Fitness First eyes up offload of 10 gym sites

Fitness First plans to sell up to 10 regional UK health clubs as the chain continues its strategic shift upmarket towards premium clubs in metropolitan centres, amid speculation that owner Oaktree Capital Management could be planning to exit the business. The potential offload comes as Oaktree recently replaced CEO Andrew Cosslett with Oren Peleg, who has a strong pedigree in finance. Peleg’s appointment sparked suggestions he will move to cut costs and boost earnings ahead of a sale of the business.

Shrek’s Adventure comes to London

Merlin Entertainments has launched its latest attraction at its London cluster on the Thames, a ‘game-changing’ immersive Shrek attraction, which the project’s creative director has said will take linear experiences to new heights.

The English Premier League club announced the plans to host NFL games as part of a presentation during which it also revealed updated designs for the Northumberland Development Project – a large-scale sports, leisure and entertainment destination anchored by the new stadium. Set to open in 2018, the development will include a new 180-bedroom hotel, an extreme sports centre, a “Sky Walk” adrenaline attraction and a “Tottenham Experience” – a permanent visitor attraction and museum charting the club’s history.

There will also be 579 new homes, a new community health centre and improved street infrastructure to better deal with crowd management issues. Details: http://lei.sr?a=p7Y4x_O

Shrek’s Adventure is a lively 90-minute experience exclusively by DreamWorks for the multi-million pound project. Collins-construction worked on the build for Shrek’s Adventure, as well as design and manufacture company Scruffy Dog. Details: http://lei.sr?a=c3U9H_O

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Tottenham Hotspur FC (THFC) will install an innovative multi-use pitch at its 61,000-capacity stadium in North London – allowing it to host a minimum of two National Football League (NFL) games each season. The club will use a retractable grass field at its new £400m venue, with an artificial surface underneath that will be used for NFL games.

The design will allow greater flexibility in the scheduling of games, with the NFL having its own playing surface for games held at the venue. The artificial surface will also be capable of hosting other sporting, entertainment and community events. THFC said it had signed a 10-year deal with the NFL for at least two games per year.

“With growing enthusiasm for the NFL in the UK, we’re committed to hosting NFL games in world-class venues and are excited to partner with Tottenham Hotspur to play games at their future stadium,” said NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. “We share a vision and commitment to creating the best experience for our teams, fans and the local community.”

Sports architects Populous have been appointed to design the stadium.

Tottenham Hotspur stadium designs revealed

The English Premier League club announced the plans to host NFL games as part of a presentation during which it also revealed updated designs for the Northumberland Development Project – a large-scale sports, leisure and entertainment destination anchored by the new stadium. Set to open in 2018, the development will include a new 180-bedroom hotel, an extreme sports centre, a “Sky Walk” adrenaline attraction and a “Tottenham Experience” – a permanent visitor attraction and museum charting the club’s history.

There will also be 579 new homes, a new community health centre and improved street infrastructure to better deal with crowd management issues. Details: http://lei.sr?a=p7Y4x_O
**SPORT**

£40m Bristol Rovers move collapses

Bristol Rovers’ £40m plan to move into a new stadium across the city has collapsed after supermarket chain Sainsbury’s won its High Court battle over the purchase of its current home.

The initial plan had been for Sainsbury’s to buy the team’s 12,000-seat Memorial Stadium in 2011 and lease it back to the club while a new 21,700-seat stadium was developed in the north of Bristol.

On 13 July, a judge ruled in favour of Sainsbury’s, stating that the construction of a schedule to the agreement “seems like an insuperable barrier” to the club winning the case. The Memorial Stadium location would have been redeveloped into a mixed-use site to include a Sainsbury’s supermarket, 65 housing units, 23 affordable units, community space, 572 parking spaces and a public square. A club spokesperson said the League Two side was still “committed to building a new stadium to secure the club’s future”, with the original plans by Arturus Architects being centred on the stadium, with the new venue designed to meet all FIFA standards. Other planned facilities included a 1,280sq m (13,778sq ft) gym, a 784sq m (8,439sq ft) supporters club bar, a jogging track and a banqueting and hospitality suite, as well as a teaching space.

Gleeds, Pegasus Planning Consultants and TPA have also been involved with the plans. Details: http://lei.sr?a=5J5X6_O

‘New approach’ needed for UK sports policy

The UK government needs to embrace “fresh thinking and independent input” when making sports policy decisions if it wants to maximise the potential of sport.

The finding comes from the Sports Think Tank’s Sector Survey, published earlier this month, which questioned 100 senior sports industry figures on a range of issues.

More than 95 per cent of those questioned wanted a new approach into how policy is created, with 85 per cent saying sport should link with innovators and entrepreneurs to meet consumer needs.

“The survey shows a strong appetite for change,” said Sports Think Tank chair, former MP Andy Reed. “It’s time to embrace new technology, new players and new tactics if we are going to maximise the potential of sport to improve sports participation and the nation’s health, fitness and well-being.

“Given the revolution in technology over the last decade and the innovations which have occurred in many industries and other aspects of society, it would be madness not to involve a wider range of people and inputs into any new policy debate.”

“The government should heed the survey’s call for new voices and new approaches.”

The survey also showed concerns over further government cuts. Nearly 90 per cent fear predicted budgetary restrictions will prevent local authorities from providing adequate sports facilities. Details: http://lei.sr?a=p6z2F_O
Tigers’ stadium plans push ahead

Castleford Tigers Rugby Football Club’s plans to build a new stadium have taken a step forward after the government decided not to call in the planning application.

The proposed 10,000-capacity stadium is part of a £135m mixed-use Five Towns Park development in Glasshoughton, consisting of a 50-acre country park and a 53,000sq m retail and entertainment complex.

Developed by Lateral Property Group, the sheer size of the project meant the plans had to be considered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Wakefield Council had approved the original planning application back in February. DCLG decided, however, not to call the proposals in for further scrutiny, which could have delayed the stadium opening date.

Tigers CEO Steve Gill said he was “thrilled” that the project has now cleared its last planning hurdle. “It’s a huge relief to hear the application is not being called in,” Gill said. “We’re now in a great position to deliver the Five Towns Park project to our local community. There are a lot of excited people in Castleford at the moment, but we still have work to do before we start the groundwork.”

Construction work is now expected to begin this year, with the new stadium ready for the 2017 season.

Fresh thinking drives up golf participation

England Golf’s renewed emphasis on structured coaching courses and providing regular playing opportunities has led to a marked surge in new players taking up the sport.

A new impact report by the national governing body shows that there were 8,500 new club memberships taken up in the year to March 2015 – which could equal £7.2m in annual subscriptions.

The report also spotlights large increases (43 per cent) in the number of people taking structured golf coaching and the number of people playing weekly has gone up 48 per cent since 2014.

The increases are credited to England Golf’s new strategy of providing fewer one-off taster sessions and placing more emphasis on coaching and offering regular sessions which are more likely to lead to club memberships.

The new approach supports the England Golf Strategic Plan for 2014-17 which has seven key aims, including creating more players, more members and stronger clubs.

Claire Roberts, England Golf’s head of participation, commented: “Our research tells us that it is golf club members who play golf most often and our county network has, therefore, concentrated on creating more regular players and more members.

“The results of the past 12 months have been very encouraging and England Golf will continue to work with counties and clubs to promote regular coaching and ways to recruit and retain club members.”

Details: http://lei.sr?l=a=G8R5W_O
**Active children are ‘more confident and popular’**

As well as being happier and fitter, children who are more physically active enjoy a range of social benefits including increased confidence and peer acceptance, according to a new evidence review published this month.

The Public Health England (PHE)-backed review by British Heart Foundation (BHF) researchers from the University of Oxford and Loughborough University identifies the direct benefits that physical activity has on children in terms of their physical, social and emotional development.

It points to strong evidence that physical activity and sport has a positive impact on children’s social skills and self-esteem.

*Details: http://lei.sr?a=JzU5r_O*

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**Les Mills launches On Demand**

Global fitness giant Les Mills has kicked off its new On Demand streaming service, enabling fitness fans to workout whenever they like by accessing classes via a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

The Spotify-like service, which was first revealed by Leisure Opportunities in March, will initially be available to consumers in the US, UK, Finland and Sweden. A subscription for the service – which currently carries seven Les Mills classes in 30-minute formats – costs £9.95 per month.

Les Mills On Demand will aim to help health clubs enhance their member offering by extending exercise classes beyond the gym. Based on research that found 82 per cent of gym goers also exercise frequently at home, Les Mills believes the service will help clubs to be able to boost member engagement.

“Around the world there are millions of people using Les Mills to fuel their fitness, whether it’s a dance class such as SH’BAM or our indoor cycle class RPM; gym users come back time and time again,” said Les Mills CEO Phillip Mills. “We recognise sometimes people want to ‘have a go’ in the comfort of their own home before trying out a live class and we’ve had a great deal of interest across the globe to take our classes online and this is just one way we hope we are helping to create a fitter planet.”

The On Demand service will be aimed at all demographics and there are plans to roll out Born To Move classes for kids.

*Details: http://lei.sr?a=J8c9k_O*

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**Virgin boosts earnings ahead of takeover**

Virgin Active has announced an impressive set of financial figures as it gears up for expansion amid its impending acquisition by South African investment firm Brait.

Brait agreed to buy an 80 per cent stake in the business for £682m in April and the transaction is expected to be completed this summer, subject to approval by the South African and Namibian competition authorities. Having opened 11 new clubs in 2014, Virgin Active aims to make further strides in 2015 buoyed by its new investor, with a particular focus on growth in Asia and Africa.

In a trading statement released last month for the year to 31 December 2014, underlying earnings across the group grew 13 per cent to £124m, with growth across all territories.

In Europe, where Virgin Active has 146 clubs, including 101 in the UK, underlying earnings grew by 17 per cent.

Revenues held firm against 2013’s figures despite the sale of 12 UK clubs, the bulk of which were sold to Nuffield Health.

“Our 2014 saw a continuation of the growth that we have enjoyed since we opened our first club in 1999. All established territories contributed to this profit growth in a period where we have continued to invest in both clubs and product innovation,” said Virgin Active CEO Paul Woolf. “As consumers seek out ways to improve and maintain their health and wellness levels, I’m confident 2015 will be another year of growth.”

*Details: http://lei.sr?a=r3g3Y_O*
HEALTH & FITNESS

Chris Hoy invests in Pure Gym

Six time Olympic gold medal winner Sir Chris Hoy has invested in Pure Gym and will partner the group as a special adviser.

In his new role, Hoy will act as an ambassador for Pure Gym and advise on how the operator can enhance the overall customer experience, support members in being more active and help them to achieve their individual goals. He will also act as a consultant on potential new Pure Gym products and services.

“Chris is a truly outstanding sportsman and a superb technician in terms of training expertise. As a multi Olympic medal winner he is well placed to advise on strengthening our product offering and services,” said Pure Gym CEO Humphrey Cobbold. “Having known Chris since before his retirement, I also know he’s not just interested in elite sports but is deeply committed to helping people of all abilities be healthier and more active. I therefore cannot think of a better person to join us and support our mission of opening up access to affordable, high quality fitness facilities to as many people as possible.”

Hoy joins Pure Gym as the business reaches a major milestone in its expansion. This week the chain will open the doors to its 100th club in East Kilbride. The group also remains on course to acquire 43 LA fitness sites, pending Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) approval.

“I have followed Pure Gym’s swift expansion over the past few years and have admired the way in which they have changed the gym market for the benefit of consumers of all ages, abilities and interests,” said Hoy. “I am particularly interested by the fact that 30 per cent of our customers have never been members of a gym before.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=T5C7M_O

Major suppliers throw weight behind LIW

With just weeks to go until the biggest date in the physical activity sector calendar, Leisure Industry Week (LIW) 2015 is gaining steady momentum with a number of major equipment suppliers booking stands for the event.

Matrix Fitness, Precor, Cybex, Octane Fitness and Jordan Fitness are among the fitness equipment suppliers to have confirmed they will exhibit at the two-day event. They’ll be joined on the show floor by heavy-weights from the aquatics industry – such as Zoggs – and drinks giant Lucozade.

Having seen falling attendances in recent years, there had been uncertainty as to whether suppliers would support LIW 2015, but a change of ownership and a fresh approach appear to have inspired renewed confidence. BodyPower Holdings – the company which produces the popular health and fitness consumer show BodyPower Expo – recently acquired the longstanding industry event from United Business Media (UBM) for an undisclosed fee. The new owners are eager to bring new ideas to LIW and chief executive Nick Orton has advocated an innovative approach with fresh thinking.

“As one of the largest suppliers and manufacturers of fitness equipment, Precor is pleased to once again support the industry’s key UK trade show and is excited with the changes Bodypower are making to the event,” Precor’s UK marketing manager Jonathan Griffiths told Leisure Opportunities. Details: http://lei.sr?a=G2zn3_O

Details: http://lei.sr?a=T5C7M_O

A number of key suppliers have confirmed their presence at the show

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SKATE PARK RAMPS UP ALLIANCE’S SUCCESSES

Alliance Leisure has created a dynamic new sports space for young people in Barking, East London.

The sports development experts have created a new 1000 sq m (10,763 sq ft) indoor skate park at the Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) Barking Sporthouse centre, along with a VerTgo climbing wall.

The skate park used five courts of a large 20 badminton court sports hall, separating the remaining three quarters of the facility with a large partition. The VerTgo Indoor Climbing has 14 elements, catering for new and experienced climbers.

GLL asked Alliance Leisure to come up with ideas for attracting new users and providing a space for young people in December 2014 and five months later, the project was delivered on time and within budget.

At an overall cost of £750,000, more than half (£500,000) was funded by Sport England Improvement Fund and the rest invested by GLL. Alliance delivered the project from start to finish, bringing its expertise in project management and full supply chain.

As well as the new facilities, a new ‘caged’ entrance and reception space has been developed, along with a mezzanine floor viewing area with DJ platform for events.

New toilet facilities have been installed and young users can store their bikes and scooters in a dedicated bike park in the centre.

Since the centre opened in May, more than 4,000 visitors have used the new facilities in Barking.
Lewis Thompson, general manager for Barking Sporthouse, said, “The facility has already been a huge success and the feedback we’ve had from visitors already has been fantastic. “We’re confident that this one of the best and most innovative extreme sports facilities in the UK. It’s been purpose built and includes some of the latest design, technology and equipment. “We look forward to hosting events and welcoming more extreme sports fans from not just the local area - but across the UK.” In addition to the skate park, GLL are building a 2,000sq m (21,527sq ft) trampoline park to complement the offering to the local and regional community. This is due to open late summer.

MORE INFORMATION:
Alliance Leisure, 24 Angel Crescent, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3EW
Tel: 01278 444944
Email: info@allianceleisure.co.uk
www.allianceleisure.co.uk

Supported by Sport England Improvement Fund to attract new users particularly younger age groups
UK’s National Spa Week set for 2-6 November 2015

National Spa Week, the UK Spa Association’s annual awareness week, will this year run from 2-6 November, with an aim to encourage the uninitiated into spas with events and special offers, such as discounted treatments or gifts with purchase. The Association reports that only 8 per cent of the UK population visits spas, and aims to raise that number to 10 per cent by 2017.

The promotion has a fundraising element as well, as operators are encouraged to support Macmillan Cancer Support during the week. Individual spas and salons will choose how they fundraise, though the UK Spa Association is offering a range of suggestions. Details: http://lei.sr?a=n9Q2g_O

Latest EF Medispa to offer IV vitamin infusions

EF Medispa is opening its fourth London clinic in Canary Wharf this summer, bringing IV vitamin infusions to the stressed-out executives of the London financial hub.

The 75sq m (802sq ft) location will feature 10 types of Drip & Chill IV vitamin infusions created to support various conditions such as a low immune system, dehydration and weight loss. Treatments are also designed to improve athletic performance and libido.

“The new lounge-style, riverside premises, along Admiral’s Way, will be offering Canary Wharf’s stressed-out, time-short executives a chance to recharge their batteries with energy-boosting vitamin infusions, and to refresh their image utilising the latest advances in medical aesthetics,” said Esther Fieldgrass, founder of EF Medispa.

EF Medispa uses proprietary software from VitaminDrip to create unique “prescriptions” based on clients’ responses to medical and lifestyle questionnaires. It will also offer injections for both wrinkles and hyperhidrosis, also known as excessive sweating. Details: http://lei.sr?a=x963h_O

Crescent adds champagne garden

The Grade I-listed Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa in Bath has launched The Tattinger Spa Garden at the Spa & Bath House. The 156sq m (1,679sq ft) spa garden is both a relaxation room and a space to have a meal from the property’s spa menu.

“The Tattinger Spa Garden offers the opportunity for our spa guests to further their experience of relaxation and escape by retreating to a haven created to enhance the senses within a beautifully planted and hidden walled garden,” Anette Hall, spa manager for the property told Leisure Opportunities.

“It is the perfect place for our guests to remain in their gowns and enjoy either lunch from our Spa Garden menu, an exquisite afternoon tea, or simply a chilled glass of Tattinger champagne or a cocktail.”

Tattinger is the brand partner at The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa, and in addition to the Tattinger champagne available for purchase, the spa garden incorporates the brand with yellow Compte de Champagne roses and branded furniture. Designed by local landscape designer Alison Jenkins, the garden includes sofas and chairs with manicured hedges. Spa menu items include chilled gazpacho, superfood salads and fresh fruit salads created by head chef David Campbell.

The Georgian property, which dates from the 1700s, relaunched last autumn after a major heritage-led refurbishment to the 45 bedrooms, suites and spa. Details: http://lei.sr?a=b8Q6t_O

Nuffield bringing mindfulness to workplace

UK healthcare organisation Nuffield Health has teamed up with Mindlab to develop a new corporate mindfulness training programme for businesses to optimise employee performance and build emotional resilience.

Based on research which has found mindfulness improves cognitive performance, emotional regulation and management of stress, the programme will comprise bespoke workshops, as well as a complete foundation course to establish mindfulness practice. Sessions are delivered live, either face-to-face or via webinars to increase accessibility. Courses are also supported by an app.

Already providing corporate wellness services to 60 per cent of companies listed on the UK’s FTSE 100 index, the move is Nuffield Health’s initiative to gain an even greater market share. It follows the recent acquisition of two health clubs on the doorstep of the City of London, as it bids to make wellness a mainstream of corporate life. With 15 million working days lost during 2013 in the UK alone due to stress, anxiety and depression, it’s easy to understand why the concept of mindfulness is gaining greater traction. In a recent article, the president and CEO of the Global Wellness Summit Susie Ellis said workplace wellness will become a major focus in the next couple of years, predicting that the movement is “about to explode.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=27S2J_O
Health Club Management Retention Hub

We’ve pulled together the latest retention series written for Health Club Management by leading industry experts Dr Melvyn Hillsdon, Dr Paul Bedford and Guy Griffiths. This one-stop online shop gives you quick access to the latest thinking, stats, trends and reports in this vital field.

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healthclubmanagement.co.uk/retention
HOTELS

Luxury Edinburgh hotel gets green light

Planning permission has been granted for a major mixed-use scheme in Edinburgh, which will see a luxury hotel, 30 restaurants and a multi-screen cinema developed.

Allan Murray Architects and BDP masterplanned the £850m Edinburgh St James scheme, located in a World Heritage Site at the Scottish city’s St James Quarter.

The five-star hotel, designed by Jestico & Whiles as the centrepiece of the project, will feature up to 210 bedrooms, as well as a 41,000sq ft (3,809sq m) apart hotel that has the potential to provide 70 suites. The practice envisages a hotel that appears as a bundle of ‘coiled ribbons’, creating a “free-flowing and bold” building.

The new development as a whole will take up 160,000sq m (1,717sq ft) and replace a 1970s shopping centre. Retail space comprising 70,000sq m (753,474sq ft) and up to 250 new homes will also be created.

Developer TIAA Henderson Real Estate is behind the scheme, which revolves around an open air galleria street intended to create a series of refined public spaces and squares. Allan Murray Architects’ and BDP’s design is influenced by Edinburgh’s classical geometry of crescents and circuses, and will complement the city’s “sophisticated architecture, character and history”.

With planning permission now in place construction work is expected to begin later this year, with completion scheduled for 2020. Details: http://lei.sr?a=X9x7y_O

Welsh hotel reborn as chic boutique

An historic Welsh hotel in the seaside resort of Llandudno has opened this month (3 July) as The Llandudno Bay Hotel following a multi-million pound redevelopment.

After MBI Hotels purchased the hotel in December 2014, redevelopment began in earnest and the programme of work has seen the refurbishment of the entire hotel.

The extensive renovation work on what was previously the Regency Royal Hotel has been led by MBI Group Construction – a sister division of the site’s new owner. The refurb has seen the Grade II listed building become a new boutique hotel, with function space for 150, a 90-cover restaurant, plus a champagne bar and lounge.

“The speed in which the work has been completed on this grand building has been astonishing; especially with the high quality achieved,” said hotel general manager, Chris Evans. “We have had a lot of interest from locals, who are excited to have a new venue at which to meet with friends, family and colleagues, and to show-off to visitors to Llandudno.” The new-look Llandudno Bay Hotel features a Forster Restaurant, which will serve a variety of dishes with locally-sourced ingredients. Meanwhile, the Woodhouse Bar offers cocktails and champagne to be enjoyed in the bar, or out on the terrace overlooking the bay. There is also an on-site spa which is due to open in the 2016. Details are still to be finalised as to what this will comprise. Details: http://lei.sr?a=U7d4g_O

Edinburgh St James is now scheduled to be completed in 2020
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Follow us: @LiW, LeisureIndustryWeek
Glasgow Science Centre is set to upgrade its facilities to include Scotland’s first fulldome digital planetarium.

Due to open at the end of Q3 2015, the new fulldome digital system by Sciss will allow for guests to see the universe in three dimensions, with the technology able to take them on journeys across the solar system, the Milky Way Galaxy and beyond.

In addition to astronomy, the system will show 360° fulldome films projected in HD across the 15m (49ft) dome, with Google’s “Back to the Moon for Good” narrated by Tim Allen among the first to be shown.

“The new digital system will allow our visitors to explore the universe like never before through live presenter-led shows taking them on a tour through our solar system, or zooming out of the Milky Way to seeing our galaxy from above,” said planetarium manager, Steve Owens. “We will take seconds to transport our audiences to places in space that would take the fastest spacecraft ever built 40,000 years to reach and we will have shows suitable for all ages.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=U8b4A_O

£20m fit-out for Design Museum

Willmott Dixon Interiors have been named winners of a £20m contract to fit out London’s Design Museum, which is planning an £80m move to the former Commonwealth Institute building in Kensington.

The Grade II-listed building will become the new home for the Design Museum, which is dedicated to contemporary design and architecture.

The interior vision, imagined by British architect John Pawson, will include provision of new galleries with space for one permanent and two temporary exhibition areas. Also set to be featured will be learning spaces, a library, auditorium and office areas, in addition to a new restaurant.

Funded by Arts Council England (ACE), the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and museum co-founder, Sir Terence Conran, the new 10,000sq m (107,600sq ft) space will provide three times more room than the Design Museum’s current location at Shad Thames. Around 400sq m (4,300sq ft) will be devoted to learning facilities.

“This is a high-profile and prestigious project that will see the Design Museum become one of London’s biggest attractions when we complete the fit-out, with more than 500,000 visitors expected annually,” said Willmott Dixon Interiors’ COO Mike Hart.

“We are very proud to be delivering this last, important stage of the museum’s long-term plan for a bigger home, especially as we have a long track-record restoring listed buildings into modern spaces fit for the 21st century.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=d8v7h_O

Rolling Stones exhibition set for 2016

The Rolling Stones have announced plans for a touring exhibition displaying rare and unique treasures from the band’s 50-year history.

Promoted and presented by Australian company International Entertainment Consulting, Exhibitionism will make its debut in April 2016 at London’s Saatchi Gallery. On show will be more than 500 artefacts from the band’s personal archives, which a statement said would embrace “all aspects of art and design, film, video, fashion, performance, rare sound archives and at the heart of it, the Stones’ musical heritage.”

“We’ve been thinking about it for a long time but wanted it to be just right and on a large scale just like planning our touring concert productions,” said Mick Jagger. “I think right now it’s an interesting time to do it.”

The immersive exhibit will fill nine rooms, spanning 1,750sq m (18,800sq ft) in total, with each room looking at a different period of Rolling Stones history. The tour will be the largest of its kind to ever be staged by a band or musician and has had its collection curated over a period of three years.

“While this is about the Rolling Stones, it’s not necessarily just about the members of the band,” added Keith Richards. “It’s also about all the paraphernalia and technology associated with a band, such as the instruments.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=s6W6Y_O
TOURISM

Music tourism brings £3bn boost

The UK’s booming music industry and festival scene helped generate £3.1bn in music tourism in 2014, according to a new report. The Wish You Were Here report by industry body UK Music found that 9.5 million music tourists travelled to live concerts and festivals such as Glastonbury, the Isle of Wight Festival and Scotland’s T-in The Park during the year. Overseas visitors made up 546,000 of these music tourists and spent an average of £751 each.

“The UK’s rich music heritage and infrastructure has made the UK the go-to destination for live music globally and these statistics show how tourism is now a bedrock of British music and the wider economy,” said UK Music CEO Jo Dipple.

The report found that music tourism is poised for further growth, having seen the number of overseas music tourists jump 39 per cent between 2011-2014. This increase in music tourism also brought a boost to employment throughout the country, with 38,238 full-time UK jobs in 2014 sustained by music tourism – a 57 per cent increase since 2012.

The report follows research published last year suggesting an additional £4bn could be raised for the UK economy by cashing in on the country’s music heritage through attractions linked to stars such as David Bowie, The Beatles and the Arctic Monkeys.

“British music is legendary around the world and continues to go from strength to strength, with UK artists now accounting for one in seven albums sold worldwide,” said culture secretary John Whittingdale. “Festivals like Glastonbury hold an iconic status and are one of the reasons why international tourism is booming in the UK, drawing in streams of visitors to all parts of the country.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q2D5h_O

VisitEngland launches Twitter travel hub

VisitEngland is combining technology with tourism expertise to provide travellers with real-time advice on how to make the most of their trips.

The national tourism body has launched RealTimeTravelGuide.co.uk, a new online hub allowing users to tailor their break using real-time tweets from England’s tourism experts. The move is designed to reflect the preference of modern travellers to access tourism information while ‘on-the-go.’

Teaming up with Tourist Information Centres (TICs) and local destination organisations from across the country, the new service aims to revolutionise how local tourism organisations and businesses share information to consumers via Twitter. It will consolidate real-time information for people researching things to do on holiday, planning a weekend, day trip, or making plans while they are already there.

A quick search of the site reveals a map of England, pin-pointing local Twitter handles providing real-time information. Users can search the site by destination or by interest, to find information such as news about restaurants, seasonal activities and upcoming events.

“This is an exciting and pioneering project and a tourist board first,” said VisitEngland CEO James Berresford. Details: http://lei.sr?a=s7K7r_O

VisitEngland CEO James Berresford launches the new hub with minister Tracey Crouch
Chai Ki is owner Rohit Chugh's second restaurant in Marylebone, London, which has also inspired the design of the new space.

Taking inspiration from New York with an urban style full of raw finishes and detailed features, DesignLSM has completed the interior design of a new restaurant in London's Canary Wharf.

Chai Ki is seen as a development of owner Rohit Chugh's existing Roti Chai restaurant, in Marylebone, London, which has also inspired the design of the new space.

The high ceilings of the new restaurant have allowed for the creation of a “visually arresting” interior, according to DesignLSM. Individual areas have been given their own character, but the company has worked to create visual harmony across the whole scheme. Small features, such as waiter stations modelled after Chai stands on the streets of India, offer a hint of the restaurant’s heritage.

Particularly noteworthy is the site’s kitchen, which DesignLSM says has been treated as an “architectural intervention”. Details: http://lei.sr?a=C3K8x_O

DesignLSM creates raw, urban interior for eatery

The Museum of London has been awarded £200,000 to set up an architectural competition for its new home at Smithfield Market. On behalf of London’s mayor, Boris Johnson, the Greater London Authority (GLA) designated the funds as part of its backing for the proposed relocation.

The museum will now run an architectural contest to appoint a designer and other consultants, who will develop the new museum to concept stage. A detailed strategic brief articulating space requirements, and a procurement and management plan to manage the new museum project, will also be completed in October 2015. Although two other options – improvements to the Powell & Moya-designed building and developing a new building on the existing site – were considered, the Smithfield relocation was deemed the most viable. Details: http://lei.sr?a=h3d58s_O

Design competition for new Museum of London home

Refurbishment for Trocadero cinema

Panter Hudspith architects have completed a refurbishment of the Cineworld Cinema at the iconic Trocadero in London's Piccadilly.

The site reopened last month as the Picturehouse Central – a new 1,000 seat, seven-screen flagship cinema.

The Trocadero is a mixed-use building in the heart of London with a colourful past. Parts of it are currently closed for refurbishment. The new cinema is part of its renaissance. Panter Hudspith, which has also completed another Picturehouse Central in nearby Dulwich, has extensively restructured the interior, providing new spaces for cafes, bars, a restaurant and a rooftop terrace offering views over Piccadilly.

The elaborate Baroque Grade II listed façade has been rejuvenated and a new glass frontage onto Shaftesbury Avenue leads into a double-height foyer. A grand oak and red tiled staircase leads from the foyer to the first floor bar and restaurant, with seating for 100 and lobby access to the cinema screens. Martin Brudnizki Design Studio has used cinematic culture, from Hollywood glamour to art-house cinema, to create the interior.

Listed friezes by Gerald Moira from the days when the site was home to Scott’s Restaurant remain on public display and the ground floor café displays a specially commissioned illustrative mural by artists Patrick Vale and Paul Davis. The existing seven auditoria have also been upgraded. Details: http://lei.sr?a=uj6f6r_O

£36m live music centre coming to Hull

Hull has moved one step closer to having its own international music and events centre after councillors voted to push ahead with plans for the £36m city centre site.

AFL Architects have designed the 3,500 capacity venue and Hull City Council is now seeking a partner operator to run the facility alongside a contractor to build it.

The purpose-built venue will, for the first time, allow Hull to attract large corporate and association conferences, exhibitions and trade tours as well as major touring concerts, stand-up comedy, family shows and sporting events.

The brand new centre will include dividable break-out rooms, a restaurant, dressing rooms with en-suite facilities, an outside broadcast space and acoustics suitable for conferences and amplified music.

The council has committed £36.2m towards building the complex as part of the scheme, in combination with development partners the Wykeland Group.

“A high-quality, purpose-built events and conference centre is essential to making Hull a top visitor destination and to secure a long-term legacy from our year as UK City of Culture,” said Hull City councillor Steven Bayes. According to the council, design concepts will be completed and contractors appointed by the end of 2015, with the venue scheduled to open in 2018. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y6u5q_O
Outdoor adventure centre in prime location

A unique opportunity is now available to develop an outdoor leisure business with further potential for growth located in a green and leafy urban setting.

Whickham Thorns Outdoor Activity Centre operates in a 33 acre site, located in the North East of England, just 3 miles from the Angel of the North. It has an established customer base and a range of activities are available.

Gateshead Council is offering the lease and management of the site to interested parties. To discuss in more detail or to arrange a viewing please contact:
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Izzard launches sport volunteer campaign

Comedian Eddie Izzard and legendary Paralympian Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson have launched a campaign to get more people volunteering to support grassroots sport.

Sports volunteering charity Join In and BBC Get Inspired have teamed up to create the Big Help Out campaign – an initiative to inspire 10,000 new volunteers to help out at local sports clubs, groups and events. Currently, 3.2 million people give their time for free to facilitate sport across the UK, but despite this, seven out of 10 clubs still need more help.

Izzard, who is patron of Join In and Grey-Thompson – who recently became chair of ukactive – have thrown their weight behind the campaign, amid hopes the attraction of new recruits can have wider implications for sport. Join In research found that every volunteer enables 8.5 additional participants to enjoy community sport, so successfully adding 10,000 new volunteers is expected to lead to a significant upswinging in sporting participation.

“I have always been very interested in volunteering, and in the power that it can have to bring communities together,” said Izzard. “Join In and Grey-Thompson have done an incredible job championing volunteering, and their work is inspiring. I am delighted to be supporting the campaign and hope that the attraction of new recruits can boost participation.”

Details: http://lei.sr?r=J5g2J_O

Icon Training outlines careers vision

Sport and leisure training provider Icon Training is planning a complete overhaul of its training structure in a bid to provide structured career pathways spanning from entry level right up to the boardroom.

Starting from September 2015, the planned overhaul will enable learners to progress from Level 1 courses (aspiring professional) through to Masters Level 7 qualifications (director) across a range of sector disciplines. Icon believes the revised structure will enable it to offer a career in sport and leisure as a long-term option through a series of accredited courses.

The move echoes the calls of many employers for a simplified system of career pathways and skills accreditation, at a time when the industry faces tough decisions on how to develop its training infrastructure. A number of active leisure employers feel the current learning and development structure – whereby skills development sits under more than body – is diluting training standards and making it difficult for young people to follow clear career pathways in the sector.

“For too long our industry has evolved through incidental management where staff have been put in place without the correct training or support, resulting in high staff turnover, and an undervalued sector,” said Icon Training CEO Julian Leybourne. Details: http://lei.sr?r=J4F2k_O

Details: http://lei.sr?r=J4F2k_O

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We are now looking for an experienced, commercially focused Leisure Operations Manager to lead this exciting new development, as well as the newly opened Selby Leisure Centre. The overall leisure operation includes the all weather pitch, Selby Park, Sports Development and Community Wellbeing Team opened Selby Leisure Centre. The overall leisure operation includes the all weather pitch, Selby Park, Sports Development and Community Wellbeing Team

We are delighted to offer the below position to join our existing team at this very exciting time of further developments at Selby. Having already opened a successful £7 million Leisure Centre we are now embarking on the next phase of the development with a £5 million facility due to open in June 2016.

Selby Leisure Village will feature a boutique ten-pin bowling, a VerTGo adventure climbing facility, an adventure play zone, aerial trekking, an indoor ski simulator, plus an indoor skate and BMX park. The development will also see the introduction of an outdoor skate and BMX park following consultations with local skate park users. The centre will also include a café and bar.

Leisure Operations Manager
Circa 35-40k per annum – Selby

We are now looking to recruit an experienced, commercially focused Leisure Operations Manager to lead this exciting new development, as well as the newly opened Selby Leisure Centre. The overall leisure operation includes the all weather pitch, Selby Park, Sports Development and Community Wellbeing Team as well as a smaller leisure centre in Tadcaster.

With a large team to manage we are looking for an effective leader, who will manage and direct all sites to a high standard. With the wider team you will be responsible for delivering an outstanding experience to every customer, which create lasting memories.

As the Leisure Operations Manager you will be responsible for ensuring that financial, client requirements and community needs are met and provide strategic and operational support to drive the business forward.

You will work closely with key partners both regionally and nationally in order to maximise sales and performance, working closely with the Head of Sports & Leisure Facilities and other Senior Managers to continually develop the sites.

The ideal candidate must have a significant successful experience of running similar operations, and be educated to degree level or NVQ 4 and/or professional qualification.

Significant experience in all aspects of financial management of major leisure operations is essential, as well as being able to motivate and lead a team. Experience in developing and implementing strategic plans is also essential.

If you think you have the right skills, and experience to be part of this exciting new opportunity within Selby then please visit www.wlct.org/jobs

For an informal discussion contact Andrew Watmough on (01942) 404985 or Mobile 07852 311052.

Closing date: 17 August 2015, 12pm. Proposed interview date: W/C 31 August 2015.

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For an informal discussion contact Christina Fuller, Cultural Services Manager on 01233 330228.
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Company: énergie group
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Location: Preston, UK

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Location: London, England

Pool Operations Manager
Company: Fusion Lifestyle
Location: Middlesex, England

Club Development Officer
Company: Anglia Ruskin University
Location: Based in Cambridge, UK

Aquatics Development Officer
Company: Fusion Lifestyle
Location: Cambridge, UK

Fitness Instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: Loughton, UK

Catering Assistant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Bournon-the-Water, UK

Fitness instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: Hatfield, UK

Podium - Web Size.png
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Company: Pure Gym Limited  
Location: Field Based, UK

Fitness Instructor (P/T)  
Company: Energie Group  
Location: Andover, UK

Duty Manager  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Stourbridge, UK

Sports and Leisure Officer  
Company: Stratford Upon Avon School  
Location: Warwickshire, UK

General Manager  
Company: Fusion Lifestyle  
Location: Surrey, England

Swim Teacher  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Stowmarket, UK

Segway Events Supervisor  
Company: Big Bang Promotions  
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Company: Age UK Oxfordshire  
Location: Across Oxfordshire, UK

Maintenance Manager  
Company: Parkwood Leisure  
Location: Portsmouth, UK

Cafe/Bar Manager  
Company: Fusion Lifestyle  
Location: Essex, England

Party Leader (P/T)  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Loughton, UK

Multi-Racquets Coach  
Company: Leisureforce  
Location: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Swimming Teachers  
Company: Community Swimming  
Location: Nationwide, UK

Customer Relations Manager  
Company: Fusion Lifestyle  
Location: Oxfordshire, England

General Manager  
Company: Fusion Lifestyle  
Location: Kent, England

Catering Apprentice  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

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

MoveGB Customer Motivator  
Company: Move GB  
Location: Bath, UK

Facilities Manager  
Company: Pure Gym Limited  
Location: Field Based, UK

Fitness Instructor (P/T)  
Company: Energie Group  
Location: Andover, UK

Duty Manager  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Stourbridge, UK

Sports and Leisure Officer  
Company: Stratford Upon Avon School  
Location: Warwickshire, UK

General Manager  
Company: Fusion Lifestyle  
Location: Surrey, England

Swim Teacher  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Stowmarket, UK

Segway Events Supervisor  
Company: Big Bang Promotions  
Location: Windsor, UK

Exercise tutor & training opportunity  
Company: Age UK Oxfordshire  
Location: Across Oxfordshire, UK

Maintenance Manager  
Company: Parkwood Leisure  
Location: Portsmouth, UK

Cafe/Bar Manager  
Company: Fusion Lifestyle  
Location: Essex, England

Party Leader (P/T)  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Loughton, UK

Multi-Racquets Coach  
Company: Leisureforce  
Location: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Swimming Teachers  
Company: Community Swimming  
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Customer Relations Manager  
Company: Fusion Lifestyle  
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Location: Kent, England

Catering Apprentice  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

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

MoveGB Customer Motivator  
Company: Move GB  
Location: Bath, UK

Regional Activity Scout  
Company: Move GB  
Location: Scotland

Recreation Assistant  
Company: Wellington Health & Fitness  
Location: Berkshire, UK

Fitness Apprenticeship  
Company: Energie Group  
Location: Harlow, Essex, UK

Customer Relations Manager  
Company: Fusion Lifestyle  
Location: London, England

Fitness Motivator  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: St Albans, UK

Technical Support Assistant  
Company: The STA  
Location: Walsall, West Midlands, UK

Personal Trainers Wanted  
Company: Soho Gyms  
Location: London, UK

Personal Training Tutors  
Company: The Training Room  
Location: Various locations, UK

Sports Development Officer  
Company: City of Westminster Council  
Location: London, UK

Cultural Projects Manager  
Company: Ashford Borough Council  
Location: Ashford, Kent, UK

Fitness First Middle East  
Company: Premier Training  
Location: Middle East

General Manager  
Company: Xercise 4 Less  
Location: Nationwide, UK

Impact Sales Consultant  
Company: Xercise 4 Less  
Location: North West & Scotland

Personal Trainer  
Company: Xercise 4 Less  
Location: Nationwide, UK

Membership Consultant  
Company: Xercise 4 Less  
Location: Nationwide, UK

Sales and Marketing Manager  
Company: Xercise 4 Less  
Location: Various locations, UK

Swimming Teacher  
Company: Becky Adlington’s Swim Stars  
Location: Nationwide, UK

Spa Supervisor  
Company: Grand Jersey Hotel and Spa  
Location: Jersey, UK

Senior Therapist  
Company: St Pierre Park Hotel  
Location: Guernsey, Guernsey

Spa Director  
Company: Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group  
Location: Washington, D.C.

Spa Manager  
Company: University of Derby  
Location: Derby, UK

Freelance Trainers  
Company: Aromatherapy Associates  
Location: UK and Europe

Beauty Therapist  
Company: Center Parcs Ltd  
Location: Various locations, UK

Spa Manager - The Spa Hotel  
Company: Ribby Hall Village  
Location: Wrex Green, Lancashire, UK

Therapist  
Company: Cliveden House  
Location: Berkshire, UK

Self-employed Sales Agents  
Company: Aromatherapy Associates  
Location: France, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Romania, The Balkans

Aesthetic Therapists  
Company: E.MediSpa  
Location: Various locations, UK

Therapist  
Company: Chewton Glen Hotel  
Location: Hampshire, UK

Assistant Operations Manager  
Company: Longleat  
Location: Longleat, Wiltshire, UK

Visitor Experience Manager  
Company: Adventure Valley  
Location: Bradsfield, Durham, UK

Researcher  
Company: Merlin Entertainments  
Location: London, UK

E-Commerce Executive  
Company: Legoland Malaysia  
Location: Johor, Malaysia

Head of Sales  
Company: Legoland Malaysia  
Location: Johor Darul Takzim, Malaysia

Duty Manager  
Company: Legoland Discovery  
Location: Boston, US

VIP Experiences Coordinator  
Company: Legoland Florida  
Location: Florida, US

Technical Supervisor  
Company: Legoland California  
Location: California, US

Technical Manager  
Company: Legoland Discovery Center  
Location: Ontario, Canada

Head of Sales  
Company: Merlin Entertainments  
Location: Florida, US

Public Relations Manager  
Company: Legoland Florida  
Location: Florida, US

General Manager - Cluster  
Company: Merlin Entertainments  
Location: California-San Francisco, US

Front Office Manager  
Company: Legoland California  
Location: California, US

Hotel Resident Manager  
Company: Gardaland Resort  
Location: Castelnuovo del Garda, Italy

Resort Marketing Manager  
Company: Legoland California  
Location: California, US

Marketing Coordinator  
Company: Legoland Discovery Center  
Location: Georgia-Atlanta, US

Commercial Supervisor  
Company: Legoland Discovery Center  
Location: New York, US

Health and Safety Manager  
Company: Legoland Florida  
Location: Florida, US

Operations Manager  
Company: Legoland Discovery Center  
Location: Georgia-Atlanta, US

Ride Technician  
Company: Blackpool Tower Dungeon  
Location: Blackpool, UK

Operations Lead  
Company: Sea Life  
Location: Minnesota-Bloomington, US

Head of Sales  
Company: Merlin - Orlando Cluster  
Location: Florida-Orlando, US

Commercial Manager  
Company: Merlin Entertainments  
Location: New-York-Youkens, US

Hospitality Team Leader  
Company: Coca Cola London Eye  
Location: London, UK

Talker - Guida Acquario  
Company: Gardaland Resort  
Location: Castelnuovo del Garda, Italy

Marketing and Sales Assistant  
Company: Sea Life  
Location: Minnesota-Bloomington, US
Osborne announces The Living Wage

Chancellor George Osborne has unveiled plans for a new compulsory living wage in the first Conservative government Budget for almost 20 years.

From April 2016, the Living Wage will come into effect in place of the minimum wage, which is currently £6.50 per hour. The Living Wage – intended to cover significant cuts being made to tax credits for low income workers – will start at £7.20 per hour for over 25s, gradually rising to £9 per hour in 2020.

The announcement will have big implications for the leisure industry – both in terms of revenue opportunities and staff costs – where the majority of entry level workers start their careers on minimum wage.

For lifeguards, receptionists, junior personal trainers and a number of hospitality workers, the announcement heralds the prospect of a 38 per cent pay rise by 2020. Operators meanwhile, must contemplate how to cover a rapidly inflating wage bill.

“Increased costs for operators who rely on minimum wage staff, will have to be budgeted for, but the industry must embrace this increase with a positive attitude, to ensure we continue to build our reputation as a credible sector which creates good jobs and offers solid employment prospects,” said Leisure Media CEO Liz Terry. “The increase in minimum wage is good news for the industry, as it gives people more disposable income to enjoy their leisure time.” Terry also criticised the “further undermining of student grants,” which she flagged as being at odds with the government’s stated aim of creating a competitive economy based on increased skills. Details: http://lei sr? a=58qz2 _O

Fitness First eyes offload of 10 sites

A well-placed source told Leisure Opportunities that the gym chain is looking to offload 10 sites outside of London, in areas where “consumers are sensitive to price and budget gyms have gained a strong foothold.”

The clubs in question, which span the south west, Midlands region and “a few outliers,” are being marketed “through the usual channels” and are expected to be sold separately rather than to a single suitor. Although several are profitable, the gyms are understood to be “not exceptional enough to hold on to” as Fitness First looks to finalise its shift towards offering premium clubs in major urban centres.

“We can confirm we are considering options for other gym operators to take on the operation of a small number of Fitness First clubs,” said a Fitness First spokesperson. “These clubs are situated in locations that are better suited to other types of operator and do not fit with our strategic plan going forward, which is to invest heavily in our people, our service and our facilities to grow our business in the right locations across the UK.”

Details: http://lei sr? a=Q9c5u_0

continued from front cover

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