Murray family launches Set4Sport

PETE HAYMAN

Tennis players Andy and Jamie Murray have teamed up with mother Judy to launch a new scheme designed to help parents develop their children’s skills through sport.

Set4Sport, which also includes the Royal Bank of Scotland as a partner, is based on activities, ball skills and exercises to allow young people to acquire basic skills.

The new initiative has been inspired by the games that Judy played with Andy and Jamie is designed to support communities. Nationwide roadshows led by Judy are being planned for throughout the summer holidays, which will take the Set4Sport initiative into major cities. Meanwhile, both Andy and Jamie will act as ambassadors for the scheme and will boast the logo on their tennis match kits.

Andy Murray, along with brother Jamie, will be a Set4Sport ambassador

Judy said: "I played ball games with Jamie and Andy almost as soon as they could walk. We didn’t know it then, but we were all taking part in the most basic of coaching sessions."

BAM Construction built Bristol’s new attraction

PETE HAYMAN

M Shed – a new £27m waterfront heritage museum housed in 1950s transit sheds – has opened at Bristol’s Prince’s Wharf.

Funded by Bristol City Council, the attraction has also received £11.6m from the Heritage Lottery Fund and will be a hub for the city’s new cultural quarter.

BAM Construction and LAB Architecture Studio worked on the creation of M Shed, which boasts 3,000 exhibits from the city’s collection and has three permanent galleries and a temporary exhibition space.

Nuffield launches wellbeing centre

TOM WALKER

Nuffield Health Fitness and Wellbeing has unveiled its new Health Clinic in London.

The 25,000sq ft (2,300sq m) integrated centre in Paddington will provide members and non-members access to both fitness and medical health facilities under one roof. It will become Nuffield’s 14th integrated facility and offers one of the largest medical clinics at 2,000sq ft (186sq m).

Among the facilities in the fitness element is a health club featuring a 49-station cv area (21 treadmills, 14 bikes, 14 cross trainers); a free weights zone, resistance kit and the TRX system – as well as a vibration exercise unit.

Sally Gunnell officially opened the Nuffield complex

Services at the £500,000 centre – officially opened by former Olympian Sally Gunnell – will also offer full GP consultations, physiotherapy, health assessments, nutritional guidance and sports massage.

Ellenborough Park unveils new luxury spa

TOM WALKER

A luxury spa has been launched in the grounds of a historic 16th century country estate Ellenborough Park near Cheltenham in the Cotswolds.

The spa has been influenced by Indian themes and boasts seven single treatment rooms and a couples’ spa suite; spa pool; sauna; steam-room; tropical experience showers and relaxation area.

Treatments will use Babor products and include a wide range of facials, body wraps and scrubs, massages and signature ‘journey’ treatments.
**SPORT**

**Event launches competitive ‘revival’**

**PETE HAYMAN**

More than 1,000 young people in Hertfordshire took part in the School Games on 17 June – part of a government bid to “revive” competitive school sport across the UK.

The event was one of nine pilot initiatives that are to carried out ahead of a new national School Games competition, which is scheduled to launch in September.

It is hoped that the competition will use the inspiration of next summer’s London Games to increase the number of young people participating in competitive sport. Meanwhile, an action plan has been developed in order to boost disability sports in schools, which will see the participation rates of young disabled people measured.

The new action plan also aims to increase the number of sports currently on offer for disabled children; and more direct guidance and support for schools and teachers.

New ways to enhance chances for disabled youngsters will be pioneered by the top 50 ‘trailblazing schools’, while a competition is also planned to enable disabled and able-bodied children to compete against each other.

**Home Nations rebut ‘historic’ Olympic football claims**

**PETE HAYMAN**

Claims that a ‘historic’ deal had paved the way for Team GB to field football teams at the 2012 Olympic Games have been rebuffed.

The Scottish Football Association; the Football Association of Wales; and the Irish Football Association issued a joint statement to reaffirm their opposition to the proposal.

It comes after the British Olympic Association announced that it had reached a deal with the Football Association to field a men’s and women’s team at the Games.

**New stadium planned by Bristol Rovers FC**

**PETE HAYMAN**

Bristol Rovers Football Club (BRFC) has unveiled its plans to relocate to a new 20,000-seat stadium on land at the University of West England’s (UWE) Frenchay campus.

The npower League Two club aims to sell its current Memorial Ground venue to Sainsbury’s to fund the Arturus-designed project.

Both projects are expected to represent a combined investment of £60m, with the new BCFC venue to boast a large supporters’ club bar; a club shop; and a banqueting and hospitality suite.

A crèche; a gym; a jogging track; and around 19,000sq ft (1,765sq m) of potential teaching space for UWE are also proposed.
**Extra pool lanes for Herts facility**

PETE HAYMAN

Two more swimming pool lanes will be added as part of the £2.4m Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre scheme in St Albans, Hertfordshire.

St Albans City and District Council (SACDC) has voted to proceed with the S&P Architects-designed project after considering the findings of a review of its business case, which was commissioned following May’s local elections.

Members of SACDC’s cabinet noted a need for increased water space to meet demand and sought extend the 25m swimming pool to include 10 lanes if savings could be made.

The council has now agreed savings with Willmott Dixon to provide extra capacity - adding an extra 100sq m (1,076sq ft) of pool space. However, alterations means that there will be insufficient space for the poolside health suite. Savings have also been made in construction materials and finishes.

SACDC portfolio holder for sports, leisure and heritage Mike Wakely said: “With full appreciation to Willmott Dixon’s project manager and all involved, a deal to widen the main pool to ten lanes has been finalised.”

**Work starts on Rotherham United stadium**

PETE HAYMAN

A groundbreaking ceremony has taken place to mark the start of work on a £17.3m stadium that is to provide a new home for Rotherham United Football Club (RUFC).

The 12,000-seat stadium – designed by S&P Architects – will be built on the site of the South Yorkshire town’s former Guest and Chrimes foundry site by GMI Construction.

Gleeds is project managing the scheme, which will see the north and south stands to boast a polycarbonate roof to enable light to reach the pitch. The east stand is also to comprise a polycarbonate roof system as part of the stadium, which is scheduled to open ahead of the 2012-13 season.

**Budweiser sponsorship agreement for the FA Cup**

PETE HAYMAN

US-based lager brand Budweiser has been confirmed as the lead partner for England’s flagship football competition – the FA Cup – by the Football Association (FA).

The three-year deal will see the competition called The FA Cup with Budweiser and will involve fans through a programme of activity in the UK and worldwide.

It is the latest football-related deal for Budweiser – owned by Anheuser-Busch InBev, which has served official beer of the FIFA World Cup for the last 25 years.

**Sport Wales launches new School Sport Survey**

TOM WALKER

Sport Wales has announced that it is to undertake the largest survey of school sport ever undertaken in Wales.

The 2011 School Sport Survey consists of three questionnaires – one for school children from years seven to 11; one for children between years three and six; and a survey for teachers.

The children will be asked about their participation in sport while teachers’ questionnaire will explore the provision of PE and school sport across Wales.

**Morgan Sindall to build DMU leisure centre**

PETE HAYMAN

Rugby-based construction firm Morgan Sindall has been awarded the contract to deliver De Montfort University’s (DMU) new £8m leisure centre in Leicester.

Work has started on the S&P Architects-designed facility, which will boast a 25m pool; a climbing wall; eight racket courts; and studios for aerobics and Pilates.

The design incorporates metallic outer shells and cedar-lined interiors, which are to form towers and overhangs to filter natural light into the building when complete.

**Scottish Rugby chief leaves organisation**

PETE HAYMAN

Scottish Rugby has announced that chief executive Gordon McKie has stepped down from the position with immediate effect.

Senior non-executive director Jock Millican has been named as interim chief executive while the national governing body carries out its search for McKie’s replacement.

Scottish Rugby chair Allan Monro said: “Gordon has demonstrated a willingness and an ability to support the board in the implementation of tough decisions.”

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New female-only gym for Southall Sports Centre

TOM WALKER

Ealing Council has unveiled a new £350,000 female-only fitness facility at Southall Sports Centre, west London.

Female members of the facility can now benefit from a range of weekly exercise classes and programmes, while the Muslim Women’s Sports Foundation will also deliver sessions.

Ealing Council leader Julian Bell said: “This new facility is a great opportunity for women who may not be comfortable using a mixed gender gym.”

Fusion will run Lewisham’s Wavelengths facility

Fusion Lifestyle secures Lewisham contract

PETE HAYMAN

Lewisham Council has announced that Fusion Lifestyle has been selected to manage local facilities as part of a new 15-year contract due to start on 15 October.

Among the sites to be operated by Fusion as part of the agreement are the new Loampit Vale Leisure Centre and Forest Hill Pools once completed.

The relocation of the Wavelengths library to the Deptford Lounge will see Fusion fund the equipment needed to convert vacated space into an additional sports area.

Fitbug Holdings expands online presence

TOM WALKER

Fitbug Holdings, the provider of online personal health services, has secured four new deals that will see the company’s customer base extended globally.

The company has signed a new partnership agreement with wellness and nutrition services provider Anxa, which has a customer base in Europe and Asia.

As part of the deal, Fitbug’s proprietary health and well-being technology will be marketed by Anxa’s subsidiary, Aujourd'hui.com, which is France’s leading diet club.

Dollan Aqua Centre renovation complete

PETE HAYMAN

East Kilbride’s Dollan Aqua Centre has reopened to the public following the completion of a £7m revamp of the Grade A-listed venue – undertaken by Clark Contracts.

The renovation of the complex – initially designed by Alexander Buchanan Campbell and first opened in 1968 – included structural works and new floor, wall and ceiling finishes.

Among the facilities at Dollan Aqua Centre is one of Scotland’s five Olympic-sized pools and a health suite comprising a sauna, a steamroom, a sanarium and a spa bath. A gym equipped with Life Fitness cv machines and HUR resistance equipment; and a dance studio are also on offer.

Barr + Wray was appointed to undertake a £300,000 filter contract as part of the wider renovation of Dollan Aqua Centre, which included a revamp of the main pool’s three filter vessels and fabrication of a fourth.

Pulse officially opens £2.7m Wednesbury facility

PETE HAYMAN

A major new £2.7m sports and fitness development – Pulse Soccer and Fitness – has officially opened in Wednesbury, West Midlands.

The venue features eight 3G five-a-side football pitches; a 60m x 40m coaching arena; a 55-station fitness suite; and team and fitness changing facilities, as well as a dance studio.

Delivered by in-house Pulse contractors, the complex will provide an income share to Phoenix Collegiate school as part of a 30-year joint initiative with Pulse.
NLC receives keys to The Pods

PETE HAYMAN

The Pods – a multi-million pound leisure facility in Scunthorpe – has been handed over to owner North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) ahead of its 4 July opening.

Bowmer and Kirkland has completed construction work on the new centre, which has been designed by Andrew Wright with S&P Architects acting as the project’s delivery architects. Buro Happold has also been involved with the development of The Pods, which comprises a total of five pod-like structures and is designed to blend into the surrounding landscape.

The Pods will boast a large split-level, 85-station Life Fitness gym occupying one pod, with two of the largest domes housing the double pool, spectator area and six-court sports hall. Two exercise studios and a further fitness area; a sauna; a spa bath; a steamroom; a crèche; a café; and changing facilities have also been incorporated into the new complex.

NLC’s John Briggs said: “We made a commitment when we were last in power to provide an iconic, contemporary sport and leisure complex for the people of North Lincolnshire.”

New fitness facility for St Helens College

PETE HAYMAN

Life Fitness has announced that it has worked with contractor Interserve on the creation of a new fitness facility as part of a £60m overhaul of St Helens College’s Town Centre Campus.

The gym will incorporate more than 20 pieces of the Elevation Engage cardiovascular range, as well as the supplier’s Signature Strength and Cable Motion products.

Students participating in sport, health and fitness-based courses at St Helens College will be able to make use of the facility, while also providing a gym for the wider student body.

Meanwhile, the Life Fitness Virtual Trainer programme – an online facility that allows gym users to track progress – will be incorporated into the curriculum of relevant courses. The facility will open to students at the start of the new academic year, with a view to extending membership to the community by late 2011.

Work starts on Godalming Leisure Centre

PETE HAYMAN

An official ‘digging’ ceremony has taken place to mark the start of construction work on a new leisure centre in Godalming, Surrey.

Preparatory work got underway on the £6m development next to the existing Broadwater park facility earlier this month after Waverley Borough Council approved the plans.

Designed by Pozzoni and to be built by ISG, the centre will be operated by DC Leisure and will feature a 25m pool and a learner pool, a 60-station fitness suite and a dance studio.

Three Bury health clubs to undergo refurbishments

TOM WALKER

Three publicly-owned leisure centres in Bury have received redevelopments designed and fitted out by supplier Pulse.

Castle Leisure Centre, Radcliffe Pool and Fitness Centre and Ramsbottom Pool and Fitness Centre have each been equipped with the latest Pulse equipment.

Jane Lewis, executive member for leisure at Bury Council, said: “We hope that many more local people will take these improvements as encouragement to be more active and lead a healthier lifestyle.”

Industry body supports exercise for older adults

TOM WALKER

The Fitness Industry Association (FIA) is calling for clubs and exercise professionals to increase their efforts in attracting older adults to their clubs and facilities.

Speaking as Age UK launched this year’s Fall Awareness Week, FIA chief medical officer John Searle said: “Regular exercise is essential for the prevention and rehabilitation from falls – it increases physical capabilities and protects against the decline in cognitive function, strength, flexibility coordination and balance.”

Gym to form part of Oldham development

PETE HAYMAN

A gym is to form part of the transformation of a derelict building in the centre of Oldham – led by Oldham Boxing and Personal Development Centre (OBPDC).

OBPDC has been handed the keys to Victoria House by Oldham Council, which is backing the proposals and has already awarded planning permission.

Boxer Ricky Hatton is also supporting the project, which is to include a gym and a learning centre. The Amateur Boxing Association of England has provided grant funding towards the scheme.
Glasgow's new £74m Riverside Museum – designed by Zaha Hadid – has opened its doors to the public.

The new attraction will be run by trust Glasgow Life – formerly Culture and Sport Glasgow – on behalf of the attraction's owner, Glasgow City Council (GCC).

The museum building will house more than 3,000 exhibits across 150 displays and is Museum of Transport's third home since opening in the 1960s. Glasgow Life hopes that the new building will increase the number of visitors to the collection from 500,000 a year to around 800,000.

BAM Construction started construction work on site in 2007, with the interiors and theming company, Mivan, appointed to deliver the fit-out of the new Riverside Museum.

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Cardiff Council is to bring the Doctor Who Experience to the city after the attraction leaves its current home at London's Olympia next year. The council hopes to establish Cardiff as the attraction's permanent home and has sought planning permission for a 3,000sq m (32,292sq ft) building in Porth Teigr.

Cardiff Council is drawing up a feasibility study to explore the plans in partnership with BBC Worldwide, which owns the intellectual property rights to the Doctor Who franchise.

Cardiff is hoping to become the new permanent home of the attraction – also owned by BBC Worldwide – ran at Cardiff’s Red Dragon Centre until March. Design and AV specialist Sarner was appointed to design, create and produce the attraction following a tender in early 2010.

The council invested more than £51m and a further £4.5m came from private donations. The Heritage Lottery Fund also awarded more than £18m towards the project.

GCC leader Gordon Matheson said: “The Riverside Museum is a breathtaking new home for our renowned transport collection.”

The Bill McLaren Foundation has unveiled plans for a multi-million pound world rugby museum and educational venue in Hawick.

Established in March 2010, the charity aims to commemorate the former Scottish-born rugby commentator and is hoping to open the attraction within the next three years.

The Bill McLaren Centre of World Rugby will look to explore the history of rugby union – as much as possible – using the voice of McLaren, who died in 2010.
LIW provides an exclusive platform for industry professionals to meet and source products from over 350 suppliers and service providers from across the Leisure Industry. Attracting 9580* trade visitors in 2010, LIW provides visitors with over 150 hours of education at our most extensive seminar programme to date, the opportunity to see the latest developments in action and watch live product demonstrations. Connect with the leisure community and join us at LIW for 2011.

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Register your interest in attending today at www.liw.co.uk/register

*ABC audited
**HOTELS**

**Waldorf Astoria to enter Scotland**

**PETE HAYMAN**

Waldorf Astoria Hotels and Resorts, the luxury brand of Hilton Worldwide, is set to debut in Scotland next summer with the opening of a new property in Edinburgh.

An agreement has been signed with the existing owner of The Caledonian Hilton Edinburgh for the £24m transformation of the property into The Caledonian, A Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

The hotel has already benefitted from £10m worth of enhancements, with an additional £14m to be spent as part of the conversion process to add and upgrade the facilities. In addition to its 241 guest rooms, The Caledonian, A Waldorf Astoria Hotel is to comprise a spa and a restaurant.

John Vanderslice, global head of luxury and lifestyle brands at Hilton Worldwide, said: “The introduction of the Waldorf Astoria Hotels and Resorts brand to Scotland demonstrates the realisation of our aggressive growth strategy. “The Caledonian will bring the core values of the brand to life, unified by our extraordinary service and singular experiences, through its distinct character, location and charm.”

**Sir Robert McAlpine lands Butlins hotel contract**

**PETE HAYMAN**

Sir Robert McAlpine has secured a deal to design and build a new 244-bedroom hotel at Butlins’ resort in Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

Butlins Skyline is behind the proposed eight-storey development, which is set to feature an L-shaped design and its upper levels reducing in footprint to create a stepped effect.

Located on the western side of the resort, the building will incorporate white render, curves and balconies to help ensure a nautical theme and to complement the seaside setting.

**Pizza Express introduces payment app**

**TOM WALKER**

Restaurant operator Gondola Holdings has announced the introduction of a new iPhone application that will allow customers to pay for meals at all of its 370 Pizza Express sites.

It is one of the first such mobile applications to be introduced by a restaurant in the UK and the first designed specifically for a large chain.

From 17 June, each bill at Pizza Express will feature a 12-digit unique code that customers can use to pay their bill any time during the meal.

The free-to-download application accepts both PayPal and credit card methods of payment. Once a payment has been processed, the restaurant’s point of sale system is notified that the bill has been settled – with a receipt being emailed to the customer. The App can also be used to find and book a restaurant, view menus and to store discount vouchers issued by the chain.
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£1.6m refurbishment for Hereford Leisure Pool

PETE HAYMAN

Speller Metcalf has been appointed by Herefordshire Council to undertake a major £1.6m renovation of Hereford Leisure Pool in order to boost the visitor experience.

The venue’s main 25m swimming pool closed until 20 June to allow work to take place, while the leisure pool is to remain open albeit with an amended timetable.

A new changing village to be created to make it easier for families, while the spa area – including sauna, steamroom and spa pool to also undergo a makeover.

Facilities at Hereford Leisure Pool’s spa area also include sunbeds, a relaxation area, a private changing village and a drench shower, providing a range of treatments.

Jon Argent, chief executive of Halo Leisure – the operator of Hereford Leisure Pool, said: “This work will result in a transformation in the facilities.”

London Golf Club plans hotel/spa

PETE HAYMAN

London Golf Club in Ash, Kent, has unveiled plans for a new hotel and spa as part of its ambition to establish a ‘world-class’ golf resort in south east England.

The club – host venue of the 2008 and 2009 European Open events – has received approval from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for the £35m scheme, which has been designed by MacKenzie Wheeler and will feature a 2,000sq m (21,528sq ft) spa.

The spa will incorporate 12 treatment rooms; relaxation areas; a sauna; a steamroom; a spa café; a gym; a studio and a pool, as well as associated thermal suites and hydrotherapy provision. Product suppliers are yet to be confirmed.

The 130-room hotel will feature junior suites; butler-service suites; and a presidential suite, in addition to a variety of dining options and meeting accommodation.

London Golf Club chair Charles Fairweather said: “The long-term strategy for London Golf Club is to create a world-class destination and venue that will host the biggest and best sporting events over the next 20 years.”

New travel spa launches at Gatwick Airport

PETE HAYMAN

A travel spa with shower suites and offering salon and spa services has opened as part of No.1 Traveller’s latest ‘super-lounge’ at Gatwick Airport’s North Terminal.

Services on offer include hairdressing; massages; manicures and facials, with the ‘super-lounge’ located airside for departing and transferring passengers.

The travel spa was designed and developed in conjunction with Debi Green, the former group spa director of The Sanctuary. Products are supplied by Aromatherapy Associates, Rodial and Jessica.

A lounge with a bistro-style dining menu; a fully-tended bar; a mini-cinema; a family room; and a games room also features as part of the ‘super-lounge’, along with a business centre.

First ESPA Life spa to debut at Corinthia

TOM WALKER

Spa management and skincare company ESPA is to unveil its first ESPA Life wellness concept spa at the 294-bedroom Corinthia Hotel London.

Spread over four floors and covering 3,300sq m (35,500sq ft), the spa is hailed by the company as “a leading voice in the next generation of spa”.

It will feature a fully integrated wellness approach – such as revolutionary lifestyle programmes delivered by holistic professionals and influential specialists – alongside a luxury spa experience.

ESPA Life has been designed by GA Design and boasts 15 treatment ‘pods’, a private spa suite, a thermal floor, a spa lounge serving healthy food and a gym. The thermal floor, with Klafs equipment, includes a 9m pool; vitality pool with air and water massage jets; sauna; steamroom; an ice fountain; experience showers and heated relaxation beds.

Naturist spa retreat opens in Birmingham

PETE HAYMAN

Clover Spa and Hotel, a retreat for naturists and those who are looking to “try the lifestyle for the first time”, has opened in Birmingham.

The 1920s building has been refurbished and converted into a boutique naturist resort. Spa facilities comprise an Aspen sauna; a steamroom; a hot tub; a cold plunge pool; heated and head stone loungers; and a foot spa.

Two treatment rooms offer a range of beauty and body therapies, including manicures, pedicures and aromatherapy massages.
The Art Fund has revealed that the British Museum has been awarded the 2011 Art Fund Prize – worth £100,000 – for its groundbreaking A History of the World initiative.

Working in partnership with the BBC, the attraction used its extensive collection to examine the history of the world and included a 100-part BBC Radio 4 Series.

A History of the World in 100 Objects combined a narrative history using objects in its collection, with the assistance of more than 550 other museums.

Michael Portillo, chair of the Art Fund Prize judging panel, said: “We were particularly impressed by the truly global scope of the British Museum’s project. Above all, we felt that this project, which showed a truly pioneering use of digital media, has led the way for museums to interact with their audiences in new and different ways.”

The British Museum held off competition from three other shortlisted sites – The Polar Museum at the University of Cambridge; Alloway’s Robert Burns Birthplace Museum; and the Roman Baths Museum, Bath.

The British Museum is the 2011 recipient of the £100,000 Art Fund Prize

Sligo arts centre reopens after €3.4m revamp

The Model Arts Centre in Sligo, Ireland, has been officially opened by arts minister Jimmy Deenihan, following a €3.4m (£3m) revamp.

First opened during the 1990s by local artists, the complex is regarded as a cultural flagship and underwent the refurbishment between 2008 and 2010 to enhance its facilities. Purpose-built, environmentally-controlled galleries and a collection store have been created, while a performance and cinema space and nine artist’s studios are on offer.

The mayor aims to boost London’s arts industry

Serpentine Sackler Gallery to open in 2012

The Serpentine Gallery in Kensington Gardens, London, has appointed architect Zaha Hadid to design and create a new attraction, which is scheduled to open in 2012.

Plans for the Serpentine Sackler Gallery project will see the Grade II-listed Magazine part of the gallery renovated and extended to house collections. The new art gallery will provide more than 880sq m (9,500sq ft) of galleries and social space – about the same as the Serpentine Gallery itself.

The project was made possible by The Dr Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation, which gave the largest single gift the Serpentine Gallery it has received in its 40 year history.

Zaha Hadid has been appointed to design and create the new attraction

Due to open ahead of the 2012 Games, the Serpentine Sackler Gallery will aim to forge new partnerships between the arts, creative industries, sciences and education.

Fife councillors mull future of arts and museums

Fife Council’s housing and communities committee has agreed to investigate new ideas for the future management of local libraries, arts services and museums.

Options to be explored include the creation of a trust for libraries, arts and events, museums and archives or the establishment of a single cultural trust for Fife. A trust or a merger with an existing trust to run arts and events, archives and museums is an option, with libraries and/or events to remain in the council’s control.

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Twitter: @leisuroppsp

Read Leisure Opportunities online: www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/digital

New website to monitor arts and culture cuts

A website – www.lost-arts.org – has been launched by a consortium of trade unions to monitor arts projects, jobs and organisations that are lost due to spending cuts.

The unions involved are Prospect, PCS, Equity, the Musicians’ Union, Unite and Bectu, as the Writers Guild of Great Britain, the National Union of Journalists.

Individuals will have the opportunity to report instances where cuts in public expenditure are having a negative impact on the country’s arts and cultural sector.
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Hilton Worldwide has secured a founding partnership with tourism agency VisitBritain to increase awareness of the UK’s visitor experience.

The new agreement aims to build upon Hilton’s own plans for growth in the UK market, as well as complementing the government’s efforts to drive tourism as a key industry.

It is hoped that the tourism agency’s new global £100m programme will encourage an extra 2 million visitors from overseas, as well as a further £2m in tourism expenditure in the UK. Hilton Worldwide and VisitBritain will work together on multi-channel marketing, sales and PR initiatives over an initial two-year period.

VisitBritain chief executive Sandie Dawe said: “Partnering with Hilton gives us the opportunity to showcase England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland due to their fantastic Britain-wide reach of hotels.

“Our aim is to give potential tourists a reason to visit now and having Hilton as a founding partner as we launch VisitBritain’s wider £100m marketing programme will allow us to do just that.”

‘Busiest ever’ May for Heathrow, Edinburgh Airports

Heathrow and Edinburgh Airports welcomed 5.9 million and 826,000 passengers last month respectively – their busiest ever May.

According to new figures published by operator BAA, both airports also recorded their busiest ever spring period (March-May), with the six BAA-operated sites handling a total of 9.3 million passengers during May alone.

Meanwhile, Heathrow Airport saw the moving annual total number of passengers exceed the 68 million mark for the first time.

Three new tourism forums for England

VisitEngland chair Lady Cobham has announced plans for the launch of three new specialist tourism forums.

Speaking at the Partners for England Forum held in London on 16 June, Lady Cobham said the three new bodies would be The Strategic Industry Advisory Group; the Visitor Economy Forum; and the Destinations Forum.

The Strategic Industry Advisory Group will meet twice a year and help VisitEngland implement the National Strategic Framework for Tourism. The Visitor Economy Forum will also meet twice a year and has been tasked with providing an opportunity for the industry to share best practice and debate topics affecting domestic tourism. Finally, the Destinations Forum will bring together 40 destination management organisations with common strategic goals and organisational challenges.
Green light for €460m Tipperary project

PETE HAYMAN

The development of a €460m (£405.4m) sports and leisure venue in County Tipperary, Ireland, has been given the green light by state planning authority, An Bord Pleanála.

North Tipperary County Council approved Richard Quirke’s plans last November, although objections were submitted by An Taisce and local residents. An oral hearing has now cleared the scheme.

The Tipperary Venue is to include a 500-room hotel with resort-style casino, an golf course and a greyhound track. An all-weather racecourse with a National Hunt track and sprint track is also among plans, although consent for a 15,000-seat arena was rejected by the planning authority.

In its ruling, An Bord Pleanála said the proposed entertainment venue would be located in an “inappropriate location because of the pattern and volume of traffic generated”.

Approval for Chelsea Barracks plans

PETE HAYMAN

Qatari Diar’s masterplan for the multi-million pound overhaul of London’s Chelsea Barracks site has been given the green light by Westminster City Council (WCC).

The local authority’s planning and city development committee has backed outline plans for a 12.8-acre (5.2-hectare) mixed-use scheme, which will feature a sports centre.

A boutique hotel; public art; retail space; housing; and a medical centre are also earmarked as part of the plans drawn up by Dixon Jones; Squire and Partners; and Kim Wilkie Associates. The Grade II-listed former Garrison Chapel will also be retained to form a “beating heart” to the development.

Alistair Moss, chair of WCC’s planning and city development committee, said: “Chelsea Barracks is the most significant residential development we have seen in Westminster in recent years. The masterplan has widespread support among local residents, community groups and businesses.”

Project Blue, the property arm of Qatari Diar, will lead the scheme. The plans will now go before mayor Boris Johnson for approval.

Bristol City FC welcomes Ashton Vale decision

PETE HAYMAN

Bristol City Football Club has welcomed an “encouraging” decision to designate part of the city’s Ashton Vale site as a Town Green.

The npower Championship club is looking to develop a new 30,000-seat venue on the land, although a group of local residents is opposed to the proposals.

Bristol City Council’s public rights of way committee has now accepted a recommendation to award Town Green status to part of the site, with six councillors voting in favour.

North Tyneside Council’s (NTC) preferred bidder for the redevelopment of Whitley Bay’s Spanish City, Robertson, has put its proposals on public display.

Two events were held on 2 June at the resort’s Playhouse to unveil the plans, which are now on show at the town’s library before an update and feedback session on 7 July.

Robertson is proposing a new family entertainment, cultural and leisure centre in the historic Dome building and ballroom, as well as a boutique hotel.

Council nears Romford leisure complex deal

PETE HAYMAN

Havering Council is closing in on an agreement for the development of a new leisure centre, swimming pool and ice rink in the centre of Romford, Essex.

Members of the council’s cabinet are to approve the proposals on 15 June, following an initial round of negotiations with a retail developer to fund the development.

The plans would see the complex comprise a 25m, eight-lane competition pool; a beginners’ pool; a sauna and steamrooms; a health studio; a gym; and a dance studio.

English Heritage launches new ‘Angel’ awards

PETE HAYMAN

English Heritage has launched a new awards scheme in a bid to celebrate the contribution of individuals towards the preservation and restoration of historic sites.

The English Heritage Angel Awards – “The Angels” – will comprise four annual prizes for the best examples of rescues to sites on the Heritage At Risk register.

Groups or individuals can be nominated if they have either rescued or are working to preserve a site listed on the register since 2008 or meets the register’s criteria.
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**Expressions of interest**

**Tilgate Park, Nature Centre and Walled Garden, Crawley, West Sussex**

Tilgate Park is Crawley’s flagship outdoor leisure facility, estimated to attract over 500,000 visits per year from across the South East region. The park is operated by Crawley Borough Council and in 2010 was awarded Green Flag status for the ninth year running. Tilgate Park offers stunning lakes, lawns and gardens, as well as miles of woodland and bridleways. Tilgate Park also boasts excellent facilities such as the extremely popular Tilgate Nature Centre, Walled Garden, maze and café.

The Council is seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced organisations to manage and further develop an exciting range of leisure attractions in one or more of the following areas:

**Area 1:** Tilgate Nature Centre, Walled Garden and Café (4.9 hectares)

**Area 2:** Tilgate Lakes (8.2 hectares)

**Area 3:** Tilgate Woodland (3.4 hectares)

An Open Day for interested parties will be held on Friday 29th July 2011.

The Council considers that the existing Nature Centre and Café staff would transfer under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations (TUPE) and that the Code of Workforce Matters may apply.

Potential partners are required to complete a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire, and demonstrate suitable company experience, to be included in the Council’s tender short list.

**Interested organisations can request an information pack and pre-tender questionnaire from:**

Jennifer Webster, Marketing Officer,
Crawley Borough Council, Town Hall,
The Boulevard, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1UZ.
Telephone: 01293 438539
Email: Jennifer.webster@crawley.gov.uk

If you would like to discuss this opportunity further, please contact Jennifer in the first instance.

The closing date for receipt of completed questionnaires is 12 noon on Monday 8th August 2011.
Donations will help funding new careers

SAM COULSTOCK is customer relationship director for The Springboard Charity

The way the economy is today, companies are straining to keep their heads above water. So just imagine what it is like for a charity to obtain funding and the support to continue helping in today’s economy.

The Springboard Charity helps young, unemployed and disadvantaged people improve their prospects being by nurturing them into sustainable jobs and careers in the hospitality, leisure and tourism sectors – not just in London but nationwide.

We employ 35 people but our constant barrier is funding, which we try to overcome by constantly undertaking innovative fund raising activities. The most recent was when 23 industry professionals trekked 70km along the Great Wall of China in aid of The Springboard Charity. They managed to raise an impressive £150,000.

We also celebrated our 21st Anniversary on 17 June at The Grosvenor House, A JW Marriott Hotel, Park Lane, London and managed to raise a further £150,000, which will do wonders to our target market get those worthwhile careers in our sector.

In addition to the money raised on the night, Guoman and Thistle managing director Heiko Figge presented the charity with a cheque for £100,000, following a donation-pledge campaign run across the company’s 38 hotels.

Springboard UK and The Springboard Charity chief executive Anne Pierce said: “This donation will enable us to significantly help more young, disadvantaged people – helping them develop the skills and motivation to pursue a worthwhile career in hospitality, which otherwise would not be open to them – particularly those beneficiaries who would otherwise face a lifetime of worklessness or even end up homeless or in prison.”

All we need now is for similar forward thinking businesses to take a leaf out of the Thistle manifesto and join us in ensuring that a well informed talent pipeline of people get the opportunities they deserve.

New Burnley ‘football university’ launched

PETE HAYMAN

The University and College of Football Business (UCFB) has been officially launched at Burnley Football Club’s (BFC) Turf Moor stadium.

BFC has joined forces with Buckinghamshire New University (BNU) to open the new institution, which is sited within the transformed Jimmy McIlroy Stand.

The institution will welcome its first intake of students from September and will offer three BA (Hons) undergraduate degree courses – Football Business and Media; Football Business and Finance; and Football Business and Marketing.

Each course has been validated by BNU and will see students study core modules in the first year to offer a “comprehensive” understanding of the sector. A 35-room halls of residence has been created in the town centre.

BFC director Brendan Flood said: “We are a living case study for students, which will give them a real opportunity to understand what the daily challenges are of a football club.”

Peterson FC is taking a leaf out of Burnley’s Turf Moor to establish a new Free School based upon the desire to provide a high quality, inspirational and transformational experience.

“We wish to engage students with a new innovative approach to educational provision backed by the brand and values of Everton Football Club,” added Dr Barrett-Baxendale.

Everton in the Community chief executive Everton Football Club’s official charity is to establish a new Free School

Gateshead College unveils cricket centre

PETE HAYMAN

England cricketer Paul Collingwood has helped unveil a new Cricket Development Centre at Gateshead College.

Working in partnership with Durham Cricket Board, the new academy will provide training, coaching and playing opportunities while gaining an education at the college.

The Cricket Development Centre is sited at Gateshead College’s Academy for Sport and is to provide 24 spaces on a two-year programme for young people aged between 16 and 18.
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- Active IQ Certificate in Adapting Fitness Instruction for Gym Adolescents
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- HNC in Hospitality Management - 2 Evening per week over 2 years
- Foundation Degree in Sport & Exercise Studies
- First Aid

**Study Full Time on one of the following Courses:**
- Foundation Degree in Sports Studies (2 Years)

**Currently Working in the Industry?**
You may also be eligible to access free training via our L2 & L3 Apprenticeships in Sport & Active Leisure (Fitness Instructing and Operational Services)

For further information or to reserve your place on one of the above courses please contact Steven Bell Curriculum Leader for Sport on (0191) 3754924.

[www.newdur.ac.uk](http://www.newdur.ac.uk)

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The Sport Industry Research Centre publishes two annual reports, Leisure Forecasts and Sport Market Forecasts. These reports provide valuable insight into future market trends.

Both publications are essential references for industry practitioners, consultants and researchers.

**Leisure Forecasts**
This publication identifies the way in which economic trends, new technologies and new consumer priorities will shape the leisure industry over the next five years. It is divided into two sectors, leisure in the home and leisure away from home, providing analysis for 24 distinct leisure markets.

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**Sport Market Forecasts**
This publication is produced in conjunction with Sport England. It provides detailed economic information on consumer spending for the entire sports market. It is divided into sport goods and sport services, providing economic analysis for 10 sport markets.

To find out more please visit [www.shu.ac.uk/ad/sportandleisure](http://www.shu.ac.uk/ad/sportandleisure)

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Alternatively telephone 0131 271 3015 quoting the job reference. We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Full time posts are suitable for job share. Applications from New Deal participants are welcome.
Closing date: 29 July 2011.

Leisure Operations Manager
Grade 15, £47,103 - £49,977pa inclusive  Ref: ECS156
An exciting opportunity has come up to lead the Council’s Active Ealing service. As our operations manager, you will have a critical leadership role within the Environment and Leisure Directorate.
We are looking for an ambitious, dynamic and talented individual who is outcome driven and can really add value to the community. In this role you will be directly responsible for the management of 8 sports facilities and oversee the contract performance of 4 others. You will need to develop and deliver projects using your range of skills and initiative against tight deadlines.
We expect you to relish the opportunity to work with senior officers and politicians in a fast moving exciting environment.

To be successful in this role you will:
• need to work well under pressure and be able to demonstrate flexibility in the way you work
• have a track record of delivering contracts in a large organisation together with significant experience of strategic budgetary and performance monitoring
• also need excellent knowledge of the sport and leisure sector
• need to be politically astute and have a good understanding of how the council operates
• be expected to work some evenings and weekends.
You must be able to demonstrate excellent communication and analytical skills, as well as having the ability to build effective working relationships with people at all levels.

Having good organisational skills, the ability to influence and lead and having a ‘can do’ attitude are essential.
If you would like an informal discussion about this post, please contact Director of Environment and Leisure, Roger Jones on 020 8825 8576.
Closing date: 12 July 2011.
Interview date: 19 July 2011.
If you are interested in applying for this role, please visit www.ealing.gov.uk/jobs and express your interest online.
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You must have substantial managerial experience (3 years minimum) in the tourism or hospitality industry with a proven track record of delivering results; you will demonstrate a sound understanding of business and financial procedures and practices and effective management of budgets. You will have a clean UK driving license and the ability to travel extensively throughout the UK.

Attraction Marketing Manager
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Working with the team on site, you’ll need to implement first class high impact activities that bring guests and commercial revenue through our doors. You will also be a superb communicator and networker with the ability to develop productive relationships with a broad range of stakeholders at a senior level within and outside the business including local government, charities and trusts, corporate partners and competing visitor attractions.

Full job descriptions and person specifications can be obtained by sending a request to recruitment@continuum-group.com or alternatively further details can be located on our website www.continuum-group.com

Closing date for applications for these posts is 18th July 2011, please indicate the reference number above on your application.

We are recruiting for similar posts in London, if you would like us to keep your details on file for consideration please send a cover letter and CV marked Speculative Enquiry to recruitment@continuum-group.com
New Glasgow arena to open in 2013

PETE HAYMAN

The Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) has announced that a new 12,000-seat entertainment arena being built in Glasgow is to open in spring 2013.

Energy supplier Scottish Hydro has been confirmed as the naming rights partner for the new Foster and Partners-designed venue, which is earmarked to host around 140 events and attract up to 1 million visitors each year.

The Hydro is poised to become one of the world’s busiest arenas and generate £131m for the local economy. SECC has secured the sponsorship deal with Scottish Hydro with the help of the operator and owner of some of the world’s leading venues, AEG Worldwide.

Private members’ club to open at The Cube

PETE HAYMAN

A 5,000sq ft (464,559 sq m) canal-side private members’ club is to open at The Cube, a £12m development in the centre of Birmingham.

Sanguine Hospitality said the venue will ‘mirror’ London’s most exclusive establishments and is to boast an open-air terrace overlooking the water when it opens later this year.

The private members’ club will adjoin Adee Phelan’s hair salon and the Brazilian restaurant, Rodizio Rico. The Cube’s Club and Spa will also be located adjacent to the venue.

All Star Lanes signs up to Westfield

PETE HAYMAN

Westfield Stratford City, a major new retail-led scheme at the gateway to the Olympic Park, has signed up All Star Lanes to operate a 14-lane bowling alley, restaurant and cocktail bar.

The boutique bowling alley operator first launched in 2005 and will unveil its fourth site in the capital with this latest venture, following All Star Lanes Brick Lane – opened in 2008.

All Star Lanes is set to join an Aspers casino; three hotels; and an events and entertainment space as part of the Westfield Stratford City scheme, along with a 17-screen Vue cinema.

All Star Lanes founder and CEO Mark von Westenholz said “It’s an exciting opportunity for us and we look forward to being a key part of the customer experience at the centre.

“From a wider perspective we view this an opportunity to launch our brand to a new

AEG Global Partnerships senior vice president Europe Paul Samuels said: “Working in partnership with SECC, we were able to create a unique proposition with Scottish Hydro.”

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“From a wider perspective we view this an opportunity to launch our brand to a new

All Star Lanes will launch a 14-lane alley in Stratford and anticipate this to be a springboard for future expansion.”

Westfield’s Bill Giouroukos added: “[All Star Lanes] is a forward thinking, innovative bou-}

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