New facilities including the stadium being planned for Premier League football club Everton FC and a proposed 50-metre swimming pool are at the heart of Liverpool’s bid to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Liverpool unveiled its bid for the Games promising to invest £1bn to transform the city, specifically the Bramley-Moore Dock waterfront area where the football stadium will be built. The stadium will accommodate a temporary track to host all the athletics competitions.

Continued on back cover

Kent theme park loses Paramount brand

London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH) – the developer behind the Paramount theme park in Kent – has announced a surprise split from the film studio, which was to act as the masthead for the multi-billion-pound attraction.

The £3.2bn London Paramount project was being lined up as a major entertainment resort, with several rides and attractions based on Paramount intellectual property (IP) such as Star Trek, The Godfather and Mission Impossible.

Those brands will no longer be used for the attraction, however, a LRCH spokesperson confirmed that the project would “still be going ahead” with its name changed to London Resort. Leisure Opportunities understands that LRCH is exploring new IPs to replace the Paramount brands – something that was previously a challenge with the overarching Paramount masthead. It already has agreements with the BBC to use IP from Dr Who, Top Gear and Sherlock, as well as Aardman Animations, which created Wallace and Gromit.

“We are in conversations with other IP holders,” a spokesperson told Leisure Opportunities. “There will be major brands involved but not one overarching studio leading the way.

“It doesn’t really change anything. The branding is what will be shifting. The team, the consultants, the plans and the surveys are still working. It’s all on track from that side of things.”

LRCH’s parent company, Kuwaiti European Holding Group (KEH), has invested £35m into the project so far. The opening date – scheduled for 2022 – has been pushed back three times, with delays in securing land necessary to deliver the development.

Commenting on the company’s decision to halt the relationship, LRCH CEO Humphrey Percy expressed his thanks to Paramount and added that LRCH was working closely with the local authorities and community prior to submitting its Development Consent Order later this year. Details: http://lei.sr?a=e9o2H

LTA appoints Scott Lloyd as new CEO

Scott Lloyd, founder of the Next Generation gym chain, former CEO of David Lloyd Leisure and son of former professional tennis player and fitness entrepreneur David Lloyd, has been appointed as the chief executive of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA).

Lloyd will replace the outgoing Michael Downey and will formally take up the position in January 2018. He was chief executive of David Lloyd Leisure from 2007 to 2015, which has a “strong focus on tennis” as well as other sport and fitness activities.

LTA chair David Gregson said Lloyd’s knowledge made him the “stand-out choice”, adding: “After a rigorous search process, involving an outstanding selection of top quality candidates from across tennis, sport and business, Scott was the unanimous choice of the LTA's Recruitment Committee.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=U1D1l

Liverpool lays out Commonwealth plans

New facilities including the stadium being planned for Premier League football club Everton FC and a proposed 50-metre swimming pool are at the heart of Liverpool’s bid to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Liverpool unveiled its bid for the Games promising to invest £1bn to transform the city, specifically the Bramley-Moore Dock waterfront area where the football stadium will be built. The stadium will accommodate a temporary track to host all the athletics competitions.

Continued on back cover
Phelps to leave British Rowing

Annamarie Phelps will step down from her role next year to make the governing body compliant with the government’s Code for Sports Governance.

Under rules laid out by the code, board members for governing bodies are allowed to stay for a maximum of nine years, or up to 12 if appointed chair. Phelps joined British Rowing in 2002 and was elected as chair in 2013, meaning her tenure will have stretched to 16 years by the time she leaves next March.

Deputy chair Gary Harris will also step down after serving 16 years already. Christopher Anton and Bonner Davies will be leaving the organisation’s Council in October 2017. The hunt to find Phelps’ successor is under way.

Phelps said it had been a “privilege and honour” to lead British Rowing.

She added: “Working with my fantastic colleagues on both the board and Council, I am proud of what we have been able to achieve to drive the sport forward. I am indebted to the staff and amazing volunteers who I have had the pleasure of working with over the years.”

Last November, the government published its Code for Sports Governance in an attempt to boost transparency in sport, and increase the diversity on boards.

If organisations fail to adhere to the code they run the risk of losing public funding distributed through organisations like Sport England and UK Sport.

Details: http://lei.sr?z=a9525m

Coaches pass UK Sport course

Former England cricket coach Andy Flower is among the second group of coaches to graduate from UK Sport’s Elite Programme.

Flower completed the programme alongside Andy Banks (diving), Ben Bright and Jack Maitland (both triathlon), Greg Baker (para table tennis), Hugh Styles (sailing), Pasan Kularatne (para shooting), Stephen Jennings (Taekwondo) and Stuart Wilkinson (wheelchair tennis).

The scheme was launched by the elite sports quango to take high performance coaching in the UK “from world-class to world-leading”. The latest batch were the second cohort of participants to graduate after the inaugural group, which included British Gymnastics coach Eddie Van Hoof, graduated at the end of 2016.

A third cohort of coaches – which includes England manager Gareth Southgate, British Swimming’s Mel Marshall and British Athletic’s Paula Dunn – is due to graduate in April 2019.

“Coaches are the crucial backbone of our high performance system and this group will continue to provide world-class support and direction for their athletes, as well as now using the wisdom they have gained on the programme to help us take British coaching from world-class to world-leading,” said Elite Programme coordinator Chris Stott.

Details: http://lei.sr2a=iqU4D
EIS head of sport science joins BPA

Nik Diaper, the former head of sport science and medicine for Paralympic sport at the English Institute of Sport (EIS), has joined the British Paralympic Association (BPA).

Diaper takes the organisation’s head of performance role and will report to director of sport and chef de mission Penny Briscoe. In the role, Diaper will lead the BPA’s preparations for athletes’ performance support across the next winter and summer Paralympic Games, and act as deputy chef de mission for Pyeongchang 2018.

He replaces Georgina Sharples – who joined the EIS to head up its Equestrian World Class Programme – on 10 July.

Diaper has attended five Paralympic Games during his time with the EIS.

“I’m excited to form part of a team that is so passionate and committed to making the UK a world-leading Paralympic nation on and off the field of play,” he said. “I look forward to continuing to strengthen performance relationships with both winter and summer Paralympic sports, as well as system partners, to ensure the best prepared ParalympicsGB team at future Paralympic Games.”

Briscoe said Diaper had the “skills and experience needed to strengthen the team, while BPA chief executive Tim Hollingsworth added that it was a “strong appointment”.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=j9l2I

Sports ministers remain in post following election

Karen Bradley and Tracey Crouch, the government ministers with ultimate responsibility to the UK sport sector, have been retained in their roles despite a post-General Election cabinet reshuffle.

Both Bradley and Crouch were confirmed as secretary of state for culture, media and sport, and sports minister respectively shortly after the 8 June vote.

Staffordshire Moorlands MP Bradley comfortably held her seat, increasing her vote share by seven per cent from her victory at the 2015 General Election, while Crouch also increased her vote share to retain her Chatham and Aylesford seat.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=0tG3K

Manchester activity target achieved

Greater Manchester has exceeded its target of getting one million people to be regularly active, which is expected to save more than £640,000 in NHS costs in the first year alone.

In 2010, sports charity GreaterSport set the target to be met by 2017. Working in partnership, the sport and physical activity sector across the area has now passed the mark, with data showing that 1,009,180 people are regularly active, which is expected to exceed its target of getting one million people to be regularly active, saving the NHS £647,590.

Inactivity costs the Greater Manchester economy £35m. One initiative that has helped increase activity has been the introduction of Greater Manchester Moving, which has enabled a broader set of partners to come together to get people exercising.

GreaterSport, leisure operator Link4Life, local authorities and national governing bodies of sport supported by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities and Sport England, have been working to reach traditionally more inactive groups.

There has been an emphasis on participation for females and disabled people.

Harrison said despite the achievement there was ‘work to do’

Yvonne Harrison, GreaterSport chief executive, said: “When we set this target it was one that demonstrated the ambition of Greater Manchester. It was a goal we could collectively work towards and one which if we succeeded would save the NHS hundreds of thousands of pounds.

“The work is not done as there are still too many inactive residents within the region but we are now far healthier and active than we were.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=u4v2j

Price recognised in Queen’s birthday honours list

Jennie Price, the chief executive of Sport England, has been recognised in the Queen’s birthday honours list.

Price, who has been with the grassroots sports quango for a decade, was awarded the Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE).

She was recognised alongside other personalities from the world of sport, such as Judy Murray, two-time Olympic gold medallist Heather Stanning (both OBE) and Danny Kerry (MBE), who was coach of the Great Britain women’s hockey team that won gold at Rio 2016.

Price said she was “surprised” and “extremely honoured” to be included.

“It is a real recognition of Sport England’s work in recent years, and is based on the efforts and achievements of a great staff team and set of partners with whom I am privileged to work,” she added.

The chief executive joined Sport England in 2007 and was behind a big grassroots sport push coinciding with London hosting the Olympics in 2012.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y8u4X
Total Fitness members use new app to book classes

Total Fitness has boosted its customer offering by launching a free app for its members.

Features include booking fitness classes, exercise challenges, and syncing workout data from wearable devices and tracking apps, including FitBit, Strava and MapMyRun. Members can log their workouts manually or by taking an XCapture photo of the display screen on the equipment being used.

Developed by Netpulse, the app has been downloaded by more than 12,000 Total Fitness members in its first month. The chain, which has a network of 17 clubs, has 94,000 members.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=g9C3F8

Bannatyne Group adds Surrey club to portfolio

The Bannatyne Group has added the Weybridge Health Club and Spa in Surrey to its portfolio for an “undisclosed sum”.

The group plans to revamp the gym floor at the club, which has 1,600 members and 38 staff. Leisure property adviser Christie and Co acted on behalf of the Bannatyne Group in concluding the deal and “is actively seeking existing freehold and leasehold health clubs” for the company.

Properties that are a minimum of 15,000-20,000sq ft (1,390 - 1,858sq m), with a swimming pool and spa or the ability to develop these facilities, have at least 1,500 members, a minimum catchment population of 50,000 within a 15-minute drive and at least 100 car parking spaces are being sought.

Justin Musgrove, Bannatyne Group CEO, said: “The Weybridge Health Club and Spa represents a strategic purchase for the company. The group plans to extend our portfolio into the home counties. It is just the sort of business where as we extend our portfolio into the home counties, we believe we can add value and enhance our portfolio.”

Musgrove wants more clubs in the home counties

LIW rebrands as fitness trade show

Competition in the fitness trade show market has ramped up as a result of Leisure Industry Week (LIW) rebranding as a pure fitness exhibition, while the sister company of Professional Beauty has launched its own fitness-focused event.

BodyPower, the organiser of BodyPower Expo and owner of LIW, has rebranded the latter as BP: Fitness Trade Show.

The show will move away from presenting other elements of the leisure industry and concentrate firmly on growth and innovation in the health, fitness and gym sector. Pure Gym will host its annual PT Conference at the event, which will take place at the NEC in Birmingham on 12 and 13 September. According to the organisers, the exhibition will feature 100 exhibitors, including personal trainer studios, boutique health clubs, chain and independent gyms.

BodyPower managing director, Steve Orton, said the organisation “really wants to put its stamp on the event”. However, a new trade event launched by M Squared Media, the sister company of the Mark Moloney-owned Trades Exhibitions, which owns Professional Beauty and Professional Spa, will also be established early next year.

Called Fitness Industry Live, the new event is understood to have built up a good amount of industry support and is expected to run alongside Professional Beauty.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=O8H6p

Bournemouth centre gets £1m upgrade

South coast leisure operator BH Live and Bournemouth Borough Council have invested £1m on revamping Stokewood Leisure Centre.

A new floor has been built, more than doubling the size of the gym to 583sq m (6,275sq ft), creating extra space for Life Fitness gym equipment. A QUAD functional fitness zone for instructors to deliver power, primal, play and pulse gym-based classes has also been introduced.

It is hoped that the broader range of kit will encourage inactive people – especially those living with health conditions and young people – to get more active.

Customers can get a health MOT in the centre’s new health assessment zone. Blood pressure checks, body fat measurements and weight reviews will help customers to create their personal goals, build a personalised activity programme and track progress.

Peter Gunn, BH Live’s chief executive, said: “The improved space and new facilities at Stokewood are fantastic and it’s very encouraging to see so many people already using them. “In partnership with the council, we are continuing to increase the quality of public facilities and meet the expectations and needs of our community; encouraging more people to be more active and enjoy the social, health and wellbeing benefits.”

The new space has environmentally friendly (LED) lighting, insulation and climate control. Original features, including a stained glass window and grand central staircase, have been retained.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=fgG7F
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Gym Group membership hits 500k

Membership at The Gym Group has broken the 500,000 mark, according to the low-cost brand’s latest trading update for the first five months of the year.

Total members as of 31 May 2017 stood at 507,000, up 19.6 per cent against the first half of 2016, when it was 424,000 (30 June 2016).

Average membership for the first five months of 2017 was 498,000, up 18.6 per cent versus 420,000 in the six months to June 2016.

Six new gyms will have opened by the end of the first half of 2017, increasing the total estate to 95 sites. Two of the sites at Holborn Circus and Bloomsbury were bought from Fitness First UK in August 2016 and subject to a full refurbishment. The other sites are at Edinburgh Murrayfield, High Wycombe, Altrincham and Rotherham.

According to the update, the group has a further 20 sites exchanged for 2017 and 2018.

Profit for the full year is anticipated to be in line with market expectations.

John Treharne, The Gym Group chief executive, said: “The group continues to trade strongly with membership increasing by nearly a fifth year-on-year to more than 500,000. Six new gyms will have opened in the first half of the year and we are on track to meet our guidance, which is towards the top end of our 15-20 range.

“There remains a substantial opportunity with strong fundamentals underpinning our growth and we are confident in delivering continued profitable progress.”

The company announced the trading update ahead of its Capital Markets Day for institutional investors and analysts, which occurred on 14 June. The group expects to announce its interim results at the end of August.

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DLL to purchase Harrogate club

David Lloyd Leisure has exchanged contracts to buy premium health club The Academy in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and will invest more than £3m to refurbish facilities.

The deal is expected to complete at the end of July, with the 99 staff remaining at the club, joining David Lloyd Clubs’ team of more than 8,600 across the UK and Europe.

It will be the company’s 110th site. The Academy members will be able to use any of David Lloyd Clubs’ sites in the UK, Holland, Belgium, Spain and Ireland, except the three Harbour Clubs in London.

Refurbishment work is expected to start in autumn and will finish in early 2018, during which time the facility will remain open.

The gym will form the centrepiece of the club and will feature brands such as Octane, Wattbike, Woodway Curve and Life Fitness.

The facility’s four indoor and three outdoor tennis courts will be refurbished, along with the indoor swimming pool. Group exercise facilities will also be upgraded.

The Academy will also feature a café bar and an adults-only lounge and business hub for those looking to relax or work.

Glenn Earlam, David Lloyd Clubs chief executive, said: “The Academy club, with its superb range of family-friendly facilities, is the perfect addition to our growing portfolio of clubs across the UK and Europe. We have ambitious plans which we believe will make it Harrogate’s leading health and racquets clubs.”

Details: http://lei.sr?la=B8s6Z
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Make each visit to the gym as smooth and efficient as the last, allowing members to access their own fitness data, social media accounts and favourite apps instantly with an xID single sign on - registration couldn’t be simpler, and their personal preferences will automatically load every time they log in.

For the Gym Manager, a technological offering achieving maximum results within a more compact console for an achievable budget.

- Offers exclusive training programs delivered through an optimised app interface designed specifically for fitness to engage members and keep them coming back for more.
- Wi-Fi connectivity to accommodate Asset Management - an effective system of monitoring the wear and tear of the equipment, unique to Matrix, at all times keeping an eye on the kit and servicing needs to reduce downtime.
- Opportunity to customise console interface to communicate personally with users, helping to reinforce the brand, deliver key messages and engage members with their social media community.
- Matrix Workout Tracking Network capability - a single solution that brings all the tools to help members capture their trail runs, yoga classes and circuit training together, in one place.
- Connect, engage and start building member loyalty that lasts with truly personalised, easy-to-access training with the Matrix Personal Trainer Portal.
- Create seamless entertainment experience for guests and provide facilities with the most control of their offerings through the use of IPTV.

So from inspiring workouts designed to support members all the way to premium entertainment and beyond, there’s no limit to the ways the 3xe can motivate members to keep going and mentor them to reach their goals in exciting new ways.

3XE – REAL LIFE RESULTS

Improved communication and more seamless interaction between gym and member are just some of the key benefits the new 3xe has brought to independent, family-owned health club and spa, Laguna - the first site in the UK to offer its customers the new 3xe line of cardio equipment by Matrix.

Since its installation at Laguna Health & Spa in Cardiff city centre, members have been making the most of the pioneering technology in the new 3xe series which has the capacity to completely redefine the exercise experience.

The machines come equipped with consoles offering members the bestscreen available, through a touchscreen display with FitTouchTechnology, making interactions easy and effortless, and an intuitive app interface ensuring they are always connected to the outside world.

Matrix UK Hospitality Manager and Account Manager for Laguna Health & Spa, Nigel Tapping, said:

“We know that fitness equipment within a premium setting must look beautiful and needs to inspire as well as provide stunning technology to enable smooth operation and keep users focused on their fitness goals. The Matrix 3xe cardio range delivers all this, and more.”

Caroline Sims, Director of Sales and Marketing at Park Plaza Cardiff, said:

“The feedback from our members has been incredible. The up-to-date technology allows us to interact with our members in a way that has never been done before; everything from events to competitions to workout results are shared easily on the consoles and between members and the fitness team.

*Photographs courtesy of Laguna Health & Spa
SPA & WELLNESS

Pickard to drive Macdonald Hotels’ wellness strategy

UK-based independent hotel group Macdonald Hotels & Resorts has appointed Keith Pickard as its new group director of spa, leisure and golf.

Pickard has been tasked with overseeing the lifestyle departments of the group’s 45 hotels across the UK and Europe. In his new role, Pickard – who has more than 15 years of experience in hospitality – will take charge of developing Macdonald’s spa and wellness services through its Vital Health & Wellbeing Club brand.

The Macdonald portfolio includes 21 spas, each with their own style and selection of wellbeing experiences. Details: http://lei.sr?a=E2e7C

ESPAs opens third branded UK-located spa in Bath

The spa at Lucknam Park in Bath is relaunching next month in partnership with skincare brand ESPA – one of only three ESPA-branded spas in the UK.

The spa has added a new relaxation area, and will include ESPAs signature treatments, including the Inner Calm Massage and the Optimal Skin Health Facial.

It includes a 20m indoor swimming pool, indoor/outdoor hydrotherapy pool, outdoor plunge pool, and extensive thermal cabins, including Japanese salt, amethyst room, aromatic steam, sauna and tepidarium.

“Lucknam Park is the ultimate luxurious get-away, and we’re delighted to be celebrating the launch with them,” said Sue Harmsworth, ESPA founder.

“We’ve helped create the new treatment menu, which includes our mindfulness treatments, and their therapists have participated in ESPA’s training. We look forward to a successful partnership,”

Lucknam Park is a 42-bedroom Palladian mansion situated in a 500-acre private estate. Details: http://lei.sr?a=8K6l8

Harrogate spa to offer ‘aufguss’

Rudding Park Spa in Harrogate is the first UK spa to offer the art of aufguss – a sauna-based treatment – to its customers.

Derived from ancient, native American rituals, the art of aufguss involves a “sauna-meister” conducting a theatrical performance of infusions, dance, and occasionally song.

Using essential oils – by pouring them on the hot coals in the sauna – the master creates a stimulating environment within the sauna, before circulating the aromatic air using a towel-waving technique.

The ritual lasts around 10 minutes and is meant to revive guests both mentally and physically. The spa team at Rudding Park Spa has been trained by art of aufguss champion Lay Pang Ong.

Pang said: “The contact between the master and audience is of the utmost importance. The meister of aufguss is not there merely to show off what he can do technically, but to provide the audience with a relaxing, stimulating and refreshing experience both physically and mentally.”

The treatment has become increasingly popular among European spas and is now entering the UK for the first time.

“There will be an art of aufguss performance each afternoon from 1 July, so hotel and spa guests will be able to experience a ten-minute performance,” said a Rudding Park pokesperson.

The £9.5m spa opened in May. Facilities at the 45,000sq ft (4,180sq m) property include a garden sauna cabin, sun deck and an outdoor spa bath. Details: http://lei.sr?a=E2x7C

Spa partners with ‘breathing guru’

The Landmark London has partnered with alternative practitioner Alan Dolan – founder of Breathing Space – to launch a new service as part of the reopening of the hotel’s spa and health club.

Dolan has created a special package for guests looking to “transform their lives” through improving their breathing techniques.

“Conscious breathing is a powerful and safe way to infuse the body with oxygen and energy and recharge one’s systems to the maximum healing capacity,” said Dolan. “Breathwork can lead you to enjoy optimum health, mental and emotional clarity and experience an ever-deepening relationship with yourself.”

The introduction of the new service is part of the relaunch of The Landmark London’s spa, which has undergone an extensive redevelopment programme. Treatment rooms, spa reception and changing areas have all been redesigned and reconfigured as part of a strategy to improve the spa’s customer journey.

Specialist consultancy SMC Design was brought in to plan the re-design, which includes the use of materials – such as dark copper and porcelain stone tiles – deemed to have a “synergy with the architecture” of the spa’s historic surroundings. Details: http://lei.sr?a=eyy4G

The ritual is meant to revive guests both mentally and physically

Dolan has created a package for guests looking to “change their lives”
HOTELS

Leicester Tigers’ hotel development

A 165-room hotel is at the centre of a £22m development being proposed by Leicester Tigers.

The Premiership rugby club also plans to build conference, corporate and supporter facilities after purchasing a piece of land from the council.

Spread over five floors, the hotel will include meeting rooms, conference space, a reception, and lounge and dining areas.

According to Leicester Tigers chief executive Simon Cohen, the club was close to reaching an agreement with a “global hotel provider” to operate the hotel, which would “add an exciting dimension for fans, partners, businesses and the city of Leicester”.

A surrounding leisure complex will feature a fitness suite, restaurants, a sky bar and retail units. Work could be completed in time for the 2019/20 Premiership rugby season.

Land purchased by Leicester Tigers is on the city’s Granby Hall car park site, adjacent to the club’s Welford Road stadium.

Cohen explained that getting to the current stage had been a “detailed process”. “As UK rugby’s best-supported club, sport continues to be a driving force in putting this city on the map and the fact that we will be able to offer top-of-the-range accommodation will enhance the city’s strong sporting profile,” he added.

Local construction firm Pick Everard is working on the project with the club. Details: http://lei.sr?a=r3l6X

London war office transformation

The landmark London building where British prime minister Winston Churchill worked during the Second World War is to be transformed into a luxury hotel and residence operated by Raffles; the group’s first property in the UK.

Indian investment firm the Hinduja Group and Spanish construction company Obrascon Huarte Lain Desarrollo bought the building in December 2014 after submitting a public bid. They have been granted planning permission to adapt the interiors to house 125 hotel rooms, of which 40 per cent are suites. Completion is expected by 2020.

The Grade II-listed Old War Office building in Whitehall is located close to 10 Downing Street, the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey. It was designed by Scottish architect William Young before his death in 1900 and completed by his son, Clyde Francis, six years later. Many of the country’s most important and influential twentieth century political and military leaders worked there, including David Lloyd George, Lord Kitchener, Herbert Asquith and T.E. Lawrence.

The British Secret Service also occupied some of the building’s 1,100 rooms – which are spread across seven floors and two miles of corridors.

The first Raffles Hotel was opened in 1887 in Singapore and named after the British statesman and founder of Singapore, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=X2J1C

The Old War Office building is located close to 10 Downing Street

The development will be built on land adjacent to the club’s stadium

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**Youth-focused heritage projects to win funding**

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has appointed 17 young people from across the UK as heritage ambassadors, and will allocate millions of pounds in lottery funding to youth-focused heritage projects.

An effort to increase participation in heritage for under-25s, the £10m Kick the Dust grant programme will help heritage organisations evaluate programming they are currently offering to younger people.

Funds worth between £500,000 and £1m are available to projects where heritage and youth organisations collaborate to create opportunities for 11 to 25-year-olds to engage with heritage.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=9PsY8

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**Zoos should ‘shed guilt’, says WAZA chief executive**

The new CEO of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) has said that zoos and aquariums need to be more vocal about the conservation work they do, saying that many feel “guilty” over some of the perceptions relating to animals in captivity.

With the world’s zoos and aquariums able to reach an estimated 700 million people worldwide every year, they offer an unparalleled platform to raise awareness over conservation and species preservation.

Appointed WAZA chair in March, Doug Cress wants to raise the profile of both zoos and aquariums, letting the world know what they do and why they do it.

“Part of the problem is zoos and aquariums still feel guilty,” said Cress, speaking to Leisure Opportunities. “They feel guilty about the 20th century, carrying around this tradition of iron bars and imprisonment and punishment. In fact if you look at the record, they are the ones who have saved species from extinction and who reintroduced species to the wild.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=0zfYd

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**Fun House attraction for London?**

Nostalgia will play a key role in determining whether hit 90s kids show Fun House will be resurrected as a London visitor attraction, after an IndieGoGo fundraising campaign was launched by a team including former show host Pat Sharp.

Mark Wells and Glen Middleham – who have more than 45 years of television production experience between them – are behind the project, as well as Sharp and original show producer Scott Stone.

The team are seeking £650,000 to bring a Fun House attraction to life, with fans able to pre-purchase tickets as part of the fundraising effort. Wells, who executive produced, produced and directed some of the biggest titles on British television, such as Top of the Pops, The BRIT Awards and Ant and Dec’s Saturday Night Takeaway, alongside Middleham said the initial reaction “has been very strong”.

“There’s a big amount of social media activity running alongside it. Fun House just seems to be one of those shows that people have this incredible affection for,” he told Leisure Opportunities.

Wells and the rest of the team are hoping that fond childhood memories of the show will encourage pledges in a similar style to the Crystal Maze live experience, another cult hit, which was turned into a visitor attraction last year following a successful crowdfunding campaign. The experience, which will last around two hours, has been pencilled in for a launch date of early 2018.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=V6ToM

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**Attractions ambassador named**

Bernard Donoghue, director of the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA), has been named an ambassador for cultural tourism as part of London mayor Sadiq Khan’s Cultural Leadership Board.

Formed of a group of leaders from London’s premier creative organisations, the Cultural Leadership Board will guide the mayor’s vision for culture in the British capital.

Donoghue, who also chairs the Tourism Alliance, takes up the role of ambassador for culture, alongside names such as Design Museum director Alice Black, Museum of London director Sharon Ament and Stuart Hobley, head of the Heritage Lottery Fund for London.

“I am honoured to accept the mayor’s invitation to join the Cultural Leadership Board and to be ambassador for Cultural Tourism,” said Donoghue, speaking to Attractions Management. “London is rightly regarded as the cultural capital of the world with some of the best museums, galleries, attractions, heritage sites, as well theatres, performance venues, arts and artists.”

Sadiq Khan, who was elected as mayor of London in May 2016, has demonstrated his commitment to London’s cultural enterprises, doubling the amount of money for the city’s culture programme from £4.4m in 2016/17 to £8.88m in 2017/18.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=6q3u7
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Airbnb introduces funding scheme

Home-sharing platform Airbnb has announced plans to invest £4.4m into a new Community Tourism Programme – a project designed to “use innovation to help preserve and boost the best of local customs, traditions and landmarks that make communities unique.”

The company is seeking projects under the categories of placemaking, innovation, and festivals and events. The placemaking category covers imagining and reinventing public spaces to build community for locals and visitors. For innovation, applicants must reimagine the tourism and travel space by sparking entrepreneurship and strengthening local economies. Under the festivals and events category, projects must be focused on preserving or celebrating local festivals and events while introducing them to a broader, appreciative audience.

Airbnb says that it will take submissions from a number of different organisations, including charities, not-for-profit ventures and community-focused groups. Financial support is available under a three-tiered funding structure, which at the low end is £8,799 to £21,995, with the mid tier then up to as much as £43,991 and the highest tier up to £87,983. While Airbnb is encouraging use of its marketplace to enhance projects, it is not a necessity for applicants.

“We have had a lot of success doing one-off projects in Europe and we want to put this in place and take it to the next level,” said Chris Lehane, Airbnb global head of public policy and public affairs. Details: http://lei.sr?r=aB1V0h

Salisbury MP gets tourism brief

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has shaken up its ministerial team, with Salisbury MP John Glen being handed the role of parliamentary undersecretary for arts, heritage and tourism.

Glen – who was previously serving as principal private secretary to chancellor Philip Hammond – takes up his new role after Rob Wilson, former minister for civil society, lost his seat during the General Election.

Wilson’s duties will now be carried out by Tracey Crouch, who managed the tourism brief alongside sport and heritage prior to the election. Her title is now parliamentary undersecretary for sport and civil society, with the minister overseeing gambling, horse racing, the Office for Civil Society, sport, and the National Lottery and society lotteries. Former minister for culture and digital Matt Hancock narrows his remit, which now focuses purely on digital, with arts and culture now falling under the watch of Glen.

Glen’s remit includes arts, culture, heritage, museum and tourism

“Glen’s remit will include arts, culture, heritage, museums and tourism. “I know from my own constituency how important tourism is to communities across the country in creating jobs and driving growth,” he said. “I look forward to working closely with the sector to continue to maximise its impact in Britain and across the world.” Details: http://lei.sr?r=q8f3D
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**Property**

**Green light for Core Collective gym**

A new pay-as-you-go lifestyle gym for boutique operator Core Collective looks set to be built in London’s St John’s Wood, with Westminster City Council giving the project the go ahead.

Waind Gohil + Potter Architects (WG+P), who specialise in wellbeing and leisure design, have created the concept – described as “a relaxed, luxury environment and where people want to hangout, not just workout.”

The gym will feature contemporary design features, a highly flexible layout and adjustable exercise spaces. A cafe and health-focused bar will be added to make it a sociable and inclusive environment.

“Psychological wellbeing is closely linked to environmental factors such as light, colours and a relaxing atmosphere, a key principle for us when designing the Core Collective fitness environments,” he added.

This is the second property for Core Collective. The company’s health club in Kensington – also designed by WG+P – was the first dedicated pay-as-you-go gym in London for a range of groups. Its instructor-led sessions include TRX, High Intensity Interval Training, Power Yoga and Spinning.

For the St John’s Wood site, a crowdfunding campaign was launched to build the gym, with £2m raised.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=U2a3j

**Residential development for Lord’s?**

Members of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) – the owner of Lord’s Cricket Ground – will be asked if they would be content for a “large-scale” residential development to be built within the venue to fund redevelopment projects.

The question will be posed as part of a review carried out by MCC to see if there is appetite for the ground’s Nursery End to be revamped.

Two development options have been put before members: the building of the residential development in return for a “cash injection” to fund the project, or the project being totally funded via existing club resources.

“The review is already the result of much consultation and is intended to be as fair as possible. As MCC owns Lord’s and is a members club, it is essential to ensure that the development of the ground is carried out in accordance with the members’ wishes.”

Five consultation evenings will culminate in late-July with the presentation of five reports.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=do7zh

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**Seven designs revealed for new Edinburgh landmark**

Seven diverse proposals from the design teams vying to create a new amphitheatre and pavilion in the heart of Edinburgh have been revealed to the public.

The new landmark Ross Pavilion is intended to revitalise Edinburgh’s West Princes Street Gardens, one of the city’s most emblematic places, and the shortlisted groups were tasked with submitting visions of “exemplary design quality inspired by, and appropriate to, the significance of its setting.”

The structure, which will also have a cafe and visitor centre, will be the seasonal focus for some of Scotland’s most high-profile events and celebrations, including Hogmanay and the Edinburgh International Festival’s closing fireworks concert.

The final concept designs have been posted to an online gallery, and they will also be presented for public viewing at an exhibition at Edinburgh’s City Art Centre until 30 July 2017.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=eiY2W

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**Major expansion for Black Country Living Museum**

The Black Country Living Museum (BCLM) in Dudley has been awarded £9.8m by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to go towards a facility expansion expected to increase the museum’s footprint by a third.

The £21.7m project – BCLM: Forging Ahead – is the first phase of a 40 year masterplan laid out by the museum, which celebrates the history of the Black Country in the Midlands.

Funding means the museum can now start work on the development of a 1940s to 1960s area, which will also feature new learning spaces and visitor facilities.

The museum says it has identified buildings across the region, which it wants to translocate, recreate or replicate on-site. These include pub, shops, a hairdressers and an NHS clinic.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=E5R4u
For an informal discussion please contact Paul Wicker on paul.wicker@walsall.gov.uk before 4pm on 7 July
Apprenticeship reform issues need to be addressed

I welcome the appointment of Anne Milton as the new minister for apprentices and skills. With her considerable experience in the health sector, I hope that she will understand the valuable contribution of sport and physical activity to the wider health agenda.

CIMSPA will be seeking a meeting with Ms. Milton at the earliest opportunity to address the issues around apprenticeship reform, which frankly have been very disappointing.

Our sector wholeheartedly embraced this reform and brought together a strong cohort of industry employers to re-write apprenticeship standards. We embarked on the process in July 2014 and within six months had completed the standards for personal trainer and duty manager.

These were swiftly followed by new apprenticeship standards for fitness instructors and recreation assistants. However, despite our work and our early submissions of these standards to government, not one has yet to see full approval. Our experience is not dissimilar to that of other sectors.

This stems from multiple changes within the Department for Education (DfE) to accommodate apprenticeship reform, including the creation of the new Institute for Apprenticeships. Unfortunately, this has led to a lack of clarity, pace and planning, which leads me to fear that the initial goodwill demonstrated by the sector in supporting this reform and brought together a strong cohort of industry employers to re-write apprenticeship reform standards is slowly being eroded.

The same confusion surrounds the new apprenticeship levy, with many questions left unanswered by the DfE, Skills Funding Agency and Institute for Apprenticeships leading some to raise the question whether we should pay the levy at all when the finer detail cannot be agreed.

In spite of this, we have strong relations with the Institute for Apprenticeships and want to progress our work with the new minister at a pace as well as continue our efforts to have sport and physical activity formerly recognised in the Post 16 Skills Plan.

TRAINING

Qualification for trampoline safety

Active IQ and Right Directions have launched a Level 2 qualification for court monitors in trampoline parks to help boost safety and confidence.

Developed by health and safety and quality management specialists Right Directions, the training qualification is the first of its kind for the sector, with Active IQ providing regulated qualification status.

Right Directions delivers Sport England’s quality scheme Quest, as well as ukactive’s Code of Practice and Swim England’s Learn to Swim accreditation. It has been working in the trampoline sector for the past two years and has developed a Trampoline Park Safety Operating Plan in partnership with Oxygen Freejumping. Court monitors watch trampolines users, ensuring safety.

The Level 2 Trampoline Park Court Monitor qualification comprises three days of training alongside practical scenarios and workshops and consists of five modules. Qualified court monitors will also be required to hold a Level 2 Emergency First Aid at Work certificate.

The qualification will be valid for three years and court monitors will be required to complete work-based CPD as part of the retention of the certification, which will be completed in-house as ongoing training. Once qualified, court monitors will be required to attend a one-day refresher course every three years and renew their Emergency First Aid certificate.

Gill Twell, head of group development and Quest operations for Right Directions, said: “With the popularity in trampolining on the rise, there is a clear need to ensure we set high standards of health and safety and customer service to protect the public and invest in training for trampoline park staff so they can fulfil their role with confidence and skill.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=U416j

Serco Leisure pens CIMPSA deal

Serco Leisure, which operates more than 60 facilities across the UK, has become an employer partner of the sport and physical activity sector’s chartered professional body.

Under the partnership, more than 250 of Serco’s fitness staff will move into the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA)’s affiliate and practitioner memberships for exercise and fitness professionals.

These staff will be listed in the online CIMSPA exercise and fitness directory, with their qualifications recognised by the professional body.

Employer partners only use training providers and products that have been verified by the body as they look to raise workforce skills standards. CIMSPA has more than 60 employer partners in the UK.

Steven Lawrence, Serco Leisure operations director, said: “Our staff are our business. By joining CIMSPA, we’re showing our great team of fitness professionals that we value their development and want them to have industry-recognised qualifications and access to the best CPD around.”

Tara Dillon, CEO, added: “This is another great milestone for us – having the entire Serco Leisure frontline fitness team come into membership en masse gives CIMSPA a great opportunity to help them build their careers and keep their skillsets up to date with qualifications and CPD approved by the sector’s chartered professional body.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z2a9R
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- Personal Trainer Diploma

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Company: Human Kinetics
Location: Online
- Conditioning to the Core Online CE Course
- High-Performance Training Sports Online CE Course
- Bodyweight Strength Training Anatomy CE Course

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Company: Club Training
Location: Various, UK
- Personal Trainer Courses

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Company</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Membership Sales Advisor</td>
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<td>Legacy Leisure</td>
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<td>Assistant General Manager</td>
<td>The Gym Group</td>
<td>Newport, Wales, UK</td>
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<td>Personal Trainers</td>
<td>The Gym Group</td>
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<td>Operations Manager</td>
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<td>énergie group</td>
<td>Kettering, UK</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dundee, UK</td>
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<td>GLL</td>
<td>Highbury East, North London</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Manager</td>
<td>The Gym Group</td>
<td>East Midlands, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Studio Coach/Personal Trainer</td>
<td>truGym</td>
<td>Bromley, UK</td>
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<td>Bristol, UK</td>
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Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Aylesbury, UK

Team Leader  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Suffolk, UK

Catering Assistant  
Company: Parkwood Leisure  
Location: Ollerton, Nottingham, UK

Operations Assistants  
Company: Parkwood Leisure  
Location: Ollerton, Nottingham, UK

Fitness Motivator  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Sutton, UK

Operations Manager  
Company: Parkwood Leisure  
Location: Ollerton, UK

Swimming Pool Manager  
Company: Richmondshire Leisure Trust  
Location: North Yorkshire, UK

Fitness Apprentice  
Company: fitness4less  
Location: Cheddle Hulme, UK

Personal Trainer  
Company: fitness4less  
Location: Cheddle Hulme, UK

Fitness Instructor  
Company: Legacy Leisure  
Location: Exeter, UK

Fitness Instructor - Part Time  
Company: energie group  
Location: Sheldon, Birmingham, UK

Area Sales Manager  
Company: egym  
Location: Various locations, UK

Senior Recreation Assistant  
Company: GLL  
Location: Bath, Somerset

Venue Coordinator  
Company: Becky Adlington's Swim Stars  
Location: Merseside, UK

Level 2 Swim Teachers  
Company: Total Swimming Academies  
Location: Merseside, UK

Physical Activity Manager  
Company: The Holbrook Club  
Location: Hornsham, UK

Swimming Instructor  
Company: Swimming Nature  
Location: Various locations, UK

Team Leader  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Ware, Hertfordshire, UK

Apprenticeships  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Nationwide, UK

Front of House Manager  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Warwick, UK

Water Park Lead Lifeguard  
Company: Legoland  
Location: California, United States

Recreation Assistants  
Company: Tonbridge & Malling LT  
Location: Kent, UK

Fitness Motivator  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Sutton, UK

Operations Manager  
Company: Parkwood Leisure  
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Swimming Instructor  
Company: Swimming Nature  
Location: Various locations, UK

Team Leader  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Ware, Hertfordshire, UK

Apprenticeships  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Nationwide, UK

Front of House Manager  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Warwick, UK

Swimming Instructors  
Company: Swimming Nature  
Location: Various, UK

Personal Trainers  
Company: Matt Roberts  
Location: London, UK

Coach - Fitness  
Company: Gateshead Council  
Location: Gateshead, UK

Gym Instructor  
Company: Gateshead Council  
Location: Gateshead, UK

Clip and Climb Attendant  
Company: Gateshead Council  
Location: Gateshead, UK

Senior Operations Assistant  
Company: Gateshead Council  
Location: Gateshead, UK

Leisure Attendant PLG  
Company: Gateshead Council  
Location: Gateshead, UK

Food and Beverage Assistant  
Company: Gateshead Council  
Location: Gateshead, UK

Casual Receptionist  
Company: Gateshead Council  
Location: Gateshead, UK

Swimming Teachers  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Nationwide

General Managers  
Company: The Gym Group  
Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainer  
Company: Xercise4Less  
Location: Nationwide, UK

General Manager  
Company: Xercise4Less  
Location: Various

Membership Consultant  
Company: Xercise4Less  
Location: Various locations, UK

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

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

Personal Trainer  
Company: Xercise4Less  
Location: Nationwide, UK

Swimming Teachers  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Various locations, UK

Senior Spa Receptionist  
Company: Cliveden House  
Location: Berkshire, UK

Spa Operations Manager  
Company: Cliveden House  
Location: Berkshire, UK

Spa Therapists  
Company: Cliveden House  
Location: Berkshire, UK

Spa Host  
Company: Aqua Sana - Center Parcs  
Location: Evedden Forest, Suffolk, UK

Beauty Therapists  
(Full and Part-time)  
Company: Aqua Sana - Center Parcs  
Location: Evedden Forest, Suffolk; Longleat Forest, Wiltshire; Whinfell Forest, Cumbria; Woburn Forest, Bedfordshire, UK

Spa Manager  
Company: Lancaster City Council  
Location: Lancaster, UK

Spa Therapists  
Company: Bannford Spa  
Location: Gloucestershire, UK

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

International Spa Operations Manager  
Company: ESPA International (UK) Ltd  
Location: Farnham, Surrey, UK

Beauty Therapists  
Company: The Glassworks Health Club  
Location: Cambridge, UK

Retail Manager  
Company: The Eye Brand  
Location: Orlando, United States

Head of Marketing  
Company: Merlin Entertainments Gp  
Location: Poole, Dorset, UK

Theatre Caretaker  
Company: Parkwood Leisure  
Location: Maidstone, UK

Head of Site  
Company: Royal Horticultural Society  
Location: Woking, Surrey, UK

Head of Merlin Annual Pass  
Company: Merlin Entertainments Gp  
Location: Chessington, UK

Project Manager (Europe)  
Company: Merlin Entertainments Gp  
Location: London, UK

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Review of high-performance sport

Liz Nicholl, CEO of UK Sport, has conceded that the quango must be “more alert” to potential issues within the world class performance systems it funds, and has kick-started a culture-related “root-and-branch review”.

Following the publication of an independent review into the culture of British Cycling’s World Class Programme – which detailed a “lack” of good governance and a perceived “culture of fear” – UK Sport has developed a six-point action plan to guard against similar environments being fostered in the future.

“Our focus at UK Sport, our priority, was to look at ways that we could ensure all athletes in the future across all our world class programmes could have confidence that any grievances will be dealt with fairly, effectively and appropriately,” said Nicholl. “Recognising that if we can get this right, then an independent review of this sought should be commissioned by exception, not the norm.”

Nicholl played down suggestions of a “crisis” within the British world class sporting system despite similar accusation surfacing in other sports and stressed that “opportunities missed” by UK Sport to eradicate negative behaviours in the past will not be repeated.

The review of culture across the high performance system is one of the six actions being taken by UK Sport to underpin this.

It has also hired its first head of sport integrity, military professional John Donnelly, to advise on policies for handling and reviewing cultural behaviours. Details: http://lei.sr?a=l8V6N

Liverpool’s Commonwealth blueprint

Continued from front cover

The swimming pool would be built permanently and “provide a swimming and visitor attraction legacy” for the city.

Neighbouring north-west city Manchester is also contributing to the bid, although the Games would primarily take place in Liverpool if the campaign is successful. Manchester’s Old Trafford Cricket Ground and Manchester Velodrome are being lined up to host T20 cricket and sprint cycling respectively.

Already constructed facilities earmarked for use within Liverpool include the 11,000-capacity Arena and Convention Centre, Anfield Stadium, St George’s Hall, Goodison Park and Stanley Park. A new £5.5bn residential area being built next to Everton’s prospective stadium will house the Athletes’ Village.

Mayor of Liverpool Joe Anderson said the city was experiencing a “renaissance” and that the Games would “transform the economic fortunes” of its waterfront area, adding: “Our vision for the Games brings together ambitious new sporting facilities on the historic waterfront, with the existing world-class stadia revered by sports fans and athletes across the globe.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=15us5N

Mayor Joe Anderson is behind the city’s Games bid