

leisureopportunities

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Public operators lead sector growth

TOM WALKER

The UK fitness sector has weathered the recession well, with public operators showing particular resilience, according to the 2011 FIA *State of the UK Fitness Industry* report.

The study shows that since 2008 – acknowledged as the beginning of the recession – the industry has seen its total annual turnover grow by 4 per cent to £3.81bn. Meanwhile, the number of UK gym members has increased slightly (by 2 per cent), as has the number of facilities (by 1.7 per cent).

Growth has been driven primarily by the public and budget sectors, with the public sector posting increases across three key indicators – number of sites, membership numbers and turnover.

The number of publicly-owned clubs in the UK increased by 20 during the period,



The UK health and fitness sector has seen its total market value grow

while membership numbers within the public sector grew by 2 per cent. This resulted in the estimated turnover of public sector clubs increasing by an impressive 5.8 per cent.

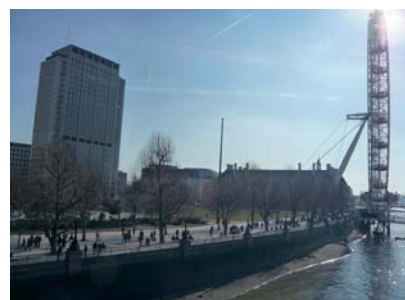


IMAGE: LEWIS CLARKE

The £4m overhaul is designed to enhance access

£4m makeover for London's South Bank

PETE HAYMAN

London's South Bank is to receive a £4m makeover ahead of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to enhance access to its cultural attractions and eateries.

Mayor Boris Johnson will work with Lambeth and Southwark councils, as well as residents' groups and businesses, to carry out work along a 2-mile (3.2km) section.

A stretch between Tower and Westminster Bridges will be enhanced – incorporating locations such as the Globe Theatre, the Oxo Tower and Southwark Cathedral.

Lottery boost for UK heritage sites

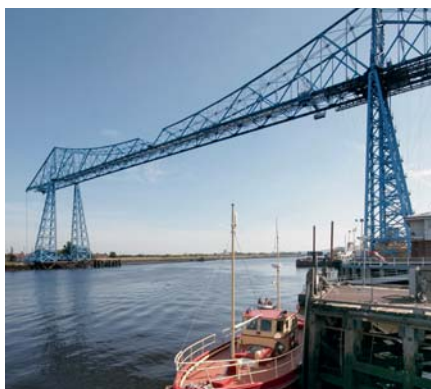
PETE HAYMAN

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has confirmed that five historic attractions are to receive a share of £11m.

Plans for the restoration of *HMS Alliance* in Gosport, Hampshire, has been awarded the largest share of the confirmed funding, with the submarine netting £3.4m.

Middlesbrough's Grade II-listed Transporter Bridge has been handed £2.6m to enable the public access to its dramatic views through a restored gondola and new lifts.

Wentworth Castle Conservatory in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, has been awarded £2.4m towards its revamp, with the new-look potting



Middlesbrough's Transporter Bridge secured £2.6m

shed set to become an interpretation gallery. Penarth Pier and Pavilion in South Wales (£1.65m) and Wakefield Cathedral in West Yorkshire (£1.58m) have also been awarded grants towards renovation projects.

Minister backs SRA's good governance code

PETE HAYMAN

Hugh Robertson, the minister for sport and the Olympics, has backed a new voluntary code published by the Sport and Recreation Alliance (SRA) to encourage good governance.

The code aims to help sports and recreation organisations maintain levels of effective management and to help ensure accountability.

Key principles covered in the report also incorporate recommendations for board sizes with the "right balance" of skills. (See *Sports Management* Issue 2 2011, page 3).

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SPORT

Premier League revenues top £2bn

PETE HAYMAN

Premier League clubs reported record revenues of more than £2bn during the 2009-10 season, according to new research published by Deloitte's Sports Business Group.

The latest *Annual Review of Football Finance* revealed that collective revenues of the top 20 clubs increased by 2 per cent, with broadcast revenue up 7 per cent to £1.04bn. Total revenues for the top 92 English clubs – including sides in the three Football League divisions – grew by 5 per cent in the 2009-10 season to nearly £2.7bn.

According to the report, Premier League clubs' revenue is set to grow further for the 2010-11 season to more than £2.2bn – the first season under new broadcast agreements.

However, Deloitte also highlighted that the growth in total wage costs for the Premier



IMAGE: RONNIE MACDONALD

Premier League revenues are set to reach more than £2.2bn in 2010-11

League had exceeded the increase in revenue, with more than £1.4bn spent on salaries.

Alex Byars, senior consultant in the Sports Business Group, said: "The challenge for clubs continues to be converting impressive revenue growth into sustainable profits that allow for investment in infrastructure and talent."

Council: King's Park Ice Stadium plans 'well on track'

PETE HAYMAN

Bournemouth Borough Council has said its plans for a new leisure attraction at the town's King's Park Ice Stadium are "well on track".

The local authority said it was in the process of inviting potential operators to come forward

with proposals for the site and dismissed claims that the scheme was in 'meltdown'.

A council spokesperson said: "It is absolutely essential that we approach the market at the right time to gain the best chance of attracting a developer with the right credentials."

Morgan to lead domestic cricket review

PETE HAYMAN

Former England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chair David Morgan has been appointed to undertake an "extensive" review into the business of domestic cricket.

The review has been commissioned by the ECB's management board to carry out detailed research and analysis into the best business models for county clubs.

Morgan – also former chair of the International Cricket Council – will be helped by ECB managing director of events and county business, Gordon Hollins. It follows strategic initiatives put in place by the ECB since 2005, which feature the Building Partnerships plan and Grounds to Play – published last year.



The new review will analyse the best business models for county clubs

The review comes at a time when a large number of county clubs reported losses for the last financial year, with Yorkshire and Lancashire recording seven-figure deficits.

£30m Sport Central venue opens

PETE HAYMAN

A £30m sports centre that will provide facilities for research, fitness, sport development and the staging of events has been officially unveiled by Northumbria University.

Sir Robert McAlpine commenced construction work on the Atkins-designed Sport Central complex in 2008, with Gardiner and Theobald overseeing the project.

Facilities at the new venue include a 3,000-capacity main arena to stage sporting events and provide a home court for the Newcastle Eagles basketball team. Elsewhere, laboratory space for physiology, biomechanics, gait and nutrition assessment has been created alongside a performance analysis suite. A climbing wall, a swimming pool with variable floating floor and a 60m, four-lane sprint track are also among facilities at



Laboratory space for physiology and biomechanics has been provided

Sport Central, which will be used by the Centre for Sport, Exercise and Wellbeing Research.

NU vice-chancellor professor Andrew Wathey said: "As well as enhancing the health and wellbeing of students and staff, it provides high-quality facilities for the university's research in physiology and sport science."

Study doubts London 2012 legacy aims

PETE HAYMAN

A study published by the University of Kent has raised doubts as to whether the 2012 Olympic Games will deliver an increase in grassroots sports participation.

Organisers of the London Games are hoping that next summer's event will encourage more people to take part in sport and help ensure a "soft legacy" at grassroots level. However, research into the soft legacy of the 2004 Athens Game in Greece failed to deliver a sustained increase in sports participation.

Dr Sakis Pappous of the university's Centre for Sport Studies said there had been a 'short-lived' 6 per cent growth in the number of people playing sport between 2003 and 2004.



The research questions whether participation growth will be sustained

However, that figure was found to have fallen by 13 per cent in the following five years to a level of participation "significantly lower than even the period before the Games".

Report: Glasgow 2014 remains 'on track'

PETE HAYMAN

Preparations for the 2014 Commonwealth Games are 'on track and on budget', according to the Games Partners' Progress Report.

The document aims to show how all aspects of the Glasgow Games' delivery, including the

proposed legacy, are continuing through the provision of new and upgraded facilities.

Lord Smith, chair of Glasgow 2014, said: "With the ongoing help and support of our Games Partners, we will deliver an outstanding athlete centred, sport focused Games."

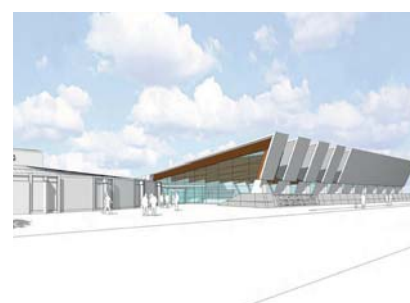
Go Spike! volleyball campaign launched

PETE HAYMAN

Volleyball England has announced the launch of its new Go Spike! grassroots campaign in a bid to encourage more people to take up the sport "in all its forms".

The initiative will be rolled out across the UK through a series of informal sessions as part of efforts to grow participation to more than 500,000 adults by 2013.

Go Spike! sessions will operate at events between June and September, while the volleyball club network will also co-ordinate sessions in parks and open spaces.



A rendering of the multi-million pound scheme

Final council approval for Oxford pool scheme

PETE HAYMAN

A new swimming pool for Blackbird Leys, Oxford, has moved a step closer after the local authority's planning review committee cleared the proposals.

The FaulknerBrowns Architects-designed project was initially given the go ahead by Oxford City Council's strategic development control committee in late April.

Despite being called in for further scrutiny by the planning review committee, plans – including a competition-standard pool – have now received the green light.

Stevenage Football Club to build new training facility

PETE HAYMAN

Stevenage Football Club (SFC) is to build a new training facility after it acquired the 40-acre (16.2-hectare) former BAE Systems sports ground at Bragbury End.

The npower League One club said plans are yet to be finalised, although the venue is to house up to six football pitches and provide a base for its first team and scholars.

SFC chair Phil Wallace said: "It fallen into disrepair through years of non-use, but the structure of the pitches is still there and we will bring it back to its former glory."

Gym for Heroes campaign to kick off next month

TOM WALKER

The Fitness Industry Association (FIA) will be repeating its annual nationwide endurance challenge between 9 and 22 July.

The challenge, which will take place in fitness centres and outdoor spaces, can be taken individually or as part of a team and is either three or 12 hours long, involving any three pieces of CV equipment.

The funds raised will go to Help the Heroes – the UK charity that was formed to help support those who have been wounded in Britain's current military conflicts.



S&P Architects have designed the £26m complex

Public to name new £26m Luton aquatic centre

PETE HAYMAN

A public competition has been launched by Luton Borough Council (LBC), Active Luton and Wates Construction to find a name for a new £26m aquatic centre.

Designed by S&P Architects, the new Stopsley complex will comprise a 50m, eight-lane pool with integrated diving area; a high-dive training centre; and a 20m x 10m community pool.

A multi-purpose sports hall; a 100-station fitness suite; and two aerobics/dance studios are also earmarked for the venue.

Surrey health and wellbeing board launched

PETE HAYMAN

Surrey County Council (SCC) has established a new shadow health and wellbeing board in a bid to improve local public health services and accountability.

The authority is one of the first in the country to set up the group, which is to form part of the proposed shake up of the NHS led by the Department of Health.

Councillors, GPs and health officials are among the members of the board, which is designed to give SCC greater responsibility for local healthcare services.

Gym contracts deemed 'unfair'

TOM WALKER

London's High Court has ruled that thousands of gym and health club contracts enforced by management provider Ashbourne Management Services are "unfair".

Following a four-day hearing, Mr Justice Kitchin agreed with concerns raised by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and ruled that Ashbourne's business model was "designed and calculated to take advantage of the naivety and inexperience of the average consumer using gyms and health clubs at the lower end of the market."

The company currently draws up membership agreements, and then collects members' payments, for around 700 health clubs in the UK. The OFT had initiated an investigation into Ashbourne's practices that included minimum membership periods of up to three years.



Justice Kitchin said the firm took advantage of the 'average consumer'

Justice Kitchin also lambasted Ashbourne's methods of dealing with defaulters, which included threats of damage to gym members' credit rating by referring the debt to a credit reference agency. The OFT's records show that, as of July 2009, Ashbourne had registered nearly 17,000 defaults with such agencies.

Online fitness class finder for London

TOM WALKER

A new London service – Find My Workout – has launched to help gyms and health clubs increase footfall and fill places at exercise classes.

The new online service is designed to enable users to sign up to classes online on a pay-as-you go basis. Each gym or studio taking part has its own profile page and is searchable by location and the types of classes it offers. Clubs can also include class descriptions, images, videos and user-submitted reviews on their personalised page.

Sean Parry, Find My Workout's co-founder, said the company is looking to expand and has so far partnered with 55 health clubs, most of which are independent, single site operators.



Participating gyms and studios will be searchable by type and location

Parry said: "We are targeting 100 gyms and 2,000 classes for the London area in the near term. At the same time we will be expanding into other major UK cities – with an initial target of 50 gyms per non-London city."

Impulse Leisure adds to Sussex centre portfolio

TOM WALKER

Impulse Leisure will take over the operation of Chanctonbury Sports and Leisure facility in Storrington, West Sussex.

As part of the deal, the West Chanctonbury Recreation Association, a charitable

organisation that currently operates the centre, will become a subsidiary of Impulse.

Impulse Leisure CEO, Mike Baden, says: "We look forward to improving the leisure and recreation facilities for the inhabitants of Storrington and the surrounding parishes."

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Therapyworks appoints Keiser as preferred supplier

PETE HAYMAN

Therapyworks, a franchise company set up by physiotherapist Hywel Griffiths in July 2006, has appointed Keiser as its preferred fitness equipment supplier.

The business was established with the aim of allowing qualified physiotherapists to manage their own practice with the support of business and clinical experts.

Therapyworks unveiled its first franchise site in Pontypridd four years ago with a venue that includes a gym now equipped with Keiser's Functional Trainer.



The facility will include a 35-station fitness suite

Work starts on Churchill Sports Centre renovation

PETE HAYMAN

Leisure trust Tone and development partner Createability have commenced work on a £900,000 upgrade of Churchill Sports Centre in North Somerset.

Alliance Leisure is overseeing the project, which will boast a 35-station gym; two studios; and a dry changing area. A £300,000 all-weather pitch is also planned.

The reception area is to be revamped to provide separate entrances for Churchill Community School and community use, with work to be complete by September.

Circle Opportunities acquires True Vibrations

PETE HAYMAN

Circle Opportunities has announced that it has completed the purchase of the company behind the TrueVibe fitness training platform, True Vibrations.

Circle has acquired the remaining shares in True Vibrations from the majority shareholder and founder, Kevin Barclay-Webb, for a consideration of £450,000.

Fitness entrepreneur and chair of Circle, David Lloyd, said: "We decided to invest and acquire True Vibrations as we see both value in the technology and an extensive market for it."

Work starts on Wakefield ONE

PETE HAYMAN

Work has commenced on the construction of Wakefield ONE – a new £10m swimming pool and fitness complex in Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Willmott Dixon has been chosen to build the NPS North East-designed venue, which is due for completion next summer. Drivers Jonas Deloitte is project managing the development, which will include the creation of a six-lane, 25m pool; a 13m x 7m learner pool; a 100-station gym; and a multi-use studio.

A spectator viewing area; an executive meeting room; Changing Places facilities; and a café will also form part of the complex, which will offer disabled access throughout. Site preparations commenced on-site on 6 June.

Wakefield Council leader Peter Box said: "The new sports facilities will be a great asset



The new £10m swimming and fitness complex will be sited on Sun Lane

for the city, particularly coming so soon after the opening of the Hepworth Wakefield and Trinity Walk."

Drivers Jonas Deloitte assistant director Paul Denson added: "Wakefield ONE will be open at just the right time to coincide with the London 2012 Olympics."

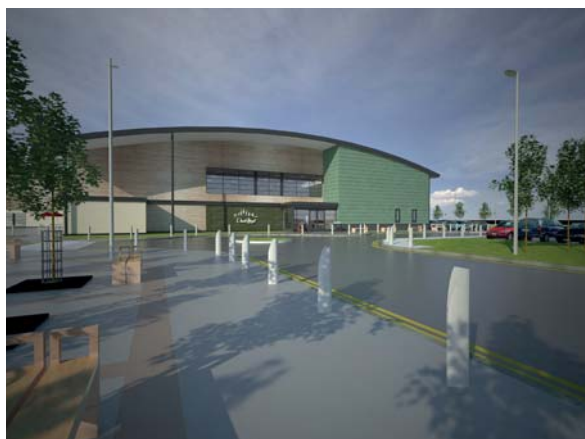
DLL unveils plans for £12m Farnham club

PETE HAYMAN

David Lloyd Leisure (DLL) has announced plans for a new 6,000sq m (64,583sq ft) facility in Farnham, Surrey, which is to feature the group's largest Amida Spa.

The £12m development will be located next to Farnham Rugby Club and include a 1,013sq m (10,904sq ft) spa area with six treatment rooms offering therapies and massages. Other Amida Spa facilities will include four sauna rooms; a relaxation area; a nail studio; a spray tanning salon; and experience rooms, as well as outdoor sauna cabins and a spa pool.

Elsewhere, the new DLL club in Farnham will comprise eight outdoor tennis courts and an on-site physiotherapy and osteopathy clinic,



The new £12m complex is to incorporate the group's largest Amida Spa

as well as a multi-purpose sports hall. A 25m swimming pool and separate children's pool; a 470sq m (5,059sq ft) DL Kids area; and a 1,337sq m (14,391sq ft) gym with cv and resistance machines are also planned.

SLM secures 10-year Plymouth contract

PETE HAYMAN

Plymouth City Council has awarded a 10-year contract for the running of its leisure facilities to Sports and Leisure Management (SLM).

In April, members of the council's cabinet agreed to enter into a partnership with SLM

after a procurement process to find an external leisure operator was launched in 2010.

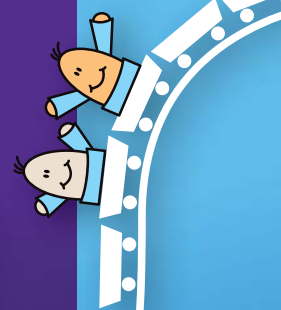
SLM will operate facilities including Mount Wise and Plympton swimming pools and Brickfields sports centre and recreation ground, as well as the new £46.5m Life Centre.

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Holburne Museum opens following £11.2m revamp

PETE HAYMAN

Bath's Holburne Museum has been officially reopened by artist Sir Peter Blake, following the completion of a comprehensive £11.2m refurbishment of the attraction.

An extension designed by Eric Parry was at the centre of the scheme, which has doubled the available display space and provided bespoke education facilities.

Top-lit galleries for temporary exhibitions have also been constructed as part of the project, which received funding support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.



IMAGE: GRAFFITY

The Pier Theatre is to undergo a £3m renovation

Bournemouth Pier to house £3m attraction

PETE HAYMAN

Bournemouth Pier owner and operator Openwide International has submitted plans for a £3m revamp of the Pier Theatre into an indoor adventure sports attraction.

Operating under the RockReef brand, the project will feature a standing wave surfing attraction; climbing walls; bouldering walls; and an indoor high ropes course.

New changing rooms; retail; food and drink areas; and an improved foyer space are also to form part of Openwide's proposed transformation of the venue.

Epping interpretation centre topped out

PETE HAYMAN

A topping out ceremony has been held to mark the latest milestone in the development of a new Epping Forest interpretation centre in Chingford, north east London.

The facility will be housed in the redeveloped coach house and stables located next to Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge and forms part of the Chingford Hub project.

In addition to the new interpretation centre, the proposed Chingford Hub will also feature a renovation of Butler's Retreat – scheduled to open its doors this summer.

ACE urged to rethink 'core' model

PETE HAYMAN

The Museums Association (MA) has urged Arts Council England (ACE) to abandon its "risky and untested" core museums model as part of its New Renaissance strategy.

In its submission to ACE, the MA said it did not believe there was "little merit" in distinguishing between core and non-core sites.

A total of 13 points have been set out by the MA, which calls on ACE to introduce a holistic approach to investment and one that focuses on transformation and resilience to boost attractions' impact. The submission further recommends that future investment should also encourage coalitions to enhance strength and reach, as well as driving efficiencies.

MA head of policy and communications Maurice Davies said: "What we are saying is



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/JOSE AS REYES

The MA has urged ACE to introduce a holistic approach to investment

that ACE funding should be open to more museums rather than be restricted to a handful of core museums.

"We want a single, simple funding stream that every museum can apply for. We don't need core museums or a separate Designation Challenge Fund," added Davies.

TITANICa experience opens at NI museum

PETE HAYMAN

Northern Ireland culture minister Carál Ní Chuilín has opened the new TITANICa experience at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum at Holywood, near Belfast.

The exhibition – unveiled 100 years to the day that the ill-fated *Titanic* was launched from the Harland and Wolff shipyards – has received around £1m from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

Among more than 500 objects on show are never-before-seen items from the Atlantic Ocean wreck on loan from US-based RMS Titanic Inc – the Salvor in Possession of the wreck site.

In addition to TITANICa: The Exhibition, TITANICa: The People's Story has also opened



Ní Chuilín (right) said it was crucial to mark *Titanic's* impact on Belfast

and explores how life would have been during the time of the ship's construction.

Ní Chuilín said: "It is important that we mark the centenary of the launch of the *Titanic* and all that it means for Belfast."

Dyffryn House to be run by National Trust

PETE HAYMAN

Vale of Glamorgan councillors has approved plans to transfer the running of Dyffryn House and Gardens to the National Trust (NT).

On 8 June, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's cabinet backed a report that recommended the

awarding of a 50-year lease on the property to the trust to help safeguard its future.

Council leader Gordon Kemp said: "The gardens attract around 50,000 visitors each year and we expect to see that number double under National Trust management."

Report outlines 'value' of nature

PETE HAYMAN

The health benefits of living with a view of green space are worth up to £300 per person per year, according to a report examining the value of the UK's natural environment.

New approaches have been used in the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA) to investigate the economic, health and social benefits from trees, parks and waterways. It is believed that the natural environment is worth billions of pounds to the economy, and it is hoped the findings will be used to shape policy.

Population growth and climate change have been identified as threats to UK ecosystems and UK NEA urges a "collaborative approach" to ensure the environment is protected.

Professor Bob Watson, UK NEA co-chair and chief scientist at Defra, said: "There is an



The UK natural environment is thought to be worth billions of pounds

urgent need to better manage our ecosystems and the natural resources they provide.

"The NEA shows that we need a more integrated approach to ecosystem management, involving Government, the private sector, voluntary groups and the public working together to protect the services nature provides."

National Forest Cycle Centre opens

PETE HAYMAN

The £1.5m National Forest Cycle Centre has been unveiled by The National Forest Company and the Forestry Commission at Hicks Lodge in Leicestershire.

Purple Mountain has been appointed to run the complex, which opened on 1 June and features a visitor centre and 8 miles (12.9km) of off-road cycling trails, as well as a café and a play area.

The glass and timber visitor centre has been designed to feature eco-friendly technology, such as solar water heating and rainwater recycling. Pick Everard provided architectural, engineering, quantity surveying and BREEAM and CDM consultancy services on the project.



The visitor centre has been designed to include eco-friendly measures

NFC project co-ordinator Alan Leather said: "The centre is going to be a great way to introduce families and beginners to easy, fun cycling in a beautiful environment."

New ancient tree trail unveiled in London

PETE HAYMAN

The Woodland Trust has unveiled a 'zero-carbon' foot and cycle trail to increase public access to some of London's ancient trees.

A 500-year-old holm oak at Fulham Palace and Barney – a London Plane in Barnes – have

been included as part of the trail, which starts in the centre of the capital.

The route follows Sustrans National Cycle Network Route Four along the Thames and into Richmond Park, before ending at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew.

£3.5m Chester park proposals go on show

PETE HAYMAN

A new public exhibition has been launched by Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWCC) in a bid to allow residents to explore plans for a £3.5m revamp of Chester's Grosvenor Park.

The proposals, which aim to restore the park's landscape and secure Green Flag status, have gone on show at Chester Library as part of the consultation process.

Grosvenor Park has already made it through the first stage of the application process for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, with a detailed submission to be made to the funding agency in the autumn.

CWCC executive member for culture and recreation Stuart Parker said: "The original landscape of the park was designed by Edward Kemp and architect John Douglas designed the Park Lodge – a building which will be restored as part of the project."



The charity is to come into effect from next April

Trustees for new UK waterways charity named

PETE HAYMAN

Founding trustees have been appointed to a new waterways charity, which is to take over the management of canals and rivers in England and Wales from April 2012.

British Waterways (BW) chair Tony Hales will chair the charity following recommendations made by the Advisory Panel on First Appointments and Transition. Other trustees put forward by the panel include BW vice chair John Bridgeman and English Heritage chief executive Simon Thurley.

WRVS chief executive Lynne Berry; Oxfam HR director Jane Cotton; and former chair of the Commercial Boat Operators Association, John Dodwell, have been named as trustees, along with Ramblers chief executive Tom Franklin and BW board member Nigel Hugill.

A time to reflect on the past 60 years



PHILIPPE ROSSITER is chief executive of the Institute of Hospitality

On 7 June, the Institute of Hospitality held its AGM and Annual Lunch at London's Dorchester Hotel. Attendance was at its highest level for many years, demonstrating a welcome and positive support by the industry for its professional body. The Dorchester was specifically selected for the 2011 event, as it was here 60 years ago that one of the Institute's founding associations – the Hotel and Catering Institute (HCI) – held its first Annual Lunch.

Reflecting on the passage of time in between, it is clear that many of the industry's challenges remain remarkably similar. Labour and skills shortages; the need for good managers and leaders; and an emphasis on improving levels of customer service were as much on the agenda in 1951 as they are today. This does not imply a lack of progress in the intervening years; rather, it reinforces the fundamental requirement of these three key areas to ensure a profitable and successful hospitality business.

Throughout this period, the Institute and its predecessors have remained focussed on two prime objectives: the promotion of best practice and the advancement of education, in food and beverage and accommodation management. These twin goals underpin all that the Institute does, as exemplified in the range of activities and services it offers – not just to its members, but also to the wider global industry. The provision of appropriate, relevant and accessible management qualifications; the accreditation of hospitality programmes in hotel schools throughout the world; and its business excellence standard, Hospitality Assured, are all excellent examples of how the Institute continues to support the industry.

While the environment in which the industry now operates today has changed, almost out of recognition, the Institute of Hospitality has remained constant in its determination to raise standards of management and levels of expertise throughout the industry. Small wonder it is then that, as the industry's professional body, it has stood the test of time and remains committed entirely to promoting hospitality professionalism worldwide.

HOTELS

BHA study highlights VAT concerns

PETE HAYMAN

The British Hospitality Association (BHA) has underlined concerns that high levels of VAT on UK tourism businesses is acting as a deterrent to visitors and 'staycationers'.

In its annual report published on 6 June, the organisation said that the rate of VAT is having a negative effect on the Prime Minister's ambition to boost domestic tourism to 50 per cent.

According to the document, "the present level of VAT in the UK is one of the most pressing issues facing the industry today, making UK tourism uncompetitive with most European competitor countries."

Research commissioned by Bourne Leisure and Merlin Entertainments and undertaken by Deloitte will be used to help lobby for a reduction in VAT on hotel accommodation.



The BHA study said that VAT on hospitality firms was a "pressing issue"

Meanwhile, the BHA will also look into the potential effect of a reduction in VAT on the restaurants and eating out sector.

Elsewhere in the report, the BHA has called for support for the tourism industry through the Regional Growth Fund after VisitEngland's bid for £29m was rejected.

Travelodge to launch new Metro concept

PETE HAYMAN

Travelodge is to develop properties offering 20-40 rooms under its new Metro concept, which will help accelerate its growth plans.

The Metro concept will see smaller hotels built in prestigious locations, such as the City

of London, inner London Boroughs and cities including Oxford and Bath.

Popular destinations such as Cornwall and the Lake District will also be targeted, which will enable Travelodge to open sites where larger opportunities are not available.

£15m Hotel Indigo Liverpool unveiled

PETE HAYMAN

Sanguine Hospitality has opened the new £15m Hotel Indigo Liverpool, a 151-room boutique property located on the city's Chapel Street.

The new hotel also boasts a Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar and Grill and is designed to reflect the area in which it is situated and the city's cotton trade heritage.

Sanguine Hospitality owns and operates the new property under the Hotel Indigo brand, which is the boutique division of InterContinental Hotels Group.

General manager David Hughes said: "The design of Hotel Indigo Liverpool is locally inspired which will bring a vibrant feel to the heart of the commercial district and to the city.



The 151-bedroom Hotel Indigo Liverpool opened its doors on 6 June

For tourists, it draws on Liverpool's rich heritage of cotton trading, to develop interesting themes and to offer guests something much more than simply a place to sleep."



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Irish minister unveils new cultural events guide

PETE HAYMAN

Culturefox, a guide to Irish cultural events available as a mobile phone application or as an online resource, has been launched by arts minister, Jimmy Deenihan.

The platform forms part of the government's bid to boost the creative sector and attract more visitors to Ireland by providing a one-stop-shop to arts events.

It has been developed by Arts Council Ireland with Fáilte Ireland, with the app version using location-aware technology to provide an instant map of local events.



RISE is one of the country's largest public works

New Belfast public artwork nears completion

PETE HAYMAN

One of the largest public artworks commissioned in Northern Ireland – the 37.5m (123ft)-tall RISE – is nearing completion above Belfast's Broadway roundabout.

The work has been produced by Nottingham-based artist Wolfgang Buttress and features two globes – one inside the other – to symbolise the rising of the sun.

Rasharkin-based M Hasson and Sons has manufactured the 65,000 individual parts that comprise the globes, with construction work to be completed later this month.

New £5m art attraction unveiled in Berwick

PETE HAYMAN

A new art gallery and youth hostel has officially opened in Berwick-upon-Tweed, following a £5m refurbishment of the Grade II-listed Dewar's Lane Granary.

In addition to the exhibition space and 55-bed hostel, the six-storey property also includes a modern bistro and an outdoor courtyard seating area.

The Berwick Preservation Trust (BPT) led the restoration, with One North East and the government's now-defunct Sea Change programme providing funding.

Gallery hosts government works

PETE HAYMAN

London's Whitechapel Gallery has unveiled the first of five planned public displays that are to showcase some of the 13,500 works contained in the government's collections.

Government Art Collection: At Work is to run until 4 September at the attraction and comprises works selected by seven public, political and diplomatic figures.

Artist Cornelia Parker (16 September-4 December) and historian Simon Schama (16 December-26 February) will curate their own displays, while the fourth display – 9 March-5 June 2012 – will see 10 Downing Street staff choose their favourite works. A Cultural Olympiad event will then take place from 21 June-2 September.

Culture minister Ed Vaizey said: "It is terrific to be one of the first people to choose works



East London's Whitechapel Gallery is hosting the five public exhibitions

for the exhibition. The collection does a tremendous job promoting British art."

As well as Vaizey, British High Commissioner to South Africa Lord Boateng; Prime Minister's wife Samantha Cameron; and deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg are also among those to select works for the initial display.

Conrad Lynch to join Wales Millennium Centre

PETE HAYMAN

Cardiff's Wales Millennium Centre (WMC) has named Shakespeare's Globe executive producer Conrad Lynch as its artistic director.

Prior to his role with the Globe, Lynch worked for a number of arts organisations.

WMC chief executive Mark Taylor said: "We need to cement our reputation as a catalyst in the performing arts. To do so, we need to build credibility as a commissioner and producer of new work. To attract someone of Conrad's reputation will enable us to achieve this."

Cambridge theatre plans £12m expansion

PETE HAYMAN

Cambridge Arts Theatre has unveiled plans for Act Two – a £12m construction project that is to include a new foyer and performance spaces in a bid to safeguard its future.

Proposals would bring about a series of improvements to the venue's front-of-house areas, with the potential for creating additional bar and catering income streams.

A 200-seat studio theatre on the fourth floor has also been proposed, which would help nurture smaller scale arts events and allow the theatre to

produce its own work. The Peas Hill Foyer will be extended into two adjoining units.

Act Two designs have been drawn up by Mark Foley of Burrell Foley Fischer LLP



The theatre's Peas Hill Foyer will extend into two adjoining properties

with the aim of building on the legacy of John Maynard Keynes' founding vision for Cambridge Arts Theatre, which first opened in 1936 and was revamped in the early 1990s.

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A Vue multiplex cinema forms part of the project

McLaren to build £19m Somerset development

TOM WALKER

Construction group McLaren has been appointed to deliver a £19m leisure and retail element in Weston-super-Mare.

The leisure aspect will form part of a £35m development in the heart of the town centre, with work scheduled to begin on 4 July and is for completion in June 2012.

Facilities will include a 116-bedroom Premier Inn hotel; an eight-screen multiplex cinema operated by Vue Cinemas; a 20-lane indoor bowling centre operated by First Bowl; and an Anytime Fitness Club.

Review of Telford leisure options launched by Hark

PETE HAYMAN

Hark Group has announced that it is to undertake a strategic review of the retail and leisure options currently available in the centre of Telford, Shropshire.

It follows a series of developments that have entrenched Hark's bid to ensure a strong future for Telford town centre.

Discussions with cinema operators over a proposed multi-screen venue and restaurant complex are to be "accelerated" by Hark, which has also unveiled plans to enhance the town's retail offer.

Queensbury poised to lead Newport mixed-use project

PETE HAYMAN

Queensberry has been named as Newport City Council's (NCC) preferred bidder to lead a multi-million pound mixed-use scheme for the South Wales city.

Talks are already underway between the group and the local authority to finalise the development agreement for the scheme, which is due to be signed in autumn.

NCC deputy leader Ed Townsend said: "I am optimistic that the council has found a partner that can make the vision of a revitalised city centre a reality."

£50m LeisureDome proposals submitted

PETE HAYMAN

Plans for a major new £50m regional leisure complex in Weston-super-Mare – housing the UK's largest indoor real snow ski slope – have been submitted to North Somerset Council.

LeisureDome is set to form part of St Modwen's Locking Parklands development and will boast an indoor climbing centre; a health club; and a children's activity zone.

GVA has submitted plans on behalf of LeisureDome (UK), with a host of other extreme sport and leisure activities to be included into the new complex, which will be located on the eastern boundary of Locking Parklands and offer more than 33,000sq m (355,000sq ft) of floorspace.



LeisureDome will include the UK's largest indoor real snow ski facility

LeisureDome (UK) director Clive Hamilton-Davies said: "We have worked closely with North Somerset Council and we are delighted to be able to formally submit our plans."

£600m plans for Liverpool university

PETE HAYMAN

The University of Liverpool (UL) has announced plans to create new sports facilities as part of a wider £600m investment to benefit research and improve student experience.

A total of £4m has been earmarked for a redevelopment of the university's sports provision, with a new facility to be created as part of a new self-contained student village at Mossley Hill.

The redevelopment of student accommodation will see UL invest £250m, with work already underway on a £44m revamp of its city centre campus to feature a 250-seat restaurant.

Meanwhile, funding will also be directed towards a new scientific research facility, teaching laboratories and other subjects.

UL director of facilities management Steve Dickson said: "We're making these investments



New sports facilities and student accommodation have been proposed

to support our Strategic Plan with particular emphasis on enhancing the student experience and research excellence.

"We are intending to redevelop our existing accommodation on-campus and invest in new developments to offer the accommodation students want from a world-leading university."

Attwood reopens NI listed building grant scheme

PETE HAYMAN

Northern Ireland environment minister Alex Attwood has lifted the temporary suspension of the historic buildings grant-aid scheme.

The scheme was halted in December due to the high demand for grant-aid but grants

worth £50,000 are now available to preserve some of the country's oldest properties.

Attwood said: "This will be a boost, not just for our built heritage and owners of properties, but also for our construction industry, creating and sustaining jobs."

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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.



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SENTINEL LEISURE TRUST

Tender for Beauty Treatment Spa concession within the newly refurbished Waterlane Leisure Centre

Sentinel Leisure Trust is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced beauty and treatment spa operator for its dedicated Beauty Treatment Spa within Waterlane Leisure Centre, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Waterlane Leisure Centre is currently being redeveloped, to include a brand new Treatment Spa, and is due to open in December 2011.

The development represents a £7.5m investment to create an inclusive, high quality leisure centre in the heart of Lowestoft.

The Treatment Spa has been designed as a large, dedicated suite of high quality rooms to include:

- A large welcome, nail bar and up-sell area, staff store and access to treatment rooms, relaxation area and independent unisex toilets.
- Six treatment rooms comprising one double room with shower and 3 single rooms with shower and 2 dry rooms.
- A large alternative treatment room with services provided, to be developed by the successful bidder.

Customers of the Treatment Spa will also benefit from the supporting leisure centre facilities including good quality dry changing facilities, a large thermal suite, restaurant, soft play centre, sports hall and swimming pools to be operated by Sentinel Leisure Trust. The leisure centre is expected to attract approximately 2000 visitors per day.

Descriptive Documents will be sent out immediately following receipt of expression of interest and a Bidders Meeting and Tour of the site is planned for Thursday 14th July 2011 for those expressing an interest.

Interested parties should register their interest, quoting tender reference TSWL2011, no later than 12 noon on 12th July 2011 to:

**Victoria Beck, Chief Executive, Sentinel Leisure Trust,
Waterlane Leisure Centre, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 2NH**

Or email victoria.beck@sentinelleisuretrust.co.uk

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Problems in the War on Regulation



KURT JANSON
is policy director of
Tourism Alliance

The government has introduced a major initiative to free-up industry so that it can provide economic growth by reducing legislation. We've just finished a consultation on regulatory barriers under the auspices of the Cabinet Office's Red Tape Challenge; Alan Parker has been appointed as a tourism regulation tsar; and a regulation taskforce will analyse the results of the Red Tape Challenge and report with recommendations on regulations for the government to repeal or amend by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, small business minister Mark Prisk is holding talks with firms to explain that he is to establish a independent body to review the Impact Assessments that departments are required to produce when introducing new legislation. You can see that this is the most serious attempt to reduce regulatory burden for many years.

However, there's a disconnect between politicians and departmental officials as the approach is at odds with the psychology of many public servants. Raised in an environment that dictates that regulation is the cure for all ills and that the worst thing that one can do is to leave one's minister exposed on an issue, it is proving rather harder to get departments to adopt this anti-regulation fever.

Here are two examples: we're currently lobbying to prevent the requirement for all self-catering properties to gain Energy Performance Certificates and to show them to customers before they book. The Department for Communities and Local Government admits that even if customers were discriminatory in their choice, the net saving would be only £60 – over 30 years.

Secondly, the Government Equality Office (GEO) is pursuing legislation to prevent businesses (other than tour operators) marketing to particular age groups. This despite the only evidence in the GEO consultation showing there is, in fact, a benefit to customers in group-specific marketing.

While politicians are marching forward flying the deregulation banner, it seems the troops are heading in another direction.

TOURISM

Ireland reports inbound growth

PETE HAYMAN

Tourism agency Fáilte Ireland has welcomed the news that inbound visitor numbers to the country increased by nearly 9 per cent during the first quarter of the year.

The Central Statistics Office published quarterly figures which found that nearly 1.2 million people travelled to Ireland – compared with less than 1.1 million in Q1 2010.

It is the first increase in inbound numbers since July 2008, although there was a 12 per cent drop in the number of Irish residents travelling abroad.

Fáilte Ireland chief executive officer Shaun Quinn said: "While we expected an upturn this year, these figures are very welcome news and exceed all industry expectations."

"Following fast on the heels of the visits by the Queen and President Obama, today's news



It is hoped President Obama's visit will provide a boost to Irish tourism

will give the tourism sector a great boost as it heads into the high season."

Meanwhile, Ireland's tourism minister Leo Varadkar has revealed that the visits of both Queen Elizabeth II and US President Barack Obama had generated €300m (£266.7m) worth of publicity for the country.

North West to pilot food tourism scheme

PETE HAYMAN

A new pilot scheme has launched in North West England to help establish the region as a key food tourism destination.

North West Tastes ACE is the first in the planned roll-out of the concept across the UK

and has been unveiled through the Northwest Food Tourism Executive Group.

The fast track project brings together local, regional and national award schemes as part of an online resource and aims to allow businesses to put themselves forward for recognition.

Double holiday 'kick-starts' 2011 season

PETE HAYMAN

New VisitEngland research has found that more than a quarter of tourism businesses welcomed the 'positive effect' of April's Royal Wedding and double bank holiday.

According to the agency's *Business Confidence Monitor*, the majority of operators questioned said that they had attracted the same or an increased number of visitors during the Easter period.

The research has also found that 86 per cent of businesses are confident about the remainder of spring and the summer period, with 39 per cent receiving more forward bookings.

VisitEngland chief executive James Berresford said: "With the London 2012



April's Royal Wedding was welcomed by tourism businesses in the UK

Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Diamond Jubilee, and the Cultural Olympiad around the corner, we are entering into a very exciting time for tourism in this country."

Trust signs up with Your PT for services

TOM WALKER

Tone Leisure has entered into a new partnership with personal training management company Your PT.

The deal will see Your PT provide personal trainers at five of Tone's health clubs across Devon and Somerset.

The trainers will offer free advice and inductions but will also be on hand to provide personal and group training sessions. All of Tone's own fitness staff will remain in place to assist members and the additional sessions with Your PT staff will not be included in the usual membership.

Joel Chapman, Tone's commercial director, said: "Our own staff will still be walking the gym floors, helping people with their workouts and working with them to achieve their



goals, all of which continues to be included in our membership fee.

"But those who want the highly tailored, structured and dedicated approach that comes with having a personal trainer no longer need to look to third parties outside the centre."

'Huge demand' for MGS internships

PETE HAYMAN

Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) has announced that it expects the number of applicants for 20 internship places at museums across the country to reach four-figures.

The internship programme is designed to offer graduates the opportunity to learn and work at one of 20 museums and galleries throughout Scotland and has reported "huge demand".

According to MGS, 10,000 application packs have been downloaded from its website and a total of 900 email submissions were received on the 3 June deadline alone.

MGS chief executive officer Joanne Orr said: "The fact that our interns receive a £15,000 bursary and that preference is being given to people from lower socio-economic backgrounds will have been attractive factors."



The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum is one site offering an internship

The internship programme was created with the help of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Skills for the Future scheme.

Positions available include collections trainee at City of Edinburgh Council Museums and Galleries and learning intern at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum.

EST scheme to help young people into work

PETE HAYMAN

Ethical Skills and Training (EST) has launched a new nationwide project designed to help care leavers and young people find employment.

Project Rough Seas will benefit 60 disadvantaged young people and help with their

development, with challenges including climbing Snowdon and sailing in the North Sea.

EST has joined forces with charity Catch 22 and the British Schools Exploring Society and will assess and evaluate participants throughout the four-month process.

Work with employers the SAFE way



STEPHEN STUDD
is chief executive officer at SkillsActive

With the changes taking place at economic and political levels, it is crucial that we continue to represent our employer's voice and articulate the sector's needs to government, stakeholders and other key funding and decision makers.

With this in mind, SkillsActive continues to derive its legitimacy as the sector's lead organisation for skills development and professionalising the workforce from our direct partnerships with employers. One of our key mechanisms for ensuring the best leadership is through the strategic Sport and Fitness Employer Group (SAFE). In line with other reforms within SkillsActive, and working with the FIA, our SAFE Group recently underwent a review, with new members recruited from across the industry. Local authorities, private chains, independents, trusts and national governing bodies are all represented.

Being our key strategic employer group, its work is driven by the changing social, political and economic environment. The group's primary role is to ensure sector related qualifications are fit for purpose; oversee the development of sector national occupational standards; influence and inform public sector funding policy and practice; support the continuing development of REPs; and facilitate effective partnerships across the sector.

Our challenge for SAFE is to set the strategic direction of the work being done in these areas in times of government and consumer austerity. While the sport and fitness sector has managed to avoid the slump experienced in other sectors, we all know it is not immune from difficult choices.

It is through groups like SAFE that we can work with employers to deliver a committed, professional workforce that is better trained and delivering an excellent service that improves business performance. And crucially, one that sustains levels of consumer participation in physical activity.

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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. The Sport Market Forecasts are produced in conjunction with Sport England.

**To find out more please visit
www.shu.ac.uk/ad/sportandleisure**

Or contact Susie Shaw
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COUNTRY CLUB GROUP

Position: General Manager
Location: Home counties
Remuneration: £35k to £55k per annum + 20% of annual salary bonus

Who Are the Country Club Group?

The Country Club Group are a privately owned group of golf & country clubs. We specialise in taking golf-only facilities and transforming them into premium-end, multi-faceted, country clubs by adding purpose-built gyms, fitness studios, swimming pools, spa facilities and food & beverage outlets.

The future is full of opportunity to grow and expand. As such, we're inviting applicants for the positions of General Manager at properties we anticipate acquiring in the near future.

What Kind of Person Would Succeed?

The General Manager is the most important person in all our clubs. They are the person who set the standards, who lead from the front, who drive the business forward.

- To succeed, the General Manager must show a high level of **entrepreneurial flair** – the ability to think outside of the box and take calculated risks to improve profitability.
- As with any people-based business, the General Manager needs a **big personality** – comfortable and confident in face-to-face communication with customers and staff alike.
- A high level of **attention-to-detail** is also required.
- Someone who can divorce themselves from the day-to-day operations and look through fresh eyes to identify and then improve the small things that make such a big difference to the customer experience.
- Our business is **membership-driven** – through both **sales and retention**. The General Manager must take a pro-active involvement in both these areas to ensure continued growth in the subscription line.

How Do I Apply?

Applications are invited by submission of a full Curriculum Vitae to recruitment@ccgclubs.com

All applications will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

THE UNIVERSITY of York

DIRECTORATE OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Head of Sport Services

You will provide leadership for sport and physical activity at the University and be committed to realising the potential for sport to enhance the lives of our students, staff and the wider community.

You will have senior management experience within a complex environment managing a range of sporting facilities and related programmes. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate success in motivating staff and promoting a customer service culture, driving business growth and managing large budgets.

Educated to degree level, you will possess strong organisational and problem solving skills. As an excellent communicator, you will work collaboratively and build successful partnerships internally and externally in order to achieve organisational and commercial objectives.

Salary will be within the range £45,336 - £52,556 per annum, plus attractive benefits package.

Informal enquiries to Jon Greenwood, Director of Commercial Services, email jon.greenwood@york.ac.uk or tel: 07786 660211.

For further information and to apply on-line, please visit our website: <http://www.york.ac.uk/jobs/> Alternatively contact HR Services on 01904 324835 quoting reference number UoY01297.

Closing date: 1 July 2011.

The University of York is committed to promoting equality and diversity.



www.york.ac.uk

SP

Sportspark

UEA

University of East Anglia

Wanted - Two innovative and visionary Gymnastics Coaches • Ref: SP186

£16,412 to £17,358 per annum
 plus 5% attendance bonus* (Fixed-term 2 years)

Sportspark at UEA Norwich is one of the largest community sports facilities in the UK attracting 1.4 million visits a year.

Our latest development is **SPring** - a Gymnastics Centre due for completion in September 2011. This is an exciting new concept in Gymnastics Centres where the emphasis will be on recreational gymnastics and trampolining for all ages, rather than performance gymnastics.

We are looking for two visionary gymnastics coaches to help us create and deliver an exciting and innovative programme. You will have a minimum of a Level 2 Coaching qualification and lots of enthusiasm for involving people in the sport. We will provide you with a unique opportunity to shape recreational gymnastics in a brand new centre.

This appointment is subject to a criminal record check from the CRB.

Closing date: 12 noon on 21 June 2011.

Further particulars and an application form are available on our website: www.uea.ac.uk/hr/jobs/ or Tel. 01603 593493.

* subject to full attendance.



For more details on the following jobs
visit www.leisureopportunities.co.uk
or to advertise call +44 (0)1462 431385



- Student Activities Co-ordinator (Give Sport A Go),
University of Salford Students' Union, Salford, UK
- Health and Beauty Manager, *Esporta, Chiswick, London, UK*
- Health and Beauty Manager, *Esporta, Northwood, London, UK*
- Recreation Assistant (Lifeguard), *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Victoria, Westminster, London, UK*
- Fitness Coach, *Valence School, Westerham, Kent, UK*
- Personal Trainers wanted, *Pure Gym Limited, Southampton, UK*
- Centre Manager, *Rossendale Leisure Trust, Rossendale, Lancashire, UK*
- NVQ Guidance Assessor, *YMCAfit, London, UK*
- Sales Advisor, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, London, UK*
- Full Time Personal Trainer/ Sports Therapist,
Field of Fitness, Guildford, Surrey, UK
- General Manager, *Fusion, London*
- Reception Manager (OPERATIONS), *Lomax, London, UK*
- Recreation Supervisor, *Tone Leisure, Dartmouth, UK*
- Sports Coach, *Sir John Heron Primary School, London, UK*
- Two innovative and visionary Gymnastics Coaches,
University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK
- Spa Membership Sales Advisors, *Shire Hotels Ltd, Knutsford, Manchester, UK*
- Personal Trainers Wanted, *Pure Gym Limited, Glasgow, Birmingham, Belfast, Sheffield, Aberdeen, UK*
- Assistant Director Leisure, *Ealing Council, Ealing, London, UK*
- Fitness Instructor, *Horizones Health & Fitness Club, Woking, UK*
- Customer Sales Advisor/ Fitness Advisor, *Jubilee Hall Trust, Westminster, UK*
- Gym Manager (General Manager), *The Gym Group, Glasgow, UK*
- Lifeguard, *Virgin Active, Chigwell, UK*
- Catering Manager, *Sentinel Leisure Trust, Lowestoft, Suffolk, UK*
- Spa Treatment Manager, *Shire Hotels Ltd, Penrith, Cumbria, UK*
- Recreation Assistant, *Fusion, Tunbridge Wells - Kent, UK*
- Trainer/Presenter, *Freddy Fit, Nationwide, UK, UK*
- Sports Activator - Facilities Management, *Royal Holloway University, London, UK*
- Operations Service Manager, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, London, City of Westminster, UK*
- Venue Manager, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Hackney, UK*
- Leisure Assistants x2 (39hpw), *Nexus Community, Amersham, UK*
- Community Development Officer - Part Time,
Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Epsom and Ewell, UK
- Recreation Assistant, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, London - Kensington, Chelsea, Banstead, UK*
- Swimming Teacher, *Virgin Active, Bolton, UK*
- Lifeguard, *Virgin Active, Merton Abbey, UK*
- Membership Sales Co-ordinator x 2 posts, *Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust, Doncaster, UK*
- Spa Therapist, *Virgin Active, Solihull, UK*
- Spa Therapist, *Virgin Active, Derby, UK*
- Supervisor (Retail), *Discover Children's Story Centre, London, UK*
- General Manager/Curator, *Blue Reef Leisure Company, Hastings, UK*
- Campsite Manager, *National Trust, Ambleside, Cumbria, UK*
- Project Manager, *EZ-Runner Systems Ltd, Copthorne, West Sussex, UK*
- Personal Trainers, *The Gym Group, Nottingham, UK*
- Attention Personal Trainers, *Club Training, Nationwide Opportunities*
- Youth Sport Manager, *Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK*
- Senior Spa Receptionist, *One Spa, City Centre Edinburgh*
- Spa Membership Sales Advisors, *Shire Hotels Ltd, Kettering, Northamptonshire, UK*
- Beauty Therapists, *Sopwell House, St Albans, UK*
- Full and Part Time Therapists, *Nirvana Spa, Wokingham, UK*
- Full Time and Part Time Retail Specialists, *Nirvana Spa, Wokingham, UK*
- Wellness Director, *Kamalaya Koh Samui, Koh Samui, Thailand*
- Spa Manager, *Homewood Park, Bath, UK*
- Spa Manager, *Virgin Active, Chelmsford, UK*
- Spa Therapist, *Virgin Active, Thundersley, Sheffield, Chelmsford, UK*
- Spa Receptionist, *Virgin Active, Chelmsford, UK*
- Weekend Beauty Therapist, *Center Parcs, Penrith, Cumbria, UK*
- Leisure Assistant (Key holder) (33hpw), *Nexus Community, High Wycombe, UK*
- Sales Managers and Personal Trainers, *Soho Gyms., London, UK*
- Level 2 Swimming Teacher, *Tone Leisure, Ivybridge, Devon, UK*
- Lifeguard, *Virgin Active, Cricklewood, UK*
- Swimming Teacher, *Virgin Active, Cricklewood, UK*
- Duty Manager, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, North West London, UK*
- Community Development Officer, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, SE London, UK*
- Swimming Teacher, *Virgin Active, Chigwell, UK*
- Receptionist, *Tone Leisure, Taunton, UK*
- Leisure Attendant (Dry Site), *Tone Leisure, Taunton, UK*
- Freelance Personal Trainer, *Reach Fitness, Cheltenham, UK*
- Centre Manager, *The Manor School, Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, UK*
- Lifeguard, *Virgin Active, Leeds - Life, UK*
- Lifeguard, *Virgin Active, Northampton, UK*
- Swimming Instructor, *Virgin Active, Fulham, UK*
- Swimming Teacher, *Virgin Active, Wimbledon, UK*
- Experienced exercise professionals required, *Ten Pilates, Central London, UK*
- General Manager, *Country Club Group, Home counties, UK*
- Trainee Tutor, *The Training Room, Nationwide, UK*
- Lead Fitness Course Tutors and Assessors, *The Training Room, Nationwide, UK*
- Part-time Sales Consultant, *Finesse Leisure Partnership, Hatfield, UK*
- Recreation Assistant, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Epsom / Ealing, UK*
- Sales Team Manager, *The Leisure Media Co Ltd, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, UK*
- Head of Sales & Commercial, *Fusion, London, UK*
- Lifeguard, *Virgin Active, Bolton, UK*
- Tennis Development Officer, *Swansea Tennis Centre, Swansea, UK*

Student Activities Co-ordinator (Give Sport A Go)

c. £20,000 p.a.
3 year fixed term position



The University of Salford Students' Union are looking to recruit a Student Activities Co-ordinator to run our new 'Give Sport A Go' project funded by a Sport England Active Universities grant. The project focuses on giving our students the opportunity to get back into sport at University, and equips them with all the skills and facilities to be able to do so. This post is a funded post for a fixed term of three years to July 2014.

If this post sounds like the kind of challenge for you, application packs and further details are available from our website at www.salfordstudents.com/jobs

For an informal conversation about the post or the project, please telephone Tracey Robert, Student Activities Manager on 0161 351 5403.

CLOSING DATE: 9am MONDAY, 27 JUNE 2011
INTERVIEWS TO BE HELD ON: WEDNESDAY, 13 JULY 2011

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A highly-motivated, dynamic and proactive person, you will also have relevant experience of managing a busy wet & dry leisure centre.

This post is subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check

Interested? Download a pack at www.rltrust.co.uk, telephone 01706 242311 or email anne.hickinbottom@rltrust.co.uk for an application pack. Please note that CV's are not accepted. Closing date: 7 July 2011

FITNESS COACH FULL TIME



37 hours per week, flexible hours to include some weekend work. Initially one year fixed term contract.

Valence School requires a Fitness Coach with a minimum Level 3 REPs able to devise and deliver individual fitness plans for young disabled students and to run a range of additional activities.

£16,793 to 20,262 plus final salary pension.

Valence School is a Kent County Council all age residential and day school for students with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties.

Valence School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of every student. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced CRB Check.

For further information and an application form, please contact the HR Department. Closing date for applications 24 June 2011.

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Playboy Club makes London return

PETE HAYMAN

A gala event has helped mark the official opening of a new Playboy Club on Old Park Lane, Mayfair – 35 years after Hugh Hefner's iconic brand first made its London debut.

London-based Jestic + Whiles are behind the design of the new 17,000sq ft (1,579sq m) Playboy-branded venue, which has been developed by London Clubs International and Playboy Enterprises.

Facilities at Playboy Club London include a Gentlemen's Tonic salon; high-limit salon privé gaming rooms; and a restaurant; a lounge; and a members' club.

Hefner said: "People still remember with great fondness the sophistication and romance that the original London club offered when it



Playboy founder Hugh Hefner (centre) attended the club's gala launch

opened in 1966. There is a retro-chic quality about Playboy Club London and its Bunnies that will give today's guest an experience they may have missed first time around."

Cardiff's Grosvenor Casino to undergo £1.6m revamp

TOM WALKER

Grosvenor Casino at Cardiff's Red Dragon Centre will be relaunched as G Casino Cardiff later this year following a £1.6m revamp.

Work on the 20,000sq ft (1,858sq m) casino will include the addition of a 100-seat poker

room, the updating of gaming equipment and the creation of a new dining area.

Following the completion of the extensive overhaul of the casino, facilities will include 13 gaming tables, 28 electronic gaming terminals and 20 £4,000 jackpot slot machines.

Betfred acquires Tote for £265m

PETE HAYMAN

UK-based Betfred has won the race to acquire the Horserace Totalisator Board (Tote), after the government agreed to sell the state-owned bookmaker for £265m.

It is thought that the horse racing sector will benefit from payments of more than £155m as part of the deal, which will also enable the business to develop as part of a larger group.

Included in the specific terms of the agreement with the government is a commitment by Betfred to pay £265m in order to acquire the business, with an initial payment of £150m.

Deferred amounts – including accrued interest – of £115m will then be paid, with more than £90m retained by the taxpayer as a 50 per cent share of the net proceeds of the deal.

Betfred will also receive an exclusive seven-year licence to operate pool betting operations



Racing is to benefit to the tune of more than £155m

at all UK racing venues, while a Tote Racing Development Board is to be established.

Gambling and racing minister John Penrose, said: "[The government] pledged last year to end years of dithering and resolve the future of the Tote, and we have done just that."

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