to relocate to the new purpose built wet and dry Leisurezone centre due to open later this year.

As Fitness Manager you will hold a gym instructor qualification and have previous experience of working with groups and individuals delivering exercise programmes. You will be expected to manage and drive all aspects of the fitness facilities including coaching, influencing and motivating your team and using your skills to improve the service we offer taking a lead in retention programmes, achieving financial targets and maximising income.

If you believe you have the skills and capabilities required for this position telephone or email Lin Borthwick Human Resources Manager for an application form and job description.

tel: 01279 307304
Email: linborthwick@harlow运动centre.co.uk

Closing date: 6th March 2009

www.harlow.herts.gov.uk/getinvolved

Active Over 50’s Project Officer

£19,494 - £21,405

Fixed Term Contract until 28th February 2011

Following a successful Sport England Community Investment Fund bid we are looking for an individual to join the Lincoln City Activity Initiative team.

Your role will be to coordinate the Active Over 50’s project which aims to engage those aged 50 & over in physical activity & help them to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

You will need to have a relevant HND or above or equivalent experience in this field along with a nationally recognised group exercise instructors qualification. Experience of working with this age group, relevant exercise/coaching qualifications & of delivering healthy lifestyle projects would also be advantageous.

For an informal discussion about the post please contact Fiona Roche or Natalie Fenwick, Health & Fitness Development Team on 01522 875871 or email get.active@lincoln.gov.uk

Closing date: Noon Tuesday 3rd March 2009

Interview date: Monday 16th March 2009

The City of Lincoln Council is perfectly placed if you are looking to establish a career in the Public Sector

Lincoln City Activity Initiative

Active Over 50’s Project Officer

Scale 5

Fixed Term Contract to end September 2010 with funding pending to extend March 2011.

£19,940 - £22,444 per annum

37 hours per week

Closing date: Midday on 27th February 2009

Interview date: Week commencing 9th March 2009

Benefits of working with us include final salary pension scheme, team support, training and development opportunities and free car parking.

For additional information and to apply online or download an application pack, please go to www.lincoln.gov.uk

Closing date: Noon Tuesday 3rd March 2009

Interview date: Monday 16th March 2009

For information about this and other opportunities visit www.lincoln.gov.uk

www.lincoln.gov.uk/vacancies

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It takes strength, desire and leadership – evidence that you are currently driving your teams to commercial success is essential. You must also have experience of managing the provision of a member focused personal training function, group exercise classes, programming and, above all, delivering a world class service.

Nationwide opportunities
This decision won’t be easy for you either... after all, changing lives through health and fitness isn’t everyone’s passion... it has to be yours.
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Visit www.espoarta.com

health & fitness

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## LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES

**ADIPS**

ADIPS (Amusement Devices Inspection Procedure Scheme) is the largesd and amusement park industry’s self regulated safety inspection scheme which registers competent ride inspectors and the rides they inspect. The purpose of the scheme is to promote and improve largesd and amusement park safety.

ADIPS is overseen by the Amusement Devices Council (ADSC), which, as the policy making body for safety, self regulation and technical guidance in the UK amusement rides industry, is the focal point for industry related safety matters. ADSC has representatives from all of the major trade associations in the largesd and amusement park industry and HSE, and provides the Directors for ADIPS.

A review of ADIPS’ structure we now wish to appoint a General Manager, reporting to the Chair of ADIPSA/DSC, who will take ADIPS successfully through its next stage of development.

**THE JOB**

- To develop and implement the ADIPS Schemes and ensure the operation of the Schemes is as effectively and efficiently as possible.
- To develop strategies and plan for the future development of ADIPS.
- To ensure the integrity of the ADIPS Schemes through effective control procedures for registration of inspection Bodies, mapping and distribution of ADIPS documentation and maintenance of an up-to-date and secure ADIPS database.
- To manage the ADIPS compliance and audit programme.
- To assist in developing and managing the ADIPS database and联络 materials.

**THE PERSON**

- To develop and manage the day-to-day working and administration of ADIPS office and ADIPS staff resources.
- To represent ADIPS and attend key meetings.
- To deal with complex and sensitive issues in a timely manner.

**APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:**
The Chairman, ADIPS Ltd., Business Innovation Centre, Wearhead, Sunderland Enterprise Park, Sunderland, SR5 2TA and marked PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

**CLOSING DATE:**
Applications and a letter of application should be submitted by 1st March 2009.

**TO book**

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**ENGINEERING MANAGER**

A challenging opportunity now exists for a highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Engineering Manager at Pleasurewood Hills, a Family Theme Park.

This is a “hands on” position and you would lead our maintenance team to ensure that all our rides, attractions, mechanical equipment, plant and vehicles throughout the park are correctly maintained to the highest possible standards ensuring the safety of both our guests and staff.

You would report to the Park Director and organise maintenance schedules to enable our team to complete this work during peak periods.

This exciting opportunity to join our small and dedicated management team will suit an individual who is adaptable, resourceful and has exceptional mechanical and electrical skills and qualifications coupled with previous management experience.

If interested, please send us your CV to Opportunities@maf.ae or for an informal discussion call 00973 17584444 asking for the Assistant Operations Manager.

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**Head of Marketing Tourism c£35k Based in Buxton**

As the Official Tourist Board for the Peak District & Derbyshire, we are looking for an experienced marketeer to lead a small dedicated team to deliver more visitors to the area.

We are seeking a passionate, creative individual with strong budgetary control and a team player to work with the industry and partners.

**PR Executive c£20k Based in Buxton**

We are looking for an experienced PR professional to deliver a communication plan to promote the Peak District & Derbyshire to visitors.

Working closely with local, Region and National Media, as well as a host of partners and industry you will be responsible for getting our message across as a world class visitor destination.

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**Assistant Operations Manager**

Wahooo! Waterpark – Bahrain City Centre

We are seeking an Assistant Operations Manager for our Wahooo! Waterpark in Bahrain City Centre which, when completed, will be the largest indoor water park in the Middle East, with an area of over 15,000 square meters and will employ over 150 staff. The water park will have a 150 m long Lazy River, 190 m long Masterblaster rollercoaster, 3 indoor slides, a 19 m deep wave pool and many other pools, rides and slides including a 3m high curling wave surfing machine.

Job Purpose: To work with the Operations Manager to ensure the smooth, safe operation of Wahooo! Waterpark, both Pool side and front of house, and deliver a first-quality guest experience for all visitors.

**Person Specifications**
Female Candidate with a degree holder or other recognizable professional qualifications, 5 years experience in a similar position either indoor or outdoor water parks, Health & Safety training including both first aid and other Health & Safety training relevant to the role. A strong understanding of water quality as an HSE guideline. Qualification in Lifeguard, RSSL (Social) and first aider. Demonstrable passion for customer service and the quality of the guest experience. Innovative mind with an eye for detail. Personable with excellent people skills, proven leadership skills. Fluent in English, a second language an advantage.

**Salary Package**
Basic: c£21,500 (Tax-free), Conveyance Allowance: c£75/Month Utiliity Allowance: c£125/Month Housing Allowance: Unfurnished accommodation up to a rent limit which is currently c£8816/- per year. 22 Working days plus annual leave, Private medical insurance: Economy Class air ticket every year.

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Government approval for Longbridge redevelopment

New town centre at the heart of regeneration plans for the former MG Rover factory site near Birmingham

By Caroline Wilkinson

Plans for a £750m transformation of the 468-acre (189-hectare) Longbridge site near Birmingham have been approved by the government.

The Longbridge Area Action Plan (LAAP), which was submitted to the government last March, outlines a 15-year vision for the former MG Rover factory site.

At the heart of the scheme is a new town centre incorporating public, leisure and retail facilities, as well as the proposed Austin Centre, a new museum and community resource designed to celebrate the area’s automotive legacy.

New urban parks are to be created as part of the project, including plans to open up the Rivers Rea And Arrow for the first time in 70 years.

The LAAP was developed by Birmingham City Council and Bromsgrove District Council in partnership with regional development agency Advantage West Midlands, developer St Modwen and Worcestershire County Council.

The plans were given the green light by a government inspector.

Credit crunch could provide boost to UK tourism

By Luke Tuchscherer

The UK could become Britons' top holiday destination this year, according to new research.

A survey from Continental Research, the London-based market research agency, revealed that respondents aged 20-54-years-old chose the UK as their most popular destination.

The study also suggested that despite the recession, 48 per cent of respondents would not change their plans. Of the 34 per cent who said they would be changing their plans, most of them would be looking to reduce their budget or go for last-minute bargains.

Overall, 27 per cent indicated they would be holidaying in the UK rather than another country, with Spain and the USA in second and third place.

Colin Shaddick, director at Continental Research, said: "It looks like the current economic climate will have one positive impact at least, with a considerable number of Brits planning to holiday in the UK in 2009."

Warlingham FC plans rejected

Tandridge District Council has rejected plans to build a new football ground on the site of a former boys’ club in Warlingham, Surrey.

The scheme, put forward by Warlingham Football Club (WFC), included a new clubhouse with a covered seating area, storage facilities and six 15m (49ft) floodlights, as well as two pitches.

Contact civiil society organisations

For more information please visit the following websites:

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www.aadb.org.uk
ALVA +44 (0)20 7222 1728
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