

leisureopportunities

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Architect selected for V&A revamp

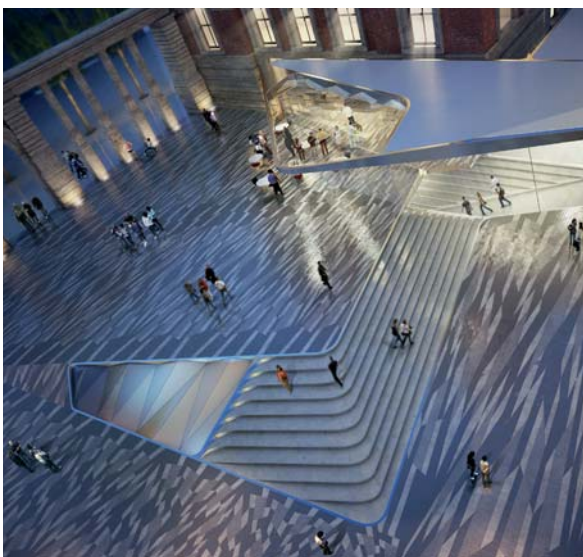
PETE HAYMAN

Amanda Levet Architects (AL_A) has been chosen to lead the Exhibition Road scheme at London's Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum, following a design contest.

The London-based practice held off six other shortlisted entries for the project, which is to include the creation of new galleries and a public courtyard for installations and events.

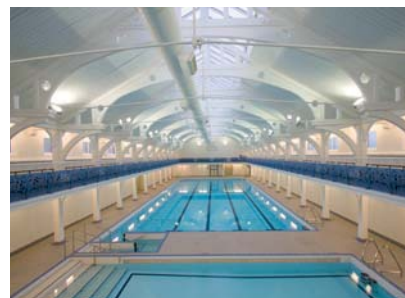
An entrance to the attraction will also be created on Exhibition Road as part of the scheme, which attracted more than 110 expressions of interest from firms across the world. A jury chaired by V&A

trustee Steve McGuckin decided to appoint AL_A, which will now work with the museum on detailed designs. The scheme is expected to cost around £35m.



AL_A's submission was chosen from a shortlist of six design proposals

Amanda Levet of AL_A said: "This isn't just about a gallery, it's an opportunity to create a new public space for London - South Kensington's Drawing Room."



The renovation has taken two years to complete

Historic Camberwell Baths reopen after £4.7m revamp

TOM WALKER

The historic Camberwell Baths in South London have reopened following a two-year, £4.7m redevelopment project.

The baths, located at the Grade II-listed Camberwell Leisure Centre, have been restored to protect the building's heritage.

Work designed and managed by Watkins Gray International included the retiling of the 25m pool and new changing areas.

By mid 2011, the centre will also feature an expanded health and fitness club and a restored sports hall as part of the scheme.

Sport England cuts basketball funding

TOM WALKER

Sport England is to cut funding to England Basketball by £1.2m.

According to the agency, four-year funding had been structured to encourage it to increase participation outside its core clubs and members.

This incentivised support included the axed £1.2m, which was dependent on England Basketball's production of a "robust strategy" for growing the sport. Sport England's board concluded that England Basketball's plans "do not adequately address the challenge" of increasing participation.

£8.2m gift to 11 cultural groups

PETE HAYMAN

Dame Vivien Duffield has revealed that 11 cultural organisations across England are in line to receive a share of £8.2m to help "open up" creative learning spaces for young people.

Six Clore Learning Studios/Spaces; four Clore Learning Centres; and an interactive gallery for under 5s are to be created with the help of donations worth up to £2.5m.

London's National Theatre has been awarded £2.5m towards a new Clore Learning Centre, which will form part of a £70m revamp of the venue due for completion in 2014.

Tate Britain has secured £2.5m for a Clore Learning Studio as part of its £45m revamp



£2.5m was confirmed for London's National Theatre

plans, while The Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford upon Avon (£1m) and Kensington Palace, London (£500,000) will offer a Clore Learning Centre. Other recipients include the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester (£250,000).

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SPORT

2012 Olympic Stadium complete

PETE HAYMAN

Work on the construction of London 2012's flagship venue – the Olympic Stadium – has reached completion after nearly three years.

Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) chair John Armitt joined London 2012 chair Sebastian Coe and 400m hurdles medallist Tasha Danvers to lay the last piece of turf at the Olympic Park venue.

The Populous-designed stadium was built by a team led by Sir Robert McAlpine and came in under budget. Hyland Edgar Driver and Buro Happold also worked on the scheme. Savilles Hephher Dixon acted as planning consultant for the Olympic Stadium, which will be able to cater for 80,000 spectators in Games mode.

The surface of the Mondo-supplied running track is to be laid by the London Organising



IMAGE: ODA

London's new Olympic Stadium has come in on time and under budget

Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games later this year.

Coe said: "We now come in and do some work in preparation of ceremonies, to dress the stadium to ensure it has a London 2012 feel throughout and, of course, the final touch – to lay the track."

£1.2m boost for Dundee gymnastics centre

PETE HAYMAN

Dundee City Council's plans to establish a new regional gymnastics centre as part of a proposed refurbishment of the city's Dick McTaggart Sports Centre have been handed a £1.2m funding boost by sportscotland.

The scheme will provide two sprung floor exercise areas; a range of gymnastic apparatus; and a dance studio. Changing rooms and a café are also proposed as part of the multi-million pound overhaul of the facility, which has been shut since August 2010.

Building work starts on St Albans complex

PETE HAYMAN

Willmott Dixon has started work on the new Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre in St Albans, Hertfordshire.

A turf-cutting ceremony was held at the site of the new S&P Architects-designed complex on 21 March, with the scheme scheduled for completion in summer 2012.

Among the facilities to be on offer at the new Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre is a 500sq m (5,382sq ft) spa area with a 60sq m (646sq ft) terrace overlooking the nearby abbey.

A total of 647sq m (6,964sq ft) of water space and overall capacity for 223 swimmers is to also be provided, along with a 200-station fitness suite with cycle spinning studio.



S&P Architects are behind the design of the multi-million pound facility

Other facilities will include two exercise/multi-purpose studios; a climbing wall; a children's soft play area; a café/bistro; and a poolside health suite.

Cornwall stadium plans progress

PETE HAYMAN

Cornwall Council is to invest up to £120,000 in order to move forward with plans for a new multi-million pound stadium scheme near Truro.

A provisional study has already earmarked Langarth Farm, Threemilestone, as the preferred location for the Miller Partnership-designed venue, which is expected to cost around £24m.

Gardiner and Theobald was commissioned by Cornwall Council to undertake the Stadium for Cornwall study, which has proposed a 10,000-seat venue with commercial floor space. The council's cabinet has now approved the additional investment, which will help progress the plans and draw up a final business case for the scheme.

Cornwall Council leader Carolyn Rule said: "This project aims to build a stadium that will



The new stadium is to be located on a site at Langarth Farm near Truro

be an inspirational multi-use stadium and visitor complex built to exemplar environmental standards which maximises the economic benefits to Cornwall."

The new stadium could provide a new home for Truro City Football Club and the Cornish Pirates rugby union team.

Edgbaston Priory Club revamp approved

TOM WALKER

Plans for the redevelopment of Edgbaston Priory Club in Birmingham have secured planning permission.

The tennis and squash centre will be transformed by the introduction of a new sunken centre court with a capacity of 1,000 permanent seats, increasing to 2,500 seats during major competitions.

Designed by Glenn Howells Architects, the redevelopment also includes the building of a new six-court indoor tennis centre, creating an all-year tennis facility.

The existing clubhouse will be extensively remodelled, creating improved leisure facilities, which include a new second floor gym and studio with access to roof terraces.



Glenn Howells Architects are leading the design of the club's renovation

Glenn Howells said: "The redevelopment of Edgbaston Priory Club will significantly improve community access to tennis across Birmingham and the wider Midlands area."

ECB to reduce domestic Twenty20 schedule

PETE HAYMAN

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) plans to reduce the Friends Provident Twenty20 competition schedule from 2012.

Under the proposed alterations to the format, the number of pool games will be scaled

back from 16 to 10 and will be played within a 'dedicated' window during June and July.

The ECB's Management Board has approved a raft of measures to help relieve any adverse financial impact from the decision to reduce the amount of one day cricket.

Milestone for National Indoor BMX Arena work

PETE HAYMAN

A ceremony has been held to mark the toppling out of the new £19m National BMX Indoor Arena, which is currently being developed in Manchester.

BMX World Champion Shanaze Reade helped celebrate the latest milestone for the project, which will include a 2,000-seat venue and a new HQ for British Cycling.

The new arena will house the UK's first purpose-built covered BMX track and will form a new National Cycling Centre alongside the existing Manchester Velodrome.



The complex features five interconnecting domes

The Pods leisure centre scheme topped out

PETE HAYMAN

Work on a new leisure complex, which comprises five interconnecting domes, in Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, has reached the topping out stage.

A special ceremony has been held to mark the latest milestone, which also saw the last tile laid in the swimming pool at the Andrew Wright-designed venue

S&P Architects has worked on the scheme as 'delivery' architects, while Buro Happold and Bowmer and Kirkland have been responsible for the build element.

Blue chosen for 2012 hockey pitch colour

PETE HAYMAN

Hockey matches at the 2012 Olympics will be played on blue pitches – the first time an Olympic or World-level hockey event has been played on a non-green surface.

Sports Technology International has been appointed to design, install and maintain the 2012 hockey pitches, which will also feature pink run off areas and white lines.

Plans for the Hockey Centre were submitted to the Olympic Delivery Authority on 25 March. Populous are the firm behind the design of the temporary venue.

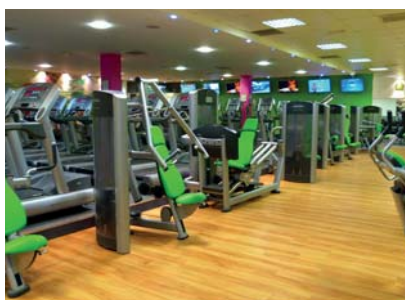
Dunston Leisure Centre keys handed over

PETE HAYMAN

Building work on a multi-million pound overhaul of Gateshead's Dunston Leisure Centre has been completed after the keys were handed over to the local authority.

Willmott Dixon has delivered the S&P Architects-designed scheme, which has transformed the 1960s swimming pool into a multi-use leisure complex.

The construction phase has taken a year and contractors – along with Gateshead Council – will now carry out finishing touches ahead of its 11 April reopening.



The club offers monthly memberships for £14.99

Fit4less launches eighth club in Milton Keynes

TOM WALKER

Budget club operator Fit4less – the no-frills brand of énergie Group – has opened its eighth site in Milton Keynes.

The 15,000sq ft (1,400sq m) property is run by franchisee Tom Burke and offers memberships from £14.99 a month. Facilities include a large fitness suite with Life Fitness equipment and a studio area.

Jan Spaticchia, the énergie chief executive, said: "This is a very exciting concept that we believe will do well in this current economic climate."

Shadow wellbeing board proposed for Wakefield

TOM WALKER

Wakefield Council has announced proposals to establish a shadow health and wellbeing board for the district.

The shadow group will be tasked with developing the role of the health and wellbeing board, and to meet new legislation on the future of health and social care.

From 2013, all councils must have a health and wellbeing board which will see partners come together to deliver joined up health and social care outcomes to improve the wellbeing of the local population.

Sandown centre set for revamp

PETE HAYMAN

Plans for the refurbishment of Heights Leisure Centre in Sandown, Isle of Wight, have been given the green light by local councillors.

Isle of Wight Council (IWC) said its decision to approve the project was a 'business-driven' one designed to enhance leisure provision and reduce running costs.

A new Tone Zone will be constructed to the rear of the building; two squash courts are set to be converted into activity space; and the remainder of the centre will be overhauled.

Plans also include making the swimming pool shallower to allow for more classes – such as water aerobics – to take place.

IWC cabinet member responsible for leisure George Brown said: "Although we are in a time where significant savings need to be



A new Tone Zone is to be created to the rear of Heights Leisure Centre

made across the local authority, it is important we continue to invest in our leisure facilities which the public rely on.

"Our current facilities are becoming tired and if we do not invest in them now, then they would need significant investment in future which we may not be able to afford."

Sector scores 'worryingly low' in survey

TOM WALKER

Health and fitness operators have "much work to do" if they want to improve consumers' perception of them, according to the first ever national Net Promoter Score (NPS) study conducted by Leisure-Net Solutions with The Retention People.

Leisure-Net carried out a member service survey using the NPS method to measure satisfaction and loyalty levels of members. The method included asking health club members just one question –

"How likely is it that you would recommend our company to a friend or colleague?"

The results reveal that the industry's overall score was just 21 per cent. There were also significant differences between sectors, with local



Only a fifth of members said they would recommend their health clubs

authority sites scoring highest at 27 per cent, followed by the Trusts at just 12 per cent.

However, the most worrying statistic is that private multi-site health and fitness chains recorded a dire -16 per cent.

Chelmsford leisure centre revamp complete

PETE HAYMAN

Chelmsford Borough Council has completed work on a £3.5m programme of improvements at the Riverside Ice and Leisure Centre.

A renovation of the main entrance and the reception areas comprised the final phase of

the scheme, which commenced in 2009 to upgrade the venue's facilities.

Improvements at the Riverside Ice and Leisure Centre have already included an expansion of the gym and exercise studio and an overhaul of the swimming pool area.



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South Shields pool to take shape

PETE HAYMAN

South Tyneside Council (STC) has started work on a new £16m swimming pool and leisure complex on the seafront in South Shields.

Designed by LA Architects, the complex will be located on the town's former Majestic and Quasar Laser site and will be delivered by construction firm GRAHAM.

Facilities will include a 25m, eight-lane competition pool and an 18m x 8m teaching pool – both with adjustable floors – and leisure waters with flumes, sprays and water play.

A sauna and steamroom; an 80-station gym; two dance studios; fitness testing/consultation rooms; and an outdoor terrace and amphitheatre also form part of the development.

Due to open in spring 2013, the swimming pool and leisure complex is designed to boost



LA Architects are behind the design of the new £16m leisure complex

the redevelopment of South Shields foreshore. STC leader Iain Malcolm said: "The pool is a major part of the council's multi-million pound regeneration plans for South Shields.

"It is contributing towards our aim of bringing about economic growth and greater prosperity for everyone in South Tyneside."

CEC plans Knutsford fitness suite upgrade

PETE HAYMAN

Fitness facilities at Knutsford Leisure Centre are to benefit from a £153,000 revamp under plans announced by Cheshire East Council (CEC).

The work aims to deliver a new interactive facility, with traditional equipment to be replaced with new machines supplied by Matrix Fitness.

Equipment from the supplier's Virtual Active range is to be installed at the centre, which is designed to help encourage new users who would not normally use a 'conventional' gym.

Guy Kilminster, the head of health and wellbeing services for CEC, said: "We are determined to be at the forefront of providing family-friendly facilities that contribute to



Matrix Fitness will supply new machines as part of the refurbishment

improving the health and fitness of our residents and visitors."

Work is due to take six weeks to complete. The fitness suite will remain shut for the duration and will be officially unveiled in June.

NLL starts work on Airdrie leisure scheme

PETE HAYMAN

North Lanarkshire Leisure (NLL) has started work on a £411,000 scheme to improve Airdrie Leisure Centre's sports hall.

A new 150-station health and fitness area equipped by Technogym is to be created, in

addition to a new studio space for dance, fitness and spin fit classes.

Ogilvie Construction has been appointed to carry out the redevelopment work on behalf of the sports trust, with the scheme due for completion by the end of June.

SLM secures three new management contracts

TOM WALKER

Sports and Leisure Management (SLM), the facilities operator which trades under the Everyone Active brand, has secured management deals with three local councils.

The group has signed deals with North Dorset District Council, London Borough of Sutton and Basildon Council, which will see SLM operate nine leisure sites.

In North Dorset, Everyone Active will operate Blandford Leisure Centre, while in Basildon, the first phase of a two-phase contract covers three local leisure facilities.



Anston Physiotherapy has opened in Doncaster

Former footballer opens new physio facility

PETE HAYMAN

Former professional footballer Kristian Hackett has expanded his Sheffield-based Anston Physiotherapy business with a new facility at Doncaster's Keepmoat Stadium.

Anston Physiotherapy first launched in 2008 and offers services including musculoskeletal and paediatric physiotherapy; sports massage; and acupuncture.

The opening of the clinic at the Keepmoat Stadium – home of Doncaster Rovers Football Club – will enhance the facilities already on offer at Stadium Fitness.

Fitness studio opens at Tooting Bec facility

PETE HAYMAN

A new fitness studio has been launched by Wandsworth Council at Tooting Bec Athletics Track and Gym in London.

The studio is designed to offer a number of classes – including boxercise, circuits, mixed martial arts and Pilates – and forms part of a wider programme of improvements for the facility.

Further investment is being proposed by the local authority later this year, which will allow work to be carried out on improvements to athletics facilities.



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ATTRACTIONS & MUSEUMS

Guardian museum award shortlist announced

PETE HAYMAN

Six attractions across the UK have been shortlisted in the 2011 *Guardian* Family Friendly Museum Award, the winner of which is due to be announced on 7 April.

Abbey House Museum, Leeds; Corinium Museum, Cirencester; Kilmartin House, Argyll; and Horniman Museum, London, are among the museums in the running.

Mansfield Museum, Nottingham; and the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent are also vying for the *Guardian* Family Friendly Museum Award.



Event will deliver a masterplan for the museum

Event secures National Army Museum contract

TOM WALKER

The National Army Museum (NAM) has appointed Event Communications to deliver a master plan for the five-year transformation of the attraction.

Event will work with NAM on the physical and operational redevelopment of NAM, including programming, audience development, educational outreach, collections and research strategy.

The plan will form the centre piece of the museum's strategy to establish itself as a "world-class museum experience".

New visitor centre planned for North Wales castle

PETE HAYMAN

A new visitor facility is to be created at Denbigh Castle, North Wales, after plans to improve the attraction's tourist experience received £600,000 from Cadw.

The funding has been made available through the agency's £19m Heritage Tourism Project, which is supported by £8.5m of European Union investment.

Plans for the castle will also include the opening up of wall walks, enhancements to the site's interpretation and upgraded links with Denbigh's wider historic landscape.

Four sites share £10m HLF grant

TOM WALKER

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has handed out a £10m funding package to be shared by four heritage sites.

Kettle's Yard in Cambridge (£2.32m); Cardigan Castle in Ceredigion, Wales (£4.7m); Charleston Barns in Lewes (£2.4m); and Bath's Royal Crescent (£1.4m) will use the cash to upgrade their respective visitor experiences.

Kettle's Yard – a museum and gallery belonging to the University of Cambridge – is to be extended and a new programme of workshops, seminars, lectures and displays will be created. At Charleston Farmhouse, the site's operator Charleston Trust will redevelop the barn and yard into a new education and exhibition space.

Meanwhile, a new heritage centre will be created at Cardigan Castle, one of a handful



Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, has received more than £2.3m from the HLF

of remaining stone castles built in Wales. An activity plan will also be put in place, providing training for volunteers.

At the Grade I-listed No 1 Royal Crescent, the grant will allow for the site's two buildings to be re-connected, creating a larger and improved museum and exhibition space.

June opening for £74m Glasgow museum

PETE HAYMAN

Glasgow Life has announced that the new £74m Riverside Museum, which will be home to the city's transport and technology collections, is to officially open on 21 June.

The Zaha Hadid-designed attraction is to be unveiled by Glasgow City Council (GCC) leader Gordon Matheson and will house around 3,000 exhibits across 150 displays.

GCC has invested nearly £51m in the development of the new Riverside Museum, which is the first purpose-built transport attraction in the city.

It will provide the Museum of Transport's third home since opening in the 1960s and is the city's first new-build attraction since The Burrell Collection was unveiled in 1983.



The Riverside Museum is the city's first new-build attraction since 1983

BAM Construction started work on site in 2007, with interiors and theming company Mivan appointed to deliver the fit-out of the attraction. The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded more than £18m towards the project.

Visitor numbers up at Merlin attractions

TOM WALKER

Attractions operator Merlin Entertainments has reported an increase in visitor numbers and revenues for the financial year of 2010.

In its full-year results to 25 December 2010, the group announced a 6.5 per cent increase

in total visitors to its attractions, resulting in a 4.1 per cent increase in revenue.

Merlin chief executive Nick Varney said that the results were down to both growth in the group's existing portfolio, as well as the group's aggressive expansion strategy.

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New spa facilities for Lancashire hotel

PETE HAYMAN

Barnfield Construction has been appointed to deliver the latest phase of work at Stanley House Hotel in Mellor, Lancashire.

Plans include the construction of a new three-storey spa and hotel building to complement the architecture of the main Grade II-listed property – restored in 2003.

The new wing will comprise a sauna and steamroom; a hydrotherapy pool; five treatment rooms; a relaxation room with terrace; a dry floatation room; and a manicure/pedicure room.



Hotel manager David Otteson (left) with Penrose

Tourism minister unveils new Dover hotel

PETE HAYMAN

Tourism minister John Penrose has unveiled the new Best Western Dover Marina and Spa, which has been refurbished and will be operated by Leaf Hotels.

Penrose said the 81-bedroom hotel would become a “tremendous draw for both British and international visitors”, following its multi-million pound overhaul.

Nicholas Hollinshead Interiors led the design of the Grade II-listed hotel, which will unveil the spa element later this year as part of the next phase of improvements.

Radisson Edwardian to open new Guildford hotel

TOM WALKER

Hotel group Radisson Edwardian, which owns and operates London's iconic May Fair Hotel, is to open its newest property in the capital this summer.

The 185-bedroom Radisson Edwardian Guildford is set to include a large day spa and conferencing space, in addition to a range of dining options.

Radisson Edwardian Guildford's spa will house a swimming pool, five treatment rooms, a relaxation area, sauna, steamroom and mud spa as well as a fitness suite.

St Pancras Renaissance opens

TOM WALKER

JW Marriott has completed a soft opening of its £150m St Pancras Renaissance Hotel in London, ahead of an official opening in May.

When fully operational, the 245-bedroom property will boast a large luxury spa and a restaurant operated by chef Marcus Wareing – named after architect Gilbert Scott who designed the building.

Facilities at the St Pancras Spa include five treatment rooms and a couple's suite; spa pool; and a relaxation area.

French product supplier Cinq Mondes has been chosen to devise the treatment menu.

The spa packages that will be on offer will be based on journeys to “far away countries”, bringing together Cinq Mondes' Beauty Rituals of the World brand in order to create a sensory journey for the client.



Historic features at the St Pancras Renaissance Hotel have been restored

Treatments will include the Ko Bi Do Facial, incorporating ancient Japanese massage techniques; Udvartana Ayurvedic Slimming Ritual from India; Puree de Papaye Radiance Scrub from the Kingdom of Siam; and Traditional Massage of the Orient based on Moroccan and Egyptian traditions.

Rebranding for mindbodysoul Aveda spa

TOM WALKER

The independently-owned mindbodysoul Aveda spa in London has re-launched itself as a day spa for mothers and their babies.

Owner Vicky Stothard was inspired into the change after becoming a mum herself in the past year. She felt that there would be a demand for somewhere for mums to be able to take their babies and toddlers and to enjoy some “well deserved R&R”.

The spa has been redesigned to be mum- and baby-friendly, with facilities including a relaxation area; a chalkboard wall for toddlers and older children; toys and books to entertain children; a decked herb garden; baby changing facilities; travel cots in treatment rooms



The London spa has been redesigned to be “mum- and baby-friendly”

on request; and room for buggies/prams in the treatment rooms.

With just two treatment rooms, Stothard aims to create an atmosphere where mums can feel secure in “intimate surroundings”.

‘Significant obstacles’ force BISA 2011 cancellation

TOM WALKER

The British International Spa Association (BISA) has cancelled its annual BISA International Conference event.

Due to take place in Buxton on 23-24 June, BISA chair Marion Schneider cited the

emergence of “significant obstacles” to holding the event in a letter to members. There are no plans to host the event at a later date.

Schneider added that “further news about the work of the BISA Council and future developments will follow in our next newsletter.”

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BHA denies 'profiteering' claims

TOM WALKER

Claims that hotels in the capital are profiteering from a deal agreed with the organisers of the London 2012 Olympic Games have been rebutted by the British Hospitality Association (BHA).

BHA chief executive Ufi Ibrahim said that the industry had played – and continues to play – its full part in making the 2012 Games a success.

“Recent press comment concerning the prices that agents appointed by LOCOG (the London Organising Committee of the 2012 Games) – in particular Thomas Cook – are charging for Olympic ticket and hotel packages has suggested that London hotels are profiteering,” she said.

“This is certainly not the case. London hoteliers have no control over the prices that agents are charging.”



The BHA said the capital's hotels have “no control” over agents' prices

In a separate statement, Paul Deighton, chief executive officer of LOCOG, confirmed that those London hoteliers who had been part of the agreement with LOCOG had “fully conformed” to a fair pricing agreement, offering room allocation to LOCOG at below market rates for the Olympic Games.

Cosslett to step down as IHG chief executive

PETE HAYMAN

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) chief executive Andrew Cosslett is to step down from his position on 30 June.

Cosslett has led the group since February 2005 and will be replaced by Richard Solomons,

who is currently chief financial officer and head of commercial development.

IHG chair David Webster said: “Andy has been an outstanding chief executive since February 2005 and we are very appreciative of the contribution he has made.”

Hilton signs National Football Centre deal

PETE HAYMAN

Hilton Worldwide has secured a dual-brand agreement with the Football Association to open two hotels as part of the new National Football Centre near Burton upon Trent.

A new 142-room Hilton Hotels and Resorts property and an 86-room Hampton by Hilton hotel will be included in the 330-acre (134-hectare) St George's Park development.

Both hotels are due to open in summer 2012 and expands Hilton Worldwide's presence at UK sporting venues, with London's Hilton Wembley also due to open next year.

The Hilton Hotels and Resorts property will include a 1,300sq ft (121sq m) spa and health club facilities, as well as a main restaurant; a



Hilton's Nick Smart (second left) at the development's groundbreaking

fine dining restaurant; and conference areas. Meanwhile, the Hampton by Hilton site will incorporate the signature brand features of the hotel group's economy brand.

Taking responsibility for the nation's health



UFI IBRAHIM

is chief executive officer of British Hospitality Association

One in six meals is eaten out-of-home – that's 8.4 billion meals a year – so Britain's catering industry has a huge influence on the nation's diet. This is precisely why the government is putting so much pressure on the industry to help it improve health levels in the general public. It believes that nutritional information and healthy options are part of the solution, with the other significant element being lifestyle and exercise.

So the government's Responsibility Deal is designed to encourage caterers and restaurateurs to agree a series of voluntary pledges. These include the provision of a selection of attractive, healthy option dishes on all menus and a reduction in the salt content in prepared dishes without reducing taste, flavour or standard, and to eliminate the use of artificial trans fats.

In fact, much has already been undertaken by the hospitality industry on this front. Contractors and other caterers already provide healthy option dishes, with commercial restaurants offering salads and other low calorie items so that they offer the widest possible consumer choice. Contractors also embarked on an ongoing salt, sugar and fat reduction programme some years ago and, in 2009, BHA members took part in the Food Standards Agency early adopter's trial by providing calorie information on menus for several months.

The more difficult pledge lies in providing calorie-counted dishes on menus. Calorie counting poses technical and cost problems for all businesses but, in particular, for small, independent businesses, and those which change their menus regularly. Calorie counting is easier (though still costly) for those restaurants serving standardised menus.

Nevertheless, the BHA is urging its members to sign up voluntarily to as many of the pledges as they are able to. It is clear that the government is absolutely committed to implementing the deal. By signing up, the industry's commitment to the programme will be highlighted and – more importantly – help to avoid a statutory approach, which is possible if the voluntary approach is not widely taken up.

Sundance to launch new London arts festival

PETE HAYMAN

Robert Redford, the Sundance Institute and AEG Europe have unveiled plans to launch the Sundance London arts festival at the O2 Arena later this month.

The four-day event – to be held between 26-29 April – will feature film screenings and live music performances, as well as other public cultural programming.

Sundance Institute, the organisation behind the annual Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, US, will curate the film component of Sundance London.



IMAGE: MARK ROSOMAN

The complex is poised to create hundreds of jobs

£3.9m Penarth Pavilion scheme approved

PETE HAYMAN

A £3.9m project designed to restore and transform a Grade II-listed pier pavilion in Penarth, South Wales, has been approved by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Penarth Arts and Crafts is leading efforts to turn the Victorian property into a multi-use facility for the town, which will boast a cinema space and gallery area.

It is hoped the council's decision to award planning permission will help boost the chances of securing a £1.7m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

HLF grant for Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms facelift

PETE HAYMAN

A multi-million pound scheme to rejuvenate Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms has secured a £441,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

City of Edinburgh Council is leading the £9.3m renovation of the George Street venue, which will transform the building into an events and performance hub.

Balfour Beatty Construction has been appointed to deliver the work, which is due to be completed in time for the Cultural Olympiad next summer.

Arts groups learn funding fate

PETE HAYMAN

Arts Council England (ACE) has allocated funding to nearly 700 groups under its National Portfolio approach.

The introduction of the new funding system was revealed last year against the backdrop of a 29.6 per cent drop in government funding and will replace the Regularly Funded Organisations scheme.

A total of 695 out of around 1,340 arts groups were successful in their applications for ACE support, with the agency announcing funding for 110 new organisations.

While a number of organisations saw their funding reduced or cut altogether, there were some that received an increase – such as the Young Vic and English Touring Opera.

ACE chief executive Alan Davey said: "We do regret that we have been unable to fund



IMAGE: SECRETION LONDON

London's Young Vic was one of the groups to receive increased funding

perfectly good organisations, and I know this will be taken hard by those affected."

It follows a report from the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, which welcomed the new approach but said ACE had spent "far too much on itself" during a period of increased investment in the 12 years to 2010.

'Big Freeze' funding for Scottish cultural sector

PETE HAYMAN

Cultural groups in Scotland are to receive extra funding to compensate for increased costs or losses caused by poor weather in late 2010.

Scottish culture minister Fiona Hyslop has confirmed that a total of £362,000 has been

made available from the 2010-11 Culture Budget in order to support the sector.

Creative Scotland has been awarded £250,000 to support theatres across the country that saw a "significant impact" on attendances as a result of the poor weather.

£2m boost for Scottish gallery revamp

PETE HAYMAN

Efforts to transform the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh have secured a further £2m from the Scottish Government.

The Edinburgh gallery shut in 2008 to undergo an extensive refurbishment, with the latest funding to go towards the completion of work to restore original features.

Due to relaunch on 30 November, the £17.6m Portrait of the Nation project is to provide new education facilities including a multi-purpose teaching suite and a resource

centre. BAM Construction is undertaking the work on behalf of National Galleries Scotland, which aims to increase visitor numbers by 50 per cent and double available gallery space.



The refurbished Edinburgh attraction is due to reopen on 30 November

Scottish culture minister Fiona Hyslop said: "The revitalised Portrait Gallery will be a major draw for audiences at home to explore the faces that frame Scotland's story."

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IMAGE: ANDREW PUTLER

A new park forms part of the Earls Court vision

New Earls Court revamp masterplan unveiled

PETE HAYMAN

A new 5-acre (2-hectare) 'Lost River' park is to be established under new proposals for the mixed-use redevelopment of the Earls Court site in London.

Terry Farrell and Partners are behind the masterplan for the 77-acre (31-hectare) site, which is now due to go before local residents as part of a public consultation.

The proposals have been drawn up on behalf of three landowners – Transport for London; Hammersmith and Fulham Council; and EC&O Properties.

Work starts on £35m Aston Cross mixed-use project

PETE HAYMAN

Ethnic food producer East End Foods has started work on the first phase of a £35m mixed-use scheme at the former HP Sauce factory site in Aston Cross, Birmingham.

A 100,000sq ft (9,290sq m) wholesale cash and carry and distribution centre will comprise Stage One of the scheme, which will cost £9m and will create 95 jobs.

The first phase also boasts an Urban Farm and Technology Centre, while the second phase – due to start in 2012 – will feature a hotel and conference centre.

Developer withdraws from Tropicana development

PETE HAYMAN

Plans for a revamp of the Tropicana site in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, appear to have collapsed after the last remaining bidder withdrew from the scheme.

The Nightingale Group – working alongside FaulknerBrowns Architects, Serco and DTZ – had proposed a new indoor adventure water park with children's play pool.

Richard Nightingale told the BBC: "It has now become clear to us that, sadly, this will not happen, and we have therefore been forced to withdraw accordingly."

Ellesmere Port waterfront in line for revamp

PETE HAYMAN

A partnership including Peel Land and Property, Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Waterways Trust; has unveiled its vision for Ellesmere Port's waterfront.

The consortium is working alongside the Ellesmere Port Development Board to regenerate the area and to promote it as a destination for residents, tourists and visitors.

Plans include improving the existing Docks Conservation Area to bring new activity to an "underutilised and often under-appreciated" asset.

At the heart of the conservation area is the National Waterways Museum, with the planned improvements designed to open up access and enhance public space.



The proposals aim to bring new activity to an "under-appreciated" asset

An ecology park and a promenade alongside the Manchester Ship Canal will also form part of the scheme, along with residential and tourism-related developments.

Aldershot's Westgate scheme starts

PETE HAYMAN

A groundbreaking ceremony has been held in order to mark the start of a 78-week building programme in Aldershot, Hampshire, which will deliver a new mixed-use complex.

A seven-screen Cineworld cinema and eight restaurants – including Frankie and Benny's; and Prezzo – are planned as part of the Westgate project, along with a Travelodge hotel.

Located between Wellington Avenue and the town centre, the development

is being funded through a Forward Funding Agreement worth £51m with Legal and General Property (LGP). Rushmoor Borough Council (RBC) and Citygrove Securities agreed the deal with LGP, which will also raise £42m in equity to extend the life span of the fund from 2014 to 2020. McLaren Construction – the



A seven-screen Cineworld cinema complex forms part of the proposals

main contractor for the scheme – is due to start on site in mid-April, with preparatory work now underway.

RBC leader Peter Moyle said: "I made a commitment to the residents of Aldershot that they would get this development and I can't wait to see it starting to take shape."

Council announces winning Royal Docks ideas

PETE HAYMAN

Four plans for the overhaul of derelict sites in London's Royal Docks and Canning Town have been announced following a competition.

Three locations owned by Newham Council and the London Development Agency are to

be overhauled as part of the proposals, which aims to provide leisure and other facilities.

Last November, London mayor Boris Johnson and Newham mayor Sir Robin Wales helped launch Meanwhile London in a bid to find ideas for the sites.



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CULTURE & LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT



Torridge District Council intends to invite tenders for the management, marketing, maintenance and operation of its four Leisure Centres and the Burton Art Gallery & Museum.

The contract is targeted to commence on 1st January 2012 and will be for a minimum of ten years with a potential option to extend for a further five years.

Suitably experienced organisations are invited to express interest in this tender by no later than 12:00 noon on 29th April 2011 via the 'Opportunities' section at www.supplyingthesouthwest.org.uk

Those organisations expressing interest will be emailed a link to a pre-qualification questionnaire that must be completed and returned via the above Portal by no later than 12:00 noon on 6th May 2011.

For more information please contact
Vikki Braddick - vikki.braddick@torridge.gov.uk

Management & Operation of ARDROY OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Fife Council is seeking expressions of interest from parties wishing to manage and operate Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre as from 1st August 2011 or as soon as practicable thereafter. Any proposal must take into account that there will be no revenue or capital funding support available from the Council.

Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre is a multi-activity residential facility located in Lochgoilhead, Argyll & Bute, Scotland. It has operated since 1969 and can accommodate approximately 70 people. It offers a range of outdoor activity programmes to a number of different clients.

The majority of visitors are children from Fife's primary schools, but customers also include schools, youth groups, colleges, charities and businesses. The activities offered can be used to achieve a variety of learning outcomes and for schools there are particular links with the Curriculum for Excellence.

Further information about Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre can be found at www.outdooreducation.co.uk

The closing date for expressions of interest is 5.00 pm, Friday 15th April 2011.

These should be sent to: David Maiden, Service Manager (Active Fife) Fife Council, Auchterderran Centre Cardenden, Fife KY5 ONE

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TOURISM

APD freeze 'insufficient in itself'

TOM WALKER

George Osborne's pledge to freeze April's proposed hike in Air Passenger Duty (APD) until next year will "not be sufficient in itself" to boost the UK's competitiveness, according to UKinbound.

In his Budget 2011, the chancellor said he had been unable to replace the per passenger tax with a per plane tax under international law.

However, Osborne said: "With the hefty duty rise last year, and with the cost pressures on families, we think it would be fair to delay this April's Air Passenger Duty rise to next year."

UKinbound chief executive Mary Rance responded by saying: "The APD freeze will simply not be sufficient in itself to move the UK up the rankings to become one of the top five destinations in the world."



This month's proposed APD increase has been delayed until next year

"UK still taxes travel at a much higher level than any other European country. The chancellor is sticking a plaster on the wound."

Board of Airline Representatives in the UK chief executive Mike Carrivick, added: "The decision not to increase APD is a welcome development but does not go far enough."

Competition Commission repeats BAA airport sale call

PETE HAYMAN

BAA will still have to sell two more airports after the Competition Commission (CC) said the measure was "fully justified"

The commission announced that it had considered whether there had been any changes to

the circumstances since publishing its report on BAA in March 2009.

However, the CC has now provisionally concluded that BAA should still be required to offload London Stansted and either Edinburgh or Glasgow airports.

Staycations 'not just a recessionary fad'

TOM WALKER

Most data suggest that the recession has helped to fuel a steady increase in the number of Brits preferring to spend their holidays in the UK.

But the trend, dubbed 'staycationing' by marketers in 2008, is likely to stay even if the economic environment keeps improving, according to new research published by BDRC Continental.

In its annual *Holiday Survey*, the company claims that nearly half of Brits are now seriously considering staying in the UK for their main holiday this year (2011) compared with 39 per cent last year and 29 per cent in 2009.

BDRC Continental director Steve Mills said: "The fact that the UK holiday revival has been



The study found that nearly half of Brits are considering a UK holiday

founded on a conscious decision to stay based on positive experiences and improved service rather than an inability to afford to travel abroad gives cause for optimism."



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Showcasing skills at World Skills London



SAM COULSTOCK is careers director of The Springboard Charity and Springboard UK

We are launching a national campaign to encourage top industry businesses to support a hospitality showcase at World Skills London 2011 – to be held at London's ExCeL between 5-8 October.

Springboard is working in conjunction with the British Hospitality Association, the Institute of Hospitality and People 1st to create the most inspiring and most visited interactive exhibition at the event.

World Skills London 2011 is the greatest opportunity the hospitality industry will ever have to showcase the huge variety of jobs and careers that it can offer young people in one go. We urge employers, colleges and other industry bodies to put their full weight behind it. Put simply, this event is to skills what the 2012 Games are to sport.

It will see young people from across the globe competing in a multitude of different industries to become the best in their chosen skill area. The event will attract over 150,000 visitors, the majority aged between 14-19. With such a concentration of potential recruits, it's vital that hospitality is able to show it's an industry of critical importance to the nation and one which offers a huge range of career opportunities.

The exhibition area would be designed to stimulate every visitor's interest, be highly memorable, and would ensure that they all recognised that hospitality was able to offer a huge variety of exciting and satisfying careers – while having some fun at the same time. But for the event to be a success, strong support from the industry is necessary. There are three levels of support – Silver (£1,000), Gold (£3,000) and Platinum (£5,000) – for small, medium and larger businesses respectively.

Sponsors will be given coverage on the stand appropriate to their level of support, but all will be highlighted as among the best employers across the industry.

The event will offer a once-in-a-lifetime chance to promote the sector as a career for the 21st century, and will enable employers

TRAINING

Mayor's £14m for London 'opportunities'

PETE HAYMAN

London mayor Boris Johnson has earmarked £14m to be invested in skills and job opportunities before, during and after the 2012 Games.

Johnson pledged to continue funding "vital schemes" specifically set up as part of efforts to deliver a skills legacy from the Games.

Three different projects will receive a share of the £14m over the next three years – part of a targeted bid to ensure Londoners can find jobs or enhance their prospects.

Johnson said: "We have always said that the skills and jobs prospects of Londoners must be transformed as a result of the Games and Londoners should rightly hold us to that pledge.



The mayor said three projects would receive a share of the £14m pot

"Working with our partners, we have already helped thousands of Londoners into work or training and I am confident that we can achieve even more."

SkillsActive slams YA closure decision

PETE HAYMAN

SkillsActive, the sector skills council for active leisure and learning, has criticised a decision to close the Young Apprenticeship (YA) programme to new candidates.

Although the scheme will no longer be offered, the Department for Education will continue to fund existing students on the programme.

It comes after the Wolf Review of vocational education – published earlier this month – had raised doubts over the efficacy of YAs.

SkillsActive chief executive Stephen Studd said: "This is a hugely disappointing decision that seems to be based on a questionable and potentially flawed report; especially when continuous evaluation has proven its value.

"It will deprive young people of an invaluable experience that would have built their



The decision to stop Young Apprenticeships is "hugely disappointing"

self esteem, given they are getting a grounding in crucial leadership and employability skills. The record of the programme speaks for itself."

According to SkillsActive, a recent evaluation of the programme found that 100 per cent of employers thought it was a "good starting point" for careers in the active leisure sector.

Hilton unveils new chef mentoring initiative

PETE HAYMAN

A chef mentoring initiative has been launched by Hilton Hotels and Resorts to develop emerging talent across its UK estate.

Some of the hotel operator's top chefs will be assigned to protégés, to whom the chefs

will offer support and advice. Michelin-starred Chris Galvin is among the chefs to take part.

Galvin said: "This will hopefully inspire young chefs to continue on their career path and keep the UK on the map as an exciting culinary destination."



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For more details on the following jobs
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Personal Trainers Wanted!

Company: YOUR Personal Training
Salary: OTE £40-60K
Location: Various (see details) UK
Closing date: 14 Apr 2011

Swimming Teacher

Company: Virgin Active
Salary: Competitive Salary + Benefits
Location: Mill Hill East, UK

Marketing Manager - 2 posts (3 months / 6 months)

Company: South Gloucestershire Leisure
Salary: £24,047 per annum, pro rata
Location: Bradley Stoke, UK
Closing date: 05 Apr 2011

Swimming Teacher

Company: Virgin Active
Salary: Competitive Salary + Benefits
Location: Manchester, UK

Swimming Coordinator (25 hours)

Company: Virgin Active
Salary: Competitive Salary + Benefits
Location: West London, UK

Rowing Development Officer

Company: University College Cork
Salary: circa €30,000 depending on qualifications and experience
Location: Cork, Ireland
Closing date: 08 Apr 2011

Freelance Personal Trainer

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Leeds, UK
Closing date: 12 Apr 2011

Internal Verifier

Company: The Training Room
Salary: £24k
Location: Nationwide, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Virgin Active
Salary: Competitive Salary + Benefits
Location: Stockley Park (near Heathrow), UK

Coach Soccer with the New York Red Bulls

Company: Red Bulls New York
Location: United States

Gym Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Salary: £25,000 - £30,000 + bonus
Location: Kingston, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Virgin Active
Salary: £15,000 - £17,000
Location: Didsbury, UK
Closing date: 20 Apr 2011

Personal Trainers

Company: Kirklees Active Leisure
Location: Huddersfield, UK
Closing date: 21 Apr 2011

General Manager

Company: Gymbox
Location: London, UK
Closing date: 22 Apr 2011

Account Manager

Company: Star Trac Europe
Salary: £18k basic OTE £10k + car allowance
Location: North West, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Nottingham, UK

Business Development Manager

Company: Lifetime
Salary: Basic £35k-£40k (OTE upto £50k + benefits)
Location: Home based with travel as req, UK

ASA Level 1, Level 2 Swimming Instructors require

Company: Community Swimming
Location: Nationwide, UK
Closing date: 30 Apr 2011

Aqua Class Instructors

Company: Community Swimming
Location: Nationwide, UK
Closing date: 30 Apr 2011

Physical Activity, Fitness and Health Development

Company: Loughborough College
Salary: £24,928 - £32,478 pa
Location: Loughborough, UK

Beauty Therapist

Company: Virgin Active
Salary: Competitive Salary + Benefits
Location: Edinburgh, UK

Beauty Salon Franchise Available

Company: Greens Health and Fitness
Location: Stoke-on-Trent

Full Time Spa Beauty Therapist

Company: Reebok Sports Club
Salary: £17k plus commission and benefits
Location: Canary Wharf, UK
Closing date: 11 Apr 2011

Spa Therapists

Company: Five Senses
Location: Protaras, Cyprus

Regional Sales Manager

Company: Holmes Place
Salary: Up to €40,000pa
Location: Europe

Fitness Instructor

Company: Five Senses
Location: Protaras, Cyprus, UK
Closing date: 22 Apr 2011

Leisure and Activities Manager

Company: Celtic Manor Resort
Salary: £26,000 - £30,000 per annum
Location: Newport, UK
Closing date: 26 Apr 2011

Senior / Beauty Therapist

Company: Cheshire Health Club & Spa
Location: Cheshire, UK

Part Time Experienced Fitness Trainers

Company: Neal Training Ltd
Location: London, UK

Visitor Experience and Enterprises Manager

Company: National Trust
Salary: £26,386-£28,714 per annum
Location: Somerset, UK
Closing date: 05 Apr 2011

General Manager

Company: Fusion
Salary: Up to £40k - depends on experience
Location: London, UK
Closing date: 28 Apr 2011

General Catering Manager- Sports Stadium

Company: Renard Resources
Salary: Up to £40k + Excellent Benefits
Location: Manchester, UK



expect different™.

ACCOUNT MANAGER – NORTH WEST

Star Trac is a full-service fitness company offering a complete line of high-quality, user-focused cardiovascular and strength equipment.

We are seeking an outgoing, pro-active individual to work closely with the Sales Manager to exceed the expectations of customers and generate new business.

As Account Manager you will also be required to manage and present Star Trac products throughout the territory. A clear understanding of product and support is essential to success.

Working on your own initiative, being motivated to visit facilities across the region daily, you will possess good listening skills, the ability to determine needs and offer solutions coupled with excellent presentations skills. You will be responsible for achieving pre-determined sales targets and new lead targets on a monthly basis.

A passion for the health and fitness industry is essential!

The position is to cover the North West from Cumbria to Shropshire and North Wales. The applicant will live on territory.

For further information on this opportunity please send your CV to Sarah Beaumont, European HR Manager at sbeaumont@startrac.com or call her on 01494 688293

Fitness Instructor(s) full and/or part time

Competitive hourly rate negotiable
depending on skills and experience.



Experienced person required to co-ordinate all aspects of gym operation including assessments, inductions, exercise programmes to develop the gym area in this thriving private members' club. Sales & marketing background desirable.

You will find it easy to interact and enjoy making a difference to member's lives through exercise. Recognised qualifications essential.

You will be required to work on a rota over 7 days some pms and weekends. This position would suit a lively, energetic person to complement our friendly team.

Please send CV and covering letter outlining your salary expectations to General Manager, WRFC Ltd Cranbrook Road, Wimbledon SW19 4HD. Tel 020 8947 5806. club.manager@wimbledonclub.co.uk

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:
12 APRIL 2011

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Created in April 2003, we are a non-profit organisation that delivers a diverse range of leisure and cultural services on behalf of Wigan Council. Investing in the future, our growing team manages the area's libraries, art galleries, leisure facilities and visitor attractions such as Haigh Country Park.

General Manager

£31,754 - £33,661 per annum

Abbey Leisure Centre, Sport & Healthy Living

Ref: 0564/SEL

Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT) is a dynamic forward-thinking charitable Trust responsible for the management of a wide range of Leisure and Cultural services in Wigan Borough.

As of 1 September 2009, WLCT has taken responsibility for the management of Selby Leisure Services, which includes Abbey Leisure Centre, Tadcaster Leisure Centre, Selby Park and playing fields and the Sports Development Service.

We have recently invested over £1m in facility improvements, including health and fitness, conference and catering facilities at Abbey Leisure Centre.

Responsible for the management, development and operation of Selby Leisure Services, you will have the leadership qualities, drive and ambition to take the service forwards by motivating and engaging staff.

You will have a good understanding of the leisure industry and will be able to demonstrate excellent business acumen along with a desire to deliver high-quality customer service through promotion of active and healthy lifestyles.

If you recognise these attributes in yourself and you are excited by challenge, then we would be delighted to hear from you.

This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure check.

You can obtain an application form and further details online at www.wlct.org/jobs or by telephone on 01942 828514 (24 hour answerphone). Completed application forms can be submitted online or by post to HRD Unit, Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust, Indoor Sports Complex, Loire Drive, Robin Park, Wigan WN5 0UL.

Closing date: Friday 22 April 2011 at 5.00pm.



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Impulse Leisure is a Leisure Trust and we are actively seeking highly motivated, professional people to join our teams.

LEISURE MANAGER

Location: Corringham Leisure Centre, Thurrock, Essex
Circa £24,385 – max £30,130 per annum, for an exceptional candidate

(subject to successful candidate holding a current, valid First Aid at Work, Pool Plant Operators Certificate and IOSH/ISRM Health and Safety Management Certificate or higher)

(inclusive of any 2011/2012 pay award) Full-time, permanent

(hours according to operational need, with a minimum of 37 hours per week)

Relocation package may be considered.

The post requires a highly self motivated, enthusiastic, and committed individual, who can respond to the needs of the business.

Responsibilities include the planning, co-ordination, and implementation of works programmes, and to supervise overall, the operation of the centre and its staff. The successful candidate will also be responsible for the monitoring and control of the financial aspects of the centre, while developing and expanding the centre in line with the mission and values of the organisation.

Closing date for return of completed applications: Tuesday, 26th April 2011

If this role is for you, then Impulse Leisure would welcome your application, and has many benefits to offer.

We are an equal opportunities employer, and we welcome applications from all sections of the community, especially those from black and minority ethnic groups who are currently under-represented in our workforce.

Appointment is subject to receipt of satisfactory references and a satisfactory enhanced disclosure reference from the Criminal Records Bureau, and in the future (when implemented) remain on the Independent Safeguarding Register, at all times during appointment.

Application packs and further information can be downloaded direct from our website – www.impulseleisure.co.uk.

Alternatively, you may request an application pack by telephoning the recruitment line on 01375 411267. Please leave a message clearly stating which position you are interested in applying for, together with your name, address and telephone number.



www.impulseleisure.co.uk

Charity No: 1080186

Wagamama sold to Duke Street

TOM WALKER

Private equity group Duke Street has acquired Japanese-style noodle restaurant chain Wagamama from Lion Capital for an undisclosed sum.

The deal includes all 70 restaurants in the UK; three restaurants in the US; and a franchise operation with 36 restaurants in 16 countries across Europe, the Middle East and Australasia.

Lion acquired Wagamama in 2005 and has since more than doubled the number of restaurants in its portfolio.

Wagamama chief executive

Steve Hill said: "We have enjoyed working with Lion over the past six years. We've achieved some great results over this period and further expanded the brand."



Lion Capital acquired Wagamama in 2005 and has doubled its portfolio

"We are all very excited about the future and look forward to working with Duke Street, which will see Wagamama through its next stage of growth."

Marco Pierre White nets Maypole Group sites

PETE HAYMAN

Award-winning chef Marco Pierre White has acquired all six properties in the Maypole Group portfolio from administrators.

Simon Bower and Bruce Mackay of Baker Tilly Restructuring and Recovery were called

in as joint administrators of the pub hotel operator last October.

Founded in November 2003, the Maypole Group was intended to be an acquisition vehicle for UK countryside hotels with restaurants or pubs attached.

Riverfront events venue for Liverpool

TOM WALKER

A new £40m exhibition and events complex is to be built on the Liverpool waterfront.

The new venue is set to be built by a partnership of Liverpool City Council (LCC) and ACC Liverpool, home to BT Convention Centre and Echo Arena. The facility, which will be adjacent to ACC Liverpool on the Kings Dock, is due to be completed by September 2014.

In its first year of operation, the new waterfront complex is expected to host about 50 events and attract around 250,000 visitors.

LCC leader Joe Anderson said: "This investment is a significant milestone in the ongoing renaissance of Liverpool which will benefit everyone in the city for decades to come."

"It is a huge statement of confidence in Liverpool, and will be a boost to hundreds of local businesses. A new state-of-the-art



The venture is a partnership between LCC and ACC

exhibition hall will enhance the excellent waterfront facilities of the Echo Arena and BT Convention Centre."

A skybridge is proposed, which will link the new complex with the existing facility. A 200-room hotel is also included in the plans.

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