Fitbit reported sales of £348m for the first quarter of 2016 – a 50 per cent increase on Q1 2015 – prompting the fitness tracking giant to raise profit guidance for the rest of the year.

The company shook off potential lawsuits around the accuracy of its fitness trackers to sell 4.8 million connected health and fitness devices in the first quarter, with 70 per cent of revenue coming from the US market.

The new Fitbit Blaze has sold one million units since its launch – accounting for 47 per cent of Q1 revenue.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=r5y4G_O

A conservation initiative offering “physical activity with a purpose” is planning to become the UK’s largest physical activity provider as it gears up for expansion.

Green Gym, which was co-founded in 1998 by activity expert Dr William Bird with The Conservation Volunteers, has steadily grown to reach 140 sites across the UK and last year won £475,000 in growth funding from Nesta and the Cabinet Office. Having recently scooped a prestigious Health and Wellbeing Award from the Royal Society for Public Health, organisers want to harness this momentum to reach 600 locations in the next five years.

Green Gym aims to improve the health and wellbeing of its participants – typically harder to reach demographics who may be experiencing joblessness, ill health due to lifestyle conditions, or have mental health conditions – by boosting their activity levels, reducing isolation and supporting mental wellbeing.

“We are committed to building healthier and happier communities and are firmly of the belief that we need to empower people to look after themselves,” said Green Gym MD Craig Lister, a physiologist who has held senior roles in both the fitness and public health sectors with the likes of Public Health England and the NHS.

“People need to feel valued and feel that they’re providing value, which is why physical activity with a purpose – creating a new pathway for a park, for example – might appeal to some people more than running on a treadmill.”

Green Gyms are a weekly activity – running for 3-4 hours at a local community facility such as a park. Each Green Gym has up to 50-60 volunteers, with turnout on any one week typically ranging from six to 20.

Sessions include a specialised warm-up, cool-down, plus a wide range of gardening and land management activities. Intensity increases over time according to ability; volunteers (Green Gym’s term for participants) may begin with a light task such as potting seedlings and later move onto wheel barrowing gravel or digging.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=m7q5Z_O

Thorpe Park has postponed the opening of Derren Brown’s Ghost Train to an unspecified later date as the ride’s developers add the “final tweaks” to the new concept.

Originally due to open on 6 May, Thorpe Park announced the delay via social media.

“After careful consideration we’re moving the opening date for Derren Brown’s Ghost Train,” said a statement. “This attraction is a completely new invention and we are making final tweaks to the remaining elements to get things absolutely perfect. We want you guys to have the full mind-blowing experience from the very first time you ride!”

Speaking to Leisure Opportunities back in January, Paul Moreton, global creative director for Merlin Magic Making at Merlin Entertainments said that the ride would be “Just like Derren’s show.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=t8V2V_O
Powerleague pulls out the stops

Adidas retail areas, 5G pitches and cage football facilities will be incorporated into ‘Next Generation’ Powerleague centres in a £40m expansion investment made by the operator.

Sunbury, West London will be the first of 13 new centres being built in London over the next three years which aim to take innovation “one step further”.

As well as the Adidas hubs – where the latest shoes can be tested – and improved pitches, players can take advantage of pitchside lockers with phone chargers, and changing rooms which have spearmint fragrance pumped in to rid unpleasant smells.

In addition, the centres will introduce a Red Button feature which can record 30 seconds at any point during a game which can be subsequently shared on social media.

The Next Generation strategy is the first major development in the business under new chief executive Rupert Campbell, who joined Powerleague from Adidas last year (Campbell brokered the retail area initiative).

ECB cuts funding for grassroots

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) funding for grassroots cricket and First Class Counties has been slashed in favour of increasing financial backing for the England Teams.

According to the governing body’s annual report, the ECB’s funding for local cricket participation decreased from £24.2m in 2014/15 to £21m in 2015/16, while grants for County Championship clubs were reduced from £63.8m in 2014/15 to £48.4m over the following 12 months.

While the organisation saw its overall revenue shrink from £174.7m in 2014/15 to £134m in the subsequent year, it still managed to increase its investment in the England teams by £3.1m to £30.6m in 2015/16.

Aside from the financial aspect of the report, the document revealed its strategy for increasing grassroots numbers among young people, which is being led by head of participation and growth Matt Dwyer.

Under Dwyer’s stewardship the ECB is launching a “national entry-level programme, delivered in schools, clubs and community with a greater connection to the professional game”, which involved teaching kids the game with “bats and balls of various sizes, ropes and hoola hoops”.

The kit will be supported by videos teaching children how to “develop skills in a fun way.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=J8D3G_O

Details: http://lei.sr?a=W2r9R_O

The £40m outlay is being provided by owner Patron Capital

The ECB still increased its funding for the England Teams

The kit will be supported by videos teaching children how to “develop skills in a fun way.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=J8D3G_O
**Whittingdale in FA funding warning**

The Football Association (FA) will lose all its government funding if it fails to undertake significant governance reforms, according to culture secretary John Whittingdale.

Whittingdale said he was “disappointed” that the football governing body had “rejected the opportunity to reform their outdated and unrepresentative governance model” and would move all taxpayer and National Lottery funding to other organisations if no progress was made.

Talking at the Telegraph Business of Sport Conference 2016, the Conservative MP for Maldon added: “We will look instead to root money for grassroots football to other organisations that will adhere to good governance.”

He revealed that the government will be writing to the FA to warn it over its future conduct, adding that failure to adhere to “certain minimum standards” was a “betrayal of athletes and the public alike”.

The FA’s current funding deal with Sport England – the quango which funds grassroots sport on behalf of the government with taxpayer funds and National Lottery money – has seen the organisation receive around £30m over the four-year funding cycle (2013-2017), which it mainly invests in grassroots facilities, alongside funds from the Premier League and Football Foundation. Details: http://lei.sr?a=A6K6Z_O

**FIFA confirms World Cup 2026 plan**

FIFA has revealed that it will choose the host nation for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in May 2020.

The decision was made during the governing body’s 66th Congress in Mexico City.

The bidding process will now consist of four phases: a new strategy and consultation phase (May 2016-May 2017); enhanced phases for bid preparation (June 2017-December 2018); bid evaluation (January 2019-February 2020); and a final decision (May 2020).

While bidding for the tournament was postponed in light of corruption allegations levelled at the the selection process for the 2018 World Cup in Russia and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, a number of nations, including England, are thought to be interested in hosting the tournament.

An England bid – backed by Prince William and David Beckham – lost out in the race for the 2018 tournament to Russia, but the Football Association’s (FA) outgoing chair Greg Dyke hinted at a renewed bid for 2026 if Sepp Blatter was removed from his role as FIFA president. So far Canada, Mexico and Colombia have confirmed their interest in bidding.

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**Celtic FC confirms plans for safe-standing area**

Celtic Football Club has announced that it will introduce a safe-standing area from the start of next season.

The club’s 2016/17 season ticket renewal information has highlighted the opportunity for fans to purchase tickets in the safe-standing zone, which will be located in the corner of the Lisbon Lions Stand.

Permission was granted by Glasgow City Council for the club to conduct a trial in June last year, with initial plans made to accommodate 2,600 fans.

When permission was granted, Celtic CEO Peter Lawwell said safe-standing represented an “investment in spectator safety.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=G6v8C_O

**Hearts stadium revamp handed funding boost**

Scottish Premier League (SPL) football club Hearts has secured half of the funding it needs to complete its £12m stadium redevelopment project.

The Edinburgh-based club is proposing to revamp the Main Stand at its Tynecastle home ground to bring its capacity up to 21,000. Planning permission was submitted to the City of Edinburgh Council on 21 March 2016, which triggered a consultation period for a minimum of eight weeks.

If the plan is given the green light, the new stand is expected to be ready and open for September 2017. As part of the proposal two electronic screens will be installed, as well as additional facilities for disabled fans.

However, there are no plans to create a safe-standing area like SPL rival Celtic.

“Subject to planning and health and safety approval being granted, the club anticipates that the day the first team runs out in front of the new Main Stand for the first time, it will be completely paid for, with no bank debt at all,” said a statement on the club website.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=q2Z7H_O

An artist’s impression of the new Tynecastle

Gianni Infantino wants expansion of the World Cup to 40 teams

The number of teams in the tournament may be one of the key issues up for debate during the consultation phase. The current number of World Cup nations is 32, although new FIFA president Gianni Infantino used his manifesto for election to declare his interest in expanding the number to 40.

Human rights requirements, sustainable event management, environmental protection and the review of joint bids will also be discussed during the consultation phase.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=H7H9a_O
Snap Fitness signs 30-club UK franchise deal

International gym franchise Snap Fitness has announced that it has signed a major UK development plan with MSG Life to open 30 new clubs – the largest deal in the brand’s history.

Financial terms of the deal were not released, however, Snap Fitness – which has more than 2,000 clubs open or in development worldwide – said the move advances the current UK plans in place with master developer TwentyTwoYards.

“With millions of prospective members in this area, this is a paramount move for our brand,” said Snap Fitness chief development officer Steele Smiley. Details: http://lei.sr?a=V8d5Y_O

Spurs star Harry Kane to front activity campaign

Tottenham and England star striker Harry Kane is to head up a new summer physical activity campaign to get Britons moving.

The partnership between Kane and Lucozade Sport – dubbed ‘Summer of Movement’ – will see a two-month long giveaway of wearable technology to inspire exercise as the England men’s football team heads to Euro 2016 in France.

“Working hard to get more people active and healthy is extremely important in my life and activities like this Summer of Movement are vital for getting the country up and about,” said Kane. “Being able to maintain high levels of hydration are key aspects that have helped me develop my career in football so giving others the opportunity to do the same is special.”

As part of the push, a Fitbit Charge HR worth £120 will be won every 90 minutes with last year’s IPO for The Gym Group, while budget rival Pure Gym is expected to follow suit this summer.

energie’s move onto Crowdcube follows in the footsteps of 1Rebel, which in December raised £3m in exchange for 23.08 per cent equity – a target which the fitness chain reached with two days to spare.

energie chair and CEO Jan Spaticchia says the fundraising will help support the group’s growth ambitions, with capital raised expected to be invested in the franchisor’s marketing and technology initiatives, as well as a national training centre.

“We are making no secret of our intention to become the biggest fitness brand in the UK market,” he commented. “Today we have 93 clubs open and in pre-sales and over 110,000 members. By 2023, we are looking at over 580 clubs and a million members. That is explosive growth which will require a major investment in our facilities, our people and our brand.”

Spaticchia also announced that the énergie board has been strengthened by the addition of fitness industry veteran Steve Philpott. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q4w5X_O

énergie crowdfunding initiative

The Group wants staff and members to share ownership of the brand

Bannatyne Group doubles profits

The Bannatyne Group returned an impressive set of financial results for 2015, putting the health club chain on firm foundations for an imminent initial public offerings.

The business is thought to be lining up a £300m float on London’s Alternative Investment Market (AIM) and the announcement that the chain’s pre-tax profits jumped 138 per cent to £8m in 2015 will no doubt catch the eye of investors.

The latest set of accounts show that last year signalled a return to form for Duncan Bannatyne’s business, as revenues climbed three per cent to reach £100.9m. Profits had taken a significant hit in 2014 as the company uncovered the cost of an £8m fraud by former finance director Christopher Watson, however the firm credited strong leadership as a key driver in the revival.

The company’s new top team – helmed by CEO Justin Musgrove – is committed to taking the business into a new era as the chain works to redefine itself as a premium proposition and move out of the squeezed middle market.

The new philosophy seeks to offer an “upmarket service with budget club efficiency” and has seen heightened focus on customer experience, improved technology and smarter use of the synergies between the health club, spa and hotel arms of the business. Details: http://lei.sr?a=r8f3g_O

Spurs star Harry Kane to front activity campaign

Kane wants the public to get ‘up and about’

energie Group has embarked on a limited equity offer to raise £500,000 on Crowdcube.

The gym chain, which has 93 fitness clubs trading across the UK and Europe, will be offering three per cent equity to public investors for the first time through the funding round, which runs throughout May. Leisure Opportunities understands the board will consider the possibility of releasing further equity if the round overfunds.

There has been significant activity in the investment market for fitness in the past 12 months with last year’s IPO for The Gym Group, while budget rival Pure Gym is expected to follow suit this summer.

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Bannatyne Group doubles profits

The chain founded by Duncan Bannatyne enjoyed a strong 2015
HEALTH & FITNESS

JD Gyms unveils stylish new sites

JD Gyms has continued to grow its UK health club portfolio, with the recent launch of two sleek-looking sites in Coventry and Washington.

The operator now has five health clubs, with further gyms due to open in Rochdale and Wigan over the next couple of months, as the chain continues on its “organic” growth strategy.

JD Gyms’ latest launch was its £1.5m club in Washington, near Sunderland. Taking a best-in-class multi-manufacturer approach, the 21,000sq ft (1,950sq m) gym features equipment from True, Freemotion, Force, Cybex and Technogym, supplied and fitted by Fitness Systems. Membership costs £19.99 a month.

The venue also features saunas, a sprint track, prowler track, tri-rig and the area’s largest free weights area with more than 30 benches. A large studio and group cycling studio play host to over 60 classes a week, all of which are included in the membership.

“We’ve brought a low cost gym with a difference to the North East by offering premium kit and exceptional fitness facilities on a highly affordable basis,” said JD Gyms MD Alun Peacock. “Feedback and take up has been excellent so far – a gym of this calibre in the area has been a long time coming and we’re incredibly pleased with the results.”

Details: http://lei.srta=Q6w7T_O

Virgin starts new Tough Mudder tie-up

Virgin Active has announced a range of new offerings aimed at extreme fitness fans ahead of the upcoming Tough Mudder event season.

Shaking up the partnership which began last year, Mudder Maker 2.0 is a new class from Virgin Active designed to push Mudders-in-training to their physical and mental max. The 45-minute circuit-style class will put participants through five challenging obstacles and five bodyweight conditioning exercises set to a rock soundtrack.

Meanwhile, Virgin Active is also offering all Mudders signed up to a live event the chance to join any of its 90 UK gyms with no joining fee on a non-contract basis for as little or as long as they like to help them train for the event.

“Following the success of last year’s Mudder Maker class, we wanted to offer something bigger and better, taking Mudder Maker to the next level,” said James Trevorrow, Virgin Active’s national product innovation manager. “Mudder Maker 2.0 will offer an adrenaline-based workout, preparing people of all fitness levels for Tough Mudder, as well as those simply wanting to take on a new challenge.”

Outdoor and endurance events have become increasingly popular in recent years, with extreme fitness identified as a major trend in the Fitness Foresight section of the 2015 Health Club Management Handbook (p.20).

Since then, budget giant Pure Gym teamed with the 2015 Reebok Spartan Race series and the Great Run Series; while Xercise4Less partnered Total Warrior. Details: http://lei.srta=Q4e5u_O
The Sports & Leisure Facilities Forum is specifically designed to bring together the latest cutting edge technology, sports equipment, facilities and services to help improve and enhance the performance of elite sporting clubs, arenas, authorities and organisations.

Discussions at the event will include; flooring, membership and booking systems, artificial surfaces, signage, energy maintenance, cleaning maintenance, facilities management, disable facilities, turnstiles/locking systems and more.

20th June 2016
Wokefield Park, Reading

Limited complimentary places remain.
For further information, contact:
Leanne Webster
t: 01992 374066
e: leanne.webster@forumevents.co.uk

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Brexit and its impact on employment

KURT JANSON
is director of the Tourism Alliance

With the EU referendum fast approaching, the Tourism Alliance has analysed the potential impacts on tourism if the UK was to vote to leave.

Many of the impacts are uncertain, as they will depend upon what future relationship and agreements the UK has with the EU and what policies are adopted in response to the UK being outside the EU. One of the major issues that arose from this analysis was the impact on employment within the sector.

Over the last five years the UK tourism industry, which employs 3.1m people (9.6 per cent of the UK workforce) has experienced considerable growth, creating 300,000 of the additional 1m jobs generated between 2010 and 2013.

This rate of growth has been greater than the ability of UK educational and training institutions to provide skilled workers, and tourism businesses have relied on immigrants from EU countries to fill vacancies.

Figures from People 1st, the Sector Skills Council for the tourism and hospitality industries, show that the level of foreign workers in the sector has increased from 19 per cent in 2004 to 28 per cent in 2014.

The requirement for skilled staff in the tourism industry is not likely to abate in the near future either. People 1st estimate that the sector will require 993,000 new staff by 2022 due to growth and high turnover rates.

Even with open immigration from EU countries, the UK’s unemployment rate has dropped to just 5 per cent, putting pressure on businesses trying to source skilled workers and leading to around 10,000 unfilled position on the sector.

If the UK leaves the EU, it’s reasonable to assume the staffing and skills shortages currently being experienced by businesses will be exacerbated, as UK training institutions will not be able to compensate for the reduction in workers from the EU and the UK is unlikely to reopen the TIER 3 immigration route into the UK from non-EU countries.

There is, therefore, a significant risk that staff shortages will increase, forcing up wage costs for businesses and possibly lowering the quality of service provided to customers.

TOURISM

Leicester win boosts football tourism

The value of football tourism to the UK’s visitor economy could be in line for a significant boost following Leicester City’s historic Premier League title win this month, according to tourism experts.

Football is the number one sporting draw for international tourists to Britain and in 2014 brought in £684m worth of spending from international tourists.

VisitBritain’s director Patricia Yates believes that Leicester can expect a visitor boost with the city now on the global football tourism map.

“Leicester City’s fantastic win is truly the stuff of legends and has thrust the players, the fans, the city and Britain as the ‘home of football’ into the global spotlight,” said Yates. “Football has mass international appeal and a global fan base of billions and we know that people like to visit the home of their sporting heroes. We encourage visitors from all over the world to travel to Britain and enjoy a Barclays Premier League football match with our ‘Football is GREAT’ campaign, as part of our drive to get tourists out exploring more of regional Britain.”

£40m tourism fund open for bids

VisitEngland is inviting bids for a share of £40m fund aimed at driving tourism growth across the country.

The Discover England Fund, a staged three-year fund announced by the government in last year’s spending review, has been set up to build ‘world-class’ tourism products and experiences that cater to the needs of international visitors to boost inbound spend across England, while also benefitting the domestic tourism market.

VisitEngland is calling for projects worth up to £350,000 in the first year, with submissions accepted until 31 March 2017.

“Tourism is a major job creator and latest figures show that visitors are coming here in record-breaking numbers. However it is also a fiercely competitive global industry,” said VisitEngland chief executive Sally Balcombe.

“To fight for our market share and stay competitive in this fast-moving, fast-growing industry we need to be able to offer world-class tourism products to the right customers at the right time. By converting aspiration to visit into bookings we can drive more visitors across England, ultimately spreading the economic benefits of tourism across all our regions.”

The fund will address some of the challenges facing English tourism, according to Balcombe, who said that how tourists choose and book their holidays is changing.

Balcombe added that visitors from traditional tourism markets are demanding new experiences and places to explore, with some of the strongest growth coming from markets that do not know much about England.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=v4U8W_O
Record-breaking slide set to launch

Tickets are now on sale for the world’s tallest and longest slide, which will open inside Anish Kapoor’s ArcelorMittal Orbit London tower on 24 June 2016.

Known simply as The Slide, the attraction is a collaboration between Kapoor and designer Carsten Höller.

The 178m (580ft) helter skelter, designed with Bblur Architects, will start 76m (249 ft) above the ground and includes transparent polycarbonate sections allowing riders to look at the surrounding Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park as they descend.

The Slide will twist and turn 12 times, including a tight corkscrew section named the ‘bettfeder’ – after the German word for ‘bedspring.’ It ends with a 50 metre straight run to the ground. Riders are expected to hit speeds of up to 15 miles per hour during the 40-second trip from top to bottom.

Construction is being led by Buckingham Group Constructing using specialist abseilers provided by CAN Structures, with structural engineering work provided by BuroHappold.

Slide manufacturer Wiegand and British firm Interkey are also involved in connecting the attraction’s 30 steel sections, using a complex procedure involving ropes and pulleys that has been specially designed for the project.

Höller said: “Since 1999, I have built a number of slides, both freestanding and attached to buildings, but never onto another artwork as in this case.

“Now that the two artworks will be intertwined with each other, I see it as one of these double situations that I am so interested in. I like it when a sense of unity is reached in two separate entities, and you can find this thought to repeatedly occur in my work.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=7F7w7_O

V&A’s £120m project nears end

The second phase of a 15-year restoration and redesign programme at London’s Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) is nearing completion, with construction progressing on the new underground gallery designed by architecture studio AL_A.

The £49.5m Exhibition Road Building Project – the V&A’s largest architectural scheme in 100 years – is expected to open in 2017, now that 95 per cent of its funding target has been reached, after a large donation was received from the Blavatnik Family Foundation.

At the heart of the project, which has been led by AL_A Stirling Prize-winning founder Amanda Levete, is the 1,100sq m (11,800sq ft) column-free exhibition gallery beneath the courtyard, which is purpose-built to showcase temporary exhibitions and will be one of the largest of its kind in the UK.

Groundworks began in 2014 and more than 22,000 cubic metres of soil were removed in 2015. The gallery structure has been created using 256 tonnes of steel – and over the next few months – a skylight will be lifted into place to bring natural light into the gallery.

The courtyard is also expected to be completed later this year.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=B9J7W_O

Alpamare readies its first UK waterpark for launch

A £14m waterpark in Scarborough is on-course to open later this year.

Approved by the council in 2014, North Bay Water Park, operated by Alpamare UK, will feature four rides, offering an alpine theme with its lazy river, two-person tubes, racing mats and body slide.

Additionally, the waterpark will host a 480sq m (5,200sq ft) indoor wave pool, 200sq m (2,150sq ft) outdoor family pool, 170sq m (1,829sq ft) outdoor infinity pool, restaurant, terrace and landscaped garden with luxury day cottages.

An on-site spa will also feature steam-baths, a sauna and treatment facilities.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=M3Q6h_O

Big Ben to fall silent during £29m repair operation

Big Ben’s famous chimes will be temporarily silenced after 157 years of almost uninterrupted service, as the famous London clock tower undergoes £29m worth of urgent repairs.

The work, which is to prevent Big Ben’s mechanisms from failing, will take three years to complete. In that time, the Elizabeth Tower, which houses the famous clock, will undergo essential maintenance and repairs.

The clocks will not be stopped for the entire three-year period, but will fall silent for several months. Striking and tolling will also be maintained for important events.

As part of the works, the refit could see the clock faces of the tower stripped of the black and gold colouring applied in the 1980s to return them to their original appearance, thought to be green and gold.

As an attraction, Elizabeth Tower is visited by 12,000 people a year, also drawing hundreds of thousands of international tourists visiting the London landmark as they tour the city.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=P7B6n_O
YouSPA digital portal launches in the UK

Italian specialist spa search engine Youspa has signed an agreement with boutique beauty, spa and lifestyle consultancy BMUK to work as their partner in the UK and Irish spa market.

“BMUK and ourselves share the same business objectives and approach, namely giving first place to medium- and long-term strategies to maintain consistent business growth,” said Régis Boudon-Doris, founder & CEO of Youspa.

YouSPA’s European search site, youspa.eu, features more than 100 search parameters to enable users to find the best spa for their wellness requirements. Details: http://lei.sr?a=G5j2R_O

Global Wellness Day is branching out

Several Global Wellness Day ambassadors around the world have found success in spreading the reach of the programme by approaching local elected officials to ask for their support.

Set to take place this year on 11 June, the event will see more than 3,000 properties across the world take part in the grassroots initiative.

The event – a not-for-profit day of wellness activities founded by Belgin Aksoy of Aksoy Hotel Group and owner of destination spa Richmond Nua – will see workouts, workshops and classes covering mindfulness, yoga, Pilates and many more areas on offer to celebrate the fifth annual GWD.

This year’s theme is “Wellness for Everyone!” and there is growing support from elected officials in Canada, Cyprus, France, India, Lithuania, Spain, Turkey and the US.

“Global Wellness Day is now recognised as an agent of change and transformation,” said GWD international co-ordinator Jean Guy de Gabriac, who is also CEO of Belgium-based spa training and consultancy company Tip Touch International.

“Together we are taking wellness into schools, hospitals, senior homes and social care.”

International beauty and spa therapy standard setter CIDESCO has announced that its global membership covering 40 countries worldwide is supporting the awareness day. Details: http://lei.sr?a=E8Q9W_O

Chelsea Day Spa in Anazoe tie-up

Two very different spas – the 4,000sq m (43,056sq ft) Anazoe Spa in Costa Navarino, Greece and The Chelsea Day Spa Boutique in London – have teamed up for a unique cross-promotional training programme that has top therapists from each location travelling to the other to share local therapies and spread the word about their spas internationally.

Therapists from the Anazoe Spa travelled to London last month, bringing their Greek-inspired signature treatments to the urban Chelsea Day Spa boutiques, and in turn, top Chelsea Day Spa therapists will travel to Greece in September to share the London day spa’s top therapies. This is the second year the partnership has taken place, after a successful launch in 2015.

Dora Koromila, director of spa for Anazoe, told Leisure Opportunities she is continually evaluating partnership opportunities with like-minded brands to promote her spa.

“The UK is indeed one of our key target markets,” she explained. “Our partnership with The Chelsea Day Spa Boutique provides a platform to specifically promote the Anazoe Spa treatments, in turn, promoting Costa Navarino overall, with the aim to encourage visitors to travel to Greece to experience the Anazoe Spa in its normal surroundings.”

In addition, said Koromila, the promotion has created a buzz on social media, and offers a reward for the top-performing therapists, who are able to travel to another spa in another country and learn from their experiences. Details: http://lei.sr?a=j9R6P_O

Global Wellness Day is gaining support from elected officials worldwide

GWD 2016 is gaining support from elected officials worldwide

The new Cary Spa opens in August

Cary Arms opening new glass-fronted facility

Luxury five star inn the Cary Arms, on Devon’s Babbacombe Bay, will open a glass-fronted spa this August. The new spa is part of its £1.5m expansion plans, which include the opening of six Beach Huts and two larger Beach Suites.

The new Cary Spa will feature a glass-fronted pool and sunbathing deck, offering panoramic vistas along the unspoilt Jurassic coastline. Inside the spa, there will be a series of treatment rooms using Parisian spa and skincare brand Yon-Ka, with treatments ranging from ‘vital defence’ facials to full-body Swedish massages, and even a special men’s facial.

The spa will also include an experience shower, aromatherapy jets, a sauna and steam room and a mini gym. Inn guests will have full access to the spa.

The spa opening coincides with the unveiling of the new Beach Huts and Beach Suites. Sitting on the water’s edge – with wet bars and log-burning stoves – they will each sleep two people. Details: http://lei.sr?a=U7e4a_O

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The event – a not-for-profit day of wellness activities founded by Belgin Aksoy of Aksoy Hotel Group and owner of destination spa Richmond Nua – will see workouts, workshops and classes covering mindfulness, yoga, Pilates and many more areas on offer to celebrate the fifth annual GWD.

This year’s theme is “Wellness for Everyone!” and there is growing support from elected officials in Canada, Cyprus, France, India, Lithuania, Spain, Turkey and the US.

“Global Wellness Day is now recognised as an agent of change and transformation,” said GWD international co-ordinator Jean Guy de Gabriac, who is also CEO of Belgium-based spa training and consultancy company Tip Touch International.

“Together we are taking wellness into schools, hospitals, senior homes and social care.”

International beauty and spa therapy standard setter CIDESCO has announced that its global membership covering 40 countries worldwide is supporting the awareness day. Details: http://lei.sr?a=E8Q9W_O
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**BrewDog plans beer-themed hotel**

Draught beer on tap, mattresses made from malt, a jacuzzi filled with pale ale and a homebrew kit by the bed. That’s the vision for a new beer-themed hotel proposed by Scottish craft beer company BrewDog, which is set to use millions of pounds raised in a crowdsourcing campaign to turn their beer-soaked dream into reality.

Located in Aberdeen – close to the company’s brewery – the hotel will provide a place for staff, importers, engineers, customers and beer tourists with a place to stay when visiting BrewDog.

“Currently, every night of the week we have two-dozen rooms booked in Aberdeen-area hotels, so having everyone stay under one roof simply makes sense,” said the company in a statement.

The company’s year-long crowdsourcing campaign Equity for Punks IV – the fourth it has launched for various projects over its lifetime – raised more than £5m in the first 20 days and reached £19m by the time it ended on 20 April 2016. This will now be spent on developing the hotel project.

In return for funding, investors have become new shareholders in the company. The model was introduced by BrewDog to spread equity as widely as possible, preventing a big brewery from taking a controlling stake. There are currently over 40,000 shareholders.

BrewDog is now calling for suggestions of how to design its beer hotel, promising that no two rooms will be the same. Details: http://lei.srl/a=K9e4C_0

**Boutique set for Edinburgh Old Town**

Work has begun on a new £20m four-star hotel in Edinburgh’s Old Town, marking a milestone in hotel openings in London, and said his business would not be able to run without European staff. Would Brexit spell the end of this important source of staff? A lot would depend on the kind of deal the UK agreed with the EU after exit. If it remained within the single market, it would almost certainly retain free movement rights, allowing EU citizens to work in the UK.

However, the ‘Norway model,’ under which the UK would be part of the European Economic Area (EEA), undermines perhaps the key reason for wanting to leave the EU in the first place: the UK’s ability to control immigration. Some in the leave campaign are proposing continued access to the single market (and free movement) as a stepping stone in a longer process towards greater UK independence (and border controls). Although many leaders would like to employ more Britons, recruiting large numbers from the domestic market to replace EU workers could be difficult, given low current unemployment levels. On the other hand, losing some EU workers could act as the extra spur needed for the UK hospitality industry to finally make itself a career of choice for Britons.
Arup exec: Wellness buildings are the future

The global foresight manager at international architecture and engineering firm Arup has told Leisure Opportunities that closer collaboration between architects, designers, developers and investors is essential if the buildings of the future are to successfully boost our health and wellbeing.

Josef Hargrave said the increasingly sophisticated demands we make of our buildings necessitate a more holistic approach in how they are designed and developed.

“We’re moving from a world where building design has been driven to a large degree by sustainability targets to one where the impact on user and health and wellbeing is being increasingly considered,” he said. “The horizon and breadth of things that architects and designers have to consider to achieve this is always increasing, and as a consequence the complexity of getting it right grows.”

Details: http://lei.sr/?a=s6B2X_O

Architects using VR to walk clients through plans

The potential of virtual reality (VR) has won the attention of global studio NBBJ, who this month announced an innovative business partnership with tech startup Visual Vocal to incubate and develop a VR productivity platform that will initially be exclusive to them, before being made available to other architects.

The firm claim that they are the world’s first design studio to support a virtual reality startup inside their own offices.

“NBBJ’s decision to launch Visual Vocal is representative of our ongoing mission to find more informative and inspiring ways to engage clients in the design process,” said NBBJ managing partner Steve McConnell. “This partnership will radically shift the way design feedback is sourced and integrated into projects, and the speed at which it can be done.”

Details: http://lei.sr/?a=r2H8z_O

Battersea project powers forward

Rachel Haugh, the co-founder of British architects SimpsonHaugh and Partners, has told Leisure Opportunities about her studio’s work on Phase One of Battersea Power Station development, which is nearing completion.

The huge project to build Circus West – a 90,110sq m (970,000sq ft) development including new homes, workspaces, shops, restaurants, fitness facilities, cafés and cultural venues by the River Thames adjacent to Battersea’s four iconic chimneys – is scheduled to open from October 2016.

The milestone will mark the first completed project in the high-profile and long-gestating renewal of the power station, which has been masterplanned by Rafael Vinoly.

Six other phases will include schemes designed by Frank Gehry, Norman Foster and potentially Bjarke Ingels. Overseen by the Battersea Power Station Development Company (BPSDC), the 40-acre project will create 18 acres of new public space, including a six-acre public park, approximately 200 shops and restaurants, plus other “state-of-the-art” leisure and recreation facilities.

The whole project is the flagship development of the wider regeneration of the Nine Elms district: a combination totalling 20 separate projects covering 560 acres.

“It’s interesting working in a phase of such a major project because the site you’re working in is so huge,” said Haugh. “As a result, it’s been immense and relentless in its scale. It’s by far the biggest project we’ve ever worked on.”

Details: http://lei.sr/?a=e2S3Q_O

Aberdeen FC stadium in site switch

Aberdeen Football Club has scrapped plans build a new stadium at its preferred site in Loirston in favour of a £40m development in the Kingsford part of the city.

Revealing the proposals, chair Stewart Milne said the new location offered the opportunity to build both the stadium and training facility on a single site.

He explained that the club has acquired full control of the land and had already carried out a feasibility study.

“Since Loirston was previously identified as our site for the new stadium, there have been various changes in circumstances and furthermore the development of the AWPR will now provide easy access to the new site at Kingsford,” said Milne. “AFC and Aberdeen City Council see a new stadium and training facilities as a vital part of the region’s infrastructure, and there is a strong desire by the club to deliver these new facilities as soon as possible.”

The new training facilities are due to be built by 2018, with the new stadium set to open in time for the 2019/20 season.

Details: http://lei.sr/?a=S2V6Y_O
Ealing Council is looking to procure a Contract for Hanwell Community Centre, Westcott Cres, Hanwell W7 1PD

The new contract should be in place by 1st April 2017. The public financial situation has changed considerably over the past couple of years. The Government has been making significant reductions in all public spending, especially to local Council funding. The successful operator will support the Council in delivering our corporate priorities.

The Management Service is currently delivered within the Major Projects & Development Section that sits in the Environment & Customer Services Department.

The offer includes full management of Hanwell Community Centre which currently has the following facilities:

- Small hall suitable for sports such as five-a-side football, basketball which can also be booked for events such as weddings, parties etc.
- Large hall for badminton (4 courts)
- Offices, classrooms and meeting rooms
- Boxing, judo and karate area
- Art studio
- Basement currently used for pottery, upholstery, scenery storage and production

In addition to the above there are two educational establishments based at the centre.

The Council has big plans for improvements at Hanwell Community Centre with initial phase 1 works valued at £350k being completed during this summer (2016). The successful partner will be key in helping the Council to secure further funding to help deliver phase 2 works (value £3.7m) which include the installation of a lift to improve accessibility, major refurbishment, proposed alterations to the main approach and improvements to signage for the wider site.

Closing date: 4pm, Friday 10th June 2016

If you are interested in this opportunity, please register with our procurement advisors, Max Associates at info@max-associates.com

Once you have registered, you will be able to view the details of the opportunity and complete all forms at the ProContract (Due North) website.

Ealing www.ealing.gov.uk

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Emmerson, LPF Administration
E: info@leisurepropertyforum.org
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Expressions of Interest

Stirling Sports Provision

Are you interested in being a key player in delivering high quality, cost effective sport and physical activity services across Stirling? Are you willing to commit to and invest in improving health and wellbeing of residents? Are you prepared to deliver innovation and growth to the economy and social capital of Stirling?

If the answer to these questions is YES then read on.

Stirling Council is an ambitious and forward thinking council positioning itself to be the sport, physical activity and wellbeing capital of Scotland. In pursuit of that aspiration a new sport, physical activity and wellbeing strategy has been developed with our partners, outlining a new, ambitious and adventurous approach, and representing an aspiration and ambition to achieve the best. The Council is now looking to engage with innovative, energetic and forward thinking operators to gauge the market interest in potentially managing and operating our sport and physical activity services, facilities and creating opportunities that secure our ambitious goals in this area.

As a first step the council will be holding a soft market testing event on Thursday 9th June 2016 at the Raploch Community Centre in Stirling. The purpose of this event is to allow the council to engage with operators to test its proposals and assumptions against current best practice in the market place. The day will include an introduction from the council followed by “break out” sessions to discuss key issues critical to this process.

To register your interest in attending the event and view the prospectus you should log on to the Public Contracts Scotland Portal http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Default.aspx

Expressions of interest need to be registered via the portal by 5.00pm on Friday 20 May 2016.

For interested parties with any questions about this opportunity please contact Nicola Webster - webstern@stirling.gov.uk

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New course targets elite training

A new Level 4 strength and conditioning fitness qualification has been created to help fitness professionals and sports coaches carve a niche in the competitive world of elite training.

The REPs-aligned course, developed by training provider Strength and Conditioning Education, aims to equip graduates with the training models and business tools needed to work with elite athletes, open their own performance gym, and work as a performance personal trainer.

“The course is about analysing, designing, performing and reviewing a strength and conditioning programme tailored to the needs of athletes of all abilities,” said Brendan Chaplin, founder of Strength and Conditioning Education.

“We’ve designed it for people to join from a wide range of backgrounds and learning pathways. We also cover coaching skills, behavioural change, business development and more.”

The qualification outcomes are designed to enable professionals to perform a needs analysis of the performance activity and athlete. This include the ability to design, review and deliver a strength and conditioning programme to improve sports performance; and achieve training goals such as increased strength, power and endurance, coach Olympic lifting, speed, movement and mobility training.

Chaplin added: “This will set the standard for fitness professionals who will be working on the development of the athlete, focusing on what is needed to improve performance, such as strength, speed, endurance, mobility and movement competency.”

The first intake of the course began last month, with scholarships available for graduates of previous courses run by the company. Details: http://lei.srla=K5u5c_O

Future Fit takes on PT skills gap

A new training programme for fitness professionals aims to boost the effectiveness of personal trainers by covering areas where their skills are currently lacking.

The PT Skills Gap Programme has been devised by Future Fit Training in response to calls within the industry to increase skills and professionalism among personal trainers.

Research carried out by Future Fit Training in conjunction with ukactive and CIMSPA identified that knowledge and empathy were often lacking among personal trainers. The findings add to a growing sentiment in the industry that many qualifications do not provide candidates who are fit-for-purpose, with a lack of ‘soft skills’ a frequent red flag.

Key areas of concern highlighted by operators, employers and the PTs themselves include: communicating with clients, preparing and implementing client-centred solutions, mastering behaviour change and developing a defined identity, business image and professional manner in the workplace.

Future Fit Training says it aims to address these concerns head on by creating its PT Skills Gap Programme, intended to enable personal trainers to improve their skill-set, build their confidence and excel in their career.

The programme is designed to enable PTs to produce satisfied clients through ‘Behaviour Change Coaching’ and also maximise their profits through business building training. Details: http://lei.srla=w9w4V_O

Lack of ‘soft skills’ among PTs is a perennial industry concern

Strength and Conditioning Education founder Brendan Chaplin

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- BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science
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- BA (Hons) Sports Development and Coaching
- FDA Sports Officiating
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Company: Pure Gym Limited
Location: Leeds City Centre, UK

Food and Beverage Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Cardiff, UK

Co-ordinator
Company: Wheels for All
Location: Birmingham, UK

Swim Teacher
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Southam Leisure Centre, UK

Level 1 & 2 Trampoline Coach
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sutton, Surrey, UK

Swimming Teachers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sutton, Surrey, UK

Lifeguard
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Recreational Assistant
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Portsmouth, UK

Trainee Duty Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Portsmouth, UK

Personal Trainers
Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Fitness Motivator
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sutton, Surrey, UK

Front of House Receptionist
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sutton, Surrey, UK

Freelance Personal Trainer
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sutton, Surrey, UK

Receptionist
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Hertford, UK

Lifeguard
Company: GLL
Location: Various locations, UK

General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: Luton, UK

Relief Duty Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford - Upon - Avon, UK

Casual Fitness Motivator x 2
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Southall, London, UK

Duty Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford - Upon - Avon, UK

Assistant General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: Blackpool, UK

Sports and Leisure Manager
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Location: south east London, UK

Club Promoter
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Swimming Instructors x 4
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Location: West Midlands, UK

Fitness Club Manager
Company: énergie group
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Fitness Instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: North Finchley, London, UK

Reception - Maternity Cover
Company: City University London
Location: London, UK

Technical Stage Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Crawley, UK

Shift Supervisor
Company: Walsall Council
Location: Walsall, UK

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

Swim Teacher
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford - Upon - Avon, UK

Membership Sales Advisor
Company: énergie group
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Company: Everyone Active
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2 x Duty Manager
Company: Huntingdonshire DC
Location: Cambridgeshire, UK

Sales Manager
Company: énergie group
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Duty Manager
Company: Team Sport Karting
Location: Crawley, UK

Duty Manager (Part time)
Company: Team Sport Karting
Location: Eastleigh, UK

Fitness Instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: Tunbridge Wells, UK

Team Leader
Company: Huntingdonshire DC
Location: Cambridgeshire, UK

Duty Manager
Company: Team Sport Karting
Location: North London, UK

Sport Coordinator
Company: Merton School Sports
Location: London, UK

Gym Manager
Company: Stantonbury Arts & Leisure
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Recreation Assistant
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Company: Legacy Leisure
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Duty Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Thetford, UK

Operations Manager
Company: Tonbridge School
Location: Kent, UK

Retail Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Shipston Leisure Centre, UK

General Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Maidstone, UK

Swimming Dev Manager
Company: Coventry Sports Foundation
Location: Coventry, UK

Centre Manager
Company: Coventry Sports Foundation
Location: Coventry, UK

Receptionist
Company: Sandwell Leisure Trust
Location: West Midlands, UK

Catering Assistant
Company: GLL
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Company: Jump Arena
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Sports Facilities Assistant
Company: Bromsgrove School
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Food and Beverage Leader
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: North Somerset, UK

Facility Manager
Company: Erewash Borough Council
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Location: Bedworth Leisure Centre, UK

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Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, UK

Group Exercise Instructors
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

Swimming Teacher
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Basildon, UK

Receptionist (P/T)
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Basildon, UK

Freelance Yoga Tutor
Company: YMCAfit
Location: Ashton, Manchester, UK

Duty Manager
Company: Love Withington Baths
Location: Manchester, UK

Sales Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bristol, UK

Contract Sales Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fleet, Hampshire, UK

Membership Consultant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sutton, UK

Club Manager
Company: énergie group
Location: Brentford, UK

Trainee Lifeguard
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Waltham Abbey, Essex, UK

Membership Consultant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Watford, UK

Swim Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Hemel Hempstead, UK

Chief Executive
Company: Cyclopark
Location: Gravesend, Kent, UK

Personal Trainer
Company: énergie group
Location: Various locations, UK

Consultant
Company: 4 global
Location: Chiswick, West London, UK

General Manager
Company: Frinton Lawn Tennis Club
Location: Frinton-on-Sea, UK

For more details on the following jobs visit www.leisureopportunities.co.uk or to advertise call +44 (0)1462 431385
Events Manager - Harrow
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Harrow, UK

Swim Teacher Level 2
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stowmarket, UK

Area Sales Manager
Company: eGym
Location: London (UK travel), UK

Sports Marketing and Communications Manager
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Recruitment and Scholarship Manager
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Assistant Director of Sport/Physical Recreation
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Group Exercise Co-ordinator
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

IT Systems Administrator
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Peckham Rye, UK

Recreation Assistant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

Climbing Wall Manager
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Team Leader
Company: Harrow School
Location: Middlesex, UK

Fitness Instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: Forest Hill, UK

Fitness Instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: Loughborough, UK

Attention Personal Trainers
Company: Chair Training
Location: Nationwide Opportunities

Membership Sales Advisor
Company: énergie group
Location: Hartlepool, UK

Fitness Instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: Maidstone, UK

Regional Account Manager
Company: Harlands Group
Location: Midlands and South, UK

Swimming Teachers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Bedworth, UK

Pilates Instructors
Company: Bootcamp Pilates
Location: London, UK

Recreational Assistant
Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Windsor, UK

Sports Volunteering Officer
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Front of House Manager
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Fitness Motivator (Part Time)
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Southham Leisure Centre, UK

Swimming Teacher
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Nuneaton, Warwickshire, UK

Health Relationship Manager
Company: Achieve Lifestyle
Location: Egham, Surrey, UK

Educator / Trainer
Company: Vivilus Professional
Location: Various, UK

Aquatics Officer
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Spa Director
Company: Mandarin Oriental
Location: Barcelona, Spain

Spa Director
Company: Mandarin Oriental Prague
Location: Prague, UK

Swim Teachers
Company: Brio Leisure
Location: North West, UK

Leisure Attendants
Company: Brio Leisure
Location: North West, UK

Lead Strength and Conditioning Coach
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Operations Assistants
Company: Harrow School
Location: Middlesex, UK

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

Personal Trainer
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Membership Consultant
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Peckham and Luton

Impact Sales Consultant
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

General Managers
Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Peckham and Luton

Spa Therapists
Company: Hand Picked Hotels
Location: Various, UK

Beauty Therapists
Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Wiltshire, UK

Beauty Therapists
Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Bedfordshire, UK

General Manager
Company: UK Spa Association
Location: From home, UK

Spa Therapist
Company: The Scarlet Hotel
Location: Cornwall, UK

Spa Therapists
Company: Myoka Spas
Location: Malta

Assitant Spa Manager
Company: Celtic Manor Resort
Location: Newport, South Wales, UK

Spa Trainer (Maternity cover)
Company: Celtic Manor Resort
Location: Newport, South Wales, UK

Spa Therapist
Company: Celtic Manor Resort
Location: Newport, UK

Nail Technician
Company: Celtic Manor Resort
Location: Newport, UK

Spa Trainer
Company: Celtic Manor Resort
Location: Newport, South Wales, UK

Spa Therapist
Company: Celtic Manor Resort
Location: Newport, South Wales, UK

Sky Train High Ropes Manager
Company: Adventure Experience
Location: Chingford, London

Head of Food and Beverage
Company: Crealy Great Adventure Park and Resort
Location: Devon, UK

Guest Experience Host
Company: Merlin Entertainments
Location: Orlando, United States

Assistant Aquarist (6 Month Fixed Term)
Company: Sea Life
Location: London, UK

Marketing Manager
Company: Sea Life
Location: Birmingham, UK

Guest Service Duty Manager
Company: Continuum Group
Location: Portsmouth, UK

Trade Sales Manager
Company: Drayton Manor
Location: Ne Tawmworth, UK

Admission Assistant / Guest Service Assistant
Company: Legoland
Location: Johor, Malaysia

IT Local Support Analyst
Company: Gardaland Resort
Location: Castelnuovo del Gada VR, Italy

Brand Manager - maternity cover
Company: Merlin Entertainments
Location: Chessington, UK

Human Resources Director
Company: Legoland
Location: California, United States

Manager – Retail Buying
Company: Legoland
Location: Johor, Malaysia

Show Technician
Company: Legoland
Location: Johor, Malaysia

Scenic Production and Installation Specialist
Company: Alton Towers Theme Park
Location: Staffordshire, UK

Corporate Sales Business Development Manager
Company: Alton Towers Theme Park
Location: Staffordshire, UK

Sky Trail High Ropes Manager
Company: Adventure Experience
Location: Chingford, London

Head of Food and Beverage
Company: Crealy Great Adventure Park and Resort
Location: Devon, UK

Guest Experience Host
Company: Merlin Entertainments
Location: Orlando, United States

Zoo Host
Company: Chessington World of Adv
Location: Chessington, UK

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ClassPass under fire over price hike

Plans from ClassPass to charge 39 per cent more for its premium package went down like a 50kg kettlebell among London users this month, who took to social media to vent their fury.

In an email to consumers, the studio subscription service explained that its current offering (which allows unlimited access to clubs in its network – although users can only visit the same studio three times in a month) will soon increase in price from £79 to £110 per month. Meanwhile, a new base offering of £55 per month gives access to five classes.

The price hike prompted an angry response from users on Twitter, with many suggesting they would cancel memberships.

According to ClassPass CEO Payal Kadakia, the change reflects a need “to create longevity with both our members and partners.”

“We’re encouraged by the engagement on ClassPass and the tremendous growth we’ve had that shows we are fulfilling our mission of helping people live a more active life, but we have to evolve our business model and adjust prices in order to create longevity with both our members and partners,” she said.

“We’ve also realised that a one-size-fits-all membership is not diverse enough to serve all of our members’ unique needs, which is why we have decided to roll out new plans.

“We wanted to have an easier entry point for new users who have an appetite for boutique fitness as well as the ability to keep offering an exceptional experience to those who love our unlimited product.”

Details: http://lei.st?r=a=Y7a7Z_O

Elevate sets sights on expanded show

Buoyed by the response to this month’s inaugural Elevate trade show in London, the event organisers have wasted no time in setting out plans for a significant expansion in 2017.

Last week’s cross-sector trade event at London’s Olympia comprised two days of networking, seminars, demonstrations and new product launches, as thought leaders from a range of industries came together to explore the ways in which exercise, health and performance connect.

Backed by Public Health England, London Sport, The Institute of Sport, Exercise & Health (ISEH) and Sport England, the event featured 138 expert speakers, including a keynote from the Chief Medical Officer for England, Dame Sally Davies.

In her opening address, Davies called on health professionals, fitness professionals, teachers and sporting role models to come together to help promote a healthier, more productive, happier nation.

Although attendance figures weren’t released, Elevate director Max Quintenont revealed that the event attracted more than 150 exhibitors and said next year’s show will relocate to London ExCel for an expanded format.

Details: http://lei.st?r=a=e8S4A_O