New Hertfordshire snow centre set for May opening

By Pete Hayman

A new £23m indoor hub for skiing and snowboarding, which has been built on the site of the former Hemel Ski Slope in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, is to open on 6 May.

The Snow Centre, which has been built by UK-based company Sir Robert McAlpine, incorporates a 160m (525ft) main slope suitable for skiers of all abilities, a 100m (328ft) lesson slope, a Snow and Rock retail outlet, a café and après bar and a snow play area.

It will also be the only indoor snow facility in southern Britain that holds Centre of Excellence status, which has been awarded by the British Association of Snowsports Instructors (BASI), while links have also been established with the Ötztal region in Austria to ensure it offers the latest Alpine coaching techniques.

Work got underway last year following two years of planning by David Surrey, director of the Hemel Ski Centre, in partnership with Sir Robert McAlpine and Dacorum Borough Council, and it is hoped that the new venue will attract 300,000 visitors in its first year.

Steven Jordan, technical director at The Snow Centre, said: “Everybody will be able to enjoy the centre, from beginners to experts, children to adults; there is something for everyone.”

Ten snow cannons will ensure real snow is produced on a regular basis to replicate Alpine conditions, which will be maintained at temperatures just below freezing.

The new centre also features a 72,000sq ft (6,689sq m) living roof planted with sedum.

Leeds City Council secures funding for Holt Park

By Tom Walker

Leeds City Council (LCC) has secured funding for the construction of a new leisure and wellbeing centre in Holt Park, near Cookridge.

The Department of Health has confirmed the allocation, in principle, of £32m of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) credits for the new centre, which will combine services provided by LCC’s adult social care, youth and sports services, NHS Leeds, and the local community.

The new leisure centre will include a 25m swimming pool, an easily accessible learner pool with beach, a sports hall and a Bodyline gym. It will also have meeting, conference and multi-purpose rooms that will host health education workshops and exercise classes.

The wellbeing aspects include a hydrotherapy pool, sensory rooms and a rebound room, which is a soft-sided relaxation space with music.

The centre is intended to replace the existing Holt Park Leisure Centre, as well as contribute to the regeneration of Holt Park District Centre.

Marwell opens African Valley

Marwell Zoological Park in Hampshire has opened its new African Valley zone. The opening of the new zone follows several years of planning and has taken a year to construct.

The 20-acre (8.1-hectare) African Valley will see more than 35 Ellipsen waterbucks, Grevy’s zebras and ostriches roam together in a new habitat.

The opening coincides with Marwell renaming itself as Marwell Wildlife for the 2009 season.
UK parks to receive £14m funding boost

Eight restoration schemes across Britain to benefit from a share of Lottery cash

By Pete Hayman

Eight parks across Britain are to be restored after receiving a share of £14m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund’s (BIG) Parks for People initiative.

The funding will also go towards increasing the number of volunteering and training opportunities for more than 1,000 as part of the schemes, which include planting, habitat creation and woodland and event management.

Lichfield’s Beacon Park, Minster Pool and the Garden of Remembrance in Staffordshire will receive the largest funding share, with a £3.9m grant to be spent on transforming the open spaces through the restoration of the park’s landscape and historic features.

A scheme to restore Coventry’s War Memorial Park in Warwickshire, which commemorates soldiers who died in World War I, has been awarded £2.8m, while the largest park in Cheshire’s Sandbach Park – will receive £2.4m towards a £3.6m regeneration project.

Elsewhere, MacRoyst Park in Penrith; Stevenage’s Town Centre Gardens, Hertfordshire; and Gyllyngdune Gardens in Falmouth, Cornwall will also receive funding, as will Stafford Orchard, Leicestershire; and Burntwood Green Park in Kilsyth, North Lanarkshire.

By Pete Hayman

School children in England are to benefit from the chance to take part in Bikeability, the national cycle training standard, after the government committed £10m towards the initiative.

The funding is part of a £140m package for the training scheme, which aims to enable a total of 500,000 young people to learn essential cycling skills and to gain greater confidence of the dangers on the road.

Transport minister Paul Clark revealed details of the extra investment at the end of March.

More children will benefit from the Bikeability training scheme with £5.4m funding earmarked for local authorities to provide Bikeability training and £4m to go towards the Youth Sport Trust to deliver cycle training in schools through the School Sports Partnerships.

The remaining £500,000 is to be awarded as bursary grants to pay for 1,600 new training staff as part of the initiative, which launched in March 2007 to help children cope with traffic conditions.

Clark said: “Having the skills to cycle to school and to make other local journeys has never been more important, especially as it helps children and young people to reach the 60 minutes of activity recommended by the government’s Change4Life scheme.”

Government to extend child cycling initiative

By Pete Hayman

The Budget is a missed opportunity to promote British tourism and to create much needed boost in employment. Against all the depressing content of his Budget, the chancellor could have included a measure that would have provided a genuine green shoot by stimulating an industry that is capable of playing a major role in moving our economy in the right direction.

In BALPPA’s Budget submission we argued for a targeted reduction in VAT for visitor attractions and accommodation. A reduction to 5 per cent would have boosted Treasury revenues and contributed to GDP growth.

I am mystified why the chancellor did not seize the opportunity to promote British tourism at a time when many people are for the first time in decades seriously thinking about holidaying in the UK rather than going abroad.

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In his speech, the chancellor said that his Budget would “build on the strengths of the British economy and its people, speed the recovery, providing jobs and spreading prosperity.”

It is curious, therefore, that despite its size and importance, tourism didn’t get a mention in the speech, while other industries – creative, oil, IT, energy – did. It was an opportunity missed.

Gordon Brown insists that Britain must invest its way out of the economy – yet the Budget has done little to encourage this in tourism.

In 2007, the government abolished the Hotel Buildings Allowance and reduced other capital allowances to promote investment in tourism facilities.

It has widespread public support, cross-party unions and MPs from all parties who have been calling for action to save the British pub.

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**IN BRIEF**

**Freedom Leisure wins Olympos contract**
- Sussex-based sports trust Freedom Leisure has been awarded a five-year contract to manage the three Olympos leisure centres in Burgess Hill, East Grinstead and Haywards Heath on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC). In partnership with fellow trust Greenwich Leisure (GLL), Freedom Leisure will also take over the management of two MSDC entertainment venues, Clare Hall in Haywards Heath and Maritimes Ball in Burgess Hill.

**Clayton gym revamped**
- Phase one of the £500,000 redevelopment of Clayton Green Sports Centre in Chorley has reached completion, with the opening of its new fitness suite to local residents. Members can now use 40 pieces of Technogym equipment and will soon benefit from a new reception area with a lift, refurbished changing facilities and improved toilets and showers. The crèche and nursery area will also be completely refurbished and a new multipurpose room added to the first floor.

**Fusion to manage Oxford facilities**
- Fusion Lifestyle has announced that it has taken over the running of leisure facilities in Oxford from 30 March after securing a 10-year management contract with the city council. Working in partnership with Oxford City Council (OCC), Fusion has said it intends to improve facilities at seven sites across the city, as well as reduce overall costs in a bid to rejuvenate the region’s leisure services.

**Carluke Leisure Centre reopens**
- Carluke Leisure Centre in Lanarkshire is set to reopen after a £2.9m refurbishment. The works were funded by South Lanarkshire Council, which operates the centre. Facilities will now include: a fitness suite, including a junior gym; a dance studio; a new reception; a new community room; a refurbished games hall and new toilets.

**Dance project kicks off in Carlisle**
- A new £30,000 mobile dance project has been launched by sports trust Carlisle Leisure. Funded by the trust, with an additional £10,000 from the Healthy Communities and Older People’s fund, the project will run until March 2011. The programme is designed to appeal to people between the ages of eight and 17 years-old who have a history of weight issues. The scheme has been created by professor Paul Gately, and is designed to form links between schools and leisure centres in the area. The programme contains weekly lifestyle sessions, which will be managed by DC Leisure on behalf of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

**Hengrove Park opening delayed due to recession**
- A £21m leisure centre at Hengrove Park in Bristol is set to open several months late, due to the impact of the recession.

**700th Hilton Fitness By Precor opened**
- More than 700 Hilton Fitness By Precor facilities have now opened globally since the brand was launched at the end of 2006, making it one of the world’s largest health and fitness brands. Hilton plans to open another 150 facilities scheduled during 2009. Recent guest surveys conducted by the Hilton Hotels Corporation found that hotels offering Hilton Fitness By Precor facilities saw increases of up to 45 per cent in overall guest satisfaction.

**New vision for physical activity unveiled in Liverpool**
- The city’s local strategic partnership, Liverpool First, is implementing the plans following a 17-month consultation with more than 1,500 residents and more than 50 partner organisations. Among LCC’s pledges as part of the 100-page document, the council will look to reduce the level of obesity in adults and children from 2010 onwards, while also reducing the number of smokers to less than 10 per cent of the population.

**IN BRIEF**

**13m centre proposed for Lewisham**
- Three redevelopment proposals for Forest Hill Pools are due to be the subject of a public consultation this April in Lewisham, London. Lewisham Council’s shortlisted leisure centre options come from HLM Architects, Allies + Morrison and Pollard Thomas Edwards architects. It is the second round of consultations to be held on the development, after the council was forced to rethink designs last year. The adjacent Louise House received a Grade II listing by English Heritage, making the construction of a two-pool leisure centre on the site unaffordable. A final decision on the redevelopment of Forest Hill Pools will be made by the mayor in the summer. According to the council there are two options: either postpone the development until 2012 in the hope further funding can be found, which means the earliest it can be completed is late 2015, or proceed now and build the centre on Willow Way, 400m from the current site. Funding would be provided in part by a housing development bringing the completion date to late 2011. HLM are proposing the redevelopment of the Forest Hill Pools on its existing site and accompany it with housing, demolishing the Victorian frontage. Allies + Morrison have submitted similar designs, but plan to retain the frontage and move the commercial and housing aspect to Willow Way. Pollard Thomas Edwards intend to host the leisure centre on Willow Way and the housing development on the site of the existing pools.

**1m grant for Nottingham complex**
- A new £6.44m leisure centre, which is currently being built at Forest Fields. Nottingham City Council (NCC) is behind plans for the new complex, which will replace existing facilities at Noel Street as part of its £18.5m Leisure Centre Transformation Programme to improve sports provision across the city. The funding, which is made available to local authorities across England, is designed to encourage more people to take up swimming by helping to provide modern facilities and to enhance accessibility. It coincides with the launch of the government’s free swimming initiative for people aged between 16 and 60 years old, which will run until 31 March 2011 and aims to increase participation ahead of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**The existing Forest Hill Pools are to be replaced with a new centre**

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**Fitness First joins forces with Nintendo**
- The Fitness First gym chain has joined forces with Nintendo WII to launch a new product line for the games console. First to be released will be Wii New! Online, which will combine fitness and exercise content with nutritional advice. A full-body workout is being designed by Fitness First. For this, six Fitness First personal trainers have been filmed demonstrating exercises as the designers opted for real life instruction rather than using 3D graphics.

**New centre has been designed by Archial and is set to open in 2010**
- The centre of the city’s local strategic partnership, Liverpool First, is implementing the plans following a 17-month consultation with more than 1,500 residents and more than 50 partner organisations. Among LCC’s pledges as part of the 100-page document, the council will look to reduce the level of obesity in adults and children from 2010 onwards, while also reducing the number of smokers to less than 10 per cent of the population.

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**£18.5m centre proposed for Lewisham**
- London. East Grinstead and Haywards Heath on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC), in partnership with fellow trust Greenwich Leisure (GLL), Freedom Leisure will also take over the management of two MSDC entertainment venues, Clare Hall in Haywards Heath and Maritimes Ball in Burgess Hill. This is not the first time Freedom Leisure and GLL have worked together, previously winning a joint bid to manage K2 Leisure Centre in Crawley.
**In Brief**

**Profits fall at Arena Leisure**
- Arena Leisure, the UK racecourse operator, has seen a fall in profits and announced that it will not be paying a final dividend. The company saw its shares fall after reporting a drop in pretax profits from £5.9m in 2007 to £4m this year. However, the company said that revenue had increased by 12 per cent to £64.8m. Mark Elliot, chief executive, said: “Arena has delivered a creditable operational performance, growing total attendance across its portfolio of racecourses during the year.”

**Clubs closed as Rileys enters administration**
- Rileys, the UK-wide snooker pool club operator, has announced the closure of 30 properties and the loss of 250 jobs after it entered administration. Simon Allport and Tom Jack of Ernst and Young were appointed joint administrators of the embattled Milton Keynes-based company, although a deal has been reached with Valiant Sports Limited to ensure the survival of 129 clubs, which will continue to operate under the Rileys name.

**Luminar chief expects half of clubs to close**
- The chief executive of Luminar, the UK’s biggest nightclub operator, has predicted tough times ahead for the club industry. Stephen Thomas told The Timer that half of the UK’s 2,700 nightclubs could close in the next 18 months, although he expects many venues to eventually reopen. He told the newspaper that Luminar was not looking to make any acquisitions either, saying that “of the 2,000-odd clubs in the country not owned by us, we’d be interested in less than eight”.

**Cash boost for Edinburgh festivals**
- SMG Europe is to take over the management of the Whitley Bay Playhouse theatre after North Tyneside Council agreed an operating agreement with the company. It is hoped that the deal will secure the future of the venue which has been closed since August 2007. The venue is expected to reopen in the autumn following an £8m refurbishment programme. The revamp of the Playhouse has included the construction of a new glass entrance and a raked auditorium with improved seating.

**North Lincolnshire Council has granted £10m towards the project**
- However, planning approval was granted subject to a number of conditions, one of which requires the new venue to generate at least 10 per cent of its energy demands through renewable, on-site measures. Work is scheduled to get underway in April 2010, with the council already agreeing to contribute £10m from its capital programme, and it is hoped that the new facility will be open to the public in summer 2011.

**New 3,200-capacity entertainment facility expected to open by summer 2011**
- Work has already started on a tender process to find a contractor to build the new facility, but the decision now means the council can move forward with the appointment of the venue’s operator. NLC will also continue with negotiations to find external funding for the scheme, with meetings scheduled to take place between the council and development agency Yorkshire Forward later this year.

**Festival funding has been increased from last year**
- Edinburgh’s 12 festivals have been allocated more than £2m by the Scottish Government for the 2009-10 season in a bid to continue showcasing the best of Scottish arts and culture. This year’s Expo Fund, which has been increased by more than £700,000 from last year, is available to the 12 members of Festivals Edinburgh, an organisation set up to lead a joint strategic development plan for the festivals. The funding, which includes a £250,000 grant to the Edinburgh Arts Festival over the next two years, forms part of the planned £6m investment in Edinburgh’s festivals between 2008-09 and 2011-12, which is administered by the Scottish Arts Council. Faith Liddell, director of Festivals Edinburgh, said: “The Expo Fund will allow our directors to create a rich portfolio of projects that represents the largest showcase of Scottish work ever presented.”

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**Go-ahead for £16m Scunthorpe venue**

New 3,200-capacity entertainment venue expected to open by summer 2011

**By Pete Rayman**

Plans to replace Scunthorpe’s Bath Hall with a new £16m entertainment venue have been given the green light by North Lincolnshire Council (NLC). The new venue, which will retain its original 1930s frontage, will include a standing area for up to 2,000 people, seating capacity of 1,200, conference facilities, a bar and a café.

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Sports centre for Inverness campus

Proposals for £100m university site include Olympic-sized swimming pool

By Caroline Wilkinson

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) have submitted plans for a sports centre as part of a proposed £100m university campus in Inverness. The development, to be located on 200-acres of land at Beechnwood, is to be called Inverness Campus and will be part of the Millennium Institute’s University of the Highlands and Islands portfolio of colleges.

The scheme is expected to generate in excess of £50m a year for the local economy. Designed by MAKE architects, in consultation with planning agents Turrnbury Consulting, the proposed facilities include a gym, outdoor sports pitches, a swimming pool and a public park. An Olympic-sized swimming pool is also a consideration following a campaign launched by Inverness Swimming Club but, although HIE do not oppose the idea, it’s not in a position to fund such a venture. If another organisation is willing to front the cost of a 50m swimming pool then it will be considered.

Construction of the centre is expected to start in 2010 and completed by 2013.

£1.2m cash boost for Plymouth sports scheme

By Caroline Wilkinson

The refurbishment of the UCP Marjon swimming pool is set to receive a £1.2m cash injection from Plymouth City Council to ensure the dual-use provision of the facility.

The project, at the University College Plymouth St Mark and St John (UCP Marjon), is part of a wider rebuilding of sports facilities which will also include enlarging the sports centre by 900m² to 6,255m².

£1m grant for Manchester sports village

The football Foundation has presented a cheque for £1m towards the development of a £10.3m sports, culture and leisure village in Heywood, north Manchester.

The £1m grant, personally delivered by Football Foundation president Lord Pendry, will go towards the new centre which will incorporate a sports hall; 25-metre, six-lane swimming pool; 100-station fitness suite and dance studio plus community and education rooms. There will also be dedicated youth space and a youth gym. The funding comes on top of an earlier grant from Sport England for £500,000, which was also the largest amount they have ever awarded.

House of Sport planned for Flintshire

Deeside Leisure Centre to be replaced by multi-million pound sports facility

By Helen Patenall

Deeside Leisure Centre in Flintshire, North Wales, may be demolished to make way for a new facility dubbed the ‘House of Sport’. Flintshire County Council is holding an executive cabinet meeting on Wednesday 1 April to decide how best to move forward with the proposals for a 12-court sports hall, a six-lane indoor bowl hall and an outdoor five-a-side football pitch. A dance room, a martial arts room and a spa centre may also be developed. The existing ice rink will be retained.

Ian Budd, director of lifelong learning, told local paper the Evening Leader: “The Sports Council for Wales identified the potential for the site making a significant contribution to sport in North Wales as a major venue for regional and national training and competitions and as a key support facility for the North Wales Institute of Sport. “If these were to be linked to an office base for Sports Council and Governing Bodies of Sports staff, then the concept of a ‘house of sport’ becomes realisable — making Deeside and Flintshire the main focal point for sport in North Wales.”

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Clapham to accelerate GBK roll out
Restaurant group looking to benefit from falling property prices across the UK

By Tom Walker

Clapham House Group plans to take advantage of the property market’s declining value over the next 12 months as it prepares to accelerate the roll out of its restaurants. The operator of The Real Greek and Toootisies, plans to open 150 new Gourmet Burger Kitchen (GBK) restaurants in the UK, after delivering good sales for the year to 29 March 2009. “We are witnessing a correction in UK property valuations as landlords have begun to adjust their rental expectations for new properties and leases,” said the group’s trading statement.

“We expect this realignment to accelerate over the next 12 months and will plan our expansion to take best advantage of this.” Six GBK restaurants were opened in the financial year, bringing the group’s total to 49 UK sites, accompanied by six overseas and 10 operated under franchise. A further three sites are under construction.

Sales at The Real Greek and Toootisies restaurants also weathered well, despite the weak UK economy. Clapham House Group was created by former PizzaExpress boss, David Page, in 2003. Page floated the company on AIM later that year.

Clapham House has set out to rapidly expand the GBK chain

London hotels ‘unfit’ for 2012
London hotels have been deemed ‘unfit’ to host guests during the 2012 Olympics by campaign group London Citizens and trade union Unite. The report, titled Rooms for Change: Putting London hotels on a track for the Olympics, refers to working conditions at London hotels as ‘Dickensian’; offering low wages, migrant labour and poor value for money.

The report argues that key issues to making the hotels fit for the Olympics include adopting the £7.40 London Living Wage as minimum wage, by investing in training and to improve migrant workers’ English skills.

Empty rooms – the trend facing London hotels during 2009

By Tom Walker

London hotels can expect to see a 12.7 per cent fall in RevPAR, to an average of £81.62, by the year-end 2009. In its latest quarterly Hotel Market Outlook, consultants Deloitte predicts that the decline in RevPAR will come as average occupancy will fall by 5.8 per cent to just 75.2 per cent. Average room rates are also likely to take a hit and to settle at £108.38, a £9 drop on the previous year. All market segments are expected to see RevPAR decline more than 10 per cent during 2009, but luxury hotels are set to suffer the most with average room rates falling 18.2 per cent (more than a £35 reduction). The outlook for 2010 looks similar to 2009, with little sign of the recovery. Average room rates are due to fall a further £9 to £99.03.

RevPAR to fall at capital’s hotels

The Cavendish hotel in London, a leading member of CHA
CHA partners with Carbon Clear
Member hotels to benefit from environmental advice

By Tom Walker

The Considerate Hoteliers Association (CHA) has formed a strategic alliance with London-based carbon management specialist Carbon Clear. Carbon Clear will act as the CHA’s nominated expert on carbon management and offer advice to the association’s members on issues relating to the development and implementation of carbon management strategies.

CHA’s secretary John Firell said: “We believe Carbon Clear will add considerable value to what we can offer our members. Every day, we hear of conflicting tales of what best to do concerning a minefield of green issues. Carbon Clear will provide clear and concisie advice that fits a multitude of different situations.

This is the first alliance we have formed and we are actively looking and talking with other key organisations – providing and promoting environmental best practice’ – with which we can form a mutually beneficial relationship and further enhance the benefit of being a Considerate Hotelier.”

Student restaurant opens for training

The student-run Open Kitchen Bar and Restaurant has opened at Hackney Community College in East London as part of efforts to bridge the skills gap ahead of the 2012 Olympics.

The restaurant, located below the London City Hospitality Centre, offers students the opportunity to study NVT-based courses in customer service, leadership, and management while gaining important skills in the work place.

Geoff Newton, director of Olympic Opportunities at the London Development Agency, said: “Hospitality and catering is a growth industry that can provide opportunities during the economic downturn. The London City Hospitality Centre will give students an important edge by gaining qualifications and valuable experience.”

We can’t afford to wait idly for recovery
Investing in our facilities must remain a priority, even in the face of a recession

The summer season is around the corner. What kind of a season will it be? According to TRI Hospitality, occupancy in London is forecast to drop this year by between 10 and 18 per cent and in the provinces by between eight and 14 per cent. Yet, while these are bleak signs, tourism is a remarkably resilient beast. Recovery will come but it will take time. What should we do in the meantime?

Firstly, and most importantly, we must continue to invest. The hotel industry alone has invested £8bn in each of the last five years and opened 1,000 new hotels. Many new restaurants have opened. The recession, however, means that the investment is already slackening. Yet it is precisely now that the industry needs tax and financial incentives to encourage continued investment in new hotels, restaurants and new attractions.

Secondly, investment in staff training and staff development is key to success. Staff costs represent 30 per cent of turnover in a hotel and over 40 per cent in a restaurant. We need to ensure that the staff we have are fully trained so that they offer the best service possible for our guests.

Incentivising the use of training schemes and short training courses is critically important. There is a plethora of qualifications in the industry that are not understood by employers; they must be simplified so that employers understand what skills the London Benchmarking schemes, too, are a valuable aid to efficiency and should be supported.

Thirdly, the overwhelming need is for UK tourism to provide even greater value for money. This needs leadership on the part of the government in providing the right economic environment, the right incentives, and the right tourism structure. It also needs leadership on the part of the industry to respond by providing the right facilities, the right welcome and standard of service that guests now demand.

Industry is up for it, but is government? Last week’s Budget offered little encouragement other than the doubting – for one year only – of the main capital allowance. If government wants to encourage more new investment, it needs to restore the Hotel Buildings Allowance and the long-term cuts in capital allowances, stop the imposition of additional employment costs on businesses (particularly in business rates, employment and NI) and stalk the endless stream of new regulations.
IN BRIEF

Harpers launches new online lifestyle store

Leisure centre operator Harpers Fitness has launched an online shop providing information and products based on sports nutrition and lifestyle support. The site sells products designed to enhance performance, including supplements to increase energy, build muscle and improve recovery rates. The lifestyle section focuses on detoxification, antioxidants and amino acid supplements. Details: harpersnutrition.co.uk

New logo for REP's

REPs is due to unveil a fresh new logo to bring the image in line with the more modern feel of the organisation, which has recently rolled out new occupational standards and a revamped website, as well as appointing a new registrar. Chair John Greenway MP says: “Our brief was to keep the logo recognisable but to give it a modern twist, and we feel that has been successfully achieved. I hope our members will be as pleased with as we are.” The re-designed logo retains the Registrar’s three figures and colours. The organisation has also taken the opportunity to re-design its CPD logos, as well as those used to denote training courses approved by partner organisation SkillsActive.

Trusts team up with organisation SkillsActive

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IN BRIEF

Wallace attraction gets facelift

Stirling District Tourism (SDT) has added new facilities to the National Wallace Monument in Stirling. Operator SDT has completed a redevelopment project at the base of The Abbey Craig, where the famous tower was built more than 140 years ago to commemorate the life of the Scottish patriot Sir William Wallace. Designed specifically to enhance the visitor experience, the project has involved the construction of a new reception building housing a retail area, and a new 50-seat Legends Coffee House, providing panoramic views of The Abbey Craig and The Monument.

Middlesbrough set for new wheelchair attraction

A new 40m (131.2ft) wheelchair accessible helter skelter is set to be established in the centre of Middlesbrough, north east England, after the local authority approved plans put forward by World Tourist Attractions (WTA). Middlesbrough Council’s planning and development committee gave the green light for the wheelchair attraction on 9 April, which will be the only one of its kind in the north east region.

Council persists with Southend Pier

Southend Borough Council has not given up on plans to rejuvenate the fire-damaged Southend Pier in Essex. Hopes to secure a private-sector investor to help pay for the reparations have waned during the current economic downturn. The council intends to keep pushing the idea, according to the Essex Echo, the council is working with the local government to secure the investment with money from its public coffers.
London’s Whitechapel Gallery reopens

The £13.5m project merged the venue with an adjacent library to increase its size

By Caroline Wilkinson

The new £13.5m expansion of east London’s Whitechapel Gallery is now open. The gallery, redesigned by Belgian architects Robbrecht & Daem and Witherford Watson Mann, is almost double the size after it merged with the adjacent Passmore Edwards library (built in 1982) increasing the 3,000sq ft (279m²) space by 78 per cent. New features include three galleries dedicated to international art collections, new art commissioned by the gallery’s trust and an archive collection and a research room to document the last 100 years of the gallery and local area. Other new facilities consist of an education tower for local school and community groups as well as a street-facing café. Contractor Wallis, who worked on the redevelopment of the V&A Museum of Childhood, is carrying out the construction work.

New-look Tate Modern project gets the go-ahead

By Caroline Wilkinson

The new £215m Tate Modern extension, designed by Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, has been approved by Southwark Council in London. The project, called Transforming Tate Modern, will feature an 11-storey glass tower in the form of a spining stepped pyramid on the south-west corner of the existing gallery. The building will be 65m (213ft) tall and will add 30,000sq m (377,000sq ft) of gallery space. The glass tower will reach 65m, 21,500sq m (230,400sq ft) to the Tate existing 35,000sq m (377,000sq ft) of gallery space.

Original designs – which resembled a stack of bricks – were scrapped by the gallery after winning planning approval in 2007. The new designs are created around three oil tanks from the former Bankside Power Station, which will be used as exhibition space. The new-look Tate Modern will also boast two new public spaces – a southern square modelled as a city plaza and new child-friendly gardens to the west.

Thames Gateway gets new parklands

The £10m project is designed to create a network of five multi-purpose spaces

By Pete Hayman

The London Development Agency (LDA) has announced that a new £10m project is set to transform a number of parklands along the Thames Gateway in east London in a bid to create a network of multi-purpose spaces. It follows the news that the London Borough of Lewisham has been awarded a £12m grant by the LDA as part of the Thames Gateway Parklands plan, which has received funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government’s Parklands Fund. Five parklands will undergo extensive refurbishment work as part of the scheme, including Three Mills Green in the Lea River Park, Dagenham Washlands; Rainham Riversides; Erith Marshes; and Waterlink Way and Depford Loop. Plans for Waterlink Way and Depford Loop includes the upgrade of cycle and footpaths from the Thames to Outer London, as well as new wetlands and new backwaters. New cycle and footpaths also form part of plans for Dagenham Washlands, while Rainham Riverside will see an increased public access to the Thames waterfront and expanded marshland wildlife habitats. The scheme forms part of the East London Green Grid, which has been developed by a number of stakeholders including the Mayor of London.

Stanwick Lakes unveils new £2.2m visitor centre

The centre has been designed to meet its own energy needs

By Pete Hayman

A new £2.2m visitor centre has opened at the Stanwick Lakes countryside attraction and nature reserve near Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, as part of a two-phase project. The facility, which marks the completion of the first phase of the construction scheme, includes a central atrium containing an interpretation space and interactive exhibits, a multi-purpose function suite and an indoor play area for young children. A café with terrace overlookings the lake and a gift shop also form part of the centre, which was designed by architects Laurie Wood, and built by Corby-based company, Jenkins Weis. Saturn Projects acted as project managers.

The schemes will include the redevelopment of the Lea River Park

The project will be used as exhibition space, including Three Mills Green in the Lea River Park.
IN BRIEF

Developer announced for Basildon scheme
Basildon District Council has appointed Community Solutions for Leisure (CSL) as developer of the £35m Basildon Sporting Village. CSL will now finalise the design – and eventually build – the new centre and its 50m Olympic-size sized pool. The council’s cabinet’s decision brings to an end a 15-month procurement process. The Sporting Village is supported by £5m funding from Essex County Council and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Construction starts on 2012 handball arena
Work on the new Handball Arena for the 2012 London Olympics is set to get underway this summer after the Olympic Delivery Authority appointed Buckingham Group Contracting to build the venue. The Milton Keynes-based company will work with HOK Sport on the construction of the 7,000-seat arena, which has been designed by Make Architects with PTW and Arup.

Toolkit for cultural regeneration plans
A government-funded partnership has launched a Toolkit to guide developers on ways to integrate cultural and sporting facilities into developments as well as providing advice on integrating them into an infrastructure.

New leisure complex for Isle of Man
New mixed-use centre to be built on the site of the former Summerland building
By Pete Rayman
A new multi-million pound family leisure complex is set to be created on the Isle of Man after development proposals put forward by the Sefton Group were selected by the island’s government.

The Wave complex will include a multiplex cinema and a casino
The £5m funding from Essex County Council and the Homes and Communities Agency. The island’s Department of Tourism and Leisure revealed that the Liverpool-based developer was chosen following a formal expression of interest process for The Wave development, which will be built on the site of the former Summerland complex.

Initial plans for The Wave include a multiplex cinema, a ten-pin bowling facility and exhibition areas capable of accommodating skating. Casino and bingo facilities are also earmarked for the complex, as well as restaurants, bars and conference facilities.

It is hoped that all necessary site surveys and approvals for the scheme to replace the Summerland centre, which was damaged by fire in 1973, will be concluded by 30 June.

Council settles Sports Village bill
By Tom Walker
Shrewsbury Borough Council (SBC) has finally agreed to settle the £8.5m construction bill for the city’s Sports Village. The original £6.9m budget agreed with leisure developer Bluestone — formerly Morgan Ashurst — rose by £1.6m more than determined at the outset of the project.

SBC leader Peter Nutting said: "Following negotiations between the borough council and Morgan Ashurst, agreement was reached for a full and final settlement of the Sports Village account. The sum agreed is £8.5m and this is within the budget agreed by the full council last year."

The payment will put an end to three years of disputes between the council and the developer regarding the final budget and alleged faulty workmanship.

£100m scheme for Newry
Plans for a £100m mixed-use development in Newry have been submitted to the Northern Ireland Planning Service. The development, proposed for a 32-acre site, includes a 10-screen cinema complex with five restaurants, a coffee shop and landscaped park.

The plans also comprise 29 affordable homes as well as a business park set to create more than 1,000 jobs. Construction on the project is expected to begin by the end of 2009.
Management & Development of Bowring Park Golf Course

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified, experienced and resourced operators to manage its 18 hole Bowring Park Golf Course and associated amenities based in Huyton, Merseyside.

The Council is looking for an operator who would be interested in investing and developing the course and amenities further, in particular the pro shop and game facilities which currently include an 18 hole golf course, car park, reception area, changing accommodation and clubhouse as well as additional outbuilding areas.

The site which is spread over 127 acres also includes Bowring Park. Bowring Park is the oldest public park in Knowsley, originally forming the heart of the ancient Ridle Hall Estate.

Ideas and opportunities are sought from organisations that have a successful track record of developing and improving facilities of this nature.

Respondents to this notice are required to express interest by the request and subsequent completion of a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ), which will be obtainable until 09/06/2009. This can be downloaded from the Knowsley MBC website http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/business/sectiontothecouncil/tender-opportunities.aspx

This is a Competitive Dialogue EU Tender Process. Applications must be submitted in writing to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Directorate of Corporate Resources, Corporate Procurement Team, 7th Floor Municipal Buildings, Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby, Liverpool L35 1TX for the attention of Alan Rotherham, Procurement Officer. Email: alan.rotherham@knowsley.gov.uk Tel: 01942 463 542. Fax: 01942 463 5407.

CLOSING DATE: 12/06/2009.

New Build Catering, Nursery and Retail Operations
Application for Expressions of Interest

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Centre attendances are projected at 800,000 footfall per annum. For further information contact Knowsley@Council

Tel: 0151 239 3456 Email: retail@knowsley.gov.uk

www.harlowgateway.co.uk

The Borough of Barnet is seeking an operator for its Grade 1 athletics Facility located at The London Borough of Barnet, will be heading for transfer. The layout is still being finalised and will include the provision of an 800m athletics track and associated facilities including a 25m swimming pool.

Shobnall Leisure Complex has a 400m athletics track and two home straight's and top D area, Two long jump runways, Two pole vault runways, Two javelin fans.

We are looking for principle contractors to tender for the above work, for the replacement of the existing athletics track and surface. Companies wishing to tender for this contract are invited to the first instance, to complete a Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ). Submissions should be made by the 15th May 2009.

The council wishes to explore the potential for additional capacity, specialist commercial skills, innovation and investment. Information about the facilities is contained in the Information Memorandum.

To request details please email: pspelman@psconsultancy.com

If you also my email your interest to tim.philips@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk.
Driving home Britain’s appeal
Push to attract visitors must continue into the summer

With an eventful spring well underway, we have seen a successful third British Tourism Week receiving great cross-party political support and the first ever Best of Britain and Ireland exhibition, which helped draw attention to the popularity of domestic destinations. Parts of the industry are reporting strong bookings, but with our thoughts progressing to the important summer months, there is no time to rest our laurels.

We are committed to driving home the message that Britain is a must-see destination, with an abundance of destinations, with an abundance of summer months, there is no time to

We urge overseas visitors to take a break in Britain. The Minister calls upon industry to become more environmentally friendly

By Pete Hayman

Tourism minister Barbara Follett has said that more environmentally-friendly measures need to be adopted by the industry to guarantee its long-term future. Follett made the comments at the launch of the DCMS’ new sustainable tourism framework for England, which outlines six main challenges for the sector and also honour a commitment made by the government’s tourism strategy for 2012. Challenges outlined in the new framework include minimising the environmental impact of tourism businesses and encouraging businesses to seek a reduction in the use of resources, such as water.

The framework also includes a challenge to address the impact of tourism transport, ensuring the quality and accessibility of holidays in the UK, and reducing the short-term seasonal demand for facilities.

Green tourism is at the top of the agenda
Follett said: “All of us must try to behave in a more environmentally responsible way and the tourism industry is no exception. If we value the future of our world and if we want to protect our country’s unique tourism offer for future generations, we must take sustainability seriously.”

New £2m plan to promote London overseas
London's unique appeal will be the focus

By Pete Hayman

London mayor Boris Johnson has unveiled a new £2m international marketing campaign, which has been designed to promote the capital as the experience of a lifetime for overseas visitors.

The campaign will focus on the unique nature of London’s tourist attractions, including the opportunity to ride the London Eye, the world’s largest observation wheel, and to drink at the longest champagne bar in Europe at St Pancras International Station.

London's unique appeal will be the focus

One of the two tourist information centres in Lincoln set to close later this year in a bid by the city council to save money could now be saved. The City of Lincoln Council’s (CLC) executive will discuss plans to work with Lincoln Business Improvement Group (BIG) to continue providing services at the Castle Square facility.

CLC leader Darren Grice said: “We have reached an agreement in principle that Lincoln BIG will take over the centre on Castle Square, with the help of a grant from the city council.”

In March, CLC agreed to close the centres, as well as withdrawing funding for its arts service and the transfer of the city’s marketing to Lincolnshire Tourism.

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Trust to invest in ‘people skills’

South Suffolk Leisure Trust (SSL) has introduced a new personal development programme to improve the people skills of its staff.

BEE - The People Programme has been developed by Proio and SSL is one of the first organisations in the country to use it. It works on the basis that customer satisfaction and loyalty are directly related to the ability of staff to communicate on a personal basis, engaging with customers and building rapport and relationships. Tracey Copping, chief executive of South Suffolk Leisure – one of the pilot sites – said: “The staff are really excited and motivated. Most passed their training with flying colours and are now putting their newfound coaching skills in to practice with their colleagues.”

Bidding for a new £2m tourism information centre

By Pete Hayman

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By Tom Walker

The Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs) is working with awarding bodies and training providers to establish test centres across the UK to help assess people’s knowledge and skills against industry-recognised standards.

The move is in response to the increasing demand from overseas applicants and individuals from higher education wishing to join the register. According to REPs, a large number of international and higher education applicants with degrees are unable to prove their knowledge and skills against the sector’s agreed standards. REPs has invited training providers to opt into the scheme to provide Accreditation of Prior Learning, which allows individuals to discuss their qualifications and will enable them to go straight to assessment without participating in a training course.

Registrar Jean-Ann Marnoch added: “We hope this will allow highly knowledgeable fitness professionals to begin working as REPs members.”

Roles to set up new test centres
Overseas qualifications to gain industry recognition
By Tom Walker

REPs hopes to attract more degree students to join the register

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**Leisure Client and Projects Officer**

From £26,142 to £32,283 (career graded post)

Brent’s Sports Service believes that working in partnership with contractors plays a vital role in the overall council aim of providing good quality sports opportunities for all sections of Brent’s diverse communities.

The Leisure Client and Projects Officer will work with our leisure contractors to monitor and evaluate the performance of Brent’s two leisure management contracts so that the services provided are continually developing and improving. The postholder will assist with the development of capital and revenue projects to improve and increase indoor and outdoor sports provision in the Borough and work to raise awareness of sporting opportunities amongst Brent’s multi-cultural population. You will also assist with specific projects, implement different methods of consultation to identify community needs and support funding and quality accreditation applications for the Service.

As postholder, you will work closely within a small team. It is essential that you have good numeracy and literacy skills. You need to be able to understand contractual documents and be able to collect, analyse and interpret data and management information. You will need good communication skills, be excellent at time management and managing different workloads. You must be IT literate. An awareness of equality and diversity issues particularly in relation to participation in sport and physical activity is essential.

Successful applicants for this post will be required to obtain a satisfactory ‘Enhanced’ Criminal Record Disclosure. Further information can be obtained from www.disclosure.gov.uk

Closing date: 13 May 2009.

Application Pack: Tel 020 8937 6300 (24 hours) or write to: The People Centre, 2nd Floor, Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 7RH email: resourcing@brent.gov.uk

apply on-line: www.brent.gov.uk/jobs

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**Active Recreation Officer**

Salary: £16,991 - £18,937

3 year fixed term

We are looking for an innovative individual with a passion for Sport & Active Recreation. Essentially you will need experience of developing and delivering physical activity programmes, recruiting, empowering and mentoring volunteers and a Health & Exercise related Qualification HNC level or equivalent.

You will be a team player who is able to work irregular hours including evenings and weekends, possess strong oral and written skills and a high level of computer literacy.

A CRB Disclosure will be required in the event of a successful application.

For more information on the above positions contact Amanda Campbell-Barker, Head of Sport & Physical Activity, on 024 7640 0582 (a.campbell-barker@nbleisuretrust.org)

Interviews will be held on Monday 1st June 2009

Application forms (returnable by Wednesday 20th May 2009) are available from Human Resources, Nuneaton & Bedworth Leisure Trust, 3rd Floor, Heron House, Newdegate Street, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV11 4EL.

E-mail: job.application@nbleisuretrust.org

Telephone: 024 7640 0578 (24 hour dedicated job line)
Head of Community Services

Salary range - £26,840 - £46,629 plus essential car user allowance

Following a re-structuring of its Senior Management Team, Dunstable Town Council is now looking to recruit a new Head of Community Services.

Reporting directly to the Town Clerk, this new post will not only be responsible for the financial and contractual management of services provided by the Council, but will also be expected to play a key role in the future development and expansion of the Council as a service provider.

Dunstable Town Council is one of the largest town councils in the country and delivers a range of community based services that comprise the following; Priory House Tourist Information and Heritage Centre; a full and comprehensive events programme; town centre management and regeneration initiatives; services for young people delivered through the Council owned community premises; an older people’s day care service; a community grants scheme and a children’s summer play scheme.

It is anticipated that these responsibilities will grow with the introduction of unitary local government in Bedfordshire and as a result the Council is now seeking to employ a suitably qualified and experienced service manager with the ability to operationally manage a diverse range of services as well as strategically develop and exist services provided to the residents of Dunstable.

The post holder will:

- work with the sports development team to increase awareness and opportunities for all to participate in sport and physical activity
- work with the sports development team in administrative duties, developing and maintaining a programme of activities for adults and will assist in the monitoring, and collating and analysing of data and written reports
- work with the sports development team to raise the awareness of opportunities and benefits of physical activity by improving the marketing and promotion of the Council’s physical activity initiatives
- have excellent communication skills, excellent administrative and IT skills and be able to work to deadlines and targets
- have the ability to work as a team.

Closing date: 22 May 2009.

Application pack: Tel 020 8937 6300 (24 hours) or write to: The People Centre, 2nd Floor, Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 7RH email: mail@bucks.gov.uk. Tel 020 8937 6333 for an informal discussion or telephone: (01494) 605044.

www.bucks.gov.uk/jobs

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REF NO 10881

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Are you interested in developing your career in sports development? Do you enjoy working in a busy environment where teamwork is crucial to getting the job done? Are you interested in working with a range of sports bodies; locally, regionally and nationally and helping to develop and implement the University Sports Strategy? If so, we are looking for an experienced sports developer to join our team.

Based on the Queen Alexandra Road campus, this Faculty/Central appointment, seeks an enthusiastic individual to support the University in the effective and efficient management, administration, development and implementation of both the institutional and sports Olympic/Paralympics strategies. You will also be responsible for the day to day running of the strategy and for the management of the London Wasps and Wycombe Wanderers partnership contracts. As well as this you will be based for one day a week at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium where you will oversee the development of the Stoke Mandeville Institute of Sport and Recreation, a partnership development between a range of sporting partners in Buckinghamshire.

You should possess a good standard of education and be able to offer good computer skills and budgetary knowledge. You will have excellent written and verbal communication skills; have the ability to work under pressure and to work as part of a team.

Job Ref: 09/1167

Closing date: 12 May 2009.

Application form and job descriptions available at www.bucks.ac.uk/jobs, e-mail: jobs@bucks.ac.uk or telephone: (01494) 605044.

Bucks are committed to creating a dynamic and diverse workforce representative of the communities we serve. We believe in fostering an environment where diversity and difference are respected and valued. If you feel the same, and wish to apply for any of our vacancies, we’d love to hear from you.

Sports Development Officer

Up to £23,046 p.a. inc. (fixed-term)

Brent council, situated in North West London, is committed to developing opportunities for sport and physical activity.

The service is looking to appoint a highly motivated sports development professional to join its Sports Development Team on a fixed term contract until March 2012, to assist in the development, delivery and monitoring of activities aimed at increasing physical activity rates amongst Brent’s adults.

Closing date: 27 May 2009.

Application Pack: Tel (01582) 877563 (24 hour answeringphone) or email: jobs@lutonsfc.ac.uk. To apply on line please go to: Flode.com

For an application form and further details, call 01582 877563 (24 hour answeringphone) or e-mail: jobs@lutonsfc.ac.uk. To apply on line please go to: Flode.com

Luton Sixth Form College is an equal opportunity employer. It is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced disclosure via the CRB.

A Brighter Future...
Welcome to the brightest lights in the city

Neighbourhoods
- Senior Sport Development Officer (Community)
  18 months fixed-term (subject to additional funding being secured, contract may be extended)
  £28,270 - £30,456
  Ref 23182
  You will be responsible for the development, co-ordination and delivery of sports programmes and facilities within defined priority localities. You should have experience in a sports development role, within a club or community environment, and be an excellent communicator with a good understanding of issues relating to sport and social inequalities.

- Senior Physical Activity Development Officer (Mental Health)
  3 year fixed-term
  £23,977 - £24,531
  Ref 23180
  Funded by the Football Foundation and in partnership with Aviva and the Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust and voluntary sector, you will be responsible for the co-ordination and development of the Bristol Active Life Project. This project provides adults who have mental health problems the opportunity to participate in a broad range of sports and physical activity experiences. You will need experience of working with this group, relevant exercise/coaching qualifications and delivering healthy lifestyle projects.

- Physical Activity Development Officer (Learning Disabilities)
  1 year fixed-term (subject to additional funding being secured, contract may be extended)
  £21,997 - £24,531
  Ref 23179
  This role is to work across the Borough of Rosendale. The brief is to increase capacity in Voluntary Sports Clubs, to increase the number of qualified coaches and active volunteers working in sports clubs, and to increase the number of clubs achieving Clubmark and as part of the England and Welsh Sport Community Investment Fund Programme. You will identify opportunities for school age leaders to link to a Club environment, identify and put in place Coach Development Courses, and establish action plans with clubs to continue development opportunities.
  You will be contracted to Rosendale Leisure Trust and based at our Head Office in Rawtenstall.

Looking for a challenge? Committed to making a difference?

CLUB DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
3 hrs per week
£19,394 - £21,270 pa (dependent upon experience & qualifications)
Looking for an application pack telephone 01926 424247 or email on behalf of employer
Closing Date: 15th May
An equal opportunities employer funded by the National Lottery through Big Lottery Fund

An Equal Opportunities Employer

Senior Physical Activity Officer
£32,211 - £34,707 PA incl. (GRADE PO2) PLUS PRP AND FINAL SALARY PENSION SCHEME
36 HOURS PER WEEK - OCCASIONAL EVENING AND WEEKEND WORKING MAY BE REQUIRED - REF: L328B
You will lead the development of physical activity initiatives and programmes that seek to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Wandsworth. You will manage the Physical Activity Team which consists of two full time posts and a number of volunteers. Building on a number of existing programmes: Active lifestyles, #WkLife, Exercise Referrals, Urban Energy, #WkLife and more, you will develop a range of partners including health professionals, leisure, sports and facilities volunteers and the voluntary sector to develop a comprehensive health and physical activity programme.
You will have experience of working in a sports and physical activity development and exercise referral role. You will also have experience of managing employees and excellent communication and interpersonal skills, working well in a team environment whilst being able to work under your own initiative.
Closing date for the above two posts: Monday, 11 May 2020.
REDBOURNE RECREATION CENTRE
Redbourn, Hertfordshire

Is looking for a new Recreation Centre Manager!

Ideally you should have relevant leisure and/or business qualifications, and possibly experience of managing a child’s sports club, within a NGO Unit 3 (although not mandatory).

You are someone with excellent communication, inter-personal and organisation skills, someone experienced in preparing business plans, budget and financial targets are flexible and enjoy working with people.

Salary dependent on qualifications and experience. CHB certificates will be required.

Please write for a full job description and application form to the Chair of Management, Redbourn Recreation Centre, PO Box 23, Redbourn, Herts AL3 7TL

Alternatively email: redbourn.recreation@ntlworld.com

Closing date for both posts: Sunday 24 May 2009.

For further information or an informal discussion, please contact Louise Oates, Sports Development Manager on (01752) 668000 or email jobs@plymouth.gov.uk or apply online at www.plymouth.gov.uk/jobs

Closing date for both posts: Sunday 24 May 2009.

For further information, contact Stuart Younie on 01738 476369.

If you want to know more about this exciting opportunity, please send your CV and a covering letter to ssushela@fitnessfirst-me.com.

Closing date for applications is 8th May 2009.

Sports Development Manager
Education & Children’s Services
£34,687 – £37,916
Blackfriars Development Centre, Perth

You will be a talented sports development professional with the right experience to lead a team of officers and have the ability to help shape policy and strategy. A strong background in partnership working as well as the drive and ambition to deliver the objectives of the service working as part of the Sport & Active Recreation Service management team are essential.

For further information, contact Stuart Younie on 01738 476369.

Closing Date: When sufficient suitable applications received

Online applications only at pck.myjobscotland.gov.uk

To book a joblink with us and we’ll put your logo and company name on every page of the Leisure Opportunities website www.leisureopportunities.co.uk and click on the link to see the latest jobs from...

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As part of our expansion we are looking for passionate driven people for key self-employed roles:

• personal trainers (nationwide) £23k – £40k
• club personal training managers (nationwide) (great package)
• area managers (nationwide) £50k OTE

For all applications please send a CV and a covering letter to enquiries@fitnessagents.co.uk

If you do not have access to the internet or if you have a disability which prevents you applying online, please call 01718 475437 for assistance.

The UK’s largest and most successful personal training management team.

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Next issue: 12 May 2009
Book by noon on Weds 06 May 2009

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Nikal secures future of £150m Altair development

Altrincham town centre set for radical overhaul after property firm acquires shares from collapsed developer

By Pete Hayman

Plans are back on track for a £150m scheme designed to transform the centre of Altrincham, Greater Manchester, after property firm Nikal acquired the remaining shares in the joint venture for an undisclosed sum.

The future of the mixed-use development had been thrown into doubt following the collapse of the David McLean Group, the North Wales-based developer which entered administration in late 2008.

The multi-million pound proposals include a new 3,000 ice rink that will be home to the Manchester Phoenix ice hockey team and 15,000sq m (161,460sq ft) of retail and a 100-bedroom hotel, restaurants and two new public squares.

Designed by architect Ian Simpson, the plans also include 150 luxury apartments, a car park and 8,000sq m (86,111sq ft) of office space, and now depends on Trafford Council securing the necessary land acquisitions for the scheme to move forward.

Plans for the Altair scheme includes a 3,000-seat ice rink which will be home to the Manchester Phoenix ice hockey team and 15,000sq m (161,460sq ft) of retail and a 100-bedroom hotel, restaurants and two new public squares.

By Luke Tuchscherer

Companies handed chance to defer business rates

Chancellor Alastair Darling is allowing companies to pay just 2 per cent more this year, leaving them two years to pay the remaining 3 per cent over the following two years.

"The government recognises that businesses need help now to ease their cash flow at a time when money is very tight," said Darling. "This measure will help businesses to smooth their rates payments over the next three years."

Rates are adjusted every April per cent last September, meaning businesses would face a serious impact of their cash flow this year.

Companies handed chance to defer business rates

Water sports centre handover

Nottinghamshire County Council has taken over the management of the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, from Sport England.

The handover of the site took place on 1 April and the council is now set to receive more than £10m for the development of new facilities.

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