British Music Experience aims to hit the right notes

By Pete Hayman

A new permanent, interactive exhibition designed to celebrate Britain’s rock and pop music heritage has opened at The O2 in Greenwich, London. Officially unveiled by London mayor Boris Johnson, the British Music Experience (BME), opened on 9 March after four years in development.

The attraction occupies a 22,000sq ft (2,044sq m) space on the top floor of the The O2’s exhibition space, known as The O2 bubble and offers visitors the chance to view more than 500 pieces of British music memorabilia, including Noel Gallagher’s Epiphone Union Jack guitar, Roger Daltrey’s Woodstock outfit and David Bowie’s Ziggy Stardust costume.

In addition, visitors can download music directly from the BME archive, while the fully-integrated Gibson Interactive Studio enables people to play various Gibson guitars, Baldwin pianos and Slingerland drums.

The new attraction uses radio-frequency identification (RFID) that enables visitors to use a ‘smarticket’ to access interactive content, as well as to register further interest in specific features.

An independent board of trustees, chaired by promoter Harvey Goldsmith, manages the BME, which is sponsored by Gibson Guitars, Sennheiser, Getty Images, BBC Worldwide and PRS for Music.

Paul Lilley has been appointed as the BME’s curator, while executive curator Bob Santelli has previously worked on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, US.

Archial unveils designs for Plymouth’s Life Centre

£46.5m venue to incorporate an extensive range of leisure and sports facilities

By Helen Patenall

Archial – formerly SMC Charter Architects – has unveiled its designs for the new £46.5m Life Centre in Plymouth, Devon.

A full planning application has been submitted to the city council for the massive leisure scheme, which will be located in the city’s main parkland.

It will boast a 10-lane, 50m pool with moveable floors as well as a leisure pool with a beach-style entry, a bubble pool and flume rides.

The centre will house a 50m pool and a 150-station gym

A 15m all-weather climbing facility with an aerial assault course will be built on the exterior of the building.

Additional amenities will include an eight-lane indoor bowling arena and a 12-court multi-use sports hall for badminton, five-a-side football, basketball, netball and trampolining.

The health and fitness suite will house 150 workstations, a sauna and a steamroom, as well as a youth gym.

Multi-purpose areas will also be created, providing space for dance and martial arts, a crèche and soft play activities, complemented by a café open to all park visitors.

FitPro launches free courses

Training provider FitPro has launched a raft of free courses in an effort to train a new generation of instructors and to tackle growing levels of childhood obesity.

The company is offering fully-funded courses that lead to a CYQ Level 2 in Instructing Health-Related Fitness for Children.

FitPro aims to create more than 500 coaches devoted to improving children’s health over the next three years.
Being active, being healthy

The Department of Health (DH) has launched a plan to get couch potatoes off their sofas. Called Be Active, Be Healthy, the scheme aims to increase the amount of “everyday exercise” people take part in. We look at how the initiative differs from other government plans to tackle obesity and ask industry experts for their opinion on the scheme.

By launching Be Active, Be Healthy, the government is looking to establish a new framework for the delivery of physical activity alongside sport for the period leading up to 2012. Programmes outlined in the plan are designed to contribute to the government’s target of getting two million more people active by 2012 – the magical year that now seems to be incorporated in every single government initiative. What makes this scheme slightly different, however, is that it aims to get people involved in everyday activities such as walking, and benefit from the increasing popularity of swimming and dancing.

According to government figures, more than 27 million adults in England are not getting enough exercise and 14 million do not complete 30 minutes of exercise a week – contributing towards 8,000 obesity-related premature deaths each year.

Describing the new initiative, public health minister Dawn Primarolo said: “Physical activity is the key to stopping this country becoming the obesity capital of the world – and it makes us feel better. People of all ages can gain from doing more exercise, but not enough of us do the magic 30 minutes, five days a week.

“We have to remove the ‘no, you can’t’ messages across communities to create a ‘yes, you can’ culture – with more support, more encouragement and more opportunities across communities to get people active.”

Key measures of the strategy include partnerships with both private and voluntary organisations to get people active, including: a new Learn to Swim programme for adults as part of the government’s Free Swimming scheme; a working group to explore how to harness the Strictly Come Dancing fever that has swept the nation; a total of 2,012 Active Challenge walking routes across England; and the expansion of the Walking the Way to Health scheme.

Other measures include the formation of a new Physical Activity Alliance – which will pool the resources of leisure centres and grassroots organisations alike to encourage physical activity and “the contribution of 14m for County Sports Partnerships to help bring together councils, PCTs and other grassroots providers. The newly formed alliance has been tasked with promoting physical activities that are fun, sociable and accessible to people of all abilities. It will also seek to ensure that suitable levels of investment are made.”

Business in Sport and Leisure (BISL) welcomed the news. Brigid Simmonds, chief executive of BISL and also a member of the interim steering group for the aforementioned Physical Activity Alliance, said: “For the first time ever, the DH is putting real resource into physical activity and is working with the DCMS and Sport England on shared targets to get the nation active.

“It is also the beginnings of a genuine partnership, not only across government but also – through the Physical Activity Alliance – with the active leisure sector.”

The British Heart Foundation (BHF), however, emphasised that the scheme must not just become another great idea that never materialises. Mubeen Bhutta, policy manager at BHF, said: “We welcome this new strategy, but the government now needs to make this plan happen. Just as it is encouraging people to be more active, it needs to put in the same level of energy to make this a reality. Local authorities, PCTs and the other frontline organisations involved in delivering this programme must be given the resources and support they need to carry it out.”

VisitBritain to launch new £6.5m campaign

By Caroline Wilkinson

VisitBritain is launching a new £6.5m campaign that aims to attract more tourists who are seeking to capitalise on the weakened pound.

According to the tourism agency, the current state of sterling could result in up to five million more domestic holidays, as well as an increase in the number of international visitors coming to the UK.

Consequently, VisitBritain will launch a new domestic and foreign campaign, which aims to highlight deals from the industry and free access to national museums and galleries.

The scheme aims to prepare for the increase in domestic tourism...
Work starts on new Nottingham site

By Pete Rayman

The £6.44m Forest Fields leisure centre part of council bid to improve local facilities

Work has got underway on a new £6.44m leisure centre at Forest Fields, Nottingham, as part of the city council’s £18.5m Leisure Centre Transformation Programme to improve sports facilities.

The new centre, designed by Archial Architects, will be built by IGS Regions. It will be situated alongside the Djonjgy City Academy, replacing the existing Noel Street Leisure Centre.

The new £6.44m centre will replace an existing facility at Noel Street Leisure Centre, Nottingham City Council (NCC) will manage the centre, which will include a 25m swimming pool, a 50-station fitness suite, a multi-activity fitness studio, a sauna and a steamroom, as well as changing facilities.

Funding for the new leisure centre, which is scheduled to open in March 2010, is being provided by NCC, along with a £2.2m contribution from the Neighbourhood Development Company. The Noel Street Leisure Centre will remain open until the scheme is completed.

David Trimble, NCC’s portfolio holder for communities, leisure and culture, said: “This is an exciting new development in the council’s Leisure Transformation programme, which means that yet another community will be able to benefit from top class fitness facilities.

“The council’s continued investment in its leisure facilities supports our aim to inspire more people to be more active more often, which have improved facilities so far at John Carroll, Portland and Ken Martin Leisure Centres, where we have seen an increase in attendances.”

JJB in final stage of club offload

By Tom Walker

JJB Sports has entered the final stages of talks to sell off its fitness clubs business, although many analysts believe the deal could still fall short of the group’s original asking price.

The group’s share price soared earlier this month, 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 transac-

The clubs could be sold below the original asking price

Work gets underway on new Darwen leisure centre

By Helen Patanlll

The £6.44m Forest Fields leisure centre part of council bid to improve local facilities

Work has commenced on a new £12m leisure centre in Darwen, Lancashire, which will feature a 25m swimming pool with a moveable floor, a spectator seating and a fitness suite.

A health suite, a sports hall, a cafe and changing facilities, will also feature at the new centre, which is scheduled to open later this year.

Plans for the new facility, which will be built on the site of the town’s old leisure centre, were approved by Blackburn with Darwen Council last year. Sport England is contributing £400,000 to the project in order to fund the moveable floor, while the council make up the rest.

Bolton centre’s future to be reviewed

Council to consider closing the Excel Centre in light of plans for new £30m facility

Bolton Council is considering closing the town’s publicly-funded leisure centre as it prepares to develop a new £30m swimming facility. The project is part of a £300m regeneration scheme called Bolton Innovation.

The future of the Excel Centre at Bolton Community College — opened in 1996 — is being reviewed as the council intends to create a new leisure and academic facility in association with NHS Bolton and the University of Bolton.

The campus site on Manchester Road is to be sold to developers to fund the relocation of the college to a new site near Deane Road. The new £30m centre will replace an existing facility at Noel Street Leisure Centre, which is scheduled to open later this year.

The plans include the construction of a new £30m leisure centre

By Tom Walker

Private-owned golf club operator The Country Club Group (CCG), is redeveloping its golf-only offering to incorporate health and fitness.

CCG, which has invested £16m in acquiring five golf clubs in the UK over the past five years, joined forces with former CEO of The Club Company, Charlie Parker, following a strategic review of the business in 2007.

The country club in Cradleigh

The first two sites to have undergone the transformation are the Cranleigh Golf &

Country Club Group to introduce fitness offering

By Tom Walker

Country Club in Surrey and the Stingley Golf & Country Club in West Sussex, at a total cost of £7m.

Facilities at both clubs, which are set to open by July, will include a Matrix-equipped health club and gym, group exercise studios, tennis courts, an indoor pool, a health spa and a restaurant.

A similar redevelopment at Mill Ride Golf Club in Ascot, Berkshire, has a provisional opening date of mid-2010.

Colne Valley leisure centre reopens

The Colne Valley Leisure Centre in Kirkless, West Yorkshire, has reopened following a £1.8m revamp. Improvements at the centre include a new 50-station health club, upgraded changing rooms and refurbished dry-side swimming pool facilities. The development of the centre has been funded jointly by the local council and leisure trust.

Kirkless Council invested £1.8m, while Kirkless Active Leisure built and equipped the new fitness suite costing £500,000.

GLL preferred for Oxfordshire leisure

Greenwich Leisure (GLL) has announced that it will manage eight fitness facilities in South Oxfordshire on a five-year contract with the district council.

GLL will sub-contract the day-to-day running of the leisure centres to its local partner Nexus Community Leisure. In September 2008, not-for-profit leisure organisation Nexus — previously known as Wycombe Leisure — was taken off the shortlist to bid for management of a group of leisure facilities in Wycombe.

Cambourne leisure complex loses funding

A multi-million pound leisure centre planned for Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, is at risk after the banks withdrew funding as a result of the downturn. The project, which includes a gym and a swimming pool, is set to cost around £4m. David Chare, Cambourne Consortium project director, said the project will still go ahead, but may be delayed. He said: “Given the number of avenues we are exploring, I remain hopeful that we will be able to progress the development of superb sport facilities for Cambourne.”

Clay leisure centre set to close? — Fairwater Leisure Centre in Cwmbran, Wales, may close as part of a cost-cutting venture by Torfaen County Borough Council. The council’s regeneration overview and scrutiny committee has proposed making cutbacks in the county’s leisure provision by increasing fees, reducing staffing levels and closing the catering service at Fairwater. An external review of operations at the leisure facility will also be carried out by May, which could result in the closure of Fairwater.

Council to keep leisure facilities open — Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) has revealed new proposals to keep all of its leisure facilities open for at least a year while it carries out a full review of leisure provision within the area.

Seven options for the future of the borough’s leisure facilities were put forward by the council after Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT), which operates venues on behalf of RBC, asked for a 40 per cent increase in grant funding. The council will be asked to approve measures including the provision of £153,000 funding for RLT, as well as a transition fund worth more than £220,000.

Public centre closure in Worcestershire — A Worcestershire leisure centre is to close later this month as part of a council’s cost-cutting scheme, after making an annual loss of more than £100,000 for the past three years. Bromsgrove District Council is to withdraw funding for Haybridge Sports Centre in Hagley on 31 March. The council’s executive director, Phil Street, told Stourbridge News: “We have to make difficult decisions, and our budget is relatively limited. We have to use resources wisely.”
Apprentice scheme to fill funding gap
SkillsActive says initiative can help meet a £40m cash shortfall for elite athletes

By Pete Hayman

SkillsActive has urged all national governing bodies (NGBs) to help meet a £40m funding shortfall in UK Sport’s World Class Performance Programme by signing up to the Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE). Developed by SkillsActive in partnership with the Learning Skills Council, the scheme is designed to add to the limited resources available to NGBs to help develop young sporting talent who may otherwise be forced into seeking an alternative career. It is hoped that as many of the 2,500 athletes currently on the AASE programme will feature as part of Team GB in 2012, although nine athletes from the scheme also competed at the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics last summer, including double-gold medallist, Rebecca Adlington. David Sparkes, Amateur Swimming Association chief executive, said: “There’s been a talent pathway in swimming and diving, but there has been nothing like the AASE for synchronised swimming and water polo, so it is a unique opportunity for these sports.”

Beijing gold medallist Rebecca Adlington used the AASE scheme in 2012, although nine athletes from the scheme also competed at the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics last summer, including double-gold medallist, Rebecca Adlington. David Sparkes, Amateur Swimming Association chief executive, said: “There’s been a talent pathway in swimming and diving, but there has been nothing like the AASE for synchronised swimming and water polo, so it is a unique opportunity for these sports.”

New elite funding agreement unveiled
Organisations join forces to raise extra private-sector money for British athletes

By Pete Hayman

Organisations involved in supporting British elite sport, together with the organisers of the 2012 London Olympic Games, have joined forces to form a new private-sector fundraising partnership. A formal agreement was signed by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), the British Olympic Association, the British Paralympic Association and UK Sport to raise additional funds for elite sport. The ‘Team 2012’ concept was unveiled by culture secretary Andy Burnham, who will see a unique package of branding, access and events nights offered to sponsors in a bid to generate more cash for UK Sport’s World Class Performance Programme. It is hoped the new partnership will build on the existing Medal Hopes scheme, and will provide extra revenue in addition to the £55m public sector investment leading up to the 2012 Games.

The partnership looks to build on the Medal Hopes initiative
Burnham said: “This scheme builds on the work of the Medal Hopes initiative and will ensure that private investment gives additional financial muscle to our Olympic and Paralympic athletes to help their preparations for 2012 and beyond.”

£15m Sandwell designs unveiled
Plans for the centre include group exercise and dance studio

By Luke Tuchscherer

Plans for a £15m sport and leisure centre in Sandwell, in the West Midlands, have been put on public display. The 3D plans show Sandwell Metropolitan District Council’s ideas for the project, which include a sports hall, a hydrotherapy pool, a gym and weight area, a dance studio, a climbing wall and floodlit five-a-side pitches.

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Burnham said: “This scheme builds on the work of the Medal Hopes initiative and will ensure that private investment gives additional financial muscle to our Olympic and Paralympic athletes to help their preparations for 2012 and beyond.”
The sport sector employs an estimated 371,000 people across the UK and accounts for 61 per cent of the sport and active leisure workforce. Over 8.8 million adults currently participate in sport each week in England – which is around 21 per cent of the population. The growth in employment in the sport sector has increased at a greater rate than that of the economy as a whole since 2004 – 6 per cent compared to 1 per cent across all industries.

The ambition

Culture secretary Andy Burnham talks about a golden age for sport in this country, and in many ways he’s right. The staging of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London offers a unique opportunity to the sector. It has focused the spotlight on the capacity of the sector to deliver in terms of a successful event, and a sustainable legacy for sport, while also contributing to the broader legacy through using sport and the inspiration of the Games. However, the number one aim for London 2012 is to ensure that Team GB equals its Beijing 2008 success by finishing fourth in the Olympic and second in the Paralympic medal tables respectively. This is clearly highly ambitious, and if we are going to have any realistic chance of achieving these aims, then a skilled workforce is essential. SkillActive has worked with national governing bodies of sport since obtaining its Government licence in 2004 and helped them to consider workforce issues across the whole range of individuals that assist in delivering the NGB plans, including developing their own paid staff and the millions of volunteers that support the delivery of sport across the country.

Working in partnership

Last year Sport England announced that it will invest £480m across 46 national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) over the next four years to support the development of quality coaches, officials, volunteers and clubs. This investment was based on the strength of the NGBs’ individual plans and has quickly become my most precious pastime. Hockey has had a big impact on me and has quickly become my most precious pastime, to the extent that it can make a big difference.

The workforce infrastructure

County sport partnerships (CSPs) have a coordinating role in the regions pulling together key partners across the sector. Working on behalf of national governing bodies of sport, they are closely linked with schools, local authorities and other organisations in the private and voluntary sectors. Being in this unique position, CSPs need an in-depth knowledge of the sport and physical activity workforce, where the skills gaps are, and areas in which to invest and develop. SkillActive has worked with CSPs across England to develop workforce development plans that look at the current skills levels of both paid staff and volunteers. The aim of the plans is to address the training needs and improve the skills of those involved in the organisation and delivery of sport and ultimately meet Sport England’s aims.

“We’re confident that the investment we’re making in the workforce will improve the infrastructure of sport in the county, resulting in not only an increase in participation, but also an improvement in levels of performance and a safe environment for our young people to be physically active.”

Ben Jones, Active Norfolk.

The role of coordinating partnerships at a strategic level for skills in sport is managed by the SkillActive Professional Development Board (PDB). The board is made up of representatives from a cross section of sports organisations, including national governing bodies of sport, home country sports councils, UK Sport, sports coach UK, Sports Officials UK, Youth Sport Trust, the IOG (Institute of Groundsmanship) and ISPAL (the Institute for Sport Parks and Leisure). The Board focuses SkillActive’s priorities on behalf of the sports sector and is taking the lead on the development of national standards, investigating the endorsement of qualifications and training for the sector and working with key agencies and the government to find funding solutions for the sector.

“The frustrations that employees often feel about the sport sector is usually down to either not knowing the worth of individuals qualifications or not knowing where to get training and how to access funding for it. The PDB aims to solve these issues simply by giving credibility to the training that is on offer using a robust endorsement process, linked to standards and working with our partners to create simple funding solutions.”

Nick Gibbs, chair, Professional Development Board.

Partnership in action

Over the past two years, working in partnership with NGBs, Sport England, sports coach UK and the Learning and Skills Council, SkillActive has developed a bursary model to increase the number of coaches across sport in several English regions. It has levered in excess of £3m regionally and nationally to develop a coaching bursary model that supports the training of coaches from Levels 1 to 4. The South West pioneered the bursary back in 2007 and has seen over 1,300 coaches benefit from subsidised qualifications.

“I’ve always hoped to attain a higher level of achievement and the bursary has helped to make this possible. Hockey has had a big impact on me and has quickly become my most precious pastime!”

James Harding achieved his first hockey coaching qualification.

Did you know?
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Celebrating success

Working with the sports sector

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The programme is open to anyone involved working within boxing and rugby league. It offers information, advice and guidance on language and numeracy supporting players, volunteers and staff at the clubs. The Conversion to Learning programme offers information, advice and guidance on learning and skills needs in Yorkshire. The programme works with rugby league and boxing clubs from grassroots to professional level, across the region to provide learning opportunities in literacy, language and numeracy supporting players, volunteers and staff at the clubs.

The Conversion to Learning programme was developed to address basic skills needs in Yorkshire. The programme focused on 13 sports: swimming, rugby league, rugby union, cricket, football, cycling, netball, athletics, table tennis, kayaking, hockey, basketball and squash, which had all identified a lack of progression by women to achieve a Level 2 or 3 sports coaching qualification. The programme raised the profile of female coaches in the region, providing role models and increased participation in sport. “The Football Association fully supports the Women into Higher Level Coaching programme in the North West. Such has been the success of the programme that we are liaising with a variety of external funding agencies to ensure it can be extended over a longer term.”

Mark Hardcastle, regional football development manager, the Football Association.

“Over the past five years SkillsActive has worked with NGBs to assist with the development of their workforce across both paid and voluntary staff. As a direct result we have developed solutions such as the activepassport, and brokered over £30m funding from outside the sector to establish a coaching bursary model, directly fund the AASE programme and meet local needs for NGBs. Our role is simple; we need to make sure that we want to do to provide a better support structure for our young athletes.”

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The sports sector is very much building on the opportunity that the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games is bringing, and SkillsActive is using the Games as a catalyst for change across the sporting workforce landscape. It has developed an offer to national governing bodies of sport that is based on NGBs prioritising their workforce development needs, and SkillsActive brokering the solutions to meet those needs.

“SkillsActive across the whole workforce; however the programme really hit the ground; however the programme really hit the ground when we come back from the Beijing Olympics with two gold medals. This success has attracted more Olympic and Paralympic sports to engage with the apprenticeship and start to embed the programme in their current structures. There are two of 12 sports in England with the AASE as part of their academy setup, with additional sports starting in September. It is SkillsActive’s vision for all Olympic and Paralympic sports to engage with the AASE programme over the next 18 months.”

Mark Reynolds, founder, Rawthorpe Amateur Boxing Club.

More than 1,500 members of rugby league and boxing clubs in the region have access to learning and training opportunities through the programme, and 25 clubs have developed workplace learning areas for staff and volunteers through setting up a dedicated area within the club and providing laptops and ICT support. Rawthorpe Amateur Boxing Club use funding from the initiative to draft in tutors from Huddersfield Technology College to help fill the gaps in people’s skills. The gym has also acquired computers and software and provides pathways to employment through IT and internet provision. Advice from trained learning representatives based at the club is also available.

“The environment here inspires young people to learn by providing a one stop shop not only for their boxing and fitness training but also for their educational needs too. A lot of young people are disengaged with the school environment and we provide them with something different which motivates and inspires them. We provide free access for all corners of the community from young offenders through to older members of staff. It means that these people are getting fit and healthy whilst also developing their learning and education as well.”

Mark Reynolds, founder, Rawthorpe Amateur Boxing Club.

SkillsActive, working in partnership with a number of national governing bodies of sport and GreaterSport in the North West, developed a high level coaching initiative aimed at the regions female coaches and aspiring coaches. The Women into Higher Level Coaching programme attracted over 150 women to progress into sports coaching and leadership as a higher level coach and gain employment within the sports sector.

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“We are looking for assistance in identifying where the skills gaps are and are hoping that activepassport will help us to achieve these aims.”

Piers Martin, chief executive, British Fencing.

The programme focused on 13 sports: swimming, rugby league, rugby union, cricket, football, cycling, netball, athletics, table tennis, kayaking, hockey, basketball and squash, which had all identified a lack of progression by women to achieve a Level 2 or 3 sports coaching qualification. The programme raised the profile of female coaches in the region, providing role models and increased participation in sport. “The Football Association fully supports the Women into Higher Level Coaching programme in the North West. Such has been the success of the programme that we are liaising with a variety of external funding agencies to ensure it can be extended over a longer term.”

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The programme focused on 13 sports: swimming, rugby league, rugby union, cricket, football, cycling, netball, athletics, table tennis, kayaking, hockey, basketball and squash, which had all identified a lack of progression by women to achieve a Level 2 or 3 sports coaching qualification. The programme raised the profile of female coaches in the region, providing role models and increased participation in sport. “The Football Association fully supports the Women into Higher Level Coaching programme in the North West. Such has been the success of the programme that we are liaising with a variety of external funding agencies to ensure it can be extended over a longer term.”

Mark Hardcastle, regional football development manager, the Football Association.

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Aberdeen, Knutsford, the City of
IRC, which operates 34 eateries
of the River Thames in Battersea,
openings from existing funds
company said it expected profits
M&B has
M&C’s branding.
without the need to borrow more.
new sites
in 2009
new sites
Pub and restaurant group
and KPMG, the Peach Business
leading operators – including
Peach Factory and collects
newly-launched Peach Business
Promo deals lift restaurant revenues
Leading hospitality chains bucking the trend with nationwide 2-for-1 campaigns
By Pete Rayman
New research has revealed that
an indicator of how the eating
and drinking out-of-home
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Butlers, Spirit Group, Gondola,
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Darwin’s house reopens with new attractions

Charles Darwin spent most of his life, has added a new interactive tour and a permanent exhibition. The interactive tour, narrated by Sir David Attenborough and Andrew Marr, aims to bring Darwin’s daily life at the rural house into the present day by offering guests an insight into Darwin’s work. Meanwhile, the £1m permanent exhibition, called Discovering Origins, combines rare original material — such as tools used by Darwin — with multimedia displays. It was designed by UK-based Designmap and MMM Props.

Plans for Chichester museum approved

Chichester District Council, West Sussex, has approved detailed plans for a controversial £6.9m museum and residential development to be built on what is currently a car park containing remains of the Roman baths. Created by Keith Williams Architects, the project has taken 19 months to design due to the sensitive nature of the conservation area. When recovered, remains from the city of Noviomagus Regni will form a permanent exhibit at the 1,300sq ft (33.99sq m) museum, to be called The Tower Street Museum.

Glass Museum in Dudley faces closure

Dudley Council’s latest round of cost-cutting measures could force the closure of the Grade II Listed Broadfield House Glass Museum in Stourbridge, West Midlands. A feasibility study is to be carried out to help evaluate whether it would be practical to transfer the museum’s collections and services to the town’s Red House Glass Cone site.

Council approves Mary Rose museum

By Tom Walker

Proposals to build a £35m museum at the site of the 16th century Mary Rose warship in Portsmouth’s Historic Dockyard have been met with approval by the city council. The permanent museum — designed by architects Wilkinson Eyre and interior designers Pringle Brandon — will house the ship within a structure akin to a black, wooden, jewellery box.

Almost 70 per cent of the artefacts (19,000) recovered from the Tudor warship, when it was raised from the Solent in 1982, will be on show in the new museum instead of the mere six per cent currently displayed in a nearby temporary exhibition. Now that the Mary Rose Trust has secured planning permission, and has raised half of the £14m shortfall required to fund the project, it can move forward to the second phase, which will see a more extensive development application submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund to secure £21m earmarked for the new museum in January 2008. The Trust’s CEO, John Lippett, said: “We now have a real milestone in the project and taken another step in the fascinating journey of the Mary Rose. “We can now submit our stage two application with real confidence. We have the planning approval; we have demonstrated considerable success in raising half the money required and are buoyant that we can raise the remainder.”

Monument reunites to the public

By Pete Hayman

The Monument, a memorial built to commemorate the Great Fire of London in 1666, has reopened to the public following a £4.5m restoration project lasting 18 months. A new viewing platform, balustrade and cage have been installed at the 265ft (80m) high structure as part of the scheme, as well as improved lighting and new telescopes. Work has also been carried out to clean the stone and to repair the architectural sculptures, while the iconic golden orb at the top of the landmark has been regilded. Situated at the junction of Monument Street and Fish Street Hill in the centre of London, the Monument was built between 1667 and 1677, and is the tallest isolated stone column in the world. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren and the city surveyor, Robert Hooke, the Monument’s height is the distance between the structure and Pudding Lane, where the 1666 fire is believed to have started.

Construction of the new museum is set to begin in September half of the £14m shortfall required to fund the project, it can now move forward to the second phase, which will see a more extensive development application submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund to secure £21m earmarked for the new museum in January 2008. The Trust’s CEO, John Lippett, said: “We have reached a real milestone in the project and taken another step in the fascinating journey of the Mary Rose. “We can now submit our stage two application with real confidence. We have the planning approval; we have demonstrated considerable success in raising half the money required and are buoyant that we can raise the remainder.”

New coaster for Flamingo Land

Flamingo Land in Malton, North Yorkshire, UK is to open a record-breaking new rollercoaster in July 2009. The £4m Mumbo Jumbo ride features a drop – from a high point of 30m – of 112 degrees, which will make it the world’s steepest rollercoaster. Designed by Utah-based S&S Power, the ride will inflict 4Gs on its passengers. Flamingo Land’s owner, Gordon Gibb, said: “It is exciting for a relatively small family business like Flamingo Land to be punching well above its weight. The manufacturer is legendary within the industry and Mumbo Jumbo looks set to become a national icon.”

The council’s executive member for recreation, heritage and communities, Pete Hayman, said: “These organisations are a vital part of the County’s art infrastructure. The decision to grant such a large amount of money underpins Hampshire County Council’s commitment to providing a rich cultural service to all of its residents. “By providing this funding we can help independent organisations survive in a competitive market, providing a service that is affordable and accessible to everyone, young and old.”

Hampshire arts organisations get a funding boost

By Caroline Wilkinson

I/ Hampshire County Council is giving a number of local independent arts organisations a cash injection totalling £781,415, in a bid to promote arts activity. Local organisations include the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) (£133,000), Havant Arts Centre (£107,625), Theatre Royal in Winchester (£109,170) and Anvil Arts in Basingstoke (£91,225).

Leverpool council considers an increase in arts grants

Liverpool City Council (LCC) is deciding whether to increase the number of arts organisations that receive annual funding following a four-month bidding and consultation process. A report to the council’s executive board has recommended that annual grants worth £7.3m be provided to 33 arts bodies over the next two years — a 25 per increase on the previous three-year programme. A total of 67 organisations have been granted funding, although nearly 90 arts bodies were initially due to lose funding and is expected to be worth almost £30m to the region’s economy. This year’s programme, curated by Culture10, has been designed to allow local people and visitors to celebrate the region’s landscape and heritage. Events — such as the opening of the £26m Great North Museum in Hancock — are estimated to attract one million visitors.

"Outrage" over Titian purchase

By Pete Hayman

Scarborough Borough Council (SBC) has approved in principle proposals to take liability for the redevelopment of the resort’s open air theatre to ensure the scheme goes ahead despite the downturn. The re-opening of the theatre is currently included in a development agreement with Benchmark Leisure, which was appointed by the council in December 2002, to transform 55 acres (22.3 hectares) of land in the town’s North Bay area into a major tourist destination. Funding for the open air theatre scheme had been expected to come from the sale of residential units at The Sands development, but the recent decrease in property values now means that Benchmark is currently unable to meet all of the costs involved.

As a result, the council will now look to secure a £3.5m loan in order to progress the scheme itself, and will also seek to appoint an operator for the venue. It is hoped that construction work can begin in September, with the theatre ready to open in Easter 2010. The council said that Benchmark is not being forced to withdraw from the scheme.

Open air theatre plans get green light

By Pete Hayman

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Backiing for waterways clean-up scheme

Best-selling author lends support to British Waterways’ Towpath Tidy 2009

By Pete Rayman

Bill Bryson, author and president of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), has backed a British Waterways scheme to tackle the problem of litter along rivers and canals across the country.

British Waterways’ Towpath Tidy 2009 campaign will feature locally co-ordinated attempts to clean-up targeted stretches of more than 2,000 miles (3,219km) of waterways between 26-29 March ahead of the main summer boating season.

CPRE is backing the initiative as part of its Stop the Drop campaign, involving its local branches and other litter-picking groups. Bryson said: “Britain’s waterways are of vital importance, providing everyone with the opportunity to experience their cities and towns and countryside from a tranquil perspective. “It’s a disgrace that some people choose to treat their waterways as an open litter bin or as a place to dump their discarded waste.” The news comes as BW also agreed a deal with The Small Hydro Company to generate 210,000 megawatt hours of renewable energy each year by developing 25 small-scale schemes across the waterways network. It is hoped that the £120m scheme will save an annual 110,000 tonnes in carbon dioxide emissions.

First stage of Sheffield park refurbishment starts

By Pete Rayman

Work has started on the first phase of a scheme to build new leisure facilities at a park in Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Amenities including a mini-football pitch, a BMX track and new paths will be created at the Foxhill Park, formerly known as Foxhill Rec, as part of a masterplan drawn up by Sheffield City Council (SCC). It follows the council’s extensive public consultation with local residents last year. Drainage and access improvements will also be made as part of the first phase of work, while the second stage is expected to be carried out later this year and will include the development of a new play area, a multi-use games area and the planting of trees and shrubs.

Funding plea for Dundee’s waterfront project

By Pete Rayman

The Scottish Government has been called upon to help provide funding for the creation of a new landmark building on Dundee’s waterfront that could house a proposed Victoria and Albert Museum.

Last week, Dundee City Council was awarded £33m by Scottish Enterprise – part of a £70m package – towards a project that aims to reconnect Dundee city centre with the River Tay through a series of projects, including the creation of new public spaces.

Barnstaple leisure centre proposals abandoned

After a report deemed the scheme too expensive, a structural survey of the North Devon Leisure Centre in Barnstaple has been dumped. North Devon Council took the decision to abandon the proposals – to demolish the North Devon Leisure Centre and transfer the facilities to the new site – after a report deemed the scheme too expensive.

The city’s waterfront will be redeveloped

Plans include a 151-room Ramada hotel bars as well as 2,745m² (24,470sq ft) of retail space.

Alfred McAlpine and New World Leisure have been appointed to develop and operate the hotels as a joint venture. Phase one is due to open during 2010.

The initiative aims to clear more than 2,000 miles of waterways

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If you feel you are able to provide a solution to the above, please forward outline information to the City Council Procurement Unit, details below. Your response at this stage should be no more that a maximum of 2 A4 pages including a very brief outline of the services you can provide under the above and any other headings you feel are appropriate.

No costs should be submitted as part of the Expression of Interest. Should the Authority proceed to commission a contract then a full, competitive procurement process will be undertaken. Your Expression of Interest should be marked reference QH9300 and sent to: Liverpool City Council, Procurement Unit, Venture Place, Sir Thomas Street, Liverpool L1 8BW

You may also email your response to alan.brown@liverpool.gov.uk All expressions must be received no later than 10.00am Tuesday 14th April 2009.

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- Plymouth Pool - 25m indoor pool, Tinside Lido – outdoor pool on the seashore, Mount Wise Pool – outdoor pools, Marazion – all weather football pitch and Central Park Leisure Pool – 33.3m indoor pool and learner pool, and in the Autumn of 2011, the new Life Centre scheme - £46.5m new build with a mixture of dry and wet facilities which includes, 50m x 25m pool (2 moveable floors), 25m x 15.5m and learner pool, and in the Autumn of 2011, the new Life Centre scheme - £46.5m new build with a mixture of dry and wet facilities which includes, 50m x 25m pool (2 moveable floors), 25m x 15.5m diving tank (with moveable floor), family leisure pool, indoor climbing zone, 12 court sports hall and ancillary facilities.

Plymouth City Council

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Ben Jones 0117 917 2022 ben.jones@colliersre.co.uk
Rhian Anstey 0117 917 2054 rhian.anstey@colliersre.co.uk

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Take the fast track to a life in leisure

With the job market becoming more competitive due to the downturn, the prospect of entering the leisure industry, and employment in general, might seem more daunting than usual. But don’t worry! There are many opportunities, roles and entry routes into a career in leisure. Preparing for one, however, shouldn’t start when your university life seems more daunting than usual.

Get a healthy start

It is a good time to enter the sport and active leisure industry. The preparation of an Olympic legacy is well underway and the government is implementing strategies to improve the nation’s lifestyles. There is a wealth of opportunities and roles available for those wanting to get started. UK Sport’s one-year Fast-Track Practitioner Programme aims to assist the training and development of young applied sport science and medicine practitioners at the early stages of their careers.

The accelerated development opportunity equips individuals with the skills, knowledge and experiences needed to operate as practitioners within high-performance sport. According to Sarah Cravers, UK Sport’s sport science/sport medicine coordinator: “Applicants for the intern positions need to have appropriate degree level qualification, plus relevant experience in providing support services to high performance teams or athletes. This often means successful applicants have got a masters degree, although we don’t rule out undergraduates.” Last year, the scheme had more than 750 applicants for just 13 positions. Due to the new Olympiad, the scheme is now being reviewed to ensure it’s best positioned to have the optimum benefit on high performance leading up to 2012 and beyond. Cravers, therefore, recommends applicants regularly check the UK Sport website (uksport.gov.uk) for upcoming opportunities.

Leisure centre operators Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) and Fusion Lifestyle are two companies who provide placements. “The applicants tend to move into an assistant service manager’s position at a leisure centre or a managerial position within marketing,” said James Craig, GLL HR officer. “The scheme offers the chance to sample a broad range of positions within the sector, and you are given ongoing support via a senior manager mentor, a line manager and a year two graduate ‘buddy’.”

Fast-track and graduate training schemes could get you into that higher-level position while getting paid. The schemes are based on providing trainees with rounded, broad, career-specific experience within a company and often results in a permanent position.

Get an education

Although a relevant degree is beneficial for most roles within the leisure industry, a higher education qualification is not absolutely necessary. However, a recent Bristol University study concluded that graduates’ starting salaries are 11% higher than those without a degree after three years. This is a great opportunity for those wishing to get into the leisure industry.

Is there any hope for graduates looking to find full-time employment in these turbulent times? Caroline Wilkinson looks at the different ways you can put your hard-earned qualifications to good use when looking for that all-important first job.
Where do you work and what is your position?

I work for Fusion as the general manager of a wet and dry facility in Lamberwell, London.

What does your day-to-day role include?

My day-to-day duties include putting the customer first, ensuring the smooth day-to-day operations of the centre, managing sales, controlling income and expenditure, managing the staff, liaising with third parties and users of the centre, maintaining high standards of service and generating new business.

What attracted you to the leisure industry?

I have always had a big interest in sport and leisure, particularly gymnastics and athletics. I was a competitive athlete between eight and 16 years-old, and I then decided to pursue my interest in coaching and became a gymnastics coach at my local club in Sheffield.

How easy was it to find a job?

It was fairly difficult to find a sports related job that offered the career progression I was looking for. Although I had an excellent academic background, I didn’t have a lot of industry experience. The graduate management scheme was therefore perfect for me. I was exactly what Fusion were looking for and vice versa.

What are the best aspects of working in the leisure industry?

The buzz of a busy leisure centre where people are enjoying themselves and keeping fit.

And the worst?

Sometimes the hours can be very long.

What advice would you have for graduates looking to get into the industry?

Try to gain some industry experience, whether it be coaching, voluntary work etc as it will look favourable to employers.

CASE STUDY 2: Ruth Copley

What University course did you take?

I completed a BSc Honours degree in Chemistry and Sports Science in 2003 and a MSc in Sports Science in 2004 at Loughborough University.

Where do you currently work and what is your position?

I am a Talent Identification Scientist for the English Institute of Sport (EIS). With the London 2012 Olympics just around the corner, my role aims to provide additional fast track opportunities and development pathways for Great Britain’s sporting talent.

What does your day-to-day role include?

The primary focus of my role as a Talent Identification scientist is to plan, develop and implement World Class Talent Recruitment, Confirmation and Development programmes. One of the goals of this work is to creatively detect and nurture future Olympic medalists. My current work involves working on several key projects across different sports including the talent ID programmes UK Athletics and UKCC.

Working closely with sports coaching and sport science staff my day-to-day role involves a number of different tasks such as gap-to-podium analyses, performance prediction models, talent identification and talent recruitment campaigns, athlete assessment events, longitudinally benchmarking and tracking athletes through the talent confirmation and development phases.

What attracted you to the leisure industry?

Having a role which can have a positive impact on Great Britain’s medal tally was a key driver for me to work in performance sport. Working as a Talent ID Practitioner is an exciting position as you are involved in the whole process with athletes and coaches.

Did you enter the leisure industry straight from University?

I got into my current role following a successful psychology internship on the UK Sport Fast-Track Practitioner Programme.

How easy was it to find a job?

Having built up some experience and then getting onto the Fast Track Practitioner Programme I was better placed to then get a position at the EIS.

How well did your course prepare you for a career in leisure?

My background in psychology are regularly put to good use. However, my role is multidisciplinary in nature so I’ve learned to work within a range of experts in different fields.

What advice would you have for graduates looking to get into the industry?

I think for anyone wanting to work as an applied practitioner, getting a great deal of experience is particularly important. Volunteering is often a key way to get some experience and although it isn’t easy to always get experience with top level coaches and squads, if you are persistent and proactive you can usually find someone willing to give you a chance. There are usually lots of opportunities to get involved with either universitysquads to local sports teams. Secondly, it is key to develop a network of contacts. These can be really important as you will often know about job opportunities within the industry and other work experience opportunities.

CASE STUDY 3: Natalie Dunman

What University course did you take?

I completed a BSc Honours degree in English Literature and American Studies at the University of Northampton.

Where do you currently work?

I am a Talent Identification Scientist for the English Institute of Sport (EIS). With the London 2012 Olympics just around the corner, my role aims to provide additional fast track opportunities and development pathways for Great Britain’s sporting talent.

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Case Study 4: Chris Rockall

What University course did you take?

I took a combined honours degree in Sport and Health Studies at the University of Northampton.

Where do you currently work?

I am a Talent Identification Scientist for the English Institute of Sport (EIS). With the London 2012 Olympics just around the corner, my role aims to provide additional fast track opportunities and development pathways for Great Britain’s sporting talent.

What does your day-to-day role include?

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Will domestic visits increase?

Can the economic downturn really help domestic tourism?

KURT JAHNSON is policy director of the Tourism Alliance

The perceived wisdom is that 2009 will be a reasonable year for the UK domestic tourism industry, as the weakness of the euro and the uncertainty relating to employment will lead to more people taking their holidays in the UK rather than going overseas.

While the domestic tourism figures for 2008 are yet to be finalised, it is interesting to note that the annual figures to November show no real change in the long-term trend of slow decline in the overall level of domestic tourism. The number of holiday trips is down 3 per cent and the number of bednights is down 5 per cent from the previous year.

Indeed, there is some evidence that this slow decline is picking up pace, with visitor numbers falling for the last six months to November. Visitor numbers for November alone were down by 25 per cent.

While domestic tourism tends to fluctuate significantly on a monthly basis, meaning that one should not read too much into the November result, it is worth noting that this is the biggest monthly downturn since the new methodology for determining domestic tourism was introduced in 2005. It is also worth noting that this is the trend.

Mid Wales tourism "missing out"

Conservatives claim Welsh Assembly’s SIF scheme is unbalanced

By Pete Rayman

Tourism businesses in mid Wales are failing to receive a fair share of Welsh Assembly Government investment, according to Nick Bourne, leader of the Welsh Conservatives.

Bourne claims that just £84,000 has been offered to the region’s tourism industry since April 2008 under the Welsh Assembly Government’s Single Investment Fund (SIF). Meanwhile, pubs, restaurants, guest houses and hotels in other Welsh regions have received a share of almost £3m during the same period, with North Wales businesses receiving more than six times more than mid Wales.

However, the figure includes grants made under a previous scheme, including Section 4 Tourism Grants, which continued to be offered until the end of June 2008. A further 18 tourism-related SIF applications worth £4.3m are currently being appraised.

Mid Wales attractions could be losing out

Bourne said: “The fact that the mid Wales economy is heavily reliant on tourism seems to have escaped the Assembly government. I am astonished ministers have given so little to the region to improve its tourism industry and attract even more visitors.”

UK inbound tourism suffers recession blues

By Tom Walker

The UK experienced a drop in foreign visitors last year as the effects of the global economic downturn became more apparent, according to new figures.

The International Passenger Survey, published by Office for National Statistics, revealed that visitor numbers worsened as the recession settled in.

In the first three months to 31 December last year, figures fell to 7.01 million visits – 12 per cent below 2007’s numbers. Total spend fell 1 per cent to £2.88bn.

The number of visitors and the amount of money they spend in the UK has fallen

South Gloucestershire Leisure (SGL) has entered into a partnership with SkillsActive to deliver an apprenticeship programme to its leisure operations staff.

Earlier this year, 20 apprentices began training for Levels 2 and 3 apprentice ships. The training will be delivered over a two-year period by Chartstage.

Filton College’s re-gaged training team is also backing SGL’s training programme, and is involved with creating tailor-made solutions for other areas of the business, which include catering and marketing, as well as management development.

SGL chief executive Mark Crutchley said: “To invest in our staff with this scheme is an incredibly positive prospect and will only add to our commitment to improve services for our customers.”

SGL unveils staff apprenticeships

Putting yourself ahead of the competition

Competing against your peers could open up a new career path within the industry

Mary Hensworth is project manager at Springboard Inverness & East Highlands. Leisure Opportunities is the official recruitment magazine for Springboard UK

Why do people join our wonderful industry? Could it be because of an inspirational teacher, influence from parents, peer pressure, or even by accident?

Whatever the reason, most people do not make a conscious decision to join what can be a dynamic and fun place to work but, once employed, quickly come to realise that the opportunities are there for anyone not afraid of hard work. There are many entry routes to the industry, including college, work experience and holiday jobs, but not everyone would consider starting their career by entering a competition.

This month sees the culmination of six months hard work by young people who could be the next generation of industry chefs.

Competition is not a usual entry route into hospitality but these young people entered FutureChef to ‘have a go’.

Some had never cooked before and some may never do so again; it’s just not their thing. However, for those who like a challenge, competitions offer endless opportunities and scope to develop skills and creativity, share best practice and network with your peers.

Competing against your colleagues leaves no time for star gazing. The objective is to win and, in the process, to subliminally learn something; not just about your craft, but also about yourself. As on-the-job training goes, it’s hard to beat the adrenaline rush of a competition.

Mentoring plays a large and important part for those involved in competition. Young people entering the industry, if matched with a suitable mentor, have been proven to thrive. Competitions provide the enthusiasm for those who have years of experience and skills to share and guide people just starting out and in doing so, to re-evaluate their own objectives and learn something new from the people they mentor.

Springboard supports competition within the hospitality, travel, tourism and leisure industry. It’s a great way of recognising young exceptional talent, sharing and improving skills and developing the next generation of rising stars.

It doesn’t matter how you enter the industry. What’s really important is holding onto the enthusiasm that makes you go to work every day. If that means entering a competition every now and then, well why not? You might just win!
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Chronic Respiratory Disease Exercise Instructor Course

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

Developed by Loughborough College, the University Hospitals of Leicester and the British Lung Foundation (BLF), with funding and input from Rotherham PCT, the course has been submitted for endorsement at level 3 on the Register of Exercise Professionals. It covers:

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

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

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

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

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

Loughborough College
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
Rotherham Primary Care Trust

e: exexercise@blf-uk.org
t: 020 7688 5618
w: www.lunguk.org

British Lung Foundation

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The Moulton Academies make full use of the excellent indoor and outdoor playing and training facilities, experienced coaching staff and strong academic teaching departments at the college.

Past Students have become professional and semi-professional players at home and abroad, scholarships in the USA and a range of degree study and industry related employment in the UK.

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ARTS & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Ref: COM/131/08  £24,331 – £25,940
To promote health, well being and independence for adults with Learning Disabilities, we’ll look to you to modernise Adult Day Services. This will be achieved by increasing participation in local activities, increasing take up of council Leisures, Culture & Heritage services and developing opportunities for learning for Adult Day Services users. Ideally with a background in leisure, culture or learning, and an understanding of working within an Adult Day Services setting, partnership working, training and promotion of activities are key to the success of the role.

ORB clearance will be required for the above post. These posts are subject to job evaluation.
Closing Date: Monday 6 April 2009.
Application forms and further details are available from: www.warrington.gov.uk/jobs
Tel: 01925 442040 (24 hr).
Please quote reference number.

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To apply, please visit the ‘Current Vacancies’ page of our website (‘About us/Recruitment’) where you will be able to download an application pack. Alternatively, please email personnel3@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk or write to the HR Department, The Royal Parks, The Old Police House, Hyde Park, London W2 2UH, quoting ref DMPME1.
Completed application forms must be received by 3rd April 2009.
This is your space. www.royalparks.org.uk

SPORT & LEISURE / EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Northamptonshire Sport
£46,471 – £51,947 pa
Ref: 24267
John Dryden House, Northampton
Fixed term contract for 2 years (with 3rd year in principle)
The County Sports Partnership is looking to appoint an exceptional leader to drive forward the development of sport in Northamptonshire. You will provide vision, ambition and real get-up-and-go as the Partnership positions itself to deliver a level of sporting opportunity that will make Northamptonshire the place to live for a great quality of life.

You will have:
• Evidence of leadership skills
• Ability to deliver multi-agency strategies
• Significant management and fundraising experience
• Extensive knowledge of sports development
• Substantial track record in successful partnership working
• Business acumen, flair, a desire to transform and be qualified to degree standard or equivalent.
The Northamptonshire Partnership is a forward thinking, innovative and successful organisation that has gained great credibility from its achievements to date. Significant change at a regional and national level within the sports sector will require you to effectively position the Partnership to bring about the greatest benefit for sport in Northamptonshire, a county that will see considerable population growth over the next twenty years.

For an informal discussion please contact Sue Grace on 01604 227590.
For additional information about these roles and to apply online or download an application pack, please go to www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/jobs
If you require an application pack in an alternative format, please contact 01604 227566.
Closing date: 12 noon on 2 April 2009.

SPORTS MANAGEMENT
For managers and policy makers in the sports market who want to keep ahead of the game
From overseeing H&S regulations and monitoring contract staff, to reviewing our operational plan and conducting PR initiatives, no two days will be the same. That’s why, on top of a sound understanding of playgrounds and H&S legislation, you’ll need superb negotiation and customer service skills. Report-writing abilities and supervisory experience in a public leisure environment are vital.

Expect regular weekend and evening work. An enhanced CRB check will be made before the appointment can be confirmed.

Manager – Diana, Princess of Wales’ Memorial Playground
20 hours per week rising to 40 hours in peak season
£23,920 – £28,900 (pro rata)
Kensington Gardens, London
A magnificent pirate ship in a sea of sand. A giant swing. A turtle drum. An enchanting tree carving. No wonder this high profile destination attracts 750,000 children a year, as well as other play providers and international media. In this unique role, you’ll ensure everything on offer to them is 100% shipshape.

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Expect regular weekend and evening work. An enhanced CRB check will be made before the appointment can be confirmed.
**Executive Manager**  
**Salary £34,637 to £39,669**  
(Entertainments and Conferences)

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for a creative and innovative individual to manage and develop the renowned Scarborough Spa, Whitby Pavilion and Filey Event Centre facilities.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day management of the venues, the development of marketing and sales plans to maximise business opportunities, the sourcing and programming of entertainment and events as well as the expansion of current conferencing meeting and incentive business. The ideal candidate will have had extensive experience in Venue Management with commercial insight and expert management and organisational skills. Good financial acumen is also required as well as excellent sales and negotiation skills.

**Closing Date:** 8 April 2009  
**INTERVIEW DATE:** 17 April 2009

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**Catering & Functions Manager**  
**Salary £29,694 to £37,999**

The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall management of the Scarborough Spa and Whitby Pavilion catering and licence functions; the development and implementation of effective marketing and sales plans, the sourcing of quality cost effective produce, and the delivery of innovative creative catering menus in concert with the delivery of high quality customer service.

The ideal candidate will have had extensive knowledge and experience in catering provision and managing services at operational and strategic levels.

**Closing Date:** 8 April 2009  
**INTERVIEW DATE:** 21 April 2009

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**Vacancy details are also available from www.scarborough.gov.uk and Enquiries should be made to Customer First, telephone 01723 232323, e-mail provision and managing services at operational and strategic levels.**

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**Duty Officer**  
**Salary £20,212 - £26,411 per annum**

Based at Woking Leisure Centre and Pool in the Park our Duty Officers demonstrate that service delivery, and our customers are at the heart of our leisure experience. Our Duty Officers will go that extra mile to ensure that customers’ return time after time and staff are content and happy.

You will be empowering to make key decisions and be responsible for the day to day running of buildings, all programmes, and staff. You will ensure that high service standards are maintained and that our customers and colleagues enjoy their time with us.

You will be part of a team of 6 Duty Officers that actively supervise and co-ordinate the operation of all areas of the service. You will directly manage the Senior Recreation Assistants, and other direct service colleagues.

You will have other responsibilities including security of buildings, financial management, recruitment and selection, health and safety, and play an active role in the further development of the business.

You should have an industry recognised qualification in Sport and Leisure Supervision or Management. You should have a NPLQ in an environment including the ability to gain one. You will have exceptional customer service and interpersonal skills, and the ability to motivate others and get the best out of them.

**Senior Recreation Assistant**  
**Salary £16,905 - £20,212 per annum**

Based at Woking Leisure Centre and Pool in the Park you will be part of a team of 6 Senior Recreation Assistants, your team will lead 12 full time Recreation Assistants and many part-time and casual staff. You will have Lifeguarding duties and work under the guidance of the Duty Officers.

Key tasks will include ensuring staffing levels on a day to day basis, setting and monitoring of cleaning tasks, and ensuring Lifeguarding standards are exceptional.

You will also act as the Duty Officer in their absence, fulfilling this role to ensure the service remains consistent.

You will have sound experience at Recreation Assistant level, ideally within both wet and dry environments, you will hold a current NPLQ and be ready to take the next step up in your career.

---

**Senior Partnership Development Manager**

The Academy is seeking to appoint a physical education and sport enthusiast with substantial experience in youth sport and management as the Partnership Development Manager (PDM) for The City of Lincoln School Sports Partnership. Salary: £34,170 p.a. 

The successful applicant will be expected to attend an Enhanced DBS check.

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**To apply please download the Application Pack and the Application Form from www.leisureopportunities.co.uk**

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GLL are seeking high calibre graduates to join the September 2009 intake of Graduate Trainee Managers. Our scheme is recognised as one of the best in the industry. If you are aiming for senior management, operate with integrity and want to make a real difference we would like to hear from you.

Our challenging 2 year management training programme for graduates includes practical work experience in all aspects of leisure provision, front line and support services along with a structured programme of statutory, management and modular training.

The graduate trainee management scheme is nationally recognised within the industry and aims to produce the General Managers of the future. Many of GLL’s Senior Management, General and Service Managers came through the GLL graduate Scheme. You must be business driven, customer focussed with a strong work ethic and capable of embracing this fast track scheme.

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**To obtain information pack and application form**

Email: james.craig2@gll.org

**Closing date for applications: 20th April 2009**
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Leisure and Environment Department

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The Lee Valley Regional Park stretches 26 miles along the banks of the River Lee, from Ware in Hertfordshire, through Essex, to the Thames at East India Dock Basin. The Authority’s remit is to provide regional sport and leisure facilities, parks, open spaces and nature conservation. Three of the London 2012 Games facilities, the White Water Canoe Slalom Centre, the Velodrome and the Eton Manor site in Olympic Park, will be owned, operated and funded by the Authority in Legacy.

The award winning Lee Valley Regional Park Authority is entering an exciting new phase and now needs an outstanding individual to join its Sports Development Team based near Enfield.

The main emphasis of the role will be to continue the work to establish the Lee Valley Regional Park as a destination for sporting excellence; preparing and delivering sports development programmes for the Authority’s sports facilities including the White Water Canoe Centre, the Velodrome and the Lee Valley Athletics Centre as well as managing the Authority’s Grants programme.

You will be expected to have proven experience in a relevant role, be able to represent the Authority, meet with stakeholders and have experience of running a Grants programme. Supporting others in developing sporting legacy benefits from the London 2012 Games, you will also work with the Authority’s partners to ensure the Authority is a destination for sporting excellence and develop/promote regional sports development initiatives, bringing the Lee Valley Regional Park closer to the communities it serves.

We provide:
- A good salary • Final salary pension scheme • Private medical insurance • Generous holiday entitlement.

If you believe you have the right blend of skills and experience to embrace these challenges, please visit our website www.leevalleypark.org.uk/jobs and apply online.

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Interview date: 1st May 2009

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**Salary Scale 5**

£19,370 - £21,244 per annum

**Subject to job evaluation - 37 hours**

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Experience of practical Sports Development activity is required together with a formal qualification in an appropriate discipline.

For an informal conversation about the position please call Peter Tyas, Acting Cultural Services Manager on (01946) 59 3039.

All appointments will be made subject to Enhanced CRB checks.

For an application form and further details, please contact Customer Services Department, The Copeland Centre, Catherine Street, WHITEHAVEN, Cumbria, CA28 7SJ. Tel: 0845 054 8600 or by logging onto www.copeland.gov.uk

Closing date 3 of April 2009.

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ds and Activities Officer**

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An exciting opportunity has arisen to develop and deliver the new sport and activities programme to young people within Oxfordshire.

The main duties of the post include:
- Delivery of sports and activities to young people
- Development of an activity programme for young people
- Deliver sports leaders in a UK training to young people and volunteers
- Fundraising to support the post

You need to be organised, motivated, adaptable and committed to working for the good of the community. Experience of awareness of partnership working and engaging with young people are essential.

The post requires travel throughout Oxfordshire, therefore a full UK driving licence is essential.

OAPY are currently based at Upper Heyford, however we will soon be relocating our offices into or around the Oxford area.

For an informal discussion about the post please contact Paul Lawrence, County Director on 01869 233570 or email paul.lawrence@activeyouth.org.uk for an application pack.

Closing Date for completed applications: 31st March 2009

Interviews will be held on 6th April 2009.
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截止日期：31日，2009年

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- 健身指导
- 个人训练师

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   With more than 360,000 unique users each month, the Leisure Opportunities website is the leisure jobspeople’s favourite place to search for vacancies. PLUS, we have launched www.leisureopportunities.co.uk with a new look and lots of extra functionality to make it even easier for candidates to get in touch with you.

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   Leisure Opportunities’ instant jobs service sends details of your vacancy straight to the email box of job seekers actively seeking employment.
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Arts & Physical Activity Development Officer
Ref: COM/131/08
£24,331 - £25,940
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CRB clearance will be required for the above post.
These posts are subject to job evaluation.
Closing Date: Monday 6 April 2009.
Application forms and further details are available from: www.warrington.gov.uk/jobs
Tel: 01925 442040 (24 hr).
Please quote reference number.
Committed to equality at work and in our community. Warrington Borough Council is an equal opportunities employer committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults as its number one priority.

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Make your mark at ZSL
Head of CRM and Membership
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This is achieved through our work at ZSL, London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, and our international field conservation and scientific programmes.
Reporting to the Marketing & Communications Director, you will lead the development and delivery of our customer relationship management, CRM and membership strategy for ZSL, which will shape our ongoing activities.
With 1.5 million visitors each year, this is a vital and exciting role in the area of CRM. You will be expected to demonstrate achievement within the CRM field at a senior level, ideally in the leisure/visitor attraction sector, together with good people management and communication skills.
An empathy with our mission and work is essential.
Based at our Regent’s Park offices, you will need to spend time at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, near Dunstable, on a regular basis.
A full job description will be found on the jobs section of our website www.zsl.org
Applications, by CV with a covering letter explaining how you meet our criteria, by post to: Ian Meyrick, HR Director, ZSL, Regent’s Park, London NW1 4RY or by email to hr职位@zsl.org by Thursday 2nd April.

Assistant Operations Manager
Wahoo! Waterpark – Bahrain City Centre
We are looking for an Assistant Operations Manager for our Wahoo! 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 metres and will retail over 150 staff. The park will have a 150 m long lazy river, 180 m long water rollercoaster, 3 indoor slides, a 13m deep wave pool, and many other pools, rides and slides including a 3m high wave surfer surfing machine.

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

Person Specifications
Female Candidate with a degree holder or other recognizable professional qualification. 5 years experience in a similar position either indoor or outdoor water parks. Health & Safety training certified. Basic understanding of Pool Plant Operation. A clear understanding of water safety as an HSE qualification is preferred. Lifeguard, RLSS trainer 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: £1588/Month (Tax free), Conveyance Allowance: £91/Month. Utility Allowance: £62/Month. Economy Class air ticket every year. Housing Allowance: Unfurnished accommodation up to a rent limit of £32/Month. Accommodation will be provided in Rabat City Centre which, when completed will be the largest indoor water park in the Middle East, with an area of over 15,000 square metres and will retail over 150 staff. The park will have a 150 m long lazy river, 180 m long water rollercoaster, 3 indoor slides, a 13m deep wave pool, and many other pools, rides and slides including a 3m high wave surfer surfing machine.

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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Facilities framework to improve North West sport

Report identifies core development needs for region

By Tom Walker

Sport England North West has published a 10-year Regional Sports Facilities Framework that maps the priorities and future investment in sporting infrastructure across the region.

Setting out the core facility development needs for the region, the framework will act as a reference base for investors and project developers.

The report’s recommendations include the potential for the development of two Olympic-size swimming pools, new dedicated cycling provision, and an eight-court sports hall for performance badminton and basketball use, as well as the investment in a variety of developments to improve community access.

The framework was delivered by leisure consultants Strategic Leisure, in partnership with a steering group representing local authorities, leisure trusts, National Governing Bodies (NGBs), County Sports Partnerships (CSPs) and the North West Regional Development Agency.

Spring relaunch for Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum

By Helen Patenall

Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford is scheduled to reopen to the public on 1 May following the completion of phases one and two of a redevelopment plan.

Reconstruction of the museum’s entrance will provide visitors a platform on the same level as the attached Museum of Natural History. The new space will accommodate the reception and a shop.

The museum reopens on 1 April

Stairs and a wheelchair lift will lead guests down to the exhibition gallery, which has been revamped to restore the original view through the museum’s totem pole. Original display cases, transferred to the Lower Gallery during the 1960s, will now feature at the front of the museum.

The emptied Lower Gallery will provide a new area for family activities, while eight additional displays focusing on painting and decorative styles will also showcase many previously unseen artefacts from the reserve collections.

Contractor for Botwell chosen

Surrey-based contractor GB Building Solutions has won the contract to build the new £15m leisure centre in Botwell, near Hayes, Middlesex.

The Botwell Green complex will include a gymnastics hall, two swimming pools, a sports hall, a fitness suite, an aerobics studio and a multi-use games area.

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