The Gym Group buys most of easyGym

The Gym Group is to buy 13 sites from easyGym in a deal worth £20.6m, with an additional £4.1m being paid once lease extensions are agreed on two of the sites.

EasyGym currently has 16 locations, with another under development.

Speaking to Health Club Management magazine in March this year, easyGym CEO Paul Lorimer-Wing announced the company would pivot to a franchise model and target overseas expansion, with the aim of being in 10 countries by 2020 saying: “Through franchising, we want easyGym to become the leading big box, low-cost gym brand in the world by number of countries.”

The Gym Group acquisition will be part-funded by a £24m equity placing and part from the company’s banking facilities, with the deal expected to complete by 20 July.

Gym Group CEO John Treharne said: “The easyGym portfolio of 13 well-invested gyms is highly complementary to our existing estate. We’re confident they will integrate quickly and easily into our business while enhancing our position in the low-cost market in London and extending our spread across the UK.

“This acquisition accelerates our expansion plans for 2018, as we advance towards our goal of 200 gyms by 2020,” he concluded.

Eight of the sites are in London, with the remainder around the country.

More: http://lei.er?a=3u2F3_0

This acquisition accelerates our expansion plans for 2018

John Treharne
Unlimited variety and convenience key to industry growth, says MoveGB CEO Alister Rollins

With social media a core feature of today’s society, fitness is now viewed as part of a desirable and attainable lifestyle thanks to numerous online bloggers, influencers and vloggers. However, with this blessing comes a curse.

That's the message from Alister Rollins, CEO of MoveGB, who has penned his thoughts on the future of the physical activity sector.

“Our world is increasingly dominated by huge tech companies who employ the smartest people to build sophisticated habit formation technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) all designed for us to stare at our screens longer,” he said.

Studies have found the secret to a long, healthy life is physical activity and real world social connections, both offered by the fitness industry.

“I believe the industry should be three to four times the size it is now. To get it there, operators and tech players need to work together. This isn’t because they are ‘evil’, it’s simply how they are monetised (from adverts). The result is we are all subject to powerful hidden forces that promote static behaviour and virtual interactions.”

Sir Craig Reedie among sports people to feature in Queen’s Birthday Honours list

A number of sportspeople have been recognised for their work in this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honours list.

Sir Craig Reedie, the president of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) – who was knighted by the Queen in 2005 – has become a knight grand cross, one of the highest honours in the British orders system. Described as “one of the leading global figures in the world of sport” by the honours committee, Reedie has been involved in the work of WADA since its foundation in 1999 and also served as the chair of the British Olympic Association for a decade from 1992 to 2005. Reedie said: “This is truly a great honour for me and for WADA. “It recognises the important work that we are doing in leading the fight against doping in sport and in protecting clean athletes against cheats. Meanwhile, Liverpool Football Club and Scotland legend Kenny Dalglish was handed a knighthood in this year’s list. Others to have been recognised include world boxing champion Anthony Joshua, two-time Olympic skeleton champion Lizzy Yarnold and former England striker Jermain Defoe.

WADA boss Sir Craig Reedie was given a knight grand cross

“I believe the industry should be three to four times the size it is now. To get it there, operators and technology players need to work together.”

“This is a great honour which recognises the important work that we are doing in fighting doping in sport”
Richard Scudamore to step down as Premier League chief

Richard Scudamore will step down as English Premier League executive chair by the end of this year, after 20 years in the post.

The 58-year-old was appointed to the position in November 1999 and has played a leading role in establishing the Premier League as the richest football league in the world.

Speaking of his decision to hand over the reins, Scudamore said: “It’s an absolute privilege to have been allowed to enjoy this role for so long, it is too much fun to be called a job. “Football is an intoxicating environment and therefore difficult to give up being so involved.”

“Football is an intoxicating environment and therefore difficult to give up being so involved”

The decision comes on the same day that tech giant and online retailer Amazon secured a UK TV rights package for the Premier League. In doing so, it became the first non-traditional broadcaster to acquire the rights to live stream Premier League matches. The company has signed a deal to show 20 games per season in a highlights package, starting from the 2019-20 season.
Industry veteran **David Johns** joins design specialist Createability

Leisure design and build firm Createability has appointed industry veteran David Johns to the newly created role of business development specialist.

Johns joins Createability from 1Life, where he was regional director for the north, responsible for 16 venues across six local authority contracts.

In his new role, Johns will support leisure operators throughout their construction projects.

Johns has enjoyed a long career in sports and exercise management, across public, private and not-for-profit organisations.

He has had stints at DC Leisure (now Places for People Leisure), SLM Everyone Active, and Oldham Community Leisure.

At charity Active Nation, Johns was one of the architects of its mission and brand when it was set up in 2009.

“Every line drawn on a plan has lasting operational and financial implications for the building’s occupier,” Johns said.

“I’m looking forward to closely collaborating with project teams, including asset owners, operators and architects to deliver their visions in an economically responsible manner.”

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Paralympic sport Goalball appoints former PwC senior partner **John Grosvenor** as chair

Goalball UK has made a high-profile business appointment by naming John Grosvenor – former senior partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers – as its new chair.

In a statement, the governing body for the only Paralympic sport said the recruitment was part of plans to “be self-sufficient in order to support the grassroots and elite development of the sport”.

According to Mark Winder, CEO of Goalball UK, Grosvenor will bring a “great deal” of experience as the organisation looks to grow incomes streams from non-public sources.

“John’s decades of experience at the highest level of business is going to be invaluable in founding new relationships and securing the partnerships that can allow us to grow the sport,” Winder said.

“We have fantastic support from the likes of Sport England, but it is crucial that we are able to consistently deliver for players at all levels of the game – as well as giving our GB and talent pathway athletes an assurance that the only limit is their ambition.

Commenting on his appointment, Grosvenor said he already has a “strong personal connection with goalball.”

“My nephew plays the sport and has been in the GB development squad,” he said.

“When he found goalball he said it changed his life. Playing sport has many advantages in terms of learning to be a team player, gaining leadership skills and the sense of community it offers.”

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Grosvenor will be tasked with bringing in non-public funding

“Every line drawn on a plan has lasting operational and financial implications for the building’s occupier”

“Playing sport has many advantages in terms of learning to be a team player and gaining leadership skills”
Sport Wales has named Lawrence Conway as its new permanent chair.

Conway, a career civil servant, has been given the role a year after previous chair, Paul Thomas, was sacked following what Sport Wales described as a “significant breakdown of interpersonal relationships”.

Conway joined the civil service in 1968 and has since held various roles within the Welsh Office.

He previously led the Welsh Office’s division for sponsored arms-length bodies – which include the likes of the Welsh Development Agency – and became head of the cabinet secretariat and First Minister’s Department in 1999.

The appointment was confirmed by the Welsh minister for culture, tourism and sport, Lord Elis-Thomas.

“I’m really grateful to the minister for this opportunity, particularly because I’ve been struck by the passion and commitment of Welsh sport to make a real difference for people in Wales,” Conway said.

“The development of the new Vision for Sport in Wales offers fresh drive and opportunities that I want to share beyond sport.”

Lawrence Conway named new Sport Wales chair

“The development of the new Vision for Sport in Wales offers fresh drive and opportunities that I want to share beyond sport”
Emma Lewis started her career in the leisure industry while she was at university, working as a lifeguard during the summer holidays. She is national swimming development manager at GLL.

Tell us about your career
“I’m lucky enough to work with a national company that just keeps growing, which has provided me with many opportunities to develop and progress my career. I started at GLL 18 years ago as a lifeguard which helped pay the bills while I was at university. Since then I have worked as a swimming teacher, coaching officer, duty manager, swim lead, sports officer and brands service manager. Other roles included aquatics manager for our Tower Hamlets partnership, aquatics programme manager at the London Aquatics Centre, and now as national swimming development manager.”

Why did you want to get into the industry?
“I’ve loved sport – watching, playing and teaching – for as long as I can remember. I started working as a lifeguard when I was a student studying sports development. Working in sport has always appealed to me. I’ve always played team sports and was heavily involved in the Student Union and BUCS managing university sports programmes. I don’t have a competitive swimming background but swimming really enriches my life and improves my mental wellbeing. I was always a keen swimmer; I took lessons as a teenager and completed a number of lifesaving awards. Gaining my teaching qualification was a natural progression. I find teaching very rewarding and my approach has changed as I’ve matured and gained experience. Now I use this knowledge to train teachers and pool managers.”

What is your favourite part of your job?
“I’m part of a very motivated, sociable and hard-working team. I love working with my colleagues and partners to overcome challenges and develop solutions, then getting to see our vision come to life. I also get to meet some really interesting, and sometimes famous, people. However, nothing is more inspiring than hearing someone talk about how they overcame adversity to learn to swim or how swimming regularly has helped someone through difficult times. Travelling to different pools is a regular part of my work, and I love getting to share my experience with managers and teachers, and discovering new places on work trips.”

Emma Lewis
NATIONAL SWIMMING DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
GLL

Swimming really enriches my life and improves my mental wellbeing

Leisure industry professionals share how they got to where they are today
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Health club operator David Lloyd Leisure (DLL) has expanded its operations into Germany, following the acquisition of a HealthCity-branded club in Bad Homburg, near Frankfurt.

The DLL plans to invest more than €10m (US$11.7m, £8.8m) in refurbishing, rebranding and developing the site, as part of plans to "making it the leading health and fitness club in the region".

Works will include the complete refurbishment of the gym, two group exercise studios and cafébar, as well as building new indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a studioBlaze-branded HIIT space, an outdoor spa garden and DL Kids facilities.

In addition, the spa, indoor changing rooms and indoor tennis courts will be completely refurbished.

Following the deal, DLL will have 15 clubs in mainland Europe, in addition to its 99 clubs in the UK.

According to DLL CEO Glenn Earlam, the company will continue to look for expansion opportunities "across Germany".

"We believe that there is a huge untapped market for family-focused health and leisure clubs in Germany, so we hope our acquisition of Bad Homburg will be the first of many DLL clubs in this market," Earlam said.

More: http://lei.sr?a=x6X6B

DLL enters German fitness market

Fitness news

Pulse designs Leiston Leisure Centre’s £3.5m revamp

Work on a £3.5m redevelopment of Leiston Leisure Centre on the Suffolk coast is set to begin in September, after the works were given final approval by Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC).

The new facility, designed with the council's leisure development partner, Pulse Fitness, will include an extension and the first floor will feature a large gym floor featuring a CV zone and separate strength and resistance areas.

Operated by Places for People Leisure, Leiston Leisure Centre will be the second facility to undergo improvement works in SCDC’s leisure redevelopment programme – a five-year investment plan, outlined in the local leisure strategy in 2014.

SCDC signed a 20-year strategic partnership deal with Pulse in 2015.

More: http://lei.sr?a=X8M3C

The new facility was designed in partnership with development partner, Pulse Fitness

The improvement works are part of a five-year investment plan announced in 2014
Bannatyne sets sights on European expansion

A focus on ‘affordable luxury’ has seen health club operator The Bannatyne Group achieve its highest ever turnover – resulting in the group setting its sights on an expansion into Europe.

“We recognise it’s getting harder to find properties in the UK and within five years, I’d like to think we’ll be entering Europe,” said Bannatyne CEO Justin Musgrove in an interview with Health Club Management.

“I believe our ‘affordable luxury’ proposition would translate very well into markets like Germany, Holland and Belgium, which are focused on low-cost and value.”

The European plans come on the back of impressive financial results for the group.

Earlier this year, the group posted profits of £14.3m for the year ending 31 December 2017 – an increase of 57 per cent in the year before.

More: http://lei.sr?a=f4q3V

PayAsUGym introduces facial recognition feature

Online gym pass provider PayAsUGym is rolling out an “enhanced customer verification feature”, designed to provide gym operators with greater control over who is using their facilities.

The features are similar to those used in other sectors – such as home rentals platform AirBnB – and include ID checks, identity verification, document checks, facial recognition and two-step mobile phone verification.

PayAsUGym also hopes the feature will reduce the time it takes front-of-house staff to process first-time visitors, as the checks will be carried out online prior to a new customer using a gym.

“The challenge for gym operators to attract new customers is constant, which means providing secure access to new and unknown guests is a necessity for business growth,” said Neil Harmsworth, PayAsUGym chief operating officer and co-founder.

More: http://lei.sr?a=2W8X

Fusion Leisure to open UK’s first ‘open sky’ swimming pool

Leisure operator Fusion Lifestyle has announced that it will invest millions of pounds over the course of the next three years in modernising its facilities across the UK, starting with the Ivybridge Leisure Centre in Devon.

The Ivybridge centre will undergo a major renovation that will include new fitness studios, additional indoor cycling studios, a number of squash courts and a first-of-its-kind six-lane Open Sky swimming pool with retractable roof, designed by roofing specialist Bright Buildings.

More: http://lei.sr?a=H7W8r
Serco launches its own fitness app

Serco Leisure has launched a new branded fitness app, allowing its members to track progress, and book classes at the centres it operates.

More Fitness was developed by wellness tech specialist Netpulse and has been made available to all members at Serco-managed leisure centres.

The app enables users to automatically log workout sessions by taking a photo of equipment displays using xCapture.

The photos are then digitised, allowing users to keep accurate records of their exercise sessions. More Fitness can also be integrated with wearable devices, and will be offering a range of monthly healthy activity challenges, where members can earn reward points redeemable at their centre.

“More Fitness is a robust and feature-rich mobile app, which goes far beyond the basic functionality you’d expect to find on a centre website,” said Danny Woods, Netpulse’s head of account management.

“Leveraging features such as a rewards programme, integrations with member wearable devices and a digital referrals engine, this is a best-in-class mobile app, which engages Serco’s users every time they work out.”

More: [http://lei.sr?a=p4z8h](http://lei.sr?a=p4z8h)

Dyaco signs strategic partnership deal with Gym80

Two fitness kit manufacturers have signed a partnership deal in order to create a combined product portfolio for the commercial market.

Taiwan-based Dyaco International – which earlier this year established its UK arm – and German firm gym80 will use the strategic alliance to “share infrastructure, resources and expertise”, but will remain independent entities.

According to Simal Yilmaz, CEO of gym80, the move will strengthen the commercial offering of both companies.

“With Dyaco, we have the perfect partner that optimally complements our already existing product lines, resources and existing know-how – and vice versa,” Yilmaz said.

“We firmly believe this new partnership will deliver strong international growth for both partners and brands.”

More: [http://lei.sr?a=o8q2F](http://lei.sr?a=o8q2F)
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**Initiative to get disabled people into sport**

The Activity Alliance has launched a new initiative as part of efforts to offer disabled people more opportunities to get physically active.

The three-year Inclusive Activity Programme will deliver more than 600 practical, tailored face-to-face workshops and provide access to ongoing learning and development opportunities for more than 8,500 coaches, local community activators and health care professionals.

The end goal for the scheme – which is delivered in partnership with UK Coaching and Sport England – is to give physical activity professionals the tools to tailor their own activity delivery to a variety of audiences, thereby increasing the likelihood of disabled people, and those with long-term health conditions, getting and staying active.

“The programme has secured £450,000 worth of funding from Sport England. "Inactive people are missing out on a wealth of physical and mental health benefits,” said Sport England executive director Mike Diaper. “Many disabled people want to be active but can be put off by a number of barriers – such as a lack of opportunities and the right support.”

More: [https://lei.sr?a=M4d0r](https://lei.sr?a=M4d0r)

**Rugby League World Cup launches legacy programme**

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 (RLWC2021) has launched a legacy programme, which looks to use the tournament, to be hosted in England, as a catalyst to develop the game of rugby league and “engage with the widest possible audience”.

Called ‘Inspired by 2021’, the programme comprises three key strands: volunteers, facilities and community engagement.

The first ‘Inspired by 2021’ initiative to get underway will be the International Development Programme, delivered in partnership with UK Sport and the Rugby League International Federation. The project is designed to grow the game at all levels in developing rugby nations.

“Our legacy programme will be far reaching as we aim to engage with people in different ways,” said Jon Dutton, chief executive of the RLWC 2021.

More: [https://lei.sr?a=r5f4d](https://lei.sr?a=r5f4d)
Labour offers its support for safe standing initiative

The debate over whether safe standing areas should be allowed in English top flight football is heating up, with the Labour Party offering its backing for safe-standing at all football grounds. The party’s new policy goes directly against that of the Conservative government, which last month poured cold water on hopes to introduce standing areas in top flight football.

In May, sports minister Tracey Crouch rejected plans by Premier League club West Bromwich Albion (WBA) to have around 3,500 seats converted to rail seats – a system which allows seats to be locked in an upright position, creating a standing area.

Labour’s shadow sports minister Dr Rosena Allin-Khan said: “Clubs, fans and safety authorities should have the power to allow for areas to be designated for Safe Standing. They know their stadium far better than anybody in Whitehall.”

More: http://lei.sr?a=n5M8n

 Clubs know their stadiums far better than anybody in Whitehall
Rosena Allin-Khan

SAFE STANDING

MAJOR EVENTS

US, Canada and Mexico to host FIFA 2026 World Cup

A joint bid by Mexico, Canada and the US has been selected to host the FIFA 2026 World Cup, following a vote by the FIFA Congress.

The trio beat a rival bid from Morocco in the final vote, which will see the World Cup being held in the US for the second time.

In final voting, the joint bid secured 134 votes, or 67 per cent, with Morocco securing 65 votes (33 per cent).

“We are humbled by the trust our colleagues in the FIFA family have put in our bid; strengthened by the unity between our three countries and the Concacaf region; and excited by the opportunity we have to put football on a new and sustainable path for generations to come,” said US Soccer president Carlos Cordeiro.

Decio de María, president of the Mexico Football Federation, promised that the jointly hosted tournament – the first time more than two countries will act as hosts – will “show the way for future events”.

More: http://lei.sr?a=a2W8X

We are humbled by the trust our colleagues have put in us
Carlos Cordeiro

FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced the winner at FIFA’s annual congress in June

Work begins on Aston Villa’s new training ground

Work has begun on relocating Championship football club Aston Villa’s training ground, in order to make space for the High Speed 2 (HS2) railway.

The club has appointed contractors O’Brien to undertake the multi-million-pound works, which include enabling works for nine natural pitches and one 3G pitch.

The training ground in Bodymoor Heath, Tamworth, is being relocated due to the £50bn HS2 rail link, which will run through the south-east corner of the site.

More: http://lei.sr?a=B9R7a
**Sport news**

**COACHING**

**More than 9m Brits 'benefit from sports coaching’**

Around 9.3 million adults in the UK receive some form of sports coaching each year, according to new research by YouGov.

The study – conducted on behalf of UK Coaching – also revealed that a majority of people find coaching to be an “overwhelmingly positive experience”, contributing to the improvement of their physical and mental wellbeing.

The findings were released as part of Coaching Week, which took place from 4 to 10 June.

The week’s activities and projects are led by UK Coaching – the agency for coaching in the UK – which marked the event by unveiling its new Principles of Great Coaching guidance, designed to assist coaches at all levels.

Centred on the acronym ‘PEOPLE’, the principles aim to promote coaching which is: “person-centred”, “empowering”, “organised”, “positive”, “learning” and “engaging”.

More: [http://lei.sr?i=03E6s](http://lei.sr?i=03E6s)

**PUBLIC SPORT**

**Scottish programmes ‘changing lives’**

A new research report into the work of Sportscotland has found that participation programmes supported by the agency are having “a life-changing effect” on those who are taking part.

The independent research praised several of Sportscotland’s programmes – including Active Schools which, according to the study, has made 98 per cent of its young participants feel healthier.

The findings follow a separate report, which showed that participation levels on national programmes in Scotland are at a record high.

We have seen a significant increase in sports participation

Stewart Harris

“Recent years we have seen a significant increase in sports participation thanks to national programmes across the country including Active Schools and our support for local clubs and community sport hubs,” said sportscotland chief executive Stewart Harris.

“Our work in these areas is changing lives, as can be seen from the findings of this research.”

More: [http://lei.sr?i=f5X5A](http://lei.sr?i=f5X5A)

Details revealed for AFC Wimbledon’s new stadium

Further details have been released of AFC Wimbledon’s stadium plans.

Galliard Homes and Catalyst Housing – which are working together with the club on the project – have unveiled plans for a stadium with an initial capacity of 11,000, which could be expanded up to 20,000 in future.

The development also includes 604 new homes.

The first residential phase, known as Stadia Three, has now been released with 114 apartments being put up for sale across three apartment buildings.

More: [http://lei.sr?i=M2W5r](http://lei.sr?i=M2W5r)
Two thirds of professionals in the sport and physical activity sector work in coaching across all sports and activities, whether that’s working with school children, in community sports clubs or in elite sport.

As the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA), it’s fitting therefore that we work to ensure the professional status of the sector’s core workforce. So now, for the very first time, we have introduced professional standards related to coaching.

**Standard practice**

The standards set out the knowledge, skills and behaviours required of coaches and coaching assistants, and will inform the development of future coaching qualifications and training.

Starting in earnest last December, it has taken less than six months to complete this ground-breaking piece of work. This is entirely due to the collaboration and determination of a range of partners, including UK Coaching, Association for Physical Education, Youth Sport Trust, Fit for Sport and ukactiveKIDS as well as a wide selection of industry employers.

The qualifications and training will align with the standards to give coaches clearer career pathways and with open up more opportunities for those working in coaching.

**Entry pathway**

We have been overwhelmed by the industry’s response to these new professional standards. Demand for coaching memberships is sky high – giving coaches across the sector the professional status deserved. This is proof that coaches value the recognition of their qualifications and commitment to ongoing CPD by CIMSPA and they want to be able to demonstrate the broad range of skills involved in their profession.

I’ve said this before, but it won’t hurt to say it again: the strength of CIMSPA and what it can achieve is incredible when we have the support of the sector behind us. This is another amazing achievement, which will significantly impact the future of our sector, and I’d like to thank and congratulate everyone involved.

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According to CIMSPA, demand for coaching memberships is “sky high”
Delegates to the 12th-annual Global Wellness Summit will come together in Italy to focus on future business opportunities and trends in all ten sectors of the multi-trillion dollar global wellness economy. They will also be the first to see the highly anticipated 2018 Global Wellness Economy Monitor (2015 data is below).

**Wellness Tourism**  $563b

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**Spa Industry**  $99b

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Outdoor pop up for Bamford Haybarn Spa

The Bamford Haybarn Spa in the Cotswolds has launched a new outdoor experience. Located in the picturesque grounds of the heritage orchard at the Daylesford Farm, The Haybarn Outdoor Spa is designed to reconnect guests to nature, and offers panoramic views of the Gloucestershire countryside.

“Situated at the heart of Daylesford Organic Farm the Bamford Haybarn Spa has a deep connection with nature,” said Katherine Pye, director of Body and Spa. The outdoor spa features a number of tented outdoor treatment suites, each playing host to two treatment rooms, which guests can book for a three-hour spa experience, while a meditation tent acts as the spa’s central hub. All guests will be treated to a 55-minute Haybarn massage or organic facial, and access to a private relaxation area, with hot tub, where they can unwind and take in the spectacular views following their treatments.

Additionally, guests can take part in a number of holistic workshops and classes, including a variety of outdoor experiences such as twilight meditation and outdoor yoga. “Our busy treatment rooms struggled to cope with the number of guests last summer, so this summer we decided to build a tented pop-up spa,” explained Pye.

Our treatment rooms struggled to cope last summer, so we decided on a pop up this year
Katherine Pye

NEW OPENING

ila opens day spa in the Cotswolds

Organic skincare brand ila has opened its first day spa in the UK. Set in the British countryside at the company’s headquarters in the Cotswolds, the three-room spa offers a treatment menu packed with ‘soul nurturing’ holistic therapies, including stress-relieving full body massages, youth-enhancing signature facials and quick fix treatments designed to deliver visible results in short spaces of time.

The treatments are designed as an antidote for modern life and combine a rejuvenating touch with ethical products and aromatherapy.

It was important to create a spa that would release pure energy
Denise Leicester

Our treatment rooms struggled to cope last summer, so we decided on a pop up this year
Katherine Pye

The spa is set in the idyllic British countryside at the company’s headquarters in the Cotswolds

Each treatment is accompanied by complementary sound healing sessions featuring exclusive music designed by ila founder Denise Leicester. “It was important for me to create a spa that would release pure energy and vitality,” said Leicester.

More: http://leisr?a=r8n5m

More: http://leisr?a=w4V5Y
Spa & wellness news

TRAINING

London college to offer International Spa degree

The University of Derby has announced a new partnership with the London College of Beauty Therapy (LCBT) that will give LCBT students access to the university’s International Spa Management Foundation degree, from September 2018.

The course is designed to give students a thorough understanding of the spa environment, as well as equip them with the knowledge and practical skills required to work in managerial positions across the spa industry. Students learn not only about treatments and therapies, but also about how to manage people, business strategy, marketing and communications, sales and promotions and research skills.

“This is an exciting partnership for us that will provide excellent opportunities to students,” said Isobel Stockdale, deputy head of Hotel, Resort and Spa Management at the University of Derby.

More: http://lei.sr?a=y6S2a

SUSTAINABILITY

Green Spa Network partners with WeForest

The Green Spa Network has launched its first action initiative, the GSN Tree Planting Initiative, in an effort to mobilise the spa and wellness community to plant one million trees by Earth Day 2019.

The GSN has partnered with WeForest, a reforestation nonprofit based in Belgium, for the project. WeForest works with communities, local organisations and NGOs to develop scalable reforestation projects, and the organisation guarantees the survival of its trees. Members of the GSN are encouraged to sign up to track the overall progress towards the goal, and to send the message that the spa and wellness community wants to be recognised as a champion of environmentalism.

“We really want to show that the spa community can create positive global impact and change.” said Bonnie Baker, VP board of directors for the GSN and founder of Satteva Spa.

More: http://lei.sr?a=X5n6R

Wellness Meets Fashion: GWS to feature runway show

The confluence of fashion and wellness will be explored during the first-ever Wellness Meets Fashion show, which will take place at the Global Wellness Summit’s (GWS) gala event on 7 October, 2018 in Cesena, Italy.

The wellness fashion runway is a collaboration between BuDhaGirl, a fashion/lifestyle brand focusing on mindful glamour; photographer Louie Schwartzberg’s Moving Art; athleisure brand La Forma; and the Summit’s creative team.

More: http://lei.sr?a=W2t
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Hotel news

REFURBISHMENT

Blythswood Square reopens penthouse

Glasgow’s Blythswood Square Hotel has reopened its VIP Penthouse suite following a major redesign by Graven Images designer, Jim Hamilton.

The penthouse, designed to serve as a modern and luxurious oasis of calm in the heart of the bustling city, offers guests their own private spa break. It features two bedrooms including a master bedroom with its own wet room, a luxurious master bathroom, a walk-in wardrobe, media lounge, 10-seat dining room, kitchen and a private roof garden offering spectacular views of Glasgow.

Guests can opt to have private spa treatments in-room and can choose from an extensive treatment menu which features 11 exclusive massages, including the ila Dreamtime massage, which combines essential oils, marma massage techniques and chakra healing to aid relaxation and sleep.

The penthouse is designed to serve as a “oasis of calm”

The opening of the penthouse is part of a major redesign by Graven Images

LUXURY HOTELS

No reopening date set for fire-ravaged Mandarin Oriental

The Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park hotel remains closed, following a fire on 6 June.

While it is too early to state when we will reopen, initial assessments have shown the fire damage has been confined to the courtyard area. Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group

The hotel is located close to London’s Hyde Park

The Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park remains closed, following a fire on 6 June.

While it is too early to state when we will reopen, initial assessments have shown that the fire damage has mainly been confined to the exterior courtyard area of the hotel with limited impact on the interiors.

“We would like to express our thanks to the emergency services for their swift response.”

More: http://lei.sr?a=P5t4F

Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group
EU promotes rail tourism across continent

Interrail – the service which allows unlimited rail travel across Europe – has teamed with the European Union (EU) to offer 15,000 young people aged 18 a free pass to experience the continent’s diversity.

Called DiscoverEU, the offer is in recognition of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, which is a series of initiatives and events across Europe to enable people to become closer to, and more involved with, their cultural heritage.

Taking place through the summer, the €12m (US$14m, £10.5m) pilot project is based on a proposal from the European Parliament to give free rail passes to youngsters turning 18. The EU says the pilot will provide young people with a “European identity”, reinforcing common European values, and promoting the discovery of European sites and cultures.

“The initiative gained the strongest support of the whole Interrail community, and we are now excited to see DiscoverEU come in to fruition,” said Carlo Boselli, general manager for Eurail Group, which managed Interrail.

“Often a teenager’s first taste of independent travel, Interrail has brought generations of Europeans together to discover what makes Europe so special.”

More: http://lei.sr?r=a=Z7q7G

Edinburgh targets 3.5 million young visitors

Tourism bosses in Edinburgh are hoping to reach 3.5 million young people across Europe with a new tourism campaign utilising social media “influencers”.

#UncoverEdinburgh, led by Youth Travel Edinburgh and supported by the Edinburgh Tourism Action Group and Marketing Edinburgh, is a digital campaign looking to profile Scotland’s capital as a top youth tourist destination.

The campaign looks to use Scotland’s 2018 Year of Young People (YOYP) as a platform and encourage visitors aged 18-26 from key European markets to come to Edinburgh on a year-round basis. The programme will pair an Edinburgh-based influencer with an influencer sharing a similar special interest from cities like Barcelona, Paris and Amsterdam.

More: http://lei.sr?r=a=V4w7z
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TEMPORARY ATTRACTIONS

Serpentine Pavilion opens to the public

Mexican architect Frida Escobedo’s Serpentine Pavilion has opened in Kensington Gardens, London. Escobedo’s courtyard-based design harnesses a “subtle interplay of light, water and geometry” and is inspired in part by the domestic architecture of Mexico, the Prime Meridian line at London’s Royal Observatory in Greenwich, and British materials and history.

The pavilion features a black steel frame, with stacks of cement roof tiles making up the walls of the structure and a dark concrete floor. These allow the visitor to focus on what the architect describes as the most important materials of the pavilion. “My design for the Serpentine Pavilion 2018 is a meeting of material and historical inspirations inseparable from the city of London itself,” she said.

The pavilion, which will close on 7 October 2018, was constructed in collaboration with engineers AECOM, technical advisor David Glover and construction firm Stage One, who have previously worked on Wolfgang Buttress’ Hive and Thomas Heatherwick’s 2012 Olympic cauldron. Goldman Sachs is the headline sponsor.

More: http://lei.ai?a=E5M9K

NATURE ATTRACTIONS

Design revealed for Sevenoaks Wellbeing Visitor Centre

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has announced that Studio McLeod and Ekkist have won the competition to design a new visitor centre for Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve in Kent – a flagship visitor centre for the attraction.

The pair were selected ahead of alternative submissions from ArkleBoyce Architects, Ben Adams Architects and Bilka de Beaupuy.

“They are committed to bringing our vision to life with a building that engages people in looking after nature and their own wellbeing,” said Stevie Rice of the Kent Wildlife Trust, explaining the choice of winners.

“They have designed a space that addresses the sensitivities of the site but has the ability to provide the local community with a space that they can use effectively.”

More: http://lei.ai?a=S2z9d
**Theme Parks**

**Merlin drops Northern Rail replicas from attraction**

Over the last 8 weeks, footfall from some of the areas affected by the rail chaos has decreased by half.

Britain’s rail network is currently in such a state, that even its Lego alternative has cancelled its services. A rebuke to operator Northern Rail, the Legoland Discovery Centre in Manchester has echoed the British public’s frustration over recent timetable changes by publicly removing the trains from its Mini Land attraction. In the north of England, more than 2,000 trains have been cancelled completely, with a further 2,000 “part cancelled”. Hundreds of trains have also had the number of carriages reduced with a new timetable causing chaos on the lines.

According to the Merlin-run attraction, 29 per cent of its visitors live in affected areas including Stockport, Warrington, Liverpool, Stoke-on-Trent, Bolton and Wigan. Over the last eight weeks, footfall from some of those areas has decreased by half, says the operator.

More: http://lei.sr?a=b2z8t

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**Science Centres**

**Dynamic Earth uses mixed reality to bring dinosaur to life**

The Dynamic Earth science centre in Edinburgh, Scotland, is launching a new attraction that promises to “bring dinosaurs to the digital age”, allowing children to design their own dinosaur before seeing it brought to life in front of their eyes.

Starting in July, visitors will be able to create a “Designosaur”, using an iPad to build a dinosaur which will be made a reality using mixed reality technology. Once created, guests will be able to interact with the extinct beast, and even take a selfie with the virtual animal.

“Visitors will be able to create a ‘Designosaur’”

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**David Bowie exhibition breaks 2 million visitor mark**

As it nears its curtain call, the travelling David Bowie is exhibition has hit a major landmark, welcoming its 2 millionth visitor this month.

Currently on display at the Brooklyn Museum in New York, US, the show – which offers a look at the five-decade career of the iconic musician – has been breaking visitor attendance records since it launched in 2013 at London’s V&A Museum.

Following the singer’s death in January 2015, the spectacle took on new meaning, with demand seeing the tour extended to 2018.

More: http://lei.sr?a=P5e2J
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Should there be a limit to HIIT?

A new study has suggested that there is an “urgent need” for evidence-based guidelines around high-intensity interval training (HIIT).

Research into the effects of HIIT, undertaken by Jinger Gottschall, associate professor of kinesiology at Penn State University, has suggested that any more than 30-40 minutes of HIIT in a maximum training zone per week can reduce performance and potentially result in a greater risk of injury. As a result, Gottschall – who presented the findings during the 2018 American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Annual Meeting in June – wants to introduce a 40-minute upper limit for HIIT per week.

“Currently there are no guidelines concerning the greatest amount of HIIT people should do in a week for the optimal training effect,” Gottschall said.

“Given the extreme intensity involved in this kind of exercise, it’s imperative that maximum guidelines are provided in the same way that minimum guidelines have been in the past.

“We hope this study will be instrumental in helping make these recommendations official.”

Bryce Hastings, head of research at Les Mills – who worked in collaboration with Gottschall on the research – added: “What our findings tell us is that there is only so much HIIT a regular exerciser can do in one week before the effects are compromised.”

Findings show there is only so much HIIT a regular exerciser can do in one week, before the effects are compromised.
The findings show that recovering from HIIT classes before doing further exercise is important.
For museums to succeed, they must adapt to the ever-expanding presence of artificial intelligence. That was the message delivered to delegates at the MuseumNext European conference, which took place in London between 18 and 20 June.

Speaking at the event, Sara Boutall a museum technologist and an account executive at data analytics company Dexibit, asked the question of how AI plays into the museum sector, laying out several roles the technology will, and in some cases already does, play.

"It’s really interesting how the conversation around technology has changed," she said. "When AI entered the conversation, we used to refer to it as almost magic. You put something behind those doors, somebody presses some buttons and suddenly you have something new and amazing. Slowly but surely, however, AI has been sneaking into our everyday lives."

Artificial intelligence – and how to benefit from it – was among the hot topics of the MuseumNext European conference in June.
Robotics, machine learning and natural language processing are among the key AI applications for museums. In this context, these technologies already help to forecast visitor numbers, respond to guest queries and better catalogue digital collections. Through the use of big data analytics, the sector is also developing an ‘in the moment’ view of the present.

“We have to get our heads around AI and what it is in a museum context,” said Boutall. “We expect Amazon to know what we want to buy or Uber to know where we are. Soon people will expect that kind of intuition in our institutions.”

A number of projects have already shown good use of AI in a creative way. San Francisco’s Museum of Modern Art recently introduced Send Me – an SMS service which acts as an art discovery tool where users text a number with a keyword or emoji. In response, they will receive a related artwork with a caption.

“We need to embrace AI,” Boutall said. “It’s a growing part of our lives, we need to teach it to our children.”

“...where we are. Soon people will expect that kind of intuition in our institutions.”

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“We need to embrace AI,” Boutall said. “It’s a growing part of our lives, we need to teach it to our children.”
Devolution - key to healthier cities?

A report by respected The King’s Fund has suggested that giving cities more powers over taxes and planning could result in healthier populations.

“Around the world, cities are looking at what they can do to help residents live longer, healthier lives.”

Chris Naylor

Cities that have stronger powers have had a positive impact on the health of their populations.

The report, “The role of cities in improving population health report,” from The King’s Fund, argues that devolution could play a crucial role in boosting public health and reducing health inequalities.

The report draws on case studies and interviews with local leaders in 14 world cities, including New York, Madrid and Copenhagen, to find new ways of tackling public health challenges.

It finds that the same characteristics that make cities engines of growth, innovation and creativity often lead to inequalities and concentrations of poverty and ill health. One of the key findings was...
that international cities that have stronger powers have been able to use them to have a positive impact on the health of their populations.

These include using planning powers to create public spaces that encourage physical activity, bringing in controls on the advertising and sale of unhealthy foods, and investing in public transport and cycling/walking routes to reduce traffic and improve air quality.

The research also cites the examples of Tokyo and Madrid, where the empowering of local people has led to the creation of health-promoting neighbourhoods with strong social ties and vibrant community life.

Compared to other cities around the world, England’s cities have limited autonomy from national government and less control over revenue raising, with 90 per cent of tax revenues being raised centrally.

The report, therefore, calls on the government to consider extending further tax-raising and regulatory powers to cities.

“Around the world, cities are looking at what they can do to help residents live longer, healthier lives,” said Chris Naylor, senior fellow at The King’s Fund and lead author of the report.

“Increasingly, leaders in cities such as Amsterdam, New York and Paris are using the powers and resources at their disposal to drive improvements in the health of their populations.

“The cities that have made the fastest progress are those where mayors and other local leaders have invested their own political capital in tackling public health issues, and where they are given the decision-making and tax-raising powers they need to take action.”

Leaders in cities such as Amsterdam are using the powers and resources at their disposal to drive improvements in health
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The Area
Located in scenic North Wales, employees of Denbighshire County Council are in a fortunate position to enjoy the peaceful Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that runs the entire length of the county, as well as the hustle and bustle of our market towns and coastline. Overall, Denbighshire is a great place to live and work for those looking to start or progress your career journey.

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Wedi’i leoli yng Ngogledd Cymru olygfaol, mae Cyngor Sir Ddinbych mewn sefyllfa ffodus i fwynhau’r Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol heddychlon sy’n llenwi’r sir, yn ogystal â bwrlwm ein trefi marchnad a’n harfordir.

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Leisure Sports Manager

Location: Leatherhead, UK  Salary: £28,000 & Benefits

The Role
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The Person
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http://lei.sr?a=B2z8w
We are recruiting a new Team for a 1,600m2 new spa hotel currently under construction in Iver, Buckinghamshire, due to open in autumn 2018.

The former country estate of the Duke of Marlborough is being renovated to create a world-class five-star hotel and spa, set in the heart of the Buckinghamshire countryside.

We are building a state of the art facility, sympathetically blended into the original estate.

We have a range of different positions that we’re recruiting for including:

**Senior Spa Therapist**
circa £24,000 plus benefits scheme (Full time)

**Spa Therapists**
circa £20,000 plus benefits scheme (Full time/Part-Time/Casual)

**Essential Attributes:**
- Experience of working in a similar business.
- A passion for customer service excellence.
- Beauty Therapy qualification NVQ Level 3 or equivalent.
- Exceptional treatment standards.
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Reliable, efficient and pro-active.
- Keen for personal development and learning.
- Experience of working with Premier Core and further beauty qualifications are an advantage.

**Spa Receptionist**
circa £20,000 plus benefits scheme (Full-time)

**Essential Attributes:**
- Experience of working in a similar position.
- Reception, reservations or customer facing experience.
- Good IT skills to include Microsoft Office packages.
- Reliable, efficient and pro-active.
- Keen for personal development and learning.
- Ability to work calmly under pressure.
- Pool Plant, Lifeguard, Fitness Instructor or Beauty Therapy qualifications are advantageous.

In addition, we offer the following benefits:
- Bonus Scheme
- 28 days holiday
- Training programmes
- Meals on duty
- Uniform
- Dry Cleaning Service
- Social Events and Activities
- Pension Scheme
- Discounted hotel and F&B rates for Marriott globally (the hotel will be a member of one of the world’s leading luxury hotel brands)
- Childcare voucher scheme

To apply and view all vacancies available please visit:
http://lei.sr?a=z4I9f
Brooklands Museum, in Weybridge, Surrey, is on the 30-acre site of the world’s first purpose-built motor racing circuit and the most productive aircraft factories in Europe in the twentieth century. The stories of motorsport and aviation at this site are bound together from the beginning and share key themes of inventiveness, adventure, ambition and engineering innovation.

The new, wide-ranging post of Chief Operating Officer is responsible for all operational and commercial activity, ensuring that staff and volunteers deliver an excellent visitor experience which enables guests on site to appreciate the unique, historic atmosphere of the Brooklands site and that the museum achieves its financial targets. The museum is looking for someone who can transform the way in which it operates, to enable it to grow and develop in line with its vision, mission and strategic priorities. The COO’s department includes approximately 30 paid staff and over 300 volunteers.

Over the next 12 months, we will be reviewing our strategic priorities, master-plan and operations, with a view to significantly increasing visitor numbers and completing substantial new capital projects in the coming years. The Chief Operating Officer will play a key role in shaping the museum’s plans.

The person we are looking for will have considerable experience of transforming operations in a similar organisation, in developing staff to deliver exceptional visitor experience, in achieving commercial targets.

They will thrive in a complex, busy environment; be able to prioritise and delegate; able to negotiate and build relationships and show the ability to turn strategy into implementable plans, with attention to detail. They will be an enabling leader of others, who enjoys working collaboratively across the museum and with its partners. If you have this experience and these aptitudes and you would like to play a key, leadership role in a growing, ambitious, independent museum, please apply.

Deadline for applications is 1pm on Monday 16th July 2018. Interviews will be on Monday 30th July.

APPLY NOW:
http://lei.sr?a=P7C1d
It’s exciting times at Silverstone Heritage Ltd. The Silverstone Experience is due to open to the public in spring 2019, seeing a WWII hangar at the entrance to the world-famous Silverstone Circuit refurbished and extended to house a brand new exhibition, collections and research centre, learning and events space, café and gift shop.

We are looking for an experienced **Head of Commercial Operations** to maximise income generation and to oversee all operational matters, visitor services, health and safety and building management. The post holder will oversee the day-to-day operations of the Experience whilst maximising revenue streams including exhibition entry, tours, photography, retail and catering.

Our mission is to bring the extensive heritage of Silverstone and British motor racing to life through a dynamic, interactive and educational visitor experience. As an organisation, we value enthusiasm, dedication and a passion for customer service. If you fit this description and think you have what it takes to help us make this vision a reality please apply by 9am on Thursday 19th July.

**Closing Date: 19th July 2018**

For more information and to apply: [http://lei.sr?a=V6d5A](http://lei.sr?a=V6d5A)