

leisure opportunities

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'Attraction' hope for 2012 venues

Olympic Park venues should be promoted as a "family day out" with joint tickets and additional attractions, according to a new report from the London Assembly.

Park Life has been produced by the Economy, Culture and Sport (ECS) committee and focuses on the legacy of facilities such as the Velopark and the Handball Arena.

The report also investigated the future of the Aquatics Centre and the Eton Manor hockey and tennis centre after the 2012 Games. It is recommended the four facilities are marketed as a single destination open to the public for at least 80 per cent of the time.

Both the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) and Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) have been urged to develop joint ticketing schemes by the committee.



It is hoped the Olympic Park will become a major tourism destination

Meanwhile, both organisations have also been asked to look into developing "complementary visitor attractions" near the four venues. *More details:* <http://lei.sr?a=1j7V4H>



Hotel Verta includes the subterranean Spa Verta

Simon Cowell's brother buys London's Hotel Verta

Christie + Co has confirmed that London's Hotel Verta, which was formerly part of the von Essen portfolio, has been sold to a private buyer for "around £20m".

According to the *Evening Standard*, the 70-bedroom property, located between Battersea and Wandsworth bridges, has been bought by Nicholas Cowell, brother of *X Factor* mogul Simon.

Facilities include the subterranean Spa Verta, which comprises a hydro-vitality pool; a sanarium; heated lounges; a steam-room; a sauna; and five treatment rooms.

Irish government outlines leisure spend

Ireland's Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport have been informed of their Budget 2012 funding allocation.

Current expenditure provision for the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for next year will be €786m (€672m) – a drop of €69m (€59m) on estimates for 2011.

Meanwhile, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has been allocated €224m (€191.5m) for current expenditure and €43m (€36.8m) in capital funding.

40pc of cancers 'can be prevented'

A new study by Cancer Research has revealed that around 40 per cent of cancers in women and 45 per cent of those in men could be prevented by adopting healthier lifestyles.

In total, the charity estimates that around 134,000 people in the UK could avoid cancer by adjusting their lifestyles in exercising more, as well as quitting smoking, cutting down on alcohol and improving their diets.

According to the report, which was published in the December 2011 issue of *British Journal of Cancer*, smoking has been found to be the most important lifestyle factor causing 23 per cent of cancers in men and 15.6 per cent in women – nearly one in five of all cancers.



Healthier lifestyles could cut cancer rates in the UK

Professor Max Parkin, epidemiologist at Queen Mary, University of London, said: "It's clear that around 40 per cent of all cancers are caused by things we mostly have the power to change." *More details:* <http://lei.sr?a=Q5t4L>

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SPORT

Youths 'playing less' major sports

Latest participation figures from Sport England have shown a fall in the number of 16- to 19-year olds taking part in "major sports" such as football, tennis and swimming.

Concerns have also been raised over a decline in participation among women, although there has been an overall increase in the number of adults playing sport at least once a week.

TNS-BRMB carried out the research, which is based on telephone interviews with 166,000 adults aged 16 and over in England between October 2010 and October 2011.

For those who were not playing sport as often as they were, nearly a third said it was due to a lack of time through work commitments or economic factors such as cost. Despite what have been labelled "disappointing" figures, there has been an overall growth



Football is one sport in which 16- to 19-year-olds are participating less

in adult participation during the period, while more disabled people are also playing sport.

Speaking to *Leisure Opportunities*, Sport England chief executive Jennie Price said: "We need to tackle head on the widening gender gap by doing much more to make sport relevant and appealing to women."

More details: <http://lei.sr?a=F8S80>

Green light for Batchwood redevelopment

A new strategy for the redevelopment of Hertfordshire's Batchwood Golf and Tennis Centre has been given the green light by St Albans City and District Council (SACDC).

One of the UK's first high performance indoor tennis centres was among the facilities

destroyed by fire in August, along with a bowls clubhouse and a golf clubhouse.

Under the agreed strategy, the redevelopment will be undertaken as two separate projects; one comprising the tennis centre and the other including the two clubhouses.

Work starts on Waterford sports scheme

Irish minister for public expenditure and reform Brendan Howlin has helped mark the start of work on a new EUR10.5m (€9m) sports campus at Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT).

The multi-purpose arena, which will be located at Carriganore and has been designed by Turlough Clancy of Henry J Lyons, will complement the existing EUR8.5m (€7.3m) WIT Sports Arena and integrate with the pavilion and changing areas.

Facilities will include an indoor arena that can be converted into a conference or exhibition centre; a two-level, elite athlete gymnasium; and performance analysis suites. Four playing pitches and a 2,000-seat conference centre will also form part of the project, as well as ancillary



The scheme includes the first all-weather pitch to meet GAA standards

sports and catering facilities and a 180-capacity E-Learning centre.

The first two phases of the WIT Sport Campus were completed last year and feature a cross country track and four playing pitches.

More details: <http://lei.sr?a=B4O6r>

MCC backs revised Lord's plans

Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has announced that it has decided to pursue a "stand-by-stand" redevelopment of the iconic Lord's cricket ground in St John's Wood, London.

Earlier this year, discussions began with property group Almacantar with a view to a £400m redevelopment including a residential element at the Nursery End of the North London ground.

However, the MCC has now agreed to focus on a phased overhaul of the venue, which it said is likely to start with the rebuilding of the Tavern and Allen stands at the Pavilion End. The revised plans will now only include the club's freehold land, with Lord's major match allocation over the coming years giving the MCC the confidence to pursue the scheme. Once the new development plans are drawn up alongside a



The cricket ground is set to be transformed on a "stand-by-stand" basis

"sustainable" business plan, the MCC plans to consult with the local community and planning authorities.

MCC chair Oliver Stocken said: "The club was awarded the Platinum Package of major matches by the ECB in September 2011, and that has provided the committee with the confidence to fund a redevelopment scheme."

Bristol Rovers stadium moves step closer

Bristol Rovers Football Club (BRFC) has finalised the legal agreements for a proposed new stadium with the University of West England (UWE) and supermarket chain Sainsbury's.

A 20,000-seat ground with "extensive" club shop; a banqueting and hospitality suite; a gym; and a jogging track is to be built on land near the university's Frenchay campus in Bristol. Teaching space for the university and a convenience store will also form part of the Arturus-designed project, in addition to a Sainsbury's superstore at the club's existing Memorial Ground site.

Plans for the new stadium and supermarket will be submitted to South Gloucestershire Council to Bristol City Council, following a



The new stadium will be built on land close to UWE's Frenchay campus

consultation in early 2012. In addition to providing a new home stadium for the power League Two club, Bristol Rugby Club has also been offered the opportunity to relocate to the venue when complete.

Wakefield Wildcats stadium inquiry gets underway

A public inquiry has now commenced in order to explore proposals for Wakefield Wildcats rugby league team's new stadium development at Newmarket, West Yorkshire.

The plans were called in last December, with the two-week inquiry to now hear arguments

in favour and against the 12,000-capacity stadium and community sports facilities.

Following the inquiry, a report will be submitted to communities secretary Eric Pickles for a final decision as to whether the development can proceed in 2012.

New £7.6m Redbridge sports hall to open

Redbridge Sports & Leisure will open the doors to its new £7.6m Sports Hall in January 2012. Construction work on the project – by Kier Eastern – has taken 12 months and the New Indoor Arena will feature 12 badminton courts and two wellness Studios, a café and a 250-capacity Top Floor Sports and Corporate Hospitality venue.

Redbridge Sports & Leisure provided more than £2m for the project, with other funding coming from the Olympic Delivery Authority, Sport England, Mayors Legacy Fund and Badminton England.



The initiative aims to establish an athletics legacy

SIV announces Sheffield athletics legacy scheme

Sheffield International Venues (SIV) has announced the launch of its new athletics scheme, which it hopes will help establish a legacy for the sport across the South Yorkshire city.

Athletics Unlimited is part of a long-term SIV strategy to increase participation in the sport and aims to build on the achievements of young elite performers from Sheffield.

The scheme will offer unlimited access to athletics facilities at the English Institute of Sport and the Don Valley Stadium, both of which are venues operated by SIV.

North Country Leisure appoints new chair

Following the retirement of long standing chair and founding member David Thompson this summer, leisure charity NCL has appointed a new chair, Chris Roberts, to head up its sport and leisure management services across Northumberland.

Roberts has been a Trustee of NCL since its inception in 1999 and has previously been responsible for the management of sports facilities and community sports activities for both Newcastle City Council and North Tyneside Council between 1980 and 2000.

New cycling studio for Oxford leisure centre

Oxford City Council has announced that work is now underway on a new indoor cycling studio at Barton Leisure Centre, which is operated by Fusion Lifestyle.

An existing group exercise studio at the venue is being adapted in order to provide space for new Keiser equipment, with the alterations to be complete by early 2012.

It is the latest indoor cycling studio to be installed at a council-owned leisure centre in Oxford, following the success of a similar facility opened in November 2010 at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre.



Alpine cyclists participated in the latest research

Heart 'risk' from endurance exercise

A study has found that athletes taking part in "extreme endurance exercise", such as marathons and alpine cycling, may do damage to the right ventricles of their hearts.

The results – published by the *European Heart Journal* – found that while damage was normally reversed within a week, there was a risk of longer-term issues.

Dr André La Gerche, a postdoctoral research fellow from St Vincent's Hospital at the University of Melbourne, Australia, led the team which carried out the research. More details: <http://lei.sr?a=z3a71>

Cannock fitness suite to open in February

A new 150-station Technogym Wellness fitness suite is to open to the public at the new-look Chase Leisure Centre in Cannock, Staffordshire, in February 2012.

The new gym is among a number of facilities that will open as part of a multi-million pound refurbishment of the facility, which is due to be fully completed in July 2012.

Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust is supplying the new equipment as part of an agreement that will see it run leisure services on behalf of Cannock Chase District Council from 1 February 2012.

New Bilston leisure centre opens

Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) and former England goalkeeper Bert Williams have officially opened Bilston's new £18.6m leisure centre.

The Bert Williams Leisure Centre was unveiled by the 91-year-old together with city mayor Bert Turner and replaces the town's existing Bilston Leisure Centre.

Facilities at the 5,600sq m (60,278sq ft) venue comprise a 25m, eight-lane swimming pool; a studio pool; a sauna; a dance studio; and a gym. A sports hall; four squash courts; a Shokk gym for young people aged between 11- and 15-years-old; and gym equipment for older people are also on offer.

WCC in-house architects designed the Bert Williams Leisure Centre, which has been built on the site of a former ironworks by York-based contractor Shepherd Construction.



The Bert Williams Leisure Centre has replaced Bilston's existing venue

Elias Mattu, cabinet member for leisure and communities, said: "We have worked hard to ensure there is something for everyone."

"We have also been able to provide many more exercise stations than we had at the old leisure centre as well as a brand new sauna, sports hall and dance studio."

HMRC reminder for private instructors

Private fitness and dance instructors have less than one month left to declare any unknown liabilities as part of a 'tax amnesty' by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

The HMRC campaign is targeting those individuals who currently profit from private tuition or instruction, either as a main or secondary income, on which the correct tax has not been paid.

Launched in October, HMRC's Tax Catch Up Plan is available to people teaching fitness or dance; sports; personal training; musical instruments; and arts. The campaign requires tutors and coaches to register by 6 January 2012 in order to 'notify' HMRC that a voluntary tax disclosure will be made, with owed tax to be paid by 31 March.



The HMRC amnesty is targeting private tutors such as personal trainers

Marian Wilson, the head of HMRC campaigns, said: "This is the first step for those with undisclosed income or gains to avoid a full tax investigation and much higher penalties. Contact us before we contact you."

AVBC acquires land for leisure development

Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC) has acquired 0.8-acres (0.3-hectares) of land off Field Lane, Belper, to progress the development of a new leisure centre for the town.

The deal was concluded for £1.136m from existing council resources, with the land

bought from a private owner. The development site is now a total of 2.1 acres (0.8 hectares).

Healey Associates are behind the design of the new facility, which will include a 70-station fitness suite and a health suite with treatment rooms and a sauna.

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Leisure trust GLL among UK's most carbon-friendly

Leisure trust Greenwich Leisure (GLL) has made it to the top 10 per cent of the government's Carbon Reduction Commitment Performance League Table.

The table assesses organisations on the steps they have taken and identifies organisations' successes in reducing carbon emissions over a three-year period.

GLL energy and environment manager Jeremy Gould said: "Ranking in the top 10 per cent is fantastic recognition of the hard work that has gone into developing a framework for reducing carbon emissions."



Shoreditch is the first in a chain of BOOM! clubs

BOOM! Cycle launches new studio in Shoreditch

American model Hilary Gilbert has teamed up with British entrepreneur Robert Rowland to open a 2,500sq ft (230sq m) purpose-built cycling studio in London.

BOOM! Cycle is located in Shoreditch and has become the first in what will be a chain of indoor cycling gyms in and around the capital – and possibly the UK.

The facility will offer clients the cost-saving and flexibility of pay-per-class pricing rather than a fixed monthly membership. The average class fee is £12.50, with discounts for block and group bookings.

The Gym Group secures three new UK locations

Real estate services firm Cushman and Wakefield has announced that it has secured three new UK locations for low-cost health club operator The Gym Group.

The acquisitions represent a total floor-space of around 50,000sq m (4,645sq m) and includes sites in Stockwell and Wood Green, both in London, as well as Luton.

First launched in Hounslow, London, in mid-2008, The Gym Group has now grown its UK estate to 23 clubs and is aiming for further growth in 2012, with a target of 35 sites to open by the end of next year.

Putney's Token Yard Club opens

A newly-launched private members gym in Putney, south west London, has been launched in a bid to 'give people a VIP club experience without the VIP price tag'.

The Token Yard Club, owned by Giuseppe Minetti, is based on the business model of offering bespoke training schedules and limiting its membership numbers to a maximum of 100 members.

Facilities include a main gym area for members, a Technogym-equipped personal training space with en-suite shower designed for one-on-one training and a large group exercise studio.

Minetti said: "With this intelligence we create a bespoke programme tailored to you to help you achieve your goals fast, be that weight loss, improved speed and performance or just getting back into shape."



The Putney club is limiting membership numbers to a maximum of 100

"We designed the club to give people the space they need to work out whilst getting expert advice and guidance to help them exceed their goals."

"We also want members to have fun getting fit and have created an open and friendly environment where people feel at home."

New-look Kingswood facility complete

Kingswood Leisure Centre has officially opened following the completion of a major £3m renovation, which has been funded by South Gloucestershire Council.

The venue is operated by the Circadian Trust on behalf of the local authority and now offers new-look swimming and fitness facilities following the phased scheme.

Remodelled and refurbished swimming pools were unveiled at the centre in July following a first phase of work, while the second included a new gym area and dry changing facilities.

Kingswood Leisure Centre now boasts more than 30 pieces of new Technogym equipment, along with the supplier's Wellness System and more than 20 spin bikes.



Remodelled swimming pools and a new gym formed part of the project

The completion of the Kingswood Leisure Centre's refurbishment has also coincided with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the first swimming pool in Kingswood, which was known as Soundwell Baths.

Wales rolls out Free Range Kids scheme

Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones has helped launch a national roll-out of a scheme that is designed to increase the number of children who cycle to school.

Sustrans' Free Range Kids campaign has been awarded £250,000 worth of support from

the Welsh Assembly Government, with more than 70 schools currently involved.

Each of the schools working with Sustrans are assigned a Bike It officer, who will draw up a tailor-made programme focusing on removing the barriers to cycling to school.

Irish marketing plans unveiled

Tourism Ireland has announced details of its marketing campaign for 2012, which aims to capitalise on this year's return to growth in inbound visitor numbers.

It is also hoped the strategy will provide the foundation for efforts to welcome more than 9 million visitors to the island by 2015, which will exceed record numbers set in 2007.

The agency said it will be looking to attract 7.8 million visitors during 2012, which will be a 5.5 per cent increase on figures for 2011 and will continue the sector's recovery.

Irish tourism minister Leo Varadkar said: "The sector currently keeps 180,000 people in jobs right across the country, and there is great potential for further job creation. The Tourism Ireland marketing plan will build on this progress. We are now building up to the



Tourism Ireland wants to attract 7.8 million overseas visitors next year

Gathering in 2013, which will be the biggest tourism event ever held in Ireland."

A new international advertising campaign; a focus on Ireland's "best prospects"; targeting the top four markets; and boosting access are among Tourism Ireland's priorities for 2012.

NIAO publishes review of NITB's Signature Projects

The Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) has published its review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board's (NITB) Signature Projects.

According to the NIAO, Belfast's Titanic Signature Building would require 290,000 visitors each year to break even when complete

next March and could face a doubtful future if predicted visitor numbers are not realised.

Meanwhile, the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre – due for completion in July 2012 – will require "challenging" operating revenues of £1.6m a year in order to cover its costs.

Brighton in line for 'eco-tourism' future?

A member of Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) has outlined plans to establish the area as the UK's capital for "urban eco-tourism" and to appeal to environmentally-friendly visitors.

Under the proposal put forward by BHCC cabinet member for tourism Geoffrey Bowden, a range of sustainable assets and attractions would be promoted in a special marketing drive.

It is hoped the concept would enhance the Brighton and Hove visitor industry, while reducing its carbon footprint. Eateries serving locally- or ethically-sourced food will also be included.

Bowden said: "This city has thrived by swapping buckets and spades for conferences



The iconic south coast resort could become an eco-tourism destination

and city breaks. Now, with the public becoming increasingly aware of environmental issues, the time is right for us to develop the city as a destination for eco-tourism."

2012 – a crunch year for tourism

KURT JANSON

is policy director of the Tourism Alliance



For a number of reasons, 2012 is shaping up to be a crunch year for the UK's tourism industry. If we do well next year then the future looks more assured than it has since 2008 when the global credit crunch started. However, there are some significant hurdles the sector must overcome during the next year.

Firstly, there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the impact that the Olympics will have on both the inbound and domestic tourism industries. A recent survey by ETOA shows that forward bookings for non-Olympic inbound tourism are down by around 90 per cent at the time of the Olympics, and by 30 per cent between the Olympics and the end of the year. These figures are supported by some of the large tourism attractions, which are reporting that forward bookings for 2012 are 40 per cent down from normal levels.

And what about domestic tourism? It's unknown whether UK residents will refrain from taking their usual holidays in order to watch the Games on TV; whether they will simply holiday at a different time of the year; or whether they will want to "escape" the Olympics and holiday overseas instead.

The second major issue facing the industry next year will be the state of the economy, both the UK's and the Eurozone's. There is a general consensus among economic commentators that if the eurozone can stay together next year it will probably survive. However, that is easier said than done, with a number of countries such as Italy having to raise huge amounts of new loans in the bond markets, which have become increasingly concerned about the lack of real steps being undertaken to solve the crisis.

In the UK, public sector redundancies will increase again next year and there remains a lack of compensatory growth in the private sector. As a result, unemployment will continue growing and there is a significant risk of the UK sliding back into recession. Yet, if we make the most of the media opportunities associated with the Olympics and weather the economic uncertainty, a silver lining is starting to appear with regards to future prospects.

Eat, drink... and avoid
the obesity trap!



PHILIPPE ROSSITER
is chief executive of the
Institute of Hospitality

With Christmas almost upon us, we are bombarded by advertisements encouraging us to 'eat, drink and be merry'. At the same time, many families (well, at least the hard-pressed mothers!) will be planning meals for the festive season, while also seeking out additional 'treats' we seem to long for at this time of the year.

Against this backdrop, the last thing people might wish to hear is that the UK is the fattest nation in Europe! Data published by Eurostat in November showed that almost a quarter of women in the UK were recorded as obese; more than any other country in Europe. Not far behind them in the fatty stakes are the men. Not surprisingly, with such examples our children do not fare much better; and Professor Dame Carol Black's 2008 review found significant levels of obesity among the nation's youngest.

The medical profession (and others) are so worried about this situation that they predict the UK could have around 26 million obese people by 2030 if current trends continue. Faced with such a challenge, there is very real concern the burden on health services will become enormous, for obesity is linked to a wide variety of diseases and conditions such as Type 2 diabetes, cancer and high blood pressure. When the nation is facing tremendous strains on public finances, such predictions are most unwelcome.

Ultimately, the solution to this (mostly) self-inflicted condition of obesity, which is symptomatic of our modern society 'norms' based on desire rather than need, is better education about both the causes and effects of over indulgence. Yet all sectors of industry can also play their part in making sure they do everything possible to provide healthy and nutritious food for their customers. Investing in skills which enable chefs to prepare wholesome meals is just part of this.

In addition, the caterer can do much to influence choice by the design of dishes and menu presentation. The irony is that this does not have to be expensive; indeed, a better skilled team in the kitchen can actually save a business money, while still maintaining excellent standards.

HOTELS

Mondrian to open London hotel

US-based hospitality company Morgans Hotel Group (MHG) has revealed plans to launch Europe's first Mondrian-branded property at the iconic Sea Containers House in central London.

The 652,000sq ft (60,573sq m) office building, which is located on the South Bank, is set to accommodate a 360-bedroom hotel and is expected to become the brand's sixth property.

Due to open in 2014, the hotel will offer an "innovative restaurant" and ground floor and rooftop bars conceived by the Light Group, as well as a spa.

MHG has revealed that it will invest around £9m (€10.6m, US\$14.1m) of "key money" into the project, which is the third Mondrian management agreement announced this year. Earlier this year, the group announced its plans



The landmark London building will house the Mondrian-branded hotel

to launch Mondrian-branded hotels in Doha, Qatar, and Nassau, The Bahamas.

MHG chief executive officer Michael Gross said: "Sea Containers is an exceptional property in a key gateway city that will allow us to serve our guests for business and pleasure throughout the year."

PwC: Regional hotels impacted by slow GDP growth

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has raised concerns that slow economic growth in the UK will "further compound the difficulties" for regional hoteliers heading into 2012.

In a "rule of thumb" analysis undertaken by PwC, it has been suggested every percentage

point fall in gross domestic product (GDP) will lead to a similar drop in occupancy rates.

However, next year's Olympic Games, Diamond Jubilee and Farnborough Air Show could offset some of the impact for those "in the right place at the right time".

Seven von Essen properties change hands

Seven UK properties that formed part of the von Essen Hotels portfolio have been acquired by Halcyon Hotels and Resorts, the operator owned by Nigel Chapman.

The purchase comes six years after Halcyon sold five hotels to the von Essen group. Hotels now under the group's ownership include Thornbury Castle Hotel near Bristol.

Other properties that have been acquired from von Essen by Halcyon are: Fowey Hall in Cornwall; Wooley Grange in Bradford-on-Avon; The Elms in Abberley, Worcestershire; Moonfleet Manor near Weymouth, Dorset; New Park Manor in Hampshire; and The East Wing at Ickworth, which is leased from the National Trust.



The 32-suite Thornbury Castle Hotel is among those bought by Halcyon

Christie + Co managing director Chris Day said: "We're delighted to have sold such a significant package of von Essen hotels to Halcyon Hotels and Resorts."



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{ Supplier information }

- Company profiles including key information, contact details, images of products and a picture of a key contact
- A-Z listing of trade associations

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Irish flagship spa for Sundāri

Sundāri, the spa concept established by supermodel Christy Turlington, has launched its first Irish flagship facility at the Killarney Plaza Hotel in County Kerry.

The property's 3,000sq ft (278.7sq m) spa now provides a wide number of treatments from Indonesia, Thailand and India, in addition to tailor-made healing therapies for the mind and body.

Signature treatments offered by the Killarney Plaza include the Sundāri Zana, consisting of a 90-minute facial and hot stone massage using volcanic stones.

The Realign treatment is a 75-minute, four-handed signature massage, which uses essential oils from plants, flowers and trees combined with the "energy" of two therapists.

The Sundāri spa at the Killarney Plaza Hotel also offers a range of post-natal therapies such



Killarney Plaza Hotel offers signature treatments such as Sundāri Zana

as the New Baby Brightening facial and the New Mums Body Massage.

Facilities at the spa include six therapy pods; two signature therapy areas; consultation area; a hand and feet therapy space; and a relaxation garden. A spa retail space and a leisure club with pool and fitness suite are also provided.

Barr + Wray secure Far East contracts

Glasgow-based swimming pool and spa provider Barr + Wray has successfully secured two contracts in the Far East worth a total of £2m.

The company has been appointed to carry out the installation of spa facilities at Resort World and the W Hotel in Sentosa, Singapore, with the latter due for completion in April 2012.

Located on the southern tip of Singapore, the 240-bedroom W Hotel will offer vitality and herbal pools; saunas; steamrooms; and rain pods. Facilities will also comprise a fitness centre; meeting rooms; and a residential development incorporating 228 homes and several penthouses.

Meanwhile, Barr + Wray has also been contracted to design the wet areas of the proposed



Barr + Wray will install a new onsen pool at Resort World in Singapore

wellness centre at Resort World, which will include hammams, saunas and steamrooms.

Vitality, onsen and plunge pools are also to be installed at Resort World by the company, with work scheduled for completion this month [December 2011].

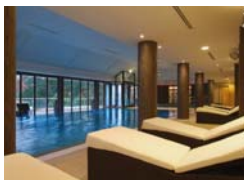
Green light for new Bedford Lodge Hotel spa

Independently-owned Review Hotels has announced that it has been given the green light to build a spa adjacent to its Bedford Lodge Hotel in Newmarket, Cambridgeshire.

Neighbouring Rockfield House, which was purchased by Review last year, has been

granted change of use planning permission to become The Spa at Bedford Lodge Hotel.

Exact details for the spa are yet to be confirmed, but it is anticipated that the spa will be opening to both hotel guests and non-guests during the third quarter of 2012.



Armathwaite Hall's spa opened in February 2009

New spa director for Armathwaite Hall

The privately-owned Armathwaite Hall Country House Hotel and Spa in Cumbria, UK, has announced the appointment of Colin Farndon as its new spa director.

Farndon joins Armathwaite Hall with more than 20 years of experience in the industry in the UK and abroad, and takes over the role from Jenni Paling.

Designed by Douglas Wallace Designers with consultancy Gill Haines Spa Operations, the £5m (£5.9m, US\$7.8m) spa opened its doors in February 2009.

Facilities include nine first-floor treatment rooms; a tranquillity room; a soft (16m) infinity-edged swimming pool; a floor-to-ceiling waterfall; and a heat experience, as well as a gym.

Farndon said: "I intend to build on the solid foundations laid by my predecessor Jenni Paling and the team to take the business and, most importantly, the guest experience forward in 2012."

New spa planned for Devon's Boringdon Hall

Boringdon Hall Hotel director James Nettleton has announced plans for a new multi-million pound development to include a spa and a 60-bedroom expansion of the Devon property.

Further details of the project are expected to be announced in the New Year, with Plymouth-based ADG chosen as architects and Ward Williams Associates named as project manager. The planned scheme follows the announcement earlier this year that the Nettleton Group had taken over the 41-bedroom property, which also includes The Gallery Restaurant.

It is expected that 50 new jobs will be created as part of the development, which forms part of a long-term strategy designed to secure the future of the historic hotel.

Nettleton said: "We're excited to be announcing our plans. The building has an amazing history and hopefully this new development will secure its future."

£1m for Scottish culture/ tourism organisations

Cultural, heritage and tourism groups in Scotland are being invited to apply for a share of £1m to encourage collaboration as part of the Year of Creative Scotland.

The year-long campaign will celebrate and promote Scottish culture and creativity, with the National Lottery support made available through Creative Scotland.

Groups are being urged to bid for funding before a final deadline of 31 January 2012, with the Year of Creative Scotland part of a wider countdown to the Homecoming celebrations scheduled for 2014.



The piece has been in Trafalgar Square since 2010

NMM/Art Fund launch Shonibare artwork appeal

A fundraising appeal has been unveiled by the National Maritime Museum (NMM) and the Art Fund in a bid to acquire Yinka Shonibare's *Nelson's Ship in a Bottle*.

The scale replica of Admiral Nelson's historic warship HMS Victory is currently on show at Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth until next year, following a two-year stay.

A £50,000 grant has been announced by the Art Fund, although £362,500 more is still required to secure the artwork, which is to move outside NMM's Sammy Ofer wing. *More details:* <http://lei.sr?a=V1t7U>

£500,000 funding for Suffolk's John Peel Centre

The John Peel Centre for Creative Arts in Stowmarket, Suffolk, has been awarded £500,000 of funding by Biffa towards the next stage of its redevelopment.

Named after late broadcaster John Peel, the facility was the only cultural venue to be handed a Biffa Flagship Project grant and is now seeking additional match-funding.

The latest award will go towards a third phase of work to transform the building into a fully-operational arts and events venue, which is due to start in May 2012 and includes new lighting and sound systems.

2012 launch for London project

London's Pleasure Gardens, a major new 60,000sq m (645,835sq ft) arts and entertainment destination for the capital, is to open on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend next June.

The project, which will create a new cultural attraction, was named as the winner of the Mayor of London and Newham Councils' 'Meanwhile London' competition.

It is hoped the project will act as a catalyst for further regeneration of the Royal Docks, while also celebrating the capital's diversity and supporting the cultural legacy of London 2012.

Located within the Olympic Red Zone opposite ExCeL, London's Pleasure Gardens will transform Ponto Dock into a new destination for Londoners and tourists. Facilities will include a 36,000sq m (387,501sq ft) outdoor



The scheme will lead to the transformation of London's Ponto Dock

live events space; water attractions such as a floating cinema; a boutique art hotel and restaurant; and a multi-arts dome venue.

The Hub night gallery and dance arena; the wilderness meadow and beach; a kids' climbing area; and an adults' playground are also planned. *More details:* <http://lei.sr?a=w3u7g>

New operator named for Liverpool's Epstein Theatre

Liverpool's Epstein Theatre, which was formerly known as The Neptune, is to be revived as a "lively music venue" after Liverpool Sound City was selected as its new operator.

Liverpool City Council appointed Liverpool Sound City to operate The Epstein Theatre

following a tender process and based on its plans for a "strong programme of music".

The organisation also pledged to use the building in order to showcase "cutting edge art and pop culture", which is expected to range from drama productions to exhibitions.

ACE opens bid process for touring scheme

Arts Council England (ACE) has opened the bidding process for its new £45m Strategic touring programme, which aims to promote collaboration between cultural groups.

New guidance for prospective applicants has also been published, with the scheme offering awards of at least £10,000 towards touring a range of arts disciplines.

The programme is open to any individual or organisation that meets the eligibility criteria, while museums and libraries can also apply if work is "primarily arts focused".

It is one of the methods in which ACE is planning to invest strategic funding between 2012 and 2015 and is financed largely through its National Lottery income.



The £45m programme will support touring a number of arts disciplines

The strategic funding also complements a £1.04bn investment in National Portfolio groups and aims to target key areas and take advantage of new opportunities.

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Museum of London eyes development role

A Museums Association members' meeting has learned how the Museum of London (MoL) has bid for funding to run the capital's development officer network.

London Museums Group chair Judy Lindsay told the meeting that a successful funding bid by MoL to the Renaissance grants scheme will mean development programmes in the capital "will continue".

Lindsay also said London's museums industry should increase its partnership working and join forces on areas such as promotion, lobbying and advocacy.



The Natural History Museum has free admission

10-year milestone for free museum policy

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) policy of providing free entry to the UK's national museums reached its 10-year milestone on 1 December.

Established under the previous Labour-led administration, the policy has been continued by the coalition government and safeguarded in the Comprehensive Spending Review. Since the introduction of the policy, DCMS-sponsored attractions in London have reported a 151 per cent increase in visitor numbers, while other sites posted a 148 per cent growth.

HLF boost for Barnard Castle's Witham Hall

Durham County Council has been awarded £336,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards a restoration of the Grade II-listed Witham Hall in Barnard Castle.

The two-year project is part of a wider regeneration programme for the town, which is one of the 51 most historically and architecturally important in North East England. Witham Hall will be restored and transformed into a heritage learning centre, while a wide range of community, business and cultural activities will benefit from improved facilities.

Casson Mann nets two contracts

London-based exhibition and museum designer Casson Mann has announced that it has been tasked with drawing up plans for a new flagship gallery at the National Maritime Museum (NMM), London.

The group will work on one of two new permanent galleries that are planned for the attraction – Navy, Nation and Nelson 1688–1815.

Exploring the history of the Royal Navy and its role during 18th century Britain, Casson Mann will work to create an 380sq m (4,090sq ft) exhibition that places the life and career of Admiral Nelson within the wider context of Britain's people and its national and naval histories.

Meanwhile, the group has also been selected as exhibition designers for the Natural History Museum's new Treasures gallery, which forms part of a wider redevelopment project.



Casson Mann will create one of two new galleries at the Greenwich site

The gallery will be located at the top of the North Staircase and is the first phase of the Central Hall scheme, displaying some of the museum's "greatest treasures" and offering a space that highlights the connection between the museum and its wide range of specimens, natural history objects and other artefacts.

£2.4m boost for Welsh heritage schemes

Nine heritage projects across Wales have been awarded a share of £2.4m from the Welsh Assembly Government in a bid to make the country's history more accessible.

The largest share of the funding package (£1m) has been allocated to Conwy and Gwynedd Councils for their collaborative efforts to explore industrial heritage.

A £521,000 award has gone to Swansea University for plans to make the Hafod and Morfa Copperworks more accessible and provide interpretation of the site's significance. Other recipients were Ffestiniog Railway Trust (£152,000); Pembrokeshire National Park Authority (£171,000); and the National Trust (£168,000) for a scheme in Carmarthenshire.



Funding will help make Swansea's Morfa Copperworks more accessible

The funding has been made available through the Assembly Government's £19m Heritage Tourism Project, which is supported by £8.5m of investment from the European Union. *More details:* <http://lei.sr?a=j3K8Q>

Reading confirms Abbey Quarter grant bid

Reading Borough Council (RBC) has confirmed it is seeking Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) support towards its plans for a new Abbey Quarter in the centre of the Berkshire town. The local authority is applying for £6.7m to help fund the proposals, which will

incorporate a number of historic sites and buildings and involve the conservation of the Abbey Ruins.

Interpretation is planned across the site through information boards, mobile applications and photographs.

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Macclesfield Town FC is eyeing up a new stadium

St Modwen teams up with Macclesfield Town

Macclesfield Town Football Club (MTFC) has entered into an agreement with St Modwen to work on plans for a new stadium as part of a wider mixed-use development in the town.

A 7,000-capacity, low-carbon venue is currently being proposed by the npower League Two club at a site close to its existing Moss Rose ground, which would also feature a conference facility.

The stadium is poised to anchor a community sports and leisure complex as part of the new South Macclesfield Development Area spanning 130 acres (52.6 hectares).

Eric Pickles rejects London Irish planning applications

London Irish Rugby Football Club's plans to build a new training ground and to redevelop its existing facility have been rejected by communities secretary Eric Pickles.

Two planning applications drawn up by the club were subject to a public inquiry earlier this year, having been dismissed by Spelthorne Borough Council last year.

The first related to a proposed training ground development at Hazelwood Golf Course. A second application concerned the redevelopment of the club's existing facility off The Avenue.

New public space opens in Nottingham

Nottingham City Council has announced the official opening of a new public space at Sneinton Market Square on 10 December, which follows the completion of a major transformation of the area.

The space, located adjacent to the new Victoria Leisure Centre, will be able to host events, performances and activities, and is part of the Connecting Eastside scheme.

It is hoped the revamp of Sneinton Market Square will also encourage further regeneration schemes, including the relocation of Dance4.

NIA unveils vision for major transformation

A major £20.6m renovation of the National Indoor Arena (NIA) in Birmingham is set to deliver improved facilities and a greater emphasis on the pre- and post-show experience.

Designs for the scheme have been drawn up by Broadway Malyan, with work due to commence in late 2012 and help transform the venue into the "next generation of arena" for the city.

The modernisation plans have been designed to make the most of the NIA's canal-side location and include a new entrance from Brindleyplace offering glazed views over the water and city.

An extra 5,926sq m (63,787sq ft) of pre- and post show retail opportunities will add to the 7,500sq m (80,729sq ft) of refurbishment work



Plans for Birmingham's NIA will deliver the "next generation of arena"

planned at the NIA, which has not received any improvements since first opening in 1991 but is now looking to safeguard its long-term future as a major sports and entertainment facility.

Blackburn plans Cathedral Quarter

Plans for a £30m scheme incorporating a hotel; restaurants; shops; and office space in the centre of Blackburn have been given the green light by the local authority.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (BDBC) is working with Blackburn Cathedral; the Homes and Communities Agency; and developer Maple Grove on the Cathedral Quarter project.

Phase one of the scheme is already nearing completion, with the Blackburn Youth Zone due to open in early

2012. However, members of BDBC's executive board have now paved the way for the submission of a planning application for the remainder of the development.

Mitre Hotel, a 70-bedroom hotel with leisure and retail provision on the ground floor, is among the proposals for the scheme, along



A new public square will be created on land surrounding the cathedral

with a public square linking the area between the cathedral and council land.

Dave Harling, executive member for regeneration at BDBC, said: "The new public square surrounding the cathedral will be somewhere where people can gather and will want to spend time."

Green light for Liverpool equestrian plans

Liverpool City Council (LCC) has approved plans for the development of a new equestrian centre on a 12.9-hectare (31.9-acre) site within the curtilage of the historic Allerton Priory.

Radcliffe Groves Partnership were behind the designs of the scheme, which is being led

by the Maghull Group and includes a stables block to cater for up to 38 horses.

Equestrian facilities will include a timber-framed indoor arena; two outdoor arenas; external paddocks; and parking spaces for 14 horse boxes, along with 200 new trees.

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REPs has made great strides in first decade



SUKI KALIRAI
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As well as being the year the Olympics come to London, 2012 marks the 10th anniversary of the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs). From humble beginnings this professional register has grown to be the largest member-based organisation of its kind in the world and is something we feel the sector should be proud of.

The rationale behind it was to safeguard the health and well-being of those that use the services of fitness professionals – an idea that was supported by employers and training providers as well as individual instructors. Its target was to sign-up 13,000 members, to draw up industry-recognised standards and bring structure to training and career progression.

Ten years on and REPs has nearly 28,000 members, is recognised as a professional body by the medical and healthcare sectors, and has been used as a model by other countries looking to set up professional registers. As the Register's first member gym owner and Personal Trainer Dean Eddy says: "Without REPs the industry wouldn't be where it is now in terms of professionalism, career development, client safety and recognition from the medical profession."

REPs is hugely successful within the sector – the Fitness Industry's Code of Practice states all of its members should only employ REPs' registered trainers – but the very people it was set up to protect are largely unaware of it. Within our sector we are well-known and understood but now with the Olympics looming it's time to promote the work we do to a wider consumer audience. We need to encourage people to embark on a healthier and more active lifestyle.

We're launching a consumer awareness campaign to promote this and we'll be encouraging members of the public to check the registration status of their instructor and planning a series of celebratory events to mark the 10th anniversary.

So if you're currently a REPs' member, don't forget to play your part and act as an ambassador for professionalism!

TRAINING

New study outlines benefits of massage

Massages can – and should – be used to treat a number of ailments, according to a study compiled by a joint team from RMIT University and the Australian Association of Massage Therapy (AAMT).

The *Effectiveness of Massage Therapy* report is a review of 740 Australian and international evidence-based academic research papers, published between 1978 and 2008. It concludes that health professionals – such as GPs

and nurses – should be more active in including massages as part of treatment plans for illnesses ranging from back pains and anxiety to nausea and stress.

It also highlights evidence that massages can delay the onset of muscle soreness (DOMS) and increasing pulmonary function.



The report compiles the results of 740 separate studies into massages

The study includes systematic reviews, randomised controlled trials, comparative studies, case-series/studies and cross-sectional studies covering a number of massage disciplines, such as acupressure, lymphatic drainage, reflexology, rolfing, shiatsu, Swedish massage, sports massage and trigger point therapies.

CMS reveals Active IQ partnership

CMS Vocational Training is now working with Active IQ to offer two fitness instructor qualifications, which have coincided with the launch of its apprenticeship scheme.

The new courses are the Level 2 Certificate in Fitness Instructing and the Active IQ Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Instructing Exercise and Fitness and are now on offer to young people between the ages of 16- and 18-year olds.

As part of the qualifications, learners will be given the chance to benefit from placements organised by CMS, which offers training and coaching opportunities across Yorkshire, Lancashire and northern England.

CMS operations manager Gareth Luke said: "Working with Active IQ gives our learners an extra advantage due to the quality of the qualifications they'll be studying for and the



The courses include the Level 2 Certificate in Fitness Instructing

bespoke delivery methods that allow us to be flexible in the qualification delivery."

Active IQ executive director Suzy Gunn added: "We have no doubt that our qualifications will help some of the young apprentices in their quest for a career in the health and fitness industry."

Hotel entrepreneur award winner revealed

Oxford Brookes University third-year student Harriet Small has been named as the winner of Bespoke Hotels' Entrepreneur of the Year award at a ceremony held in London.

The Bespoke Hotels-sponsored event, which features a Dragons' Den-style format, saw

students present business ventures to a panel of hospitality and tourism entrepreneurs.

Small's 'Loco' concept was chosen as the winner, for linking allotment and small farm owners to local eateries through a voucher scheme and bicycle distribution network.

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Community Project Officer, *Lancashire County Cricket Club, Manchester, UK*
Group Exercise Instructors, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, London*
Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, UK
Duty Manager, *Everyone Active, Staines, UK*
Client Services Manager, *Asia, SpaBooker/ GramercyOne, Singapore*
Receptionists - Full Time, *Reebok Sports Club, London, UK*
APPI Product Sales/Account Manager, *APPI*
Health Group, North West London, UK
Operations Support Manager, *TED Leisure, Luton, UK*
Sessional Tutors (P/T - Spring/Summer), *Surrey*
Adult and Community Services, Surrey, UK
L3 Exercise and Fitness Trainer/Tutor, *The Skills*
Partnership Ltd, Greater London, UK
A Fitness Instructor/Class Instructor, *The Winston*
Churchill School, Woking, Surrey, UK
Membership Consultant, *Everyone Active, Hinckley, UK*
Customer Support Specialist, *SpaBooker/ GramercyOne, Germany*
Senior Sales Consultant, *Everyone Active, Malvern, UK*
Food and Beverage Manager, *Everyone Active, Malvern, UK*
Dual Fitness Instructor & Sales Promotor/Advisor, *energie group, Redditch, UK*
Transition and Support Specialist, *SpaBooker/ GramercyOne, Singapore*
Group Exercise Instructors, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Hillingdon, UK*
Swimming Teacher, *Everyone Active, Staines, UK*
Energy Manager, *Everyone Active, Nationwide, UK*
Activity Leader, *Everyone Active, Staines, UK*
GP Referral Facilitator, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Woolwich SE18, UK*
Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager, *Stamford Endowed Schools, Stamford, UK*
General Manager, *Everyone Active, Stroud, UK*
Duty Manager, *Nexus Community, Henley on Thames, UK*
Recreation Assistant, *Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Espom & Ewell, UK*
Full- and Part-Time Personal Trainers, *The Hogarth Group, West London, UK*
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Exercise and Fitness Distance Learning Tutors, *Loughborough College, UK*
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Duty Manager Synergy, *Synergy Clubs, Slough, UK*
Duty Manager, *Westminster Academy, London, UK*
Dual Sales and Gym Instructors, *Énergie Group, Harrow, London, UK*
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Membership sales and promotions advisor, *Énergie*
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Aqua Zumba Class Instructor, *Fusion, Oxford, UK*
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General Manager, *The Gym Group, Birmingham, UK*
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We are looking to recruit a Fitness Instructor/Class Instructor for our Sports Centre for as maternity cover from March 2012. The hours that need to be covered are:

- 2 nights per week/1 early morning shift per week
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- Early mornings 6-8am
- Gym Clubs 2.30-4pm
- Additional 1-2 hours after
- Evenings 4.30-10pm

Salary: £8.50 per hour *Classes will be paid at a higher rate depending on experience.

Applicants should have a minimum level 2 Fitness Instructor qualification, class or group exercise qualification and current first aid certificate. Further information and an application form are available on the school website: www.wcs.org.uk Applicants should also include a statement of application outlining their suitability for the post in relation to the job description, with 2 sides of A4 as a maximum.

Applications must be posted or emailed to Pat Taylor, Headteacher's PA, at office@wcs.org.uk by noon on Thursday 5th January 2012.

INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD WEEK BEGINNING 23RD JANUARY 2011.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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Lecturer in Golf

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For an application pack please contact the HR Team on 01959 642289 or email hr@myerscough.ac.uk

Closing Date:
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Opportunities at ez runner

What we are...

Over the last 15 years we have assembled an experienced, professional and knowledgeable in-house team of software developers and project managers, along with our own installation and support technicians. We currently have fulltime vacancies for a Project Manager and a Salesperson to be based at our Cophorne Offices.

With over 1,000 sites worldwide in Spa, Golf, Health Club, Hotel and Kids Play Leisure, we have a proven track record endorsed by a diverse range of industry leaders including Livingwell Hilton, skn, Gambado, DW Sports Fitness, Monkey Business, Ramada Jarvis, Dermalogics & Soho Gyms - all of whom benefit from using Ez-Runner software solutions.

PROJECT MANAGER

Project Management / Software Implementation / Customer Training (UK)

What you must be...

The successful candidate will manage the end-to-end process for projects in the Health & Fitness/Spa/Golf/Play industries, introducing intuitive management software as a business solution to clients. You will combine your skills in Project Management with business consultancy, software configuration, and delivery to the client.

Essential qualities include communication and effective liaison between the client and internal departments of Ez-Runner Systems. Attention to detail, time management and organizational skills are a must for the successful candidate to ensure projects are delivered on time; on budget; and with clarity at all times. Interpretation of client requirements and the ability to convey these in a controlled, well presented format to the development team is another essential quality.

This varied role provides the opportunity to work within the Ez-Runner team to provide configuration, product testing, UAT support, customer training, reporting, consultancy and "go-live" support services to customers.

Up to 60% of your time will be spent out with our UK wide client base, so ability and desire to travel, including staying away overnight, forms part of the job. Training in all aspects of the job role can be provided and taught.

These skills below will be useful;

- Leisure Industry Experience
- Good working knowledge of Microsoft SQL server administration and Transact SQL queries
- TCP/IP and networking
- Microsoft Project
- Knowledge of client logging/service management systems
- Previous experience in the market with the product would be a distinct advantage

These Skills will be Essential:

- Hard worker
- Team player
- Likes a challenge
- Forward thinking
- Customer focused
- Sense of Humor
- Exceptional time management
- Personal organization
- Communication

SALESPERSON

Salesperson for Leisure Management Software (UK)

What you must be...

The successful candidate will manage the end-to-end process for the selling of our established range of leisure software and associated services. You will be comfortable presenting in a one to one as well as group environments to the Health & Fitness/Spa/Golf/Play industries, introducing our intuitive management software as a business solution to clients.

You will combine your skills in selling with lead generation and even exploring new markets for our services.

Essential qualities include presentation, communication and effective liaison between the client and internal departments of Ez-Runner Systems. Most importantly you will be comfortable 'selling'. Attention to detail, time management and organizational skills are a must for the successful candidate to ensure targets are met (or even exceeded) and within budget.

Up to 50% of your time should be spent out to face to face meetings within the UK, so ability and desire to travel, including staying away overnight on occasion, will be a fundamental part of your job.

These skills below will be useful;

- Leisure Industry Experience
- Independently Motivated
- Target Driven with Proven Sales Track Record
- Comfortable with IT Technology

These Skills will be Essential:

- Hard worker
- Team player
- Likes a challenge
- Forward thinking
- Customer focused
- Sense of Humour
- Personal organisation
- Great Communicator
- Full Driving License

CV's and covering letter to be sent to chris.w@ez-runner.com by 6th January 2012.

Increase for bar/eateries M&As

New research from accounting firm BDO has forecast a "significant increase" in merger and acquisition (M&A) activity for the bar and restaurant sector throughout 2012.

The company's *Restaurants and Bars Report* has predicted that a combination of private equity interest and banks selling repossessed assets will fuel the growth in such deals over the coming 12 months.

"Thriving chains" looking to "cash in" is also seen as a reason for the increase, with brands such as Pizza Express, Yo! Sushi; Côte; and Giraffe among those expected to change hands.

Meanwhile, other predictions outlined in the BDO research include an increase in calorie and alcohol information on menus; a growth



"Thriving chains" are set to fuel M&A growth next year by "cashing in"

in 'pop up' and mobile units; and greater use of technology such as free wi-fi and the use of targeted promotions through mobile devices. *More details: <http://lei.sr?a=c2u1> (PDF)*

Survey: Britons continue to eat and drink out

New research carried out by Deloitte and BDCR Continental has found that UK consumers are continuing to eat and drink out, despite ongoing concerns on the economy.

According to the *Taste of the Nation* survey, the number of adults going out to eat or drink

at pubs, restaurants or other venues increased by 12 per cent over the last six months.

The growth has been fuelled by the 18-to-34-year-old consumer group and "frequent users" who go out at least twice a week, which mainly comprises males going out for a drink.

'Extensive interest' in Olympic sites

Private sector organisations have shown "extensive interest" in two of the first development opportunities for the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park following the 2012 Games.

Firms had until 5 December to show interest in the Press Centre and Broadcast Centre, along with the Chobham Manor project, by the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC).

The OPLC said that 12 "high-profile" developers came forward with a view to becoming its partner on the 800-home Chobham Manor neighbourhood. A further 10 have expressed interest in becoming the "significant tenants" of the Press Centre and Broadcast Centre, with a shortlist to be drawn up in early 2012.

OPLC chief executive Andrew Altman said: "Our plans for the Olympic Park are more advanced than any other Olympic host city and we will continue this pace by appointing



Chobham Manor will feature 800 homes post-Games

tenants and a development partner before the 2012 Games have even started."

Operators for venues such as the Aquatics Centre and the ArcelorMittal Orbit are to be appointed shortly, while a new Olympic Stadium bidding process is also planned.

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