

British Music Experience aims to hit the right notes

By **Pete Hayman**

A new permanent, interactive exhibition designed to celebrate Britain's rock and pop music heritage has opened at The O2 in Greenwich, London.

Officially unveiled by London mayor Boris Johnson, the British Music Experience (BME), opened on 9 March after four years in development.

The attraction occupies a 22,000sq ft (2,044sq m) space on the top floor of the The O2's exhibition space, known as The O2 bubble and offers visitors the chance to view more than 500 pieces of British music memorabilia, including Noel Gallagher's Epiphone Union



A fully-integrated studio allows BME visitors to become rockstars

Jack guitar, Roger Daltrey's Woodstock outfit and David Bowie's Ziggy Stardust costume.

In addition, visitors can download music directly from

the BME archive, while the fully-integrated Gibson Interactive Studio enables people to play various Gibson guitars, Baldwin pianos and

Slingerland drums.

The new attraction uses radio-frequency identification (RFID) that enables visitors to use a 'smarticket' to access interactive content, as well as to register further interest in specific features.

An independent board of trustees, chaired by promoter Harvey Goldsmith, manages the BME, which is sponsored by Gibson Guitars, Sennheiser, Getty Images, BBC Worldwide and PRS for Music.

Paul Lilley has been appointed as the BME's curator, while executive curator Bob Santelli has previously worked on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, US.

Archial unveils designs for Plymouth's Life Centre

£46.5m venue to incorporate an extensive range of leisure and sports facilities

By **Helen Patenall**

Archial – formerly SMC Charter Architects – has unveiled its designs for the new £46.5m Life Centre in Plymouth, Devon.

A full planning application has been submitted to the city council for the massive leisure scheme, which will be located in the city's main parkland.

It will boast a 10-lane, 50m pool with moveable floors as well as a leisure pool with a beach-style entry, a bubble pool and flume rides.



The centre will house a 50m pool and a 150-station gym

A 15m all-weather climbing facility with an aerial assault course will be built on the exterior of the building.

Additional amenities will include an eight-lane indoor bowling arena and a 12-court multi-use sports hall for badminton, five-a-side football, basketball, netball and trampolining.

The health and fitness suite will house 150 workstations, a sauna and a steamroom, as well as a youth gym.

Multi-purpose areas will also be created, providing space for dance and martial arts, a crèche and soft play activities, complemented by a café open to all park visitors.

FitPro launches free courses

Training provider FitPro has launched a raft of free courses in an effort to train a new generation of instructors and to tackle growing levels of childhood obesity.

The company is offering fully-funded courses that lead to a CYQ Level 2 in Instructing Health-Related Fitness for Children.

FitPro aims to create more than 500 coaches devoted to improving children's health over the next three years.

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NEWS FEATURE

Being active, being healthy

The Department of Health (DH) has launched a plan to get couch potatoes off their sofas. Called Be Active, Be Healthy, the scheme aims to increase the amount of "everyday exercise" people take part in. We look at how the initiative differs from other government plans to tackle obesity and ask industry experts for their opinion on the scheme.

By launching Be Active, Be Healthy, the government is looking to establish a new framework for the delivery of physical activity alongside sport for the period leading up to 2012. Programmes outlined in the plan are designed to contribute to the government's target of getting two million more people active by 2012 – the magical year that now seems to be incorporated in every single government initiative. What makes this scheme slightly different, however, is that it aims to get people involved in everyday activities such as walking, and benefit from the increasing popularity of swimming and dancing.

According to government figures, more than 27 million adults in England are not getting enough exercise and 14 million do not complete 30 minutes of exercise a week – contributing to 9,000 obesity-related premature deaths each year.

Describing the new initiative, public health minister Dawn Primarolo said: "Physical activity is the key to stopping this country becoming the obesity capital of the world – and it makes us feel better. People of all ages can gain from doing more exercise, but not enough of us do the magic 30 minutes, five days a week.

"We have to remove the 'no, you can't' messages across communities to create a 'yes, you can' culture – with more support, more encouragement and more opportunities across communities to get people active."

Key measures of the strategy include partnerships with both private and voluntary organisations to get people active, including: a new Learn to Swim programme for adults as part of the government's Free Swimming scheme; a working group to explore how to harness the Strictly Come Dancing fever that has swept the nation; a total of 2,012 Active Challenge walking routes across England; and the expansion of the Walking the Way to Health scheme.

Other measures include the formation of a new Physical Activity Alliance – which will pool the resources of leisure centres and grassroots organisations alike to encourage physical activity – and the contribution of £4m for County Sports Partnerships to help bring together councils, PCTs and other grassroots providers. The newly formed



"The government now needs to make this plan happen, it needs to put in the energy to make this a reality."

alliance has been tasked with promoting physical activities that are fun, sociable and accessible to people of all abilities. It will also seek to ensure that suitable levels of investment are made.

Business in Sport and Leisure (BISL) welcomed the news. Brigid Simmonds, chief executive of BISL and also a member of the interim steering group for the aforementioned Physical Activity Alliance, said: "For the first time ever, the DH is putting real resource into physical activity and is working with the DCMS and Sport England on shared targets to get the nation active.

"It is also the beginnings of a genuine partnership, not only across government but also – through the Physical Activity Alliance – with the active leisure sector."

The British Heart Foundation (BHF), however, emphasised that the scheme must not just become another great idea that never materialises. Mubeen Bhutta, policy manager at BHF, said: "We welcome this new strategy, but the government now needs to make this plan happen. Just as it is encouraging people to be more active, it needs to put in the same level of energy to make this a reality. Local authorities, PCTs and the other frontline organisations involved in delivering this programme must be given the resources and support they will need to carry it out."

London hotels set for tough times ahead

PwC report warns of record slide in RevPAR in the wake of falling occupancy levels

By Pete Hayman

The continuing economic problems could cause a record 25.6 per cent decrease in RevPAR for London's hotels as occupancy levels and room rates continue to decrease, according to a new PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) report.

The professional services firm has revealed that occupancy in the capital is set to fall to 69 per cent, the lowest it has been since 1992, while room rates have also decreased to £100.31 – levels last seen in 2005.

According to the PwC report, room rates and RevPAR will continue to worsen over the course of the year, with the second quarter set to show a marked downturn. PwC's baseline forecast for the fall in RevPAR is 18.9 per cent.



London's hotels are set to record yet more empty rooms this year

Robert Milburn, hospitality and leisure leader at PwC, said: "Given that hotels normally lag the cycle by two quarters, we are likely to be on the cusp of the worst few months of the year for hotels. London, in particular, is likely to suffer."

Meanwhile, a fall in the number of visitors to the UK is likely to affect occupancy levels across the country as a whole. There was a 2 per cent decrease in the number of overseas visitors during 2008, while inbound visitors fell by 12 per cent in the fourth quarter.

VisitBritain to launch new £6.5m campaign

By Caroline Wilkinson

VisitBritain is launching a new £6.5m campaign that aims to attract more tourists who are seeking to capitalise on the weakened pound.

According to the tourist agency, the current state of sterling could result in up to five million more domestic holidays, as well as an increase in the number of international visitors coming to the UK.

Consequently, VisitBritain will launch a new domestic and foreign campaign, which aims to highlight deals from



The scheme aims to prepare for the increase in domestic tourism

the industry and free access to national museums and galleries.

Christopher Rodrigues, VisitBritain's executive chair, said: "This is a time to talk

about the importance of our industry – an industry supporting 2.7 million jobs, 200,000 SMEs [Small and Medium Enterprises] and worth £114bn.

"Despite current economic woes, tourism is one of the few industries that could show growth with a real opportunity to grow to a £133bn industry by 2018."

The three-year strategy was informed by the British Tourism Framework Review, commissioned by the DCMS, which examined the infrastructure surrounding the visitor economy.

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IN BRIEF

Cwmbran leisure centre set to close?

► Fairwater Leisure Centre in Cwmbran, Wales, may close as part of a cost-cutting venture by Torfaen County Borough Council. The council's regeneration overview and scrutiny committee has proposed making cutbacks in the county's leisure provision by increasing fees, reducing staffing levels and closing the catering service at Fairwater. An external review of operations at the leisure facility will also be carried out by May, which could result in the closure of Fairwater.

Council to keep leisure facilities open

► Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) has revealed new proposals to keep all of its leisure facilities open for at least a year while it carries out a full review of leisure provision within the area. Seven options for the future of the borough's leisure facilities were put forward by the council after Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT), which operates venues on behalf of RBC, asked for a 40 per cent increase in grant funding. The council will be asked to approve measures including the provision of £513,000 funding for RLT, as well as a transition fund worth more than £220,000.

Public centre closure in Worcestershire

► A Worcestershire leisure centre is to close later this month as part of a council's cost-cutting scheme, after making an annual loss of more than £100,000 for the past three years. Bromsgrove District Council is to withdraw funding for Haybridge Sports Centre in Hagley on 31 March. The council's executive director, Phil Street, told *Stourbridge News*: "We have to make difficult decisions because our budget is relatively limited. We have to use resources wisely."

Work starts on new Nottingham site

£6.44m Forest Fields leisure centre part of council bid to improve local facilities

By **Pete Hayman**

Work has got underway on a new £6.44m leisure centre at Forest Fields, Nottingham, as part of the city council's £18.5m Leisure Centre Transformation Programme to improve sports facilities.

The new centre, designed by Archial Architects, will be built by ISG Regions. It will be situated alongside the Djanogly City Academy, replacing the existing Noel Street Leisure Centre..

Nottingham City Council (NCC) will manage the centre, which will include a 25m swimming pool, a 50-station fitness suite, a multi-activity fitness studio, a sauna and a steamroom, as well as changing facilities.

Funding for the new leisure centre, which is scheduled to open in March 2010, is being provided by NCC, along with



The £6.44m centre will replace an existing facility at Noel Street

a £2.2m contribution from the Neighbourhood Development Company. The Noel Street Leisure Centre will remain open until the scheme is completed.

David Trimble, NCC's portfolio holder for communities, leisure and culture, said: "This is an exciting new development in the council's Leisure Transformation programme, which means that yet another

community will be able to benefit from top class fitness facilities.

"The council's continued investment in its leisure facilities supports our aim to inspire more people to be more active more often, which have improved facilities so far at John Carroll, Portland and Ken Martin Leisure Centres, where we have seen an increase in attendances."

JJB in final stage of club offload

By **Tom Walker**

JJB Sports has entered the final stages of talks to sell off its fitness clubs business, although many analysts believe the deal could still fall short of the group's original asking price.

The group's share price soared earlier this month, following reports that the chain could be sold for £55m.

However, JJB Sport said: "There can be no certainty that any of these indications of interest will result in a transaction or as to the terms of any such transaction. A further announcement will be made when appropriate."

Bidders reportedly include JJB founder David Whelan;



The clubs could be sold below the original asking price

Mike Ashley, founder of rival chain Sports Direct: and Fitness First, the world's largest fitness club operator.

The firms also announced that its fashion chains, Qube and the Original Shoe Company, have been placed into administration after failing to find a buyer.

Bolton centre's future to be reviewed

Council to consider closing the Excel Centre in light of plans for new £30m facility

By **Helen Patenall**

Bolton Council is considering closing the town's publicly-funded leisure centre as it prepares to develop a new £30m swimming facility. The project is part of a £300m regeneration scheme called Bolton Innovation Zone.

The future of the Excel Centre at Bolton Community College — opened in 1996 — is being reviewed as the council intends to create a new leisure and academic facility in association with NHS Bolton and the University of Bolton.

The campus site on Manchester Road is to be sold to developers to fund the relocation of the college to a new location on Deane Road.



The plans include the construction of a new £30m leisure centre

The new 13,000sq m (139,930sq ft) sports complex could include an eight-lane, 25m competition swimming pool with seating for 250 spectators, a 12-station fitness suite, aerobics studio and a hydrotherapy pool.

The complex will be built on the now demolished Students' Union building on the Deane Road campus of the university.

Plans also include a four-storey walk-in healthcare centre, with GP out-of-hours services, and new teaching facilities.

Country Club Group to introduce fitness offering

By **Tom Walker**

Privately-owned golf club operator The Country Club Group (CCG), is redeveloping its golf-only offering to incorporate health and fitness.

CCG, which has invested £16m in acquiring five golf clubs in the UK over the past five years, joined forces with former CEO of The Club Company, Charlie Parker, following a strategic review of the business in 2007.



The country club in Cranleigh

The first two sites to have undergone the transformation are the Cranleigh Golf &

Country Club in Surrey and the Slinfold Golf & Country Club in West Sussex, at a total cost of £7m.

Facilities at both clubs, which are set to open by July, will include a Matrix-equipped health club and gym, group exercise studios, tennis courts, an indoor pool, a health spa and a restaurant.

A similar redevelopment at Mill Ride Golf Club in Ascot, Berkshire, has a provisional opening date of mid-2010.

Work gets underway on new Darwen leisure centre

Work has commenced on a new £12m leisure centre in Darwen, Lancashire, which will feature a 25m swimming pool with a moveable floor, a spectator seating and a fitness suite. A health suite, a sports hall, a café and changing facilities, will also feature at the new centre, which is scheduled to open later this year.

Plans for the new facility, which will be built on the site of the town's old leisure centre, were approved by Blackburn with Darwen Council last year.

Sport England is contributing £400,000 to the project in order to fund the moveable floor, while the council make up the rest.

IN BRIEF

GLL preferred for Oxfordshire leisure

► Greenwich Leisure (GLL) has announced that it will manage eight fitness facilities in South Oxfordshire on a five-year contract with the district council. GLL will sub-contract the day-to-day running of the leisure centres to its local partner Nexus Community Leisure. In September 2008, not-for-profit leisure organisation Nexus — previously known as Wycombe Leisure — was taken off the shortlist to bid for management of a group of leisure facilities in Wycombe.

Cambourne leisure complex loses funding

► A multi-million pound leisure centre planned for Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, is at risk after the banks withdrew funding as a result of the downturn. The project, which includes a gym and a swimming pool, is set to cost around £4.4m. David Chare, Cambourne Consortium project director, said the project will still go ahead, but may be delayed. He said: "Given the number of avenues we are exploring, I remain hopeful that we will be able to progress the development of superb sporting facilities for Cambourne."

Colne Valley leisure centre reopens

► The Colne Valley Leisure Centre in Kirkstall, West Yorkshire, has reopened following a £1.8m revamp. Improvements at the centre include a new 50-station health club, upgraded changing rooms and refurbished dry-side swimming pool facilities. The development of the centre has been funded jointly by the local council and leisure trust. Kirkstall Council invested £1.3m, while Kirkstall Active Leisure built and equipped the new fitness suite costing £500,000.

IN BRIEF

£15m leisure centre planned for Kirkcaldy

► Fife Council has unveiled plans for a new £15m leisure centre in Kirkcaldy. The plans include a 25m, six-lane swimming pool, a 16m training pool with moveable floor, a fitness suite, a four-court games hall, an aerobics studio, wet and dry changing facilities, a 70-seat spectator gallery and two cafés. Fife Sport and Leisure Trust is also behind the plans, which will be put on public display in March. Work on the centre is scheduled to begin in 2010 and be completed in October 2011.

Bangor City stadium plans still 'on track'

► Bangor City Football Club has insisted that its proposed move to a new stadium at Nantporth remain on track, as part of plans for a mixed-use scheme on the site of its current Farrar Road ground. Club chair, Dilwyn Jones, said there was no reason to suggest that plans had been shelved, despite delays to the Deiniol Developments-led project. Plans for the Farrar Road development, which include a 22,000sq ft (2,044sq m) leisure facility set to house a bowling alley or a cinema, were given conditional approval by Gwynedd Council's Arfon planning committee in August 2008.

Sporting scheme for Glamorgan youths

► A new scheme to increase the physical activity levels of secondary school pupils has been launched in Vale of Glamorgan, Wales. The 5x60 initiative has been introduced in all eight secondary schools in the region and aims to get youngsters exercising for at least 60 minutes, five days a week. The scheme, operated by the Sports Council for Wales, is being funded by the Welsh Assembly.

Apprentice scheme to fill funding gap

SkillsActive says initiative can help meet a £40m cash shortfall for elite athletes

By Pete Hayman

SkillsActive has urged all national governing bodies (NGBs) to help meet a £40m funding shortfall in UK Sport's World Class Performance Programme by signing up to the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE).

Developed by SkillsActive in partnership with the Learning Skills Council, the scheme is designed to add to the limited resources available to NGBs to help develop young sporting talent who may otherwise be forced into seeking an alternative career.

It is hoped that as many of the 2,500 athletes currently on the AASE programme will feature as part of Team GB



Beijing gold medallist Rebecca Adlington used the AASE scheme

in 2012, although nine athletes from the scheme also competed at the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics last summer, including double-gold medallist, Rebecca Adlington.

David Sparkes, Amateur Swimming Association chief

executive, said: "There's been a talent pathway in swimming and diving, but there has been nothing like the AASE for synchronised swimming and water polo, so it is a unique opportunity for these sports."

Youth Sports Trust to review School Games event

By Tom Walker

The Youth Sport Trust (YST) is to set up a panel of experts to look at how its annual UK School Games event can be made more inclusive.

The survey will be part of efforts to increase opportunities for disabled people looking to take part in competitive school sport.

Leading the panel will be multi-paralympic medalist swimmer Marc Woods. The



The games are held every year

group will look to consult with a range of sporting and disability federations.

Alison Oliver, director of YST, said: "We have made some excellent progress in recent years to ensure that a disability programme is established at the UK School Games, with swimming, athletics and table tennis all included last year."

The findings of the survey will provide recommendations for the YST and look to address the rationale for the future inclusion of an extended disability programme within the UK School Games event.

Inverclyde Council announces £23m leisure investment

Inverclyde Council has announced a £22.7m investment to boost leisure provision in the area, which is at the heart of a new budget package agreed by council members for 2009-11.

The investment will be targeted on a range of projects including a new £10.9m multi-use leisure facility at Rankin Park; a £1.7m refurbishment of Ravensraig Stadium; a £1.8m upgrade of Gourrock Pool; a £500,000 upgrade of Gourrock Park; a new £2.8m stadium facility for Port Glasgow Juniors; a new £2m pavilion at Parklea and £3m to implement the council's pitch maintenance strategy.

New elite funding agreement unveiled

Organisations join forces to raise extra private-sector money for British athletes

By Pete Hayman

Organisations involved in supporting British elite sport, together with the organisers of the 2012 London Olympic Games, have joined forces to form a new private-sector fundraising partnership.

A formal agreement has been signed by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), the British Olympic Association, the British Paralympic Association and UK Sport to raise additional funds for elite sport.

The 'Team 2012' concept was unveiled by culture secretary Andy Burnham, which will see a unique package of branding, access and events rights offered to sponsors in a bid to generate



The partnership looks to build on the Medal Hopes initiative

more cash for UK Sport's World Class Performance Programme.

It is hoped the new partnership will build on the existing Medal Hopes scheme, and will provide extra revenue in addition to the £550m public sector investment leading up to the 2012 Games.

Burnham said: "This scheme builds on the work of the Medal Hopes initiative and will ensure that private investment gives additional financial muscle to our Olympic and Paralympic athletes to help their preparations for 2012 and beyond."

Haverfordwest centre opens

Haverfordwest Leisure Centre in Pembrokeshire, Wales, opened to the public on 16 March.

The new £8m facility will boast a 25m, eight-lane swimming pool with an adjoining learner pool and seating for 350 spectators. Additional features will include a multi-purpose sports hall, four badminton courts with gymnastic provision, a dance studio and a two-storey health and fitness suite.

Cllr Rob Lewis said: "The new centre will be Pembrokeshire's flagship leisure centre and a real asset to the county."

"It's a building of which the community should be very proud."

£15m Sandwell designs unveiled



Plans for the centre include group exercise and dance studio

By Luke Tuchscherer

Plans for a £15m sport and leisure centre in Sandwell, in the West Midlands, have been put on public display.

The 3D plans show Sandwell Metropolitan District Council's ideas for the project, which include a sports hall, a hydrotherapy pool, a gym and weight area, a dance studio, a climbing wall and floodlit five-a-side pitches.

The Portway Lifestyle Centre, which will replace the existing and outdated Oldbury Leisure Centre, will also be home to a new doctors' surgery.

The council's cabinet member for adult services and health, Darren Cooper, said: "This project will bring major benefits to the people of Sandwell and delivers on promises made by adult services and health to people with disabilities in the borough."

IN BRIEF

Lincolnshire leisure pool gets green light

► A £2.5m refurbishment of Geoff Moulder Leisure Pool in Lincolnshire has been given the green light by Boston Borough Council. Speculation that the proposed revamp was to be shelved during the current economic downturn came to an end when the council announced its decision to go ahead with the works. The overhaul will provide the community with a new swimming pool, complete with a moveable floor and changing rooms, as well as updated equipment for the existing gym.

New British team eyes Tour de France success

► British Cycling has joined forces with media organisation BSkyB to form a new professional road cycling team with the aim of securing the first ever British winner of the Tour de France within five years. Team Sky will be managed by Great Britain's Olympic performance director, Dave Brailsford, and is expected to start competing in early 2010 in a bid to secure an invitation to enter the Tour de France, while also competing in the Tour of Britain to showcase the team on home ground.

No Euro 2016 bid for Wales and Scotland

► The Football Association of Wales (FAW) and the Scottish Football Association (SFA) have scrapped plans to submit a joint bid to host the 2016 European Championships due to the economic downturn. UEFA, European football's governing body, has already decided that it will expand the tournament from 16 to 24 teams in 2016, which both the FAW and SFA have said would make it too difficult to provide the necessary infrastructure.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Working with the sports sector

DID YOU KNOW?

The sport sector employs an estimated 371,000 people across the UK and accounts for 61 per cent of the sport and active leisure workforce. Over 8.8 million adults currently participate in sport each week in England – which is around 21 per cent of the population. The growth in employment in the sport sector has increased at a greater rate than that of the economy as a whole since 2004 – 6 per cent compared to 1 per cent across all industries.

THE AMBITION

Culture secretary Andy Burnham talks about a golden age for sport in this country, and in many ways he's right. The staging of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London offers a unique opportunity to the sector. It has focused the spotlight on the capacity of the sector to deliver in terms of a successful event, and a sustainable legacy for sport, while also contributing to the broader legacy through using sport and the inspiration of

the Games. However, the number one aim for London 2012 is to ensure that Team GB equals its Beijing 2008 success by finishing fourth in the Olympic and second in the Paralympic medal tables respectively.

This is clearly highly ambitious, and if we are going to have any realistic chance of achieving these aims, then a skilled workforce is essential.

SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council for sport and active leisure is primed to help deliver on these ambitions as it works to ensure its vision of more people, better skilled, better qualified working in the sector.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Last year Sport England announced that it will invest £480m across 46 national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) over the next four years to support the development of quality coaches, officials, volunteers and clubs. This investment was based on the strength of the NGBs' individual plans and their ability to deliver on Sport England's

aim of grow, sustain and excel, which is in place to create a world-leading community sport system.

SkillsActive has worked with national governing bodies of sport since obtaining its Government licence in 2004 and helped them to consider workforce issues across the whole range of individuals that assist in delivering the NGB plans, including developing their own paid staff and the millions of volunteers that support the delivery of sport across the country.

THE WORKFORCE INFRASTRUCTURE

County sport partnerships (CSPs) have a coordinating role in the regions pulling together key partners across the sector.

Working on behalf of national governing bodies of sport, they are closely linked with schools, local authorities and other organisations in the private and voluntary sectors. Being in this unique position, CSPs need an in-depth knowledge of the sport and physical activity workforce, where the

"I have always hoped to attain a higher level of achievement and the bursary has helped to make this possible. Hockey has had a big impact on me and has quickly become my most precious pastime."

James Harding achieved his first hockey coaching qualification.



PHOTO: PANATHLON CHALLENGE

skills gaps are, and areas in which to invest and develop. SkillsActive has worked with CSPs across England to develop workforce development plans that look at the current skills levels of both paid staff and volunteers.

The aim of the plans is to address the training needs and improve the skills of those involved in the organisation and delivery of sport and ultimately meet Sport England's aims.

"We're confident that the investment we're making in the workforce will improve the infrastructure of sport in the county, resulting in not only an increase in participation, but also an improvement in levels of performance and a safe environment for our young people to be physically active."

Ben Jones, Active Norfolk.

The role of coordinating partnerships at a strategic level for skills in sport is managed by the SkillsActive Professional Development Board (PDB). The board is made up of representatives from a cross section of sports organisations, including national

governing bodies of sport, home country sports councils, UK Sport, sports coach UK, Sports Officials UK, Youth Sport Trust, the IOG (Institute of Groundsmanship) and ISPAL (the Institute for Sport Parks and Leisure). The Board focuses SkillsActive's priorities on behalf of the sports sector and is taking the lead on the development of national standards, investigating the endorsement of qualifications and training for the sector and working with key agencies and the government to find funding solutions for the sector.

"The frustrations that employers often feel about the sport sector is usually down to either not knowing the worth of individuals qualifications or not knowing where to get training and how to access funding for it. The PDB aims to solve these issues simply by giving credibility to the training that is on offer using a robust endorsement process, linked to standards and working with our partners to create simple funding solutions."

Nick Gibbs, chair, Professional Development Board.

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

Over the past two years, working in partnership with NGBs, Sport England, sports coach UK and the Learning and Skills Council, SkillsActive has developed a bursary model to increase the number of coaches across sport in several English regions. It has levered in excess of £3m regionally and nationally to develop a coaching bursary model that supports the training of coaches from Levels 1 to 4. The South West pioneered the bursary back in 2007 and has seen over 1,300 coaches benefit from subsidised qualifications.

"I've always hoped to attain a higher level of achievement and the bursary has helped to make this possible. Hockey has had a big impact on me and has quickly become my most precious pastime, to the extent that it has developed into an obsession! I hope to continue to receive further support because I promise to continue coaching and believe it can make a big difference."

James Harding achieved his first hockey coaching qualification.

Working with the GMB Union and the Learning and Skills Council, SkillsActive helped to develop the Conversion to Learning programme in the Yorkshire region. The programme works with rugby league and boxing clubs from grassroots to professional level, across the region to provide learning opportunities in literacy, language and numeracy supporting players, volunteers and staff at the clubs.

The Conversion to Learning programme offers information, advice and guidance on learning and skills needs and works with colleges and training providers to structure individual learning plans for people working within boxing and rugby league. The programme is open to anyone involved with the clubs from ground staff, coaches, judges and referees, to membership representatives and office staff, and focuses on improving their basic skills.

More than 1,500 members of rugby league and boxing clubs in the region have accessed learning and training opportunities through the programme, and 25 clubs have developed workplace learning areas for staff and volunteers through setting up a dedicated area within the club and providing laptops and ICT support.

Rawthorpe Amateur Boxing Club use funding from the initiative to draft in tutors from Huddersfield Technology College to help fill the gaps in people's skills. The gym has also acquired computers and software and provides pathways to employment through IT and internet provision. Advice from trained learning representatives based at the club is also available.

"The environment here inspires young people to learn by providing a one stop

The Conversion to Learning programme was developed to address basic skills needs in Yorkshire.

"The environment here inspires young people to learn by providing a one stop shop not only for their boxing and fitness training but also for their educational needs too." Mark Reynolds, founder, Rawthorpe Amateur Boxing Club.

shop not only for their boxing and fitness training but also for their educational needs too. A lot of young people are disengaged with the school environment and we provide them with something different which motivates and inspires them. We provide free access for all corners of the community from young offenders through to older members of staff. It means that these people are getting fit and healthy whilst also developing their learning and education as well."

Mark Reynolds, founder, Rawthorpe Amateur Boxing Club.

SkillsActive, working in partnership with a number of national governing bodies of sport and GreaterSport in the North West, developed a high level coaching initiative aimed at the regions female coaches and aspiring coaches. The Women into Higher Level Coaching programme attracted over 150 women to progress into sports coaching and leadership as a higher level coach and gain employment within the sports sector.

"We are looking for assistance in identifying where the skills gaps and are hoping that activepassport will help us to achieve these aims."

Piers Martin, chief executive, British Fencing.

Fencing wants to utilise the activepassport for their staff and volunteers.



The programme focused on 13 sports: swimming, rugby league, rugby union, cricket, football, cycling, netball, athletics, table tennis, kayaking, hockey, basketball and squash, which had all identified a lack of progression by women to achieve a Level 2 or 3 sports coaching qualification. The programme raised the profile of female coaches in the region, providing role models and increased participation in sport.

"The Football Association fully supports the Women into Higher Level Coaching programme in the North West. Such has been the success of the programme that we are liaising with a variety of external funding agencies to ensure it can be extended over a longer term."

Mark Hardcastle, regional football development manager, the Football Association.

DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS

SkillsActive's activepassport was developed to ensure employers could clearly and consistently capture data on their employees training and qualifications. It is a unique web-based resource that records and verifies training and qualifications, as well as personal and professional achievements and can also log volunteering hours. A number of NGBs have expressed an interest in using activepassport within their club structures to track the development of coaches, officials and volunteers. This online tool will make it easier for sports to view individuals' qualifications, training, professional development, volunteering or paid practice and any other personal



PHOTO: MARK PRITCHARD, VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND

development or achievements. It will also allow them to identify any shortages of personnel within their workforce – both paid and volunteer.

"We are interested in using the activepassport as we are looking for assistance in identifying where the skills gaps are, this is information that we don't have right now, and also to license our workforce. We are hoping that activepassport will help us to achieve these aims."

Piers Martin, chief executive, British Fencing.

"We are looking to fully engage with SkillsActive across the whole workforce development package, including access to bursaries for qualifications for our coaches, officials and volunteers where appropriate, and using the products such as activepassport. For us, activepassport provides a basis to engage with workforce development for our individuals."

Paul Coups, education and skills, English Lacrosse.

The Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) was developed with performance sport in mind. SkillsActive has worked with football, rugby union, cricket and golf to get the programme off the ground; however the programme really hit the headlines when Rebecca Addlington returned from the Beijing Olympics with two gold medals. This success has attracted more Olympic and Paralympic sports to

engage with the apprenticeship and start to embed the programme in their current structures. There are a total of 12 sports in England with the AASE as part of their academy setup, with additional sports starting in September. It is SkillsActive's vision for all Olympic and Paralympic sports to engage with the AASE programme over the next 18 months.

"We heard about the AASE programme through David Sparkes at swimming and through some of the success stories such as Rebecca [Addlington]. We see the AASE programme really enabling us to put a structure in place through our academies across the country, supporting some of the 500 athletes over the next two years to come through our system to progress to the next level. In the past, volleyball has not had access to a scheme where there is professional coaches or paid coaches and a support service for our athletes, and although we've delivered a very good grass routes development programme over the past four years, we haven't been able to invest in a talent pathway. This is something that we want to do to provide a better support structure for our young athletes."

Lisa Wainwright, CEO, Volleyball England.

MOVING FORWARD

The sports sector is very much building on the opportunity that the 2012 Olympic and

Paralympic Games is bringing, and SkillsActive is using the Games as a catalyst for change across the sporting workforce landscape. It has developed an offer to national governing bodies of sport that is based on NGBs prioritising their workforce development needs, and SkillsActive brokering the solutions to meet those needs.

"Over the past five years SkillsActive has worked with NGBs to assist with the development of their workforce across both paid and voluntary staff. As a direct result we have developed solutions such as the activepassport, and brokered over £30m funding from outside the sector to establish a coaching bursary model, directly fund the AASE programme and meet local needs for NGBs. Our role is simple; we need to make the NGB plans easier to deliver nationally and regionally for the benefit of the millions that volunteer in sport and the hundreds of thousands of paid staff."

Steve Woolland, development manager, national governing bodies, SkillsActive.

SkillsActive
Shaping Skills for the Future

For more information visit:
www.skillsactive.com

IN BRIEF

IRC to open four new sites in 2009

► Individual Restaurant Company (IRC), which operates 34 eateries under the Piccolino and Bar & Grill brands, is to open four new sites despite "difficult" trading conditions. Announcing its pre-close trading statement for the year to 31 December, the company said it expected profits to be at the lower end of expectations, but remained confident over its future. IRC has signed leases on four sites – Aberdeen, Knutsford, the City of London and Dorking. The group said it will fund the new openings from existing funds without the need to borrow more.

M&B opens three new sites

► Pub and restaurant group Mitchells & Butlers (M&B) has expanded its Miller & Carter Steakhouse format with the recent opening of three new sites, bringing the total to 14 restaurants. The restaurants include The Leefe Robinson, in Harrow; The Old George, in Leeds; and Sussex Potter, in Lancing. The company also launched The Mountbatten Arms, in Poole and the Silver Jubilee, in Leigh on Sea, in November 2008. Each site underwent refurbishments and in line with M&B's branding.

Von Essen postpones Verta hotel opening

► Hotel group von Essen has postponed the opening of its latest 70-bedroom hotel currently being built by the side of the River Thames in Battersea, London. Verta, the seven-storey hotel, will feature a subterranean spa and a rooftop restaurant. The spa, covering two levels below the boutique property, includes treatment rooms, a hydrotherapy pool and an aromatherapy sanarium.

Promo deals lift restaurant revenues

Leading hospitality chains bucking the trend with nationwide 2-for-1 campaigns

By **Pete Hayman**

New research has revealed that an increase in the number of promotional offers has allowed some of Britain's largest pub and restaurants operators to enjoy a better start to the year than had been expected.

Although figures for January were 12.5 per cent down, the newly-launched Peach Business Tracker showed that aggregated like-for-like sales at 11 leading operators – including JD Wetherspoon, Whitbread and Tragus Group – have increased by 5.6 per cent compared with last year.

Run in conjunction with UBS and KPMG, the Peach Business Tracker was developed by Peach Factory and collects monthly sales data to provide



Consumers are still eating out – but spending less on their food

an indicator of how the eating and drinking out-of-home market is performing.

Other companies included in the research are Mitchells & Butlers, Spirit Group, Gondola, Bay Restaurants, Town and City Pubs, Barracuda Group, Wagamama and Carluccio's.

Peter Martin, Peach Factory chief executive, said: "This month's figures suggest that the public continues to want to go out to eat and drink when the experience and offer is right, and that well-run pubs and restaurants provide a respite from the downturn."

New Butlins hotel for Bognor



The Ocean Hotel at the holiday park will offer 200 bedrooms

By **Helen Patenall**

Bourne Leisure has announced the opening of a new £20m hotel at its Butlins Bognor Regis resort this August.

The Ocean Hotel will offer 200 bedrooms equipped with new features such as rainfall showers, colour change lighting, widescreen televisions and DVD players, as well as private balconies overlooking the sea and the South Downs.

Family rooms will also contain a separate children's den for increased privacy.

Additional facilities will include a restaurant and bar, a spa and landscaped gardens.

Managing director Richard Bates said: "The modern-era Butlins is a mix of accommodation and entertainment."

The project is part of the company's £100m investment in new and updated facilities over a six-year period.



The 129-room hotel has been designed by Italy-based Studio Thun

Missoni rolls out luxury hotels

Boutique chain to open flagship property in Edinburgh

By **Tom Walker**

Italian fashion house Missoni is rolling out a portfolio of boutique hotels, kicking off with its flagship property opening in the Scottish capital this spring.

The five-star Hotel Missoni Edinburgh opening on the Royal Mile in May will feature 129 bedrooms and seven suites, a bar and a restaurant as well as conference rooms.

Additional facilities will include two restaurants, a 1,000sq m (10,750sq ft) spa, two tennis courts, a private

beach, numerous swimming pools, meeting rooms and a 400sq m (4,300sq ft) ballroom.

Missoni aims to open 30 hotels over the next decade – designed by Milanese architects Studio Thun – in partnership with The Rezidor Hotel Group. Initial focus will be on Europe and the Middle East, later expanding to the North and South American and Asian markets.

"It's eclectic design combined with the best of bars and restaurants will make this a truly unique hotel experience," said Kurt Ritter, CEO of Rezidor.

Trafford Centre hotel approved

Peel Holdings has been given a green light to build a £30m hotel at The Trafford Centre in Manchester.

The four-star facility will include 210 bedrooms, a 200-seat restaurant with a bar, a 500-capacity banquet and conference area and meeting rooms.

Fitness facilities will include a swimming pool for guest-only use, as well as a spa and a gym.

Environmental aspects to be incorporated are living grass roofs, a sustainable drainage system including a pond and additional planting.

Peter de la Perrelle, director of Peel Leisure, said: "The hotel will be the first four-star hotel at The Trafford Centre and will add a quality facility for the benefit of not only the centre itself but for its neighbouring communities."

How to get it right after you get it wrong

Dealing with unhappy customers could make or break a hospitality business

Contrary to popular opinion customers do not expect you, as a hospitality provider, to get everything right every time they come into contact with you. What customers do want is to know that you genuinely care about them. It's a pity really because customers have, in many cases, a much clearer idea of the definition of what hospitality is than those who work in the industry.

The result of customer service, good or bad, is always emotionally felt by the recipient, which lends a clue to why it is so important to train frontline team members to have emotional intelligence. This emotional intelligence becomes absolutely critical when attempting service recovery.

I have trained many customer service courses and when I ask delegates what they want to get out of the course, invariably "dealing with conflict" is somewhere near the top of the list. A cursory Google search will throw up a myriad of hints, tips, courses and seminars for dealing with angry, hostile and or abusive customers. However, I would earnestly contend that giving solutions on how to calm angry customers to frontline staff is a tiny part of the remedy.

Offering an apology and some compensation, and assuming all is well, is particularly damaging if nothing is done to address the underlying problem which virtually guarantees similar complaint in the future. The solution lies in the recognition that there are three key stakeholders: customers, managers in charge of the process, and frontline staff who deal with complaints. The customer must feel that the organisation has a procedure that deals promptly with failure to deliver the promised service. A promise you have made (whether explicitly or not) has been broken; it's not enough to know that the problem has been resolved. The customer needs to know how the failure occurred and what you are going to do to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Fixing breakdowns in service has an enormous impact on customer satisfaction, repeat business, and, ultimately, profits and growth. Customers judge companies on how they deal with the inevitable service breakdowns. We need to look at these as an opportunity and not, as is so often the case, a disaster. Indeed a customer can be more delighted by a skillful service recovery than by service that was failure-free to start with.



Institute of Hospitality

PHILIP STANLEY is general manager of, Hospitality Assured, the Institute of Hospitality's service standard. Leisure Opportunities is a member benefit of the IOH.

IN BRIEF

Darwin's house reopens with new attractions

► The Down House visitor attraction, the house where Charles Darwin spent most of his life, has added a new interactive tour and a permanent exhibition. The interactive tour, narrated by Sir David Attenborough and Andrew Marr, aims to bring Darwin's daily life at the rural home into the present day by offering guests an insight into Darwin's work. Meanwhile, the £1m permanent exhibition, called Uncovering Origins, combines rare original material – such as tools used by Darwin – with multimedia displays. It was designed by UK-based Designmap and MDM Props.

Plans for Chichester museum approved

► Chichester District Council, West Sussex, has approved detailed plans for a controversial £6.9m museum and residential development to be built on what is currently a car park containing remains of the Roman baths. Created by Keith Williams Architects, the project has taken 19 months to design due to the sensitive nature of the conservation area. When recovered, remains from the city of Noviomagus Regni will form a permanent exhibit at the 1,300sq m (13,993sq ft) museum, to be called The Tower Street.

Glass Museum in Dudley faces closure

► Dudley Council's latest round of cost-cutting measures could force the closure of the Grade II-listed Broadfield House Glass Museum in Stourbridge, West Midlands. A feasibility study is to be carried out to help evaluate whether it would be practical to transfer the 30-year-old museum's collections and services to the town's Red House Glass Cone site.

Council approves Mary Rose museum

Portsmouth attraction to house 19,000 artefacts recovered from the Tudor ship

By **Tom Walker**

Proposals to build a £35m museum at the site of the 16th century Mary Rose warship in Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard have been met with approval by the city council.

The permanent museum – designed by architects Wilkinson Eyre and interior designers Pringle Brandon – will house the ship within a structure akin to a black, wooden, jewellery box.

Almost 70 per cent of the artefacts (19,000) recovered from the Tudor warship, when it was raised from the Solent in 1982, will be on show in the new museum instead of the mere six per cent currently displayed in a nearby temporary exhibition.

Now that the Mary Rose Trust has secured planning permission, and has raised



Construction of the new museum is set to begin in September

half of the £14m shortfall required to fund the project, it can now move forward to the second phase, which will see a more extensive development application submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund to secure £21m earmarked for the new museum in January 2008.

The Trust's CEO, John Lippiett, said: "We have reached a real milestone in the

project and taken another step in the fascinating journey of the Mary Rose.

"We can now submit our stage two application with real confidence. We have the planning approval; we have demonstrated considerable success in raising half the money required and are buoyant that we can raise the remainder."

Monument reopens to the public

By **Pete Hayman**

The Monument, a memorial built to commemorate the Great Fire of London in 1666, has reopened to the public following a £4.5m restoration project lasting 18 months.

A new viewing platform, balustrade and cage have been installed at the 202ft (62m)-high structure as part of the scheme, as well as improved lighting and new telescopes.

Work has also been carried out to clean the stonework and to repair the architectural sculptures, while the iconic golden orb at the top of the landmark has been regilded.

Situated at the junction of Monument Street and Fish Street Hill in the centre of



The monument first opened to the public in 1677

London, the Monument was built between 1671 and 1677, and is the tallest isolated stone column in the world.

Designed by Sir Christopher Wren and the city surveyor, Robert Hooke, the Monument's height is the distance between the structure and Pudding Lane, where the 1666 fire is believed to have started.

New coaster for Flamingo Land

Flamingo Land in Malton, North Yorkshire, UK is to open a record-breaking new rollercoaster in July 2009.

The £4m Mumbo Jumbo ride features a drop – from a high point of 30m – of 112 degrees, which will make it the world's steepest rollercoaster.

Designed by Utah-based S&S Power, the ride will inflict 4Gs on its passengers.

Flamingo Land's owner, Gordon Gibb, said: "It is exciting for a relatively small family business like Flamingo Land to be punching well above its weight. The manufacturer is legendary within the industry and Mumbo Jumbo looks set to become a national icon."

IN BRIEF

Cultural boost for North East economy

► NewcastleGateshead Initiative has launched an annual, year-long programme of cultural events and festivals for 2009 in North East England. The scheme is expected to be worth almost £30m to the region's economy. This year's programme, curated by Culture10, has been designed to allow local people and visitors to celebrate the region's landscape and heritage. Events – such as the opening of the £26m Great North Museum in Hancock – are estimated to attract one million visitors.

"Outrage" over Titian purchase

► The Scottish Government's pledge to contribute £12.5m towards the acquisition of a Titian masterpiece has provoked controversy in the Scottish arts sector. The governing SNP party is being held to account for spending public money on the purchase of one painting, while the famous Burrell Collection in Glasgow is struggling to raise funds to fix its leaky roof. Water seeping in through the roof is endangering a gallery of ancient Egyptian treasures, many of which are now on temporary display in the museum's mezzanine level for protection.

Arts Council announces regional funding

► Artists and arts organisations are to receive Lottery funding in Yorkshire and across North West England through two of Arts Council England's (ACE) regional offices. ACE Yorkshire has announced that a total of 37 projects are set to receive a share of more than £647,000, while ACE North West has announced that it is to invest more than £211,500 in a total of nine projects.

Open air theatre plans get green light

Scarborough council set to take over revamp of venue from private developer

By **Pete Hayman**

Scarborough Borough Council (SBC) has approved in principle proposals to take over responsibility for the redevelopment of the resort's open air theatre to ensure the scheme goes ahead despite the downturn.

The revamp of the theatre is currently included in a development agreement with Benchmark Leisure, which was appointed by the council in December 2002, to transform 55 acres (22.3 hectares) of land in the town's North Bay area into a major tourist destination.

Funding for the open air theatre scheme had been expected to come from the sale of residential units at The Sands development, but the recent



The project was part of a major regeneration of the North Bay

decrease in property values now means that Benchmark is currently unable to meet all of the costs involved.

As a result, the council will now look to secure a £3.5m loan in order to progress the scheme itself, and will also seek

to appoint an operator for the venue. It is hoped that construction work can begin in September, with the theatre ready to open in Easter 2010. The council said that Benchmark is not being forced to withdraw from the scheme.

Hampshire arts organisations get a funding boost

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

Hampshire County Council is giving a number of local independent arts organisations a cash injection totalling £781,415, in a bid to promote arts activity.

Local organisations include the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) (£123,000), Havant Arts Centre (£107,625), Theatre Royal in Winchester (£109,170) and Anvil Arts in Basingstoke (£91,225).



BSO received the largest grant

The council's executive member for recreation, heritage and communities,

Margaret Snaith, said: "These organisations are a vital part of the County's art infrastructure. The decision to grant such a large amount of money underpins Hampshire County Councils commitment to providing a rich cultural service to all of its residents.

"By providing this funding we can help independent organisations survive in a competitive market, providing a service that is affordable and accessible to everyone, young and old."

Liverpool council considers an increase in arts grants

Liverpool City Council (LCC) is deciding whether to increase the number of arts organisations that receive annual funding following a four-month bidding and consultation process.

A report to the council's executive board has recommended that annual grants worth £7.3m

be provided to 33 arts bodies over the next two years – a 25 per increase on the previous three-year programme.

A total of 67 organisations have been granted funding, although nearly 90 arts bodies are set to miss out due to the new grants process being heavily oversubscribed.

IN BRIEF

NNPA launches draft management plan

► Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA) has launched a draft plan for the future management of the 405sq mile (1,049sq km) national park. The new management plan has been drawn up to ensure that the park will be preserved and enjoyed for the next 20 years, and includes measures to address the effects of climate change. NNPA is now inviting local residents and park users to have their say on the plan, which coincides with the 60th anniversary of the first Countryside Act responsible for the establishment of National Parks in post-war Britain.

Funding boost for rural Swansea

► Swansea Council is to spend £350,000 on five projects in a bid to promote walking and cycling in its rural areas after receiving funding from the European Union (EU) and Welsh Assembly Government. Eight areas, including the Gower peninsula, Penclawdd, Mawr and Pontarddulais, will see work carried out as part of the Rural Development Plan for Wales, an EU scheme designed to boost tourism and the local economy in rural communities.

Park promotes adventure sports

► Groups of young people are being given the chance to try out adventure sports at the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Activities on offer will include rock climbing, potholing, mountain biking and canoeing. Sample sessions are being offered to specific groups by the Go Dales! project, which was launched in October and aims to get young people interested in the range of adventure activities available in the park.

Backing for waterways clean-up scheme

Best-selling author lends support to British Waterways' Towpath Tidy 2009

By **Pete Hayman**

Bill Bryson, author and president of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), has backed a British Waterways scheme to tackle the problem of litter along rivers and canals across the country.

British Waterways's Towpath Tidy 2009 campaign will feature locally co-ordinated attempts to clean-up targeted stretches of more than 2,000 miles (3,219km) of waterways between 26-29 March ahead of the main summer boating season.

CPRE is backing the initiative as part of its Stop the Drop campaign, involving its local branches and other litter-picking groups. Bryson said: "Britain's waterways are of vital importance, providing



The initiative aims to clear more than 2,000 miles of waterways

everyone with the opportunity to experience their cities and towns and countryside from a tranquil perspective.

"It's a disgrace that some people choose to treat their waterways as an open litter bin or as a place to dump their discarded waste." The news comes as BW also agreed a

deal with The Small Hydro Company to generate 210,000 megawatt hours of renewable energy each year by developing 25 small-scale schemes across the waterways network.

It is hoped that the £120m scheme will save an annual 110,000 tonnes in carbon dioxide emissions.

First stage of Sheffield park refurbishment starts

By **Pete Hayman**

Work has started on the first phase of a scheme to build new leisure facilities at a park in Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Amenities including a mini-football pitch, a BMX track and new paths will be created at the Foxhill Park, formerly known as Foxhill Rec, as part of a masterplan drawn up by Sheffield City Council (SCC). It follows the council's extensive public consultation with local residents last year.

Drainage and access improvements will also be made as part of the first phase of work, while the second stage is expected to be carried out later this year and will include the development of a new play area, a



Foxhill Rec is to be transformed as part of the council masterplan

multi-use games area and the planting of trees and shrubs.

Funding is being provided by Housing Market Renewal money, and it is expected that the first phase of work will be completed by April.

Shaffaq Mohammed, SCC's cabinet member for the local

environment, said: "We have spent a lot of time asking local people what they wanted on this site and their wishes are now being delivered.

"The park will improve local facilities for all ages and contribute to the wider regeneration of the area."

leisure property news

Visit leisureproperty.com for the latest news on Properties, developments, tenders and investment.

Plans submitted for St. Georges

Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter to undergo £160m redevelopment

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

Phase one plans for the £160m St Georges development in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter have been submitted to the city council by developer Chord Deeley.

The first stage of the 6.8-acre mixed-use development is the conversion of the Kettleworks, a former factory, into a 262,000sq ft office, residential and retail space fronting a new public square.

Over the next three to five years the scheme, designed by Wolverhampton-based Online Architects, will include the redevelopment of six additional sites within the Jewellery Quarter.

New features will include a £15m, 151-room Ramada Encore hotel and a 100-room budget hotel, 1,145sq m (12,230sq ft) of space for restaurants and



Plans include a 151-room Ramada hotel

bars as well as 2,274sq m (24,470sq ft) of retail space.

Alfred McAlpine and New World Leisure have been appointed to develop and operate the hotels as a joint venture. Phase one is due to open during 2010.

Funding plea for Dundee's waterfront project

By **Pete Hayman**

The Scottish Government has been called upon to help provide funding for the creation of a new landmark building on Dundee's waterfront that could house a proposed Victoria and Albert Museum.

Last week, Dundee City Council was awarded £33m by Scottish Enterprise – part of a £70m package – towards a project that aims to reconnect Dundee city centre with the River Tay through a series of projects, including the creation of new public spaces.



The city's waterfront will be redeveloped

Barnstaple leisure centre proposals abandoned

Plans to build a new £17m leisure centre as an extension to the Tarka Tennis Centre in Barnstaple have been dumped.

North Devon Council took the decision to abandon the proposals – to demolish the North Devon Leisure Centre and transfer the facilities to the new site –

after a report deemed the scheme too expensive.

A structural survey of the North Devon Leisure Centre is to be undertaken, and if the results are satisfactory, then it and the Tarka Tennis Centre could receive refurbishment and expansion works.

Don't do something, just stand there!

We need to analyse the benefits of passive leisure



JOHN BURROWS is acting chair of the Leisure Property Forum and director of BCI Design

In 2005, Roger Kimball, in his article *The Uses of Leisure* spent a great deal of time paraphrasing post-war German philosopher Josef Pieper and his work *"Leisure, the Basis of Culture."* It now falls to me to attempt to remind ourselves about the true meaning and importance of leisure.

Promoting the concept of leisure can be difficult, especially during difficult times such as 1947 when post-war Germany was coming to terms with the destruction of its physical and moral structure. The present global economy and that of the United Kingdom is having the same effect on our thought patterns at the moment.

People are beginning to feel guilty about the small pleasures, about standing still and not "doing" something. I begin to see genuine leisure offerings being lost and replaced with mere entertainment.

It is important I believe, especially now, to encourage passive leisure, mixed up with more traditional elements of commercial entertainment.

We should be analysing the traditional marketplaces and see how sitting, talking and thinking places all have a place alongside organised leisure and entertainment.

These "softer" elements can improve the ambience of commercial entertainment environments.

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Liverpool City Council operates 16 Lifestyles Fitness Centres. The facilities offered can be found at www.liverpool.gov.uk/lifestyles.

We use the Gladstone MRM Plus II EPOS, membership and booking system and have over 148,000 members on this database.

We are seeking Expressions of Interest from companies that can offer on-line services that will add value to their membership whilst increasing our reach to potential new members.

If you feel you are able to provide a solution to the above, please forward outline information to the City Council Procurement Unit, details below.

Your response at this stage should be no more than a maximum of 2 A4 pages including a very brief outline of the services you can provide under the above and any other headings you feel are appropriate.

No costings should be submitted as part of the Expression of Interest.

Should the Authority proceed to commission a contract then a full, competitive procurement process will be undertaken.

Your Expression of Interest should be marked reference Q10300 and sent to: Liverpool City Council, Procurement Unit, Venture Place, Sir Thomas Street, Liverpool L1 6BW

You may also email your response to alan.brown@liverpool.gov.uk All expressions must be received no later than **10.00am Tuesday 14th April 2009**.

Plymouth City Council



LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

Plymouth City Council is inviting leisure management operators to enter into a contract to deliver the Council's leisure and sport objectives for the next 10 - 25 years.

The Council provides sport and leisure facilities to the community via the following facilities;

Plympton Pool - 25m indoor pool, Tinside Lido - outdoor pool on the seashore, Mount Wise Pool - outdoor pools, Manadon - all weather football pitch and Central Park Leisure Pools - 33.3m indoor pool and learner pool, and in the Autumn of 2011, the new Life Centre scheme - £46.5m new build with a mixture of dry and wet facilities which includes, 50m x 25m pool (2 moveable floors), 25m x 15.5m diving tank (with moveable floor), family leisure pool, indoor climbing zone, 12 court sports hall, 8 rink indoor Bowls, fitness and health suite and ancillary facilities.

The council considers that the existing staff will transfer under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations (TUPE) and that the Code of Workforce Matters will apply.

Potential partners must read the OJEU notice and Descriptive Document and then complete the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire to demonstrate their economic and financial standing and their technical and professional capability. The Pre-Qualification Questionnaire is to be completed and returned by the 24th April 2009 12.00 pm.

Interested organisations can request all the above documents after registering their company on line at www.devontenders.gov.uk and then registering their interest against this tender after the 19th March 2009. All queries and questions will be dealt with through this system, but for general enquiries you may ring Karen Grannum on 01752 307177 after the 24th March 2009.

www.plymouth.gov.uk

LEISURE PROPERTY FOR SALE



Groveland Development Site
St Clears, Carmarthenshire

A unique development opportunity for a countryside Holiday Park comprising 110 timber lodges and associated leisure facilities in South West Wales.

Attractive site set in open countryside approximately 19 miles north east of Tenby. Outline planning permission granted, subject to conditions.

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For further information contact:

Ben Jones
0117 917 2032
ben.jones@collierscre.co.uk

Rhian Anstey
0117 917 2054
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Take the fast track to a life in leisure

Is there any hope for graduates looking to find full-time employment in these turbulent times? *Caroline Wilkinson* looks at the different ways you can put your hard-earned qualifications to good use when looking for that all-important first job

With the job market becoming more competitive due to the downturn, the prospect of entering the leisure industry, and employment in general, might seem more daunting than usual.

But don't worry! There are many opportunities, roles and entry routes into a career in leisure. Preparing for one, however, shouldn't start when your university life ends. Gaining relevant work experience is invaluable and will help highlight your application to a potential employer who is being inundated by graduates looking for their first job.

For those eager to get straight into work, the idea of adding thousands of pounds to a growing mountain of student debt, in order to obtain postgraduate or training course, might not be an option. Fast track and graduate training schemes, however, could get you into that higher-level position while getting paid. The schemes are based on

providing trainees with rounded, broad, career-specific experience within a company and often results in a permanent position.

Get a healthy start

It is a good time to enter the sport and active leisure industry. The preparation of an Olympic legacy is well underway and the government is implementing strategies to improve the nation's lifestyles.

There is a wealth of opportunities and roles available for those wanting to get started. UK Sport's one-year Fast-Track Practitioner Programme aims to assist the training and development of young applied sport science and medicine practitioners at the early stages of their careers.

The accelerated development opportunity equips individuals with the skills, knowledge and experiences needed to operate as practitioners within high-performance sport.

According to Sarah Craven, UK Sport's

sport science/sport medicine coordinator: "Applicants for the intern positions need to have appropriate degree level qualification, plus relevant experience in providing support services to high performance teams or athletes. This often means successful applicants have got a masters degree, although we don't rule out undergraduates."

Last year, the scheme had more than 750 applicants for just 13 positions. Due to the new Olympiad, the scheme is now being reviewed to ensure it's best positioned to have the optimum benefit on high performance leading up to 2012 and beyond. Craven, therefore, recommends applicants regularly check the UK Sport website (uksport.gov.uk) for upcoming opportunities.

Leisure centre operators Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) and Fusion Lifestyle also run schemes. GLL looks for graduates from a business, sport-related or leisure management degree, although will consider other degrees if accompanied by the right personal and professional experience. It's a rigorous recruitment process: two essays, a

Many companies run on-the-job training schemes for aspiring chefs



screening interview and an assessment day. But when the two-year course is complete, it leads to an ISRM management certificate, a Level 2 in Fitness Lifeguard and qualifications in first aid and coaching.

"The applicants tend to move into an assistant service manager's position at a leisure centre or a managerial position within marketing," said James Craig, a trainee and GLL HR officer.

"The scheme offers the chance to sample a broad range of positions within the sector, and you are given ongoing support via a senior manager mentor, a line manager and a year two graduate 'buddy'.

"Getting used to the shift work was one of the biggest challenges. But it provides a

great opportunity to see all aspects of the leisure centre and does allow for the occasional lie in. You get to experience every aspect of the leisure industry from grassroots level upwards," he added.

Other routes into GLL include an Assistant apprenticeship scheme and as the firm often prefers homegrown talent it recruits from its internal ranks, so getting your foot in – like with many companies – could open up many other doors.

Budget hotels, high prospects

Bob Cotton, chief executive of the British Hospitality Association, recently called the sector up on its inability to secure degree-qualified students. He said: "[The industry]

CASE STUDY 1: Shiral Rodrigo



What university course did you take?

I took a Bsc (Hons) in Multimedia Computing at the University of Sunderland

Where do you currently work and what is your position?

I work at the Manchester City Centre Premier Inn as a trainee manager.

What does your day-to-day role include?

My tasks include the day-to-day running of the business, managing teams and frontline interactions with guests among other things – no two days are the same.

What attracted you to the leisure industry?

The satisfaction you can get from interacting with people and giving great customer service. Within the leisure industry, your own personality can be an asset to the business.

How easy was it to find a job?

It was very challenging to get a job after leaving university, mainly due to the high number of people graduating at the same time.

How well did your course prepare you for a career in leisure?

Computing skills have been a great benefit in this industry. However, the most relevant skills I took from university would be time-management skills, and managing levels of work to hit deadlines and targets.

What are the best aspects of working in the leisure industry?

Nothing is ever the same in the leisure industry. Every day at work is different.

And the worst?

There are the odd occasions where you are not quite able to do enough to satisfy your guests.

What advice would you have for graduates looking to get into the industry?

Be open minded so that you can adapt to situations, and also manage your time well. If you are ambitious and hungry for success, the leisure industry is definitely for you.

What is the best bit of career advice you have ever received?

Always ask yourself how are you perceived, especially in the jobs and tasks you complete within the workplace.

CASE STUDY 2: Ruth Copley**Where do you work and what is your position?**

I work for Fusion as the general manager of a wet and dry facility in Camberwell, London.

What does your day-to-day role include?

My day-to-day duties include putting the customer first, ensuring the smooth day-to-day operations of the centre, managing sales, controlling income and expenditure, managing the staff, liaising with third parties and users of the centre, maintaining high standards of service and generating new business.

What attracted you to the leisure industry?

I have always had a big interest in sport and leisure, particularly gymnastics and athletics. I was a competitive athlete between eight and 16-years-old, and I then decided to pursue my interest in coaching and became a gymnastics coach at my local club in Sheffield.

How easy was it to find a job?

It was fairly difficult to find a sports related job that offered the career progression I was looking for. Although I had an excellent academic background, I didn't have a lot of industry experience. The graduate management scheme was therefore perfect for me. I was exactly what Fusion were looking for and vice versa.

What are the best aspects of working in the leisure industry?

The buzz of a busy leisure centre where people are enjoying themselves and keeping fit.

And the worst?

Sometimes the hours can be very long
What advice would you have for graduates looking to get into the industry?
Try to gain some industry experience, whether it be coaching, voluntary work etc as it will look favourable to employers. Take time in choosing which companies to apply to. You want a company that will invest in your development and offer you career progression. The leisure industry is a thriving industry to be part of and can lead to a long and happy career.

What is the best bit of career advice you have ever received?

Don't ask members of staff to do anything that you wouldn't do yourself.



shouldn't just train graduates. We need to nurture, encourage, motivate and develop them to their full potential."

Many graduate-specific or management schemes do just this and often lead to middle-management positions. Whitbread, operator of the Premier Inn, Costa Coffee and Beefeater chains, will soon be recruiting for its 12-month Hospitality Management Graduate Scheme, which is due to begin in autumn 2009.

Based at one of its hotels, the scheme covers every area of its business – reception management, food and beverage and housekeeping – and helps prepare you for running your own restaurant or hotel.

"When refining it's applicant search, the firm looks for ambitious graduates who have a competitive edge; graduates who have pushed themselves out of their comfort zones and have great achievements outside of the classroom as well as academics," according to a spokesperson.

Budget hotel chain Travelodge has been inundated with applications for its 2009 graduate scheme, with an increase of more than 100 per cent on last year.

Nazia Mahmud, head of graduate recruitment at Travelodge, said: "What makes an applicant stand out are three core attributes: flexibility, a willingness to work at different locations and in different roles, a drive to succeed and, most importantly, a can-do attitude. The hotel industry can be fast paced and there is no room for anyone who struggles with adversity."

Although Travelodge isn't accepting any more applications for this year's intake, successful candidates will enter a 12-week

**CASE STUDY 3: Natalie Dunman****What University course did you take?**

I completed a BSc Honours degree in Chemistry and Sports Science in 2003 and a MSc in Sports Science in

2004 at Loughborough University.

Where do you currently work and what is your position?

I am a Talent Identification Scientist for the English Institute of Sport (EIS). With the London 2012 Games fast approaching, my role aims to provide additional fast track opportunities and development pathways for Great Britain's sporting talent.

What does your day-to-day role include?

The primary focus of my roles as a Talent Identification scientist is to plan, develop and implement World Class Talent Recruitment, Confirmation and Development programmes. One of the goals of this work is to creatively detect and nurture future Olympic medallists. My current work involves working on several key projects across different sports including the talent ID programme Girls4Gold.

Working closely with sports coaching and sport science staff my day-to-day role involves a number of different tasks such as gap-to-podium analyses, performance prediction models, planning and running talent recruitment campaigns, athlete assessment events, longitudinally benchmarking and tracking athletes through the talent confirmation and development phases.

What attracted you to the leisure industry?

Having a role which can have a positive impact on Great Britain's medal tally was a

key driver for me to work in performance sport. Working as a Talent ID Practitioner is an exciting position as you are involved in the whole process with athletes and coaches.

Did you enter the leisure industry straight from University?

I got into my current role following a successful physiology internship on the UK Sport Fast-Track Practitioner Programme.

How easy was it to find a job?

Having built up some experience and then getting onto the Fast Track Practitioner Programme I was better placed to then get a position at the EIS.

How well did your course prepare you for a career in leisure?

My background in physiology are regularly put to good use. However, my role is multi-disciplinary in nature so I've learned to work with a range of experts in different fields.

What advice would you have for graduates looking to get into the industry?

I think for anyone wanting to work as an applied practitioner, getting a great deal of experience is particularly important. Volunteering is often a key way to get some experience and although it isn't easy to always get experience with top level coaches and squads, if you are persistent and proactive you can usually find someone willing to give you a chance. There are usually lots of opportunities to get involved with either university squads to local sports teams. Secondly, it is key to develop a network of contacts. These can be really important as will often know about job opportunities within the industry and other work experience opportunities.

If you want to work in museums or galleries, the Victoria and Albert (V&A) museum operates an assistant curator scheme with 23 posts available each year.

Veronika Harris, head of training and development at the V&A, said: "The programme is a fixed-training contract of five years. Most people will either be internally promoted, move to a major project or gain a post at another museum within three years.

"The benefits are learning through practice and developing the wider skills of working in a museum to care for the collections."

Other routes to work at the V&A are through volunteering, There is also the

Young Graduates in Museums and Galleries programme run by the British Museum and The Museum Association Diversify programme, which is overseen by the Museums Association and funded by the Museum, Libraries and Archives Council for people from ethnic minorities.

Preparation is key to making a successful leap from university to employment. Places on graduate schemes are in high demand and can become oversubscribed quickly. Whether you want to take the fast-track or try a more conventional route, preparing yourself to meet employers' needs is one of the best ways you can position yourself to clinch the job that will launch your career.

CASE STUDY 4: Chris Rockall**What university course did you take?**

I took a combined honours degree in Sport and Health Studies at the

University of Northampton.

Where do you currently work?

I currently work for Northampton Borough Council in the Sports Development Team as a Sports Development Officer

What does your day-to-day role include?

I am responsible for running sport activities for young people during school holidays, including the recruitment of up to 18 part time coaches at any one time. I oversee the Northampton Health Walk scheme ensuring that the walks are running successfully and that the volunteer walk leaders are happy. I am responsible for club development so i am the first point of call for any clubs that need our assistance regarding funding advice and volunteer recruitment.

What attracted you to the leisure industry?

The fact that every day is different. Some days, I will find myself behind a desk all day, and the next day in a school field coaching, and the following day I have off as I am doing an event on the Saturday.

Did you enter the leisure industry directly from university?

I worked as a part time volunteer coordinator first for a charity but still kept volunteering in sport.

How easy was it to find a job?

It wasn't – I got very lucky. More than 40 people applied for my job and I was lucky/good enough to get it.

What are the best aspects of working in the leisure industry?

The banter and the fact that I come to work everyday and enjoy what I do.

And the worst?

The pay, but I am sure everyone says that no matter what job they are in. Sometimes the hours can be a killer.

What is the best bit of career advice you have ever received?

Always ask for feedback, especially when applying for jobs. That little bit of feedback could make all the difference when applying for your next job.

Will domestic visits increase?

Can the economic downturn really help domestic tourism?



KURT JANSON is policy director of the Tourism Alliance

The perceived wisdom is that 2009 will be a reasonable year for the UK domestic tourism industry, as the weakness of the pound against the euro and the uncertainty relating to employment will lead to more people taking their holidays in the UK rather than going overseas.

While the domestic tourism figures for 2008 are yet to be finalised, it is interesting to note that the annual figures to November show no real change in the long-term trend of slow decline in the overall level of domestic tourism. The number of holiday trips is down 3 per cent and the number of bednights is down 5 per cent from the previous year.

Indeed, there is some evidence that this slow decline is picking up pace, with visitor numbers falling for the last six months to November. Visitor numbers for November alone were down by 25 per cent.

While domestic tourism figures tend to fluctuate significantly on a monthly basis, meaning that one should not read too much into the November result, it is worth noting that this is the biggest monthly downturn since the new methodology for determining domestic tourism was introduced in 2005. It is also worth noting that the International Passenger Survey figures show that travel overseas by UK residents during 2008 was down by just 1 per cent over 2007. So, it is difficult to mount a case that the weak pound and the economic uncertainty has had much impact to date.

Mid Wales tourism "missing out"

Conservatives claim Welsh Assembly's SIF scheme is unbalanced

By **Pete Hayman**

Tourism businesses in mid Wales are failing to receive a fair share of Welsh Assembly Government investment, according to Nick Bourne, leader of the Welsh Conservatives.

Bourne claims that just £84,000 has been offered to the region's tourism industry since April 2008 under the Welsh Assembly Government's Single Investment Fund (SIF). Meanwhile, pubs, restaurants, guest houses and hotels in other Welsh regions have received a share of almost £3m during the same period, with North Wales businesses receiving more than six times more than mid Wales.

However, the figure includes grants made under a previous scheme, including Section 4 Tourism Grants, which continued to be offered until the end of June 2008. A further 18 tourism-related SIF applications worth £4.3m are currently being appraised.



Mid Wales attractions could be losing out

Bourne said: "The fact that the mid Wales economy is heavily reliant on tourism seems to have escaped the Assembly government. I am astonished ministers have given so little to the region to improve its tourism industry and attract even more visitors."

UK inbound tourism suffers recession blues



The number of visitors and the amount of money they spend in the UK has fallen

By **Tom Walker**

The UK experienced a drop in foreign visitors last year as the effects of the global economic downturn became more apparent, according to new figures.

The International Passenger Survey, published by Office for National Statistics, revealed that visitor numbers worsened as the recession settled in.

In the first three months to 31 December last year, figures fell to 7.01 million visits – 12 per cent below 2007's numbers. Total spend fell 1 per cent to £2.8bn.

NWDA to invest £2m in business tourism

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) has announced a £2m funding package as part of a campaign to help strengthen the region's appeal as a business tourism destination.

The funding will enable a quality accreditation scheme to be set up, tailored specifically for the conference and meetings industry.

Channelled through the region's five tourist boards, the investment will also be used to identify new business opportunities and bid for major international conferences, as well as improving current marketing and monitoring the region's performance in this sector.

Last month NWDA's announced that it was investing £20m into leisure tourism.



The initiative will look to deliver support for potential Olympians

UK Sport opens research award

Scheme aimed at those who could boost 2012 hopes

By **Helen Patenall**

UK Sport is inviting students to apply for its New Researchers Award — one aspect of the organisation's Ideas 4 Innovation programme.

The scholarship aims to encourage those who are studying engineering, science, medicine, technology or the arts to carry out more in-depth research of innovative concepts that could have a clear performance impact on Olympic or Paralympic sports.

Innovation coordinator Alison Neall said: "This is a

fantastic opportunity for students to extend their research beyond their final year and apply their knowledge to help us achieve British sporting success. Successful applicants would also have access to our extensive network of contacts in world class research and innovation.

"The idea should be a novel concept, based on sound research and could be related to any one of our four work streams — athlete equipment and accessories, coaching technologies, training science or performance medicine."

SGL unveils staff apprenticeships

South Gloucestershire Leisure (SGL) has entered into a partnership with SkillsActive to deliver an apprenticeship programme to its leisure operations staff.

Earlier this year, 28 apprentices began training for Levels 2 and 3 apprenticeships. The training will be delivered over a two-year period by Chartstage.

Filton College's n-gaged training team is also backing

SGL's training programme, and is involved with creating tailor-made solutions for other areas of the business, which include catering and marketing, as well as management development.

SGL chief executive Mark Crutchley said: "To invest in our staff with this scheme is an incredibly positive prospect and will only add to our commitment to improve services for our customers."

Putting yourself ahead of the competition

Competing against your peers could open up a new career path within the industry

Why do people join our wonderful industry? Could it be because of an inspirational teacher, influence from parents, peer pressure, or even by accident?

Whatever the reason, most people do not make a conscious decision to join what can be a dynamic and fun place to work but, once employed, quickly come to realise that the opportunities are there for anyone not afraid of hard work. There are many entry routes to the industry, including college, work experience and holiday jobs, but not everyone would consider starting their career by entering a competition.

This month sees the culmination of six months of hard work by young people who could be the next generation of industry chefs. Competition is not a usual entry route into hospitality but these young people entered FutureChef to 'have a go'.

Some had never cooked before and some may never do so again; it's just not their thing. However, for those who like a challenge, competitions offer endless opportunities and scope to develop skills and creativity, share best practice and network with your peers.

Competing against your colleagues leaves no time for star gazing. The objective is to win and, in the process, to subliminally learn something; not just about your craft, but also about yourself. As on-the-job training goes, it's hard to beat the adrenaline rush of a competition.

Mentoring plays a large and important part for those involved in competition. Young people entering the industry, if matched with a suitable mentor, have been proven to thrive. Competitions provide an opportunity for those who have years of experience and skills to share and guide people just starting out and in doing so, to re-evaluate their own objectives and learn something new from the people they mentor.

Springboard supports competition within the hospitality, travel, tourism and leisure industry. It's a great way of recognising young exceptional talent, sharing and improving skills and developing the next generation of rising stars.

It doesn't matter how you enter the industry. What's really important is holding onto the enthusiasm that makes you go to work every day. If that means entering a competition every now and then, well why not? You might just win!



MARY HEMSWORTH is project manager at Springboard Inverness & East Highlands. *Leisure Opportunities* is the official recruitment magazine for Springboard UK

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Moulton College has over 600 Sport and Equestrian students on a variety of courses including:

- First and National Diplomas in Sports Performance, Sport & Exercise Science, Sports Development, Outdoor Adventure, Horse Care/Management and Equine Business
- Foundation Degree in Sports Performance and Excellence, Sports Therapy or Equine Management
- HND in Outdoor Adventure or Sports Management
- BSc(Hons) in Sports Management

As a Moulton student you can join our exciting Sports Academy programmes covering Basketball, Football, Rugby, Hockey and Dressage Academies which combine training and competition alongside the academic studies.

The Moulton Academies make full use of the excellent indoor and outdoor playing and training facilities, experienced coaching staff and strong academic teaching departments at the college.

Past Students have become professional and semi-professional players at home and abroad, scholarships in the USA and a range of degree study and industry related employment in the UK.

What are you waiting for? Contact us now for an exciting future!

MOULTON COLLEGE, MOULTON, NORTHANTS. NN3 7RR
TEL: 01604 491131
FAX: 01604 491127
e-mail: enquiries@moulton.ac
www.moulton.ac.uk

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0845 0944 007

Chronic Respiratory Disease Exercise Instructor Course

BLF bursaries are now available for the May intake of this innovative distance learning course.

Developed by Loughborough College, the University Hospitals of Leicester and the British Lung Foundation (BLF), with funding and input from Rotherham PCT, the course has been submitted for endorsement at level 3 on the Register of Exercise Professionals. It covers:

- Physiology and pathology of respiratory disease
- Managing breathlessness
- Management of chronic respiratory disease
- Referral pathways
- Responses to exercise and exercise prescription

The BLF bursary, funded by Air Products, is available to exercise professionals who meet the following entry requirements:

- Level 3 equivalent qualification as recognised by REPs
- 100 hours practical exercise instruction over the past year, with some experience of working with clients with COPD/respiratory disease
- A current valid first aid certificate
- Current CRB disclosure form
- Endorsement from a local pulmonary rehabilitation team

Instructors taking up a bursary will be expected to work with local Breathe Easy support groups to set up exercise classes within the community.

For more details or an application pack please log on to www.lunguk.org/supporting-you/blf_active/ or contact Danielle Smreczak using the details below

Loughborough College

AIR PRODUCTS

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
Rotherham Primary Care Trust

NHS

e: exercise@blf-uk.org
t: 020 7688 5618
w: www.lunguk.org

BRITISH LUNG FOUNDATION

Reg. charity of England & Wales - no. 326730. Charity reg in Scotland - no. SC038415

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LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES APPOINTMENTS

Arts & Physical Activity Development Officer

Ref: COM/131/08 £24,331 - £25,940

To promote health, well being and independence for Adults with Learning Disabilities; we'll look to you to modernise Adult Day Services. This will be achieved by increasing participation in local activities, increasing take up of council Leisure, Culture & Heritage services and developing opportunities for learning for Adult Day Services users. Ideally with a background in leisure, culture or learning, and an understanding of working within an Adult Day Services setting, partnership working, training and promotion of activities are key to the success of the role.

CRB clearance will be required for the above post.

These posts are subject to job evaluation.

Closing Date: Monday 6 April 2009.

Application forms and further details are available from: www.warrington.gov.uk/jobs

Tel: 01925 442040 (24 hr).

Please quote reference number.

Committed to equality at work and in our community. Warrington Borough Council as an aware employer is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults as its number one priority.



www.warrington.gov.uk/jobs



Director of Northamptonshire Sport

£46,471 - £57,167 pa

Ref: 24267

John Dryden House, Northampton

Fixed term contract for 2 years (with 3rd year in principle)

The County Sports Partnership is looking to appoint an exceptional leader to drive forward the development of sport in Northamptonshire. You will provide vision, ambition and real get-up-and-go as the Partnership positions itself to deliver a level of sporting opportunity that will make Northamptonshire the place to live for a great quality of life.

You will have

- Visionary leadership skills
- Ability to deliver multi-agency strategies
- Significant management and budgetary experience
- Extensive knowledge of sports development
- Substantial track record in successful partnership working
- Business acumen, flair, a desire to transform and be qualified to degree standard or equivalent.

The Northamptonshire Partnership is a forward thinking, innovative and successful organisation that has gained great credibility from its achievements to date.

Significant change at a regional and national level within the sports sector will require you to effectively position the Partnership to bring about the greatest benefit for sport in Northamptonshire, a county that will see considerable population growth over the next twenty years.

For an informal discussion please contact Sue Grace on 01604 237960.

For additional information about these roles and to apply online or download an application pack, please go to www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/jobs

If you require an application pack in an alternative format, please contact 01604 237666.

Closing date: 12 noon on 2 April 2009.



Your local library has internet access, just ask if you need help.

Northamptonshire County Council
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk

A MAGICAL WONDERLAND OF OPPORTUNITY

Manager – Diana, Princess of Wales' Memorial Playground

20 hours per week rising to 40 hours in peak season
£23,920 - £28,900 (pro rata) | Kensington Gardens, London

A magnificent pirate ship in a sea of sand. A giant swing. A turtle drum. An enchanting tree carving. No wonder this high profile destination attracts 750,000 children a year, as well as other play providers and international media. In this unique role, you'll ensure everything on offer to them is 100% shipshape.

From overseeing H&S regulations and monitoring contract staff, to reviewing our operational plan and carrying out PR initiatives, no two days will be the same. That's why, on top of a sound understanding of playgrounds and H&S legislation, you'll need superb negotiation and customer service skills. Report-writing abilities and supervisory experience in a public leisure environment are vital.

Expect regular weekend and evening work. An enhanced CRB check will be made before the appointment can be confirmed.

To apply, please visit the 'Current Vacancies' page of our website ('About us/Recruitment') where you will be able to download an application pack. Alternatively, please email personnel3@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk or write to the HR Department, The Royal Parks, The Old Police House, Hyde Park, London W2 2UH, requesting an application pack and quoting ref DMPME1.

Completed application forms must be received by 3rd April 2009.

This is your space. www.royalparks.org.uk

The Royal Parks are: Bushy Park | The Green Park | Greenwich Park | Hyde Park | Kensington Gardens
The Regent's Park and Primrose Hill | Richmond Park | St James's Park | Brompton Cemetery

London's Personal Space

We are committed to equality of opportunity and actively encourage applications from all sectors of our community.



sport & leisure / executive

SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL TOURISM AND CULTURE SERVICES

Executive Manager Salary £36,837 to £39,669
(Entertainments and Conferences)

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for a creative and innovative individual to manage and develop the renowned Scarborough Spa, Whitby Pavilion and Filey Evron Centre facilities.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day management of the venues, the development of marketing and sales plans to maximise business opportunities, the sourcing and programming of entertainment and events as well as the expansion of current conference meeting and incentive business. The ideal candidate will have had extensive experience in Venue Management with commercial insight and superb management and organisational skills. Good financial acumen is also required as well as excellent sales and negotiation skills.

CLOSING DATE: 8 April 2009 INTERVIEW DATE: 17 April 2009

Catering & Functions Manager Salary £29,694 to £31,999

The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall management of the Scarborough Spa and Whitby Pavilion catering and license functions; the development and implementation of effective marketing and sales plans, the sourcing of quality cost effective produce, and the delivery of innovative creative catering menus in conjunction with the delivery of high quality customer service.

The ideal candidate will have had extensive knowledge and experience in catering provision and managing services at operational and strategic levels.

CLOSING DATE: 8 April 2009 INTERVIEW DATE: 21 April 2009

For an informal discussion please contact Janet Deacon on 01723 232570.

Enquiries should be made to Customer First, telephone 01723 232323, e-mail customer.first@scarborough.gov.uk or jobvacancies@scarborough.gov.uk. Vacancy details are also available from www.scarborough.gov.uk and www.oneplacenorthyorks.com.

Application forms should be returned to Human Resources, Town Hall, St Nicholas Street, Scarborough, YO11 2HG in an envelope marked "Private and Confidential, Application for Post TC20 Executive Manager, or TC 30 Catering and Functions Manager"



THE PRIORY CITY OF LINCOLN ACADEMY

Required for September
or earlier if possible:

Partnership Development Manager

The Academy is seeking to appoint a physical education and sport enthusiast with substantial experience in youth sport and management as the Partnership Development Manager (PDM) for The City of Lincoln School Sports Partnership. QTS is not essential. Salary: £34,170 pa.

Successful applicants will be subject to an Enhanced CRB check.

Please contact the Academy for an application pack, closing date:
Tuesday 31st March.

Mr P Ryland, Headmaster, The Priory City of Lincoln Academy
Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 0EP
Tel 01522 882800 Fax 01522 882801 generalenquiries@priorycity.co.uk

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LEISURE SERVICES

*Take the next steps towards
Leisure Centre Management.*



**We are looking for figure heads, natural
leaders, and professionals that complete tasks.**

These are exciting times at Woking Leisure Centre and Pool in the Park; we are growing year on year and attracted over 700,000 visits in 2007/8, with membership trebled this year we are increasingly busy. Facilities include 3 pools including a lagoon and 6 lane competition pool, 10 crt Sports Hall, 6 Squash courts, Spa and Sauna suite, Cybex Fitness Suite, free weights room, several activity halls, outside courts, and much more.

Duty Officer

Salary £20,212 - £26,411 per annum

Based at Woking Leisure Centre and Pool in the Park our Duty Officers demonstrate that service delivery, and our customers are at the heart of our leisure experience. Our Duty Officers will go that extra mile to ensure that customers return time after time and staff are content and happy.

You will be empowered to make key decisions and be responsible for the day to day running of buildings, all programmes, and staff. You will ensure that high service standards are maintained and that our customers and colleagues enjoy their time with us.

You will be part of a team of 6 Duty Officers that actively supervise and co-ordinate the operation of all areas of the service. You will directly manage the Senior Recreation Assistants, and other direct service colleagues.

You will have other responsibilities including security of buildings, financial management, recruitment and selection, health and safety, and play an active role in the further development of the business.

You should have an industry recognised qualification in Sport and Leisure Supervision or Management. You should have a NPLQ or can demonstrate the ability to gain one. You will have exceptional customer service and interpersonal skills, and have the ability to motivate others and get the best out of them.

Senior Recreation Assistant

Salary £16,905 - £20,212 per annum

Based at Woking Leisure Centre and Pool in the Park you will be part of a team of 6 Senior Recreation Assistants, your team will lead 12 full time Recreation Assistants and many more part time and casual staff. You will have Lifeguarding duties and work under the guidance of the Duty Officers.

Key tasks will include ensuring staffing levels on a day to day basis, setting and monitoring of cleaning tasks, and ensuring Lifeguarding standards are exceptional.

You will also act as the Duty Officer in their absence, fulfilling this role to ensure the service remains consistent.

You will have sound experience at Recreation Assistant level, ideally within both wet and dry environments, you will hold a current NPLQ and be ready to take the next step up in your career.

Hours of work will include days, evenings, weekends and bank holidays, however the successful candidates will demonstrate an enthusiastic and flexible attitude to work hours.

If you are an exceptional team player, shine as an individual, are full of enthusiasm, enjoy challenges, and can get the best out of people then these roles will be the ideal for you.

For an informal discussion please contact Stuart Harding, Leisure Services Manager on 01483 771122, or stuart.harding@woking.gov.uk

As this job involves contact with children and vulnerable adults, successful applicants will be required to obtain an Enhanced Disclosure Certificate from the Criminal Records Bureau. Assistance will be given by the Council.

To apply please download the Application Pack and the Application Form from www.surreyjobs.info. If you are unable to download, please ring Woking Borough Council on 01483 743858.

CLOSING DATE: 17 APRIL 2009

Interview date: Duty Officers – w/c 27 April 2009
Senior Recreation Assistants – w/c 4 May 2009



London's Most Successful Social Enterprise

The Graduate's choice

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL)

Graduate Trainee Managers Scheme 2009

GLL are seeking high calibre graduates to join the September 2009 intake of Graduate Trainee Managers. Our scheme is recognised as one of the best in the industry. If you are aiming for senior management, operate with integrity and want to make a real difference we would like to hear from you.

Our challenging 2 year management training programme for graduates includes practical work experience in all aspects of leisure provision, front line and support services along with a structured programme of statutory, management and modular training.

The graduate trainee management scheme is nationally recognised within the industry and aims to produce the General Managers of the future. Many of GLL's Senior Management, General and Service Managers came through the GLL graduate Scheme. You must be business driven, customer focussed with a strong work ethic and capable of embracing this fast track scheme.

THE BENEFITS WE OFFER:

- Starting salary circa £18.6k plus 8% bonus (following probationary review)
- Salary review in second year of training programme
- Location: London (Assistance with relocation to London may be available)
- Supervisory placements in year two
- Top pension scheme (available after 12 months)
- HSA health plan available
- Opportunity to become a GLL society member
- Uniform supplied
- Ride to work bicycle purchase
- Travel allowance available
- Discounted staff fitness membership
- Continuous training and career development

To obtain information pack and application form

Email: james.craig2@gll.org

Closing date for applications: 20th April 2009

GLL is London's largest operator of leisure centres now operating in over 45 % of London's boroughs including the 5 Olympic boroughs and Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. GLL is the UK's largest Leisure Trust and London's most successful enterprise. As a staff owned and controlled organisation we offer opportunity and benefits for exciting career development and personal growth.



Graduate Trainee Manager: Carl Wallace



Graduate Trainee Managers sharing ideas

We are an equal opportunities employer and applications are encouraged from all sections of the community.

GLL working in partnership with the London Boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Ealing, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Lambeth, Merton, Newham, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, Reading Borough Council, Bellingham Community Project, the London Development Agency and the London Playing Fields Foundation.

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LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Salary Scale 5
£19,370 - £21,244 per annum

Subject to job evaluation - 37 hours

Working alongside our existing SDO, this post will drive forward the delivery of a range of projects to transform the local area. We are looking for someone with enthusiasm, drive, and a genuine passion to promote sports participation.

Experience of practical Sports Development activity is required together with a formal qualification in an appropriate discipline.

For an informal conversation about the position please call Peter Tyas, Acting Cultural Services Manager on (01946) 59 3039.

All appointments will be made subject to Enhanced CRB checks.

For an application form and further details, please contact Customer Services Department, The Copeland Centre, Catherine Street, WHITEHAVEN, Cumbria, CA28 7SJ. Tel. 0845 054 8600 or by logging onto www.copeland.gov.uk

Closing date 3 of April 2009.

Interviews to be held on 20 April 2009.



Copeland Borough Council

Do you have an interest in sport and activities?
Do you enjoy working with young people?

Oxfordshire Association for Young People (OAYP)
ActiveTEN20 (reg charity 1015127)

Oxfordshire Association for Young People - activeTEN20 are Oxfordshire's oldest voluntary youth charity and are currently seeking to recruit for the following post:-

Sports and Activities Officer

Full Time (37 hours per wk) Salary £17,000 to £20,000 + Benefits (depending on qualifications and experience)

An exciting opportunity has arisen to develop and deliver the new sport and activities programme to young people within Oxfordshire.

The main duties of the post include:

- Delivery of sports and activities to young people
- Develop an activity programme for young people
- Deliver sports leaders UK training to young people and volunteers
- Fundraising to support the project

You need to be organised, motivated, adaptable and committed to working for the good of the community. Experience or awareness of partnership working and engaging with young people are essential.

The post requires travel throughout Oxfordshire, therefore a full UK driving licence is essential.

OAYP are currently based at Upper Heyford, however we will soon be relocating our offices into or around the Oxford area.

For an informal discussion about the post please contact Paul Lawrence, County Director on 01869 233570 or email paul.lawrence@activeten20.org for an application pack.

Closing Date for completed applications: 31st March 2009
Interviews to be held w/c 6th April 2009

Can you deliver Sports Development Plans for world class facilities?

Senior Sports Development Officer Leisure and Environment Department

£29,226 - £36,711 per annum (35 hours per week – permanent)

The Lee Valley Regional Park stretches 26 miles along the banks of the River Lee, from Ware in Hertfordshire, through Essex, to the Thames at East India Dock Basin. The Authority's remit is to provide regional sport and leisure facilities, parks, open spaces and nature conservation. Three of the major London 2012 Games facilities, the White Water Canoe Slalom Centre in Broxbourne, the VeloPark and the Eton Manor site in Olympic Park, will be owned, operated and funded by the Authority in Legacy.

The award winning Lee Valley Regional Park Authority is entering an exciting new phase and now needs an outstanding individual to join its Sports Development team based near Enfield.

The main emphasis of the role will be to continue the work to establish the Lee Valley Regional Park as a destination for sporting excellence; preparing and delivering sports development programmes for the Authority's sports facilities including the White Water Canoe Centre, the VeloPark and the Lee Valley Athletics Centre as well as managing the Authority's Grants programme.

You will be expected to have proven experience in a relevant role, be able to represent the Authority, meet with stakeholders and have experience of running a Grants programme. Supporting others in developing sporting legacy benefits from the London 2012 Games, you will also work with the Authority's partners to ensure the Authority is a destination for sporting excellence and develop/promote regional sports development initiatives, bringing the Regional Park closer to the communities it serves.

We provide: A good salary • Final salary pension scheme • Private medical insurance • Generous holiday entitlement.

If you believe you have the right blend of skills and experience to embrace these challenges, find out more and download an application pack by visiting www.leevalleypark.org.uk/jobs Email: jobs@leevalleypark.org.uk or if you do not have access to the internet call 01992 709 839.

Closing date: 17th April 2009 - 12 noon Interview date: 1st May 2009

www.leevalleypark.org.uk

We are an equal opportunities employer • No agencies please



Motcombe Park Sports Centre
Port Regis School,
Motcombe Park, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9QA.
Tel: 01747-857800 E-mail: office@portregis.com

We are looking for a dynamic, highly motivated

Duty Manager/Games Coach

Assisting in the day to day running of the outstanding facilities at Motcombe Park Sports Club. This post would suit an experienced Recreation Assistant wishing to step into management. Lifeguard qualification preferred but not essential. Hockey, netball and rounders experience or coaching qualification would be an advantage. Accommodation may be available.

Closing Date: 10th April 2009

To apply for this vacancy, in the first instance, please send a current CV and covering letter to kam@portregis.com

Port Regis is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced CRB Disclosure. Port Regis exists for the education of children - 306218

Physical Education and Sport Co-ordinator
(37 hrs/wk – Term Time Only)



BASED AT VANDYKE UPPER SCHOOL IN LEIGHTON BUZZARD.

Required start as soon as possible. Fixed Term 2 Year Contract
Salary £18,642 (pro rata £14,528), plus the possibility of additional paid coaching

We are looking for a sports development professional with at least one Level 2 Coaching qualification. You will work with the Sports College PE Team & SSP team to deliver on set targets, helping to co-ordinate areas such as Leadership and Volunteering, OSHL Programmes, as well as delivering coaching hours and cover of PE lessons when necessary.

Interviews will be held on April 2nd 2009.

For an application pack and / or an informal chat regarding this role please contact: Claire Syvret, Partnership Development Manager, Vandyke Upper School, Vandyke Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 3XB
Tel: 01525-636720 Fax: 01525-636722 e-mail: csyvret@vandyke.beds.sch.uk
Please send completed application forms to Claire Syvret – as above.

Closing date:
27th March 2009



aberdeencity.gov.uk/jobs

Duty Manager (3 posts)

Current: £18,354 – £19,890 Proposed: £21,857 – £24,974

You'll bring experience in the operation or supervision of a sport and leisure environment, knowledge of Health & Safety working practices and experience of managing physical resources – premises, materials, plant and equipment. You'll have an ILAM/ISRM Pool Plant Operator Certificate or equivalent, or an ILAM/ISRM Supervisory Certificate or equivalent, and a current first-aid qualification. The ability to motivate and manage staff and excellent communication and organisational skills are essential. We have two posts at the Beach Leisure Centre and one peripatetic post. (Ref. AC055/09).

Closing Date: Monday 6 April 2009 (12 noon)

The grade of the jobs advertised by Aberdeen City Council remain subject to the process of job evaluation. We have therefore shown two rates of pay to indicate the current rate of pay for the job and the proposed rate. Successful applicants will be paid the current rate and move to the proposed rate on implementation of the arrangements.

- Apply online or call 01224 522105 (24 hours) for an application pack quoting the relevant reference number.
- Committed to equal opportunities.
- Benefits include the opportunity to join the Local Government Pension Scheme.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMME MANAGERS x 2

One in the North West region
One in the South West region
£26,000 - £33,000 pa plus benefits

As one of the largest sports charities in the world – and certainly the largest in the UK – the Football Foundation's role is to improve grass roots football and multi sports facilities across the country and to provide facilities grants to a wide range of organisations that seek to use the power of football to create opportunities and build cohesive communities.

The Community Team oversees the development of key areas of community sports and social inclusion, the use of sport as a social and educational tool, and plays a part in shaping the current issues and developments in the fields of crime reduction and community cohesion. We are looking to recruit Community Programme Managers who will be responsible for developing and assessing grant aid applications to this programme, using the power of football to engage socially excluded groups, as well as developing working relationships with key local partners and stakeholders. The successful applicant will be a strong communicator and computer literate to a high level, with experience in a similar grants related role and a thorough understanding of sports development.

The Football Foundation 30 Gloucester Place London W1U 8FF
Registered Charity Number 1079309

improving facilities • creating opportunities • building communities



FootballFoundation
football's biggest supporter

Essential experience

You will demonstrate excellent:

- knowledge of community cohesion and social inclusion
- understanding of the key areas of the social agenda
- experience of grant giving
- planning and organisational skills.

If you are ready for the challenge, please visit our website on <http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/about-us/jobs> to obtain an application form.

The closing date for applications is 12pm on Friday 27 March 2009.

Local Services

Corporate Services

Forensic Services

West London Mental Health NHS Trust provides a full range of local mental health services to the London boroughs of Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Hounslow as well as specialist forensic mental health services, including high secure services to a much wider catchment area.

St Bernard's, Ealing

Physical Activities Advisor

Band: 4 £20,577 - £24,079 p.a. including Outer London Weighting
37.5 hours per week Ref: 222-WL7441

Physical activity is a valued part of our daily rehabilitation programmes and takes place either in one of our on-site gymnasiums/sports halls or in nearby community facilities.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic individual to join the Physical Activity Team at West London Mental Health Trust. You will be highly motivated and have a recognised fitness industry qualification. Experience of working with mental health service users would be an advantage. You will promote, facilitate and encourage both staff and service users in a wide range of health enhancing and recreational physical activities.

For more details or for an informal discussion please contact **Manoj Gautam** on 020 8354 8166 or **Pippa Lee** on 020 8483 2292.

Please apply online at www.wlmhtjobs.nhs.uk or alternatively to request a job pack for this position telephone our recruitment line 020 8354 8122, or email HR-Admin@wlmht.nhs.uk quoting your name, address and job ref: 222-WL7441.

Closing date: 31st March 2009.

Target interview dates: w/c 20th April 2009.

If you have not heard from the Recruitment Team within 14 days of the closing date please assume that you have not been short-listed.

The Trust will apply for an enhanced CRB disclosure for the successful candidate prior to appointment. For more information visit www.crb.gov.uk

The Trust welcomes applications from all sections of the community who fulfil the criteria for the post. We are keen to ensure that our workforce reflects the community it serves, particularly in terms of ethnicity, gender, disability and experience of mental illness.

The Trust is committed to equal opportunities and where practicable facilitating flexible working arrangements. The Trust operates a No Smoking policy for all staff.

West London Mental Health **NHS**
NHS Trust

Many viewpoints. One vision.



Kick start your career!

Club Managers • £25-35k OTE £45k - Nationwide

You'll need outstanding management skills to get the best from your team in this fast-paced, customer-focused and sales orientated business. With responsibility for planning and financial management, you'll get all the support you need to get the job done.

Deputy Club Managers • £18-20 OTE 25k - Nationwide

If you have management experience in a customer focused and sales orientated environment, there isn't a better place to fulfil your career ambitions.

Fitness Managers & Instructors • Up to £16K - Nationwide

We need Fitness staff who have the right personality to coach, inspire and motivate our members, support them through induction and not only help them achieve their fitness goals - but total club satisfaction. If you are fitness qualified, we have just the job.

Membership Sales Advisors • £12-16K, OTE £24K - Nationwide

We need you to welcome and tour prospective members, and use your personality to generate leads. If you have a track record in selling or have the right attitude to achieve - we have a great opportunity.

With almost 100 clubs and over a quarter of a million members, LA Fitness is one of the UK's most popular health and fitness operators. Join us and find out why we're not only a favourite for customers, but for careers too!

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or email: recruitment@lafitness.co.uk

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and wishing for better weather?

Recruiting:

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For THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Be a part of the number one Health Club Operator in the world!

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www.fitnessfirst.com

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city lit

The centre for adult learning

Based in Covent Garden, City Lit is London's biggest provider of part-time courses for adults. As a leader in its field, it has a reputation for high quality teaching in a vast range of subjects, as well as award winning work with vulnerable groups in the community.

Teacher Co-ordinator – Health & Fitness

£15,824 - £17,565 p.a. & 7 weeks annual leave 17.5 hpw

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For an application pack please download from www.citylit.ac.uk/careers or call 020 7492 2684.

Closing date: Noon, 15/04/09.

City Lit is an equal opportunities employer.



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the gym

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1

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2

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With more than **360,000** unique users each month, the Leisure Opportunities website is the leisure jobseekers' favourite place to search for vacancies.

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3

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4

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5

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Leisure Opportunities' instant jobs service sends details of your vacancy straight to the email box of job seekers across the leisure industry.



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Arts & Physical Activity Development Officer

Ref: COM/131/08 £24,331 - £25,940

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CRB clearance will be required for the above post.

These posts are subject to job evaluation.

Closing Date: Monday 6 April 2009.

Application forms and further details are available from: www.warrington.gov.uk/jobs

Tel: 01925 442040 (24 hr).

Please quote reference number.

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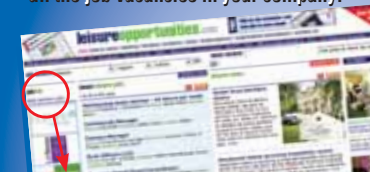


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Reporting to the Marketing & Communications Director, you will lead the development and delivery of our customer relationship management (CRM) and membership strategy for ZSL which will shape our ongoing activities.

With 1.5 million visitors each year, this is a vital and exciting role in the achievement of our mission. You will need to demonstrate achievement within the CRM field at a senior level, ideally in the leisure/visitor attraction sector, together with good people management and communication skills. An empathy with our mission and work is essential.

Based at our Regent's Park offices, you will need to spend time at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, near Dunstable, on a regular basis.

A full job description will be found on the jobs section of our website www.zsl.org

Applications, by CV with a covering letter explaining how you meet our criteria, by post to: Ian Meyrick, HR Director, ZSL, Regent's Park, NW1 4RY or by email to hr@zsl.org by Thursday 2nd April.



The Zoological Society of London is a Registered Charity in England & Wales: no 208728

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zsl.org/jobs



Assistant Operations Manager

Wahooo! Waterpark – Bahrain City Centre

We need an "Assistant Operations Manager" for our Wahooo!Waterpark in Bahrain City Center which, when completed will be the largest indoor water park in the Middle east with an area of over 15,000 square meters and will employ over 150 staff. The water park will have a 150 m long Lazy River, 190 m long Masterblaster rollercoaster, 3 indoor slides, a 1.8m deep wave pool, and many other pools, rides and slides including a 3m high curling wave surfing machine.

Job Purpose: To work with the Operations Manager to ensure the smooth, safe operation of Wahooo! Waterpark, both Pool side and Front of House, and deliver a first-quality guest experience for all visitors.

Person Specifications

Female Candidate with a degree holder or other recognizable professional qualifications, 5 years experience in a similar position either indoor or outdoor water parks. Health & Safety training certified. Basic understanding of Pool Plant operations. A clear understanding of water quality as per HSE guidelines, Qualified Lifeguard, RLSS trainer and first aider. Demonstrable passion for customer service and the quality of the guest experience. Innovative mind with an eye for detail. Personable with excellent people skills, proven leadership skills. Fluent in English, a second language an advantage.

Salary Package

Basic: £1588/Month (Tax free), Conveyance Allowance: £91/Month. Utility Allowance: £32/Month. Housing Allowance: Unfurnished accommodation up to a rent limit which is currently £8816/- per year. 22 Working days as annual leave. Private medical insurance. Economy Class air ticket every year

If interested, please send us your CV to Opportunities@maf.ae
Or for an informal discussion call 00973 17584444 asking for the Waterpark offices. To know more about MAF please visit our website: www.majidalfuttaim.com

And to know more about the Wahooo!
Please visit our website www.wahooo.com.bh

arts & attractions

news & jobs at www.leisureopportunities.co.uk

Facilities framework to improve North West sport

Report identifies core development needs for region

By **Tom Walker**

Sport England North West has published a 10-year Regional Sports Facilities Framework that maps the priorities and future investment in sporting infrastructure across the region.

Setting out the core facility development needs for the region, the framework will act as a reference base for investors and project developers.

The report's recommendations include the potential for the development of two Olympic-size swimming pools,

new dedicated cycling provision, and an eight-court sports hall for performance badminton and basketball use, as well as the investment in a variety of developments to improve community access.

The framework was delivered by leisure consultants Strategic Leisure, in partnership with a steering group representing local authorities, leisure trusts, National Governing Bodies (NGBs), County Sports Partnerships (CSPs) and the North West Regional Development Agency.



A centre for performance basketball is among the recommendations

Spring relaunch for Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum

By **Helen Patenall**

Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford is scheduled to reopen to the public on 1 May following the completion of phases one and two of a redevelopment plan.

Reconstruction of the museum's entrance will provide visitors a platform on the same level as the attached Museum of Natural History. The new space will accommodate the reception and a shop.



The museum reopens on 1 April

Stairs and a wheelchair lift will lead guests down to the exhibition gallery, which has been revamped to restore the

original view through the museum's totem pole. Original display cases, transferred to the Lower Gallery during the 1960s, will now feature at the front of the museum.

The emptied Lower Gallery will provide a new area for family activities, while eight additional displays focusing on painting and decorative styles will also showcase many previously unseen artefacts from the reserve collections.

Contractor for Botwell chosen

Surrey-based contractor GB Building Solutions has won the contract to build the new £15m leisure centre in Botwell, near Hayes, Middlesex.

The Botwell Green complex will include a gymnastics hall, two swimming pools, a sports hall, a fitness suite, an aerobics studio and a multi-use games area.

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