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Fitness industry toasts top talent at Flame Awards

The cream of the health and fitness industry gathered in Telford last week, as 14 awards and three special accolades were distributed at the glamorous Flame Awards.

The ceremony took place on 2 July at the Telford International Centre, held in conjunction with ukactive's annual Flame Conference.

This year's event underwent a shake-up to better reflect how the leisure sector has evolved, as well as to create opportunities for clubs, industry suppliers and stakeholders to celebrate how their work impacts health.

The Flame Awards 2014,

sponsored by Matrix, saw the introduction of new awards and, for the first time, operators and suppliers went up against each other in a number of new categories. These new categories included 'Workplace Wellbeing', 'Shaping



The awards and winners' champagne in place before the 800-person dinner kicked off

the Future Generation, 'Go Green' and 'Go Outdoors'. Another addition was the 'Supplier of the Year' award, a category which gave suppliers the opportunity to put themselves forward against the best in the sector, with Lifetime

Training sealing the gong.

"Every year the quality of entrants just gets better and better. The Flame awards winners are undeniably the best of the best and a credit to our sector," said ukactive CEO Dave Stalker. "The Flame awards assessment process is known for being the most rigorous in the industry, so to go home with the top prize in your category is the ultimate endorsement of hard work, dedication and excellence."

Prior to the awards ceremony, ukactive announced that its charity of the year for 2014 is Special Olympics GB. Former foot-

ball star and manager Lawrie McMenemy was on hand to represent the charity, giving a speech along with its director and former Special Olympian, Greg Silvester. *Continued on back cover*

Blow for Stelios, as float falls well short of target

easyJet founder Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou's ambitions for a successful public offering of his easyHotel business have been dented, after the discount hotel chain fell well short of its initial fundraising target.

Weakening investor sentiment saw the company raise roughly £30m ahead of its debut on London's alternative investment market (AIM), despite outlining in May hopes to attract up to £60m to fund expansion.

The IPO is Haji-Ioannou's first since he took easyJet to market 14 years ago. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=X*₃*X*₂*X*

One Direction star in Doncaster buyout

One Direction star Louis Tomlinson has announced a deal to buy English League One side Doncaster Rovers – the club that he has supported ever since his childhood.

Tomlinson – who is taking over the football club alongside former chairman John Ryan – has immediately launched a £2m crowdfunding campaign to attract the cash needed for a double promotion push towards Premier League status. The pop star hit headlines late last month, by announcing he would offer fans the chance of a 'selfie' with himself for £250 as part of the campaign to raise some cash.

"For me, this is all about the football, the community and restoring excitement and desire



Tomlinson is a lifelong Doncaster Rovers fan

to making Doncaster Rovers the most exciting club to play for in Yorkshire," said the One Directioner, who drew crowds when he played for the club's reserve side earlier this year. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=D6W7y*

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SPORT

Wimbledon takes on branded bras

A number of women tennis players at the Wimbledon Championships were told to play without their sports bras after the garments were adjudged to have fallen foul of the tournament's stricter guidance for on-court clothing.

The new rules, introduced by Wimbledon's organiser - the Lawn Tennis Association shortly before this year's event, aim to tighten the "all white" dress code.

The rules were brought in to clamp down on players wearing coloured, branded

underwear - seen as a way for players' sponsor companies to promote themselves covertly without being an official tournament partner.

While event organisers are within their rights to take measures against covert marketing, however, forcing female athletes to remove their bras at Wimbledon has stirred up a strong reaction from players past and present.

Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash condemned the rules, calling them "ridiculous".



Women at Wimbledon are facing stricter rules on non-white garments

Speaking on BBC5 Live, Cash said: "Some of the girls have been told to go back and change their bras and tops because they had slight colour on them. I believe some of the girls didn't have suitable sports bras and had to go without them. It has absolutely gone ridiculous."

Meanwhile, five-time Wimbledon champion Venus Williams tweeted that she planned to ignore the rule by wearing a colourful bra. Details: http://lei.sr?a=k7v8e

Chelsea eyes Stamford Bridge expansion

Chelsea Football Club has named Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands (LDS) as lead architects to explore how the club can increase stadium capacity at Stamford Bridge.

The London-based architectural firm will carry out a feasibility study to review different improvement options for the home of Chelsea, such as installing decking over the railway line to the east and north of the stadium.

Chelsea previously looked at moving away from the area, with Earls Court, White City

and Battersea Power Station all mooted as possible locations. However, the club faced opposition from supporters and later opted for expansion instead of a move.

"A study of the area from Fulham Broadway town centre to Stamford Bridge and beyond has been commissioned by Chelsea Football Club's owner Roman Abramovich," read a statement released by the London club. "This study will review the potential for



Stamford Bridge has been home to Chelsea Football Club for 109 years

improvements to publicly-owned areas along Fulham Road and the area around the football ground, including the possibility of decking over the railway lines to the east and north of the ground. This could create landscaped public walkways and cycleways, while also reducing pedestrian traffic on match days. The study will also assess feasibility of an expansion within existing site boundaries."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=h5f5Z

Sportscotland: £50m for schools

Sportscotland is to invest a further £50m into its Active Schools Network, which creates opportunities for young people to participate in sport before school, during lunch, and after school.

The grassroots agency will distribute the money across the Network's 32 local authorities from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2019.

Funding for the initiative, which this year celebrates its 10th anniversary, has been continued due to the success it has had in activating Scotland's young people.

The latest figures from 2012-13 show a 13 per cent increase in participant sessions compared to the previous year – a rise of more than half a million to 5.1 million. According to sports minister Shona Robison, the programme has become embedded as part of the "fabric of



Olympic hurdler and Active Schools Ambassador Eilidh Child

school life" and is a key reason for the number of schools meeting national PE targets being higher in Scotland than elsewhere in the UK.

"Active Schools Network has been successfully bringing volunteers and schools together to deliver activity for young people across the country," she said. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=E7R3j*

UK Sport doubles winter Olympic funding

UK Sport is to double its investment in Team GB's Winter Olympic athletes ahead of the 2018 Winter Olympics.

The decision follows this year's Sochi Winter Games, where Team GB equalled its all-time record of four medals, achieved at the inaugural Winter Olympics in Chamonix in 1924. The Paralympic team won six medals, its best haul in 30 years – including a first ever winter Paralympic gold medal.

UK Sport will invest up to £31m across eight winter Olympic and Paralympic sports that have demonstrated credible medal potential either at PyeongChang 2018 or the following Winter Games in 2022. The funding is more than double the investment allocated in the Sochi cycle (£14m).

On the Paralympic side the increase is even more significant – the £4m earmarked for the next Paralympic cycle is more than five times the investment given to the Sochi cycle.



Lizzy Yarnold setting off on her winning skeleton run

In a statement, UK Sport said Team GB's performance at Sochi this year had "made a compelling case" for investment to be increased.

Liz Nicholl, CEO of UK Sport, said: "Our winter Olympic and Paralympic athletes performed exceptionally in Sochi. Details: http://lei.sr?a=v4j2W

Leyton Orient chair Barry Hearn to sell club to Italian Becchetti

Leyton Orient Football Club (LOFC) chair Barry Hearn has confirmed he is looking to sell his majority share in the club to Italian businessman Francesco Becchetti.

Earlier this year, the Italian – who's family owns the Becchetti Energy Group (BEG) – was

linked with a takeover bid for Championship team Reading FC. In a statement, LOFC said any sale would be subject to due diligence and Football League approval and that the club would "not be making any further comment at this stage." *Details: http://lei.sr?a=q3e5w*



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Work underway on £10m Surrey leisure centre

After months of planning, work has begun on a new multi-million pound leisure and youth skills centre in Preston, Surrey.

Pellikaan Construction will be bringing the plans from S&P Architects to life, with work starting on 23 June and expected to be fully completed in late summer 2015.

The £10m centre is a joint venture between Reigate & Banstead Borough Council and the Surrey County Council and is to be operated by GLL. It will feature a 25m (82ft) six-lane swimming pool, a teaching pool, a 60-station gym, plus a dance and exercise studio. The centre will also boast a four-court sports hall and football pitches. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=C6V3f*



Pulse supplied MoD sites like Buckingham Palace

Pulse supplies MoD with £2m worth of fitness gear

Supplier Pulse has stolen a march on competitors by providing £2m worth of fitness equipment to the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force in its first year as an approved supplier to the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

The armed forces placed orders for equipment across 130 sites to help keep troops in peak physical condition.

The company worked closely with the MoD, modifying several pieces of equipment to make them more suitable for the fitness needs of the armed forces. Adaptations have included adding fitness testing programmes to the CV range, extending the weight stacks and increasing the top speed of its treadmills.

Over the last 12 months, equipment including free weights, CV machines, resistance machines and functional training kit has been supplied to military bases in Cyprus, Germany and the UK. UK installs include RAF Marham, RAF Falklands, HMS Dauntless, Bassingbourn Barracks and even the prestigious Royal Guards room at Buckingham Palace. Pulse won a three year contract to be an official supplier in April 2013. Details: http://lei.sr?a=F4h4q

Gyms should "learn from Parkour"

Despite the growing shift towards functional training, health clubs can still learn plenty more from Parkour, according to one of the early pioneers of the movement.

During his afternoon session at ukactive's 2014 Flame Conference in Telford, Sébastien Foucan - who famously showcased his highoctane skills in the opening sequence to James Bond film Casino Royale - espoused the benefits Parkour and related movements like freerunning can offer in terms of promoting physical activity.

Revealing that he has a chronic fear of heights, Foucan likened the battle to overcome physical activity to his struggles conquering his phobia in order to perform the complex sequence of stunts that saw him do battle with Daniel Craig on top of a crane. "We need to help (inactive) people to not be ruled by fear and help them turn obstacles into stepping stones," he said. "We're born to walk, climb and jump as a human species and Parkour embraces all of these movements."



Foucan showcased his skills in the opening scenes of Casino Royale

On future collaborations with the health and fitness industry, Foucan noted the influence of Parkour could be seen already in the popularity of functional training, but added the industry "still has much to learn from Parkour," particularly in developing fluid movements to connect each isolated exercise. He said society needs "to stop containing things" and embrace the free spirit of Parkour to take activity into all environments. Details: http://lei.sr?a=q4d4M

Tesco targets fitness with new food plans

Supermarket chain Tesco is to continue its push into the health and fitness market, with a new range of healthy food options in a similar vein to those that are offered by Weight Watchers and Slimming World.

Having previously paired up with Xercise4Less to offer an instore gym, and later provided a community yoga space at the Tesco Extra store in Watford, the supermarket's latest incursion comes in the form of lowfat food range My Fit Lifestyle.

Launching initially across 50 stores in London, My Fit Lifestyle zones will be set up in Tesco stores and online, with products colour-coded according to five different calorie bands, allowing customers to see which fit their personal plans.

Products in the range include Thai prawn and rice soup, grapefruit and orange with yoghurt and granola, plus feta and bulgar wheat chickpea salad. Customers will be encouraged to sign up to the My Fit Lifestyle eating plan on Tesco.com, where they can list their goals and receive a plan to match, and choose meals to fit in with their plan.



CEO Jill Easterbrook says customers want to be healthier

"We know our customers are looking for us to help them lead healthier lives and My Fit lifestyle is another sign of our commitment to help shoppers live more healthily," said Jill Easterbrook, chief customer officer at Tesco. "By combining fresh, healthy, delicious meals with a personal eating plan, we can support our customers and help them achieve their health and well-being goals." Details: http://lei.sr?a=B7W8J



GYM MK back in business after equipment overhaul

GYM MK, part of the arts and leisure facilities based at Stantonbury Campus, Milton Keynes, has re-opened following a £150,000 refurbishment to the gym facilities.

The new gym is home to 22 pieces from the 600 series, Cybex's value-packed line of cardio equipment designed to suit all users and training abilities. The kit includes treadmills, bikes and Arc Trainers.

Equipment from the VR1 and VR3 selectorised strength lines were also installed, plus plate-loaded smith press, benches, dumbbells and functional training equipment from Jordan Fitness, as well as the Bravo Functional Trainer. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z4E5r



Xen-Do instructors boast a range of accolades

Xen-Do martial arts aiming to kick off fresh expansion

A family-run group of martial arts clubs in London is hoping the launch of the fourth Xen-Do site in Baker Street will be the catalyst for significant further expansion.

Xen-Do - a combination of many martial arts including karate, kick boxing, jujitsu and taekwondo - is offered via group classes, personal training sessions or a combination of the two, with members simply having to pay for whenever they take a class.

Having opened his first (dojo) club in 2002, eight times national martial arts champion Rafael Nieto has grown the Xen-Do concept, bringing in a professional team of eight full-time instructors, including his son Anthony, a Spanish gold medallist.

Nieto now hopes to open a number of new locations in 2015. "We feel the market is ready for a world class martial arts brand - we would like to be the country's premier martial arts company," said Nieto.

"For the time being, we aim to grow in London and we're then looking to expand in the key regional cities such as Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol." Details: http://lei.sr?a=E8f6f

Major budget gym merger stalled

The proposed merger between The Gym Group and Pure Gym has been further delayed, after the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) referred the deal for an indepth merger investigation. This is the first time the CMA has escalated a deal in this way.

In a news release, the agency said it's concerned that combining the businesses may lead to "higher gym membership prices or a reduction in quality and choice for customers".

The CMA highlights that Pure Gym and The Gym

Group are the leading operators of budget gyms nationwide, with over 100 gyms between them and combined revenues of more than £50m. It believes the merger may "substantially lessen competition at both a national level and in 14 local areas," where the merged businesses would have sites near each other. The deadline for the final decision is 10 December 2014.

Leisure Opportunities editor, Liz Terry, who's been analysing the health and fitness industry since 1983, questioned the CMA's rationale.



John Treharne will be CEO of the new company, if it is approved

"It isn't logical, The Gym Group and Pure Gym's business model depends on the lowcost pricing structure to create a competitive point of difference with other health club operators," she said. "If they move their price point - as the CMA fears - they'll come into direct competition with so many other operators that the threat of competitiveness would be completely removed." The Gym Group CEO John Treharne was unavailable for comment. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y3m9P

1REBEL embarks on crowdfunding venture

New fitness startup 1REBEL - a chain of high intensity studios using the 'pay as you train' business model - last week (1 July) offered the public the chance to invest in the venture through UK crowdfunding site Crowd Cube.

The brainchild of James Balfour - son of Fitness First co-founder Mike - and leisure start-up specialist Giles Dean, 1REBEL will comprise a range of boutique fitness studios solely focused on offering high intensity training.

Mike Balfour is also an investor in the new venture, which will align itself with the fashion industry by working alongside sports luxe designer Charli Cohen. Industry veteran Kevin Yates another former Fitness First employee

- joined in February as UK operations director.

The first set of studios are due to launch in October and funding has been put into the hands of the public through Crowd Cube, with 1REBEL attracting over £400,000 on the first day. The company aims to raise a total of £1,150,000 through the initiative, in return for 27.56 per cent of equity. A total of 27 investors had pledged money after 24 hours on the



1REBEL aims to cash in on demand for high intensity training

site, with one backer offering £300,000. The £430,070 raised on the first day meant the company was 37 per cent of the way towards its target. 1REBEL's concept goes against the membership-only traditional gym model utilised by Mike Balfour at Fitness First. A simple 'twotap app' will be available to create the most convenient and productive exercise routine. Details: http://lei.sr?a=H3z9r



The new TIYRTM, exclusively from Escape Fitness, maintains the rawness of flipping tyres and delivers all of the original fitness challenges. The TIYR™ comes in three different weights and exercises deliver a variety of fitness goals from strength, cardio, balance, power, reaction and speed. The TIYR™ also comes with a selection of ergonomically designed handles for lifting, carrying and flipping, as well as anchor points for attachments such as ropes, speed resistors or power bands. The patented design means it is unlike anything else on the market and means all your members, whether small group training sessions or individuals, will benefit from this unconventional strength training tool.

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Spa To You: New London flagship

London Hilton on Park Lane has launched the first ever permanent Spa To You outlet on the lower ground floor of the hotel, offering guests treatments made popular by Hollywood celebrities, including Japanese nightingale dropping facials.

Spa To You began as a specialist mobile therapy provider within Central London more than 20 years ago, providing spa services to its clients at their preferred destination. As well as the flagship spa in London Hilton Park Lane, Spa To You has its own specialist home-use spa equipment retail range.

Indonesian and Italian design features, such as hand-crafted rattan cocoon chairs, can be found in the spa, which has four treatment zones - one single room, two larger areas for couples' treatments and a mani-pedi space.

In addition to oriental bird faeces facials, the spa will offer vino-therapies from France and a wide range of massages from across the globe. These comprise traditional Swedish massage,



The facility is within walking distance of West End theatres

hot oil Polynesian massage, Chinese Tui Na/ Acupressure and a 24-Carat Gold massage which uses a luxuriant combination of gold leaves and gold-infused oil, designed to rejuvenate the skin and enrich the body.

The London Hilton is located in the heart of Mayfair and has 453 guestrooms and 56 suites, all with views over Hyde Park and Knightsbridge. Details: http://lei.sr?a=U7Z7T

Mosaic Spa to operate Doxford Hall Hotel

Mosaic Spa & Health Clubs, owner of the Imagine Spa brand, expects to double spa turnover at Northumberland's Doxford Hall Hotel within two years through increased spa break bookings, having been appointed as the property's new spa operator.

Mosaic Spa & Health Clubs, whose management contracts are all based on performance-related fees, operates spas under its own Imagine Spa brand or under the client's brand. The spa at Doxford Hall will operate as

Imagine Doxford Hall. The spa features five treatment rooms with heated treatment beds and four rooms which have their own private shower facilities. The hotel's leisure facilities also offer a swimming pool, two whirlpools, a sauna and steamroom. A spokesperson for Mosaic told *Leisure Opportunities* that the spa is set to undergo renovation in the near future.

"As hoteliers we know how to run hotels, however, running a successful spa is a



Doxford Hall hotel's existing staff will be trained by Mosaic

specialist area in itself," said Mark Booth, the hotel manager at Doxford Hall.

"We wanted to take our spa to an improved level and, having worked with the team at my previous hotel, we felt that the best way to achieve this was to appoint Mosaic."

The existing spa employees from Doxford Hall will transfer to Mosaic where they will be trained at the company's in-house training academy. Details: http://lei.sr?a=U4j2k

GSWS invites stakeholders to complete vital survey

The Global Spa & Wellness Summit (GSWS) is inviting all spa businesses and stakeholders to participate in an important global industry survey which will provide up-to-date and robust spa economy data, vital for effective benchmarking.

SRI International – the not-for-profit research organisation originally founded as Stanford Research Institute - led the landmark Global Spa Economy study presented in 2008 at the GSWS and will reprise that role this year. The new survey will provide the revised results required to compile the baseline for annual updates going forward. Participants must fill out their details by mid-July. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=r4f8Q*



Wellness tourism is a fast-growing market

300 nominees announced for new Spafinder awards

Nearly 300 nominees for the world's first Wellness Travel Awards were announced last month - a competition set up to honour hotels, resorts, destination spas and retreats offering the best wellness travel, vacations and experiences to customers.

An independent global panel of 25 wellness and travel journalists - including Spa Business editor Liz Terry and managing editor Katie Barnes - plus industry experts, selected the official nominees for the 18 categories. The chosen ones represent six continents, more than 40 countries and are known to offer experiences and environments that leave visitors healthier when they check out than when they checked in.

Wellness enthusiasts can vote for their favourite locations at spafinder.com from now until 19 September 2014. The winners will be announced during the World Travel Market in London between 3-6 November.

"This is a milestone for the travel and spa industries - one that recognises the rapidly growing demand for healthier travel options global tourism overall," said Spafinder in a statement. Details: http://lei.sr?a=u7f8G

Imperial War Museum honoured with new award

The Imperial War Museum, UK's Computer Club scheme has scooped the inaugural award for innovation at MuseumNext 2014.

Since 2009 the MuseumNext conference has been highlighting innovation in the field of museums by bringing together those who are shaping the future of the sector, and has now gone a step further by introducing the MuseumNext Award for Innovation - an accolade created to reward the very best projects in the sector.

The Computer Club is a new museumwide initiative launched by the Imperial War Museum in May. The Digital Media department runs informal monthly lunchtime sessions – open to the general public - that aim to develop digital awareness and skills. It's open to all and runs across all five UK sites. The scheme is specifically informal and non-museum focused. Details: http://lei.sr?a=a7Q3d



The code-breaking was vital to the war effort

Kate Middleton opens WW2 codebreaking site attraction

Bletchley Park - the UK code-breaking facility which cracked the German WW2 Enigma code - has been restored in an £8m Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) project.

The restoration has transformed the derelict wartime buildings into a brand new visitor attraction and museum which was officially opened by the Duchess of Cornwall Kate Middleton last month.

The four-year restoration project, led by Event Communications with PLB operating as consultants on the project, has involved careful restoration of the site's huts and the creation of a new introductory exhibition.

Codebreaking Huts 3 and 6, where enigma messages were decrypted, translated and analysed for vital intelligence, have been fully restored and visitors will be able to explore these spaces for the first time in decades. Sound will be used outdoors to immerse guests in their experience, recreating wartime sounds. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y7g7t

Innovation on show at MuseumNext

Delegates met at Newcastle's Sage Gateshead recently for MuseumNext - Europe's biggest conference on industry innovation and technology to explore ways of engaging visitors with new technology and industry trends.

"It's all about the connection with the object beyond the four walls of a museum," said Antenna International's Jessica Taylor, during her engaging keynote address at the two-day event.

Speaking alongside colleague Sam Billington, Taylor discussed the importance of Google's Project Tango - a

device which will contain customised hardware and software designed to track full 3D motion, while simultaneously creating a map of the surrounding environment - which was said to have "huge implications" for the future of museums.

iBeacons will also be increasingly appearing in museums, with the devices able to use a new format of Bluetooth built into many modern smartphones that can send a signal to all those around identifying its location, offering data from either a local database or cloudbased storage. The smartphone user will see a notification on their home screen - even if the phone is locked – with, in a museum's case, facts about the surrounding artefacts displayed.



Antenna International's Jessica Taylor and Sam Billington in action

"We're only at the beginning of those kind of technologies and it's exciting to see where we'll go with that," said Billington. "It gives us huge and exciting potential for museums to use their expertise to create digital interpretations at the world's greatest institutions."

Alternate uses of existing technology and the advancement of smartphone technology were also showcased. There were speeches from Adam Clarke about how video games such as Minecraft are engaging young people at museums, and from Ferry Piekhart, who spotlighted the power of mobile phone apps with his brandnew open air augmented reality museum in Denmark. Details: http://lei.sr?a=m9C3A

Paramount theme park consultation begins

Almost 90,000 letters have been sent out across Kent seeking the views of local households and businesses as plans to build the world's fourth-largest theme park at a site in nearby Ebbsfleet push forward.

The £2bn development was classified in May as a project of national significance by the British government. As a consequence, the resort will benefit from an accelerated planning application process. In the year prior to submitting its appli-

cation, London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH), the firm behind the project, has said it will engage with the local community during a four-part consultation process.

Four public exhibitions will take place this month, and the community has been asked to attend, ask questions and provide feedback to LRCH. According to the developer, these observations will flag up key public issues on.



A year-long public consultation begins this month

"[We want to find] the most appropriate and accessible way for people to be involved in our proposals for the resort," said LRCH director Fenlon Dunphy. "The first stage of public exhibitions is specifically designed to establish the preferred communication and consultation methods of the local community and interested parties." Details: http://lei.sr?a=M3C2e



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Andy Murray's hotel under fire

Andy Murray's five-star hotel in Scotland has removed references to hunting from its website after pressure from animal rights groups.

Cromlix - the Murray-owned, Inverlochy Castle Management International-operated hotel which opened in April - was bought by the tennis star in February 2013.

Campaign group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) sent a letter to Murray complaining that his hotel promoted hunting as a possible activity for guests.

Kirsty Henderson, campaign coordinator for Peta, wrote: "The idea of hunting cats and dogs, such as your beloved Maggie May and Rusty,

would rightly make most of us sick, and yet the animals listed on the Cromlix website, alongside the best times of year to kill them, have exactly the same capacity to feel pain and suffer."

She added: "Will you please extend your compassion to the beautiful and sensitive wild animals who live in the vicinity of the Cromlix Hotel by refusing to promote killing as an activity to guests of your establishment?"

A spokesman for Murray's management company, 77, told local media that references



Murray was knocked out of Wimbledon last week

to hunting were removed from the Cromlix website during June and the activity was never offered on the grounds of the hotel.

Murray's is not the only leisure site to incur the wrath of campaign groups. Anna Wintour recently led the fashion industry in a protest against the Dorchester hotel collection over its links to the Sultan of Brunei, who recently ratified Sharia law in his country, making homosexuality punishable by stoning to death. Details: http://lei.sr?a=N4E7c

Soho Ham Yard Hotel offers best of British

Firmdale Hotels has launched its latest London site - the Ham Yard Hotel in Soho - with a strong focus centred around high-class British design.

The central London property features 91 individually-designed bedrooms, suites, 24 residential apartments, a spa and an original 1950s bowling alley. A product of Firmdale owners Tim and Kit Kemp, the Ham Yard has been created around the principles of an urban village, while all of the property's interiors have been formed by Kit, using British designs.

The hotel is located on a threequarter acre site close to Mayfair and revolves around a pedestrian thoroughfare connecting Great Windmill Street to Denman Street, opening up the historic Ham Yard and Denman Place to the public for the first time since the 1960s.

The hotel houses a restaurant with outside terrace seating, a bar, rooftop garden and a library and drawing room with works picked specially by literary expert Philip Blackwell.

The Ham Yard will also provide guests with the use of Firmdale's first Soholistic Spa,



The Ham Yard Hotel is Firmdale's eighth property in London

inclusive of four treatment rooms, a steamroom, juice bar and relaxation area, which sits alongside a gym making use of a hypoxic studio to cater for elite altitude training.

Private event facilities at the site include a 188-seat theatre, which is available for hire, as well as The Croc: a private events area housing an original 1950s bowling alley, lounge, bar and a dance floor. Details: http://lei.sr?a=p2Q8h

Are we ready to give Chinese travellers a proper welcome?



PETER DUCKER is chief executive of the Institure of Hospitality

The recent easing of UK visa restrictions to encourage Chinese visitors is to be welcomed.

Most tourism and leisure operators would agree these changes are long overdue. To date, the UK's share of high-spending Chinese tourism has been tiny. The EU welcomed more than one million Chinese visitors last year compared to just 215,000 who came to the UK. Currently, around 90 per cent of Chinese tour groups omit Britain from their European trips, resulting in £1.2bn of lost revenue each year, according to the UK China Visa Alliance.

Making it easier for the Chinese to visit Britain undoubtedly makes economic sense. The Chinese will make up 20 per cent of the world's foreign tourists by 2023, says a report by Amadeus, and the number of Chinese families able to afford overseas holidays will double in the next 10 years.

So, what are we doing to make the best possible impression and ensure they spread the word? Do we provide Chinese signage at Heathrow? I do not recall seeing any. Are there leaflets in Chinese on how to catch a bus or train or explain that they can take the underground into central London?

Although China is a vast country, there are some generalised preferences that hoteliers can bear in mind to keep Chinese guests happy. Language is ranked very highly by Chinese tourists, therefore UK hoteliers might consider employing Mandarinspeaking staff. Hoteliers can also display cultural sensitivity by assigning rooms ending with '8' whenever possible (denoting fortune and prosperity) and avoiding room numbers with '4' (associated with death).

Anecdotal evidence reveals the Chinese love the UK's history, sense of humour and scenery. They like the transport but believe it is very expensive; they dislike the weather, but there's not much we can do about that. Many Chinese do not drink alcohol so having a good range of non-alcoholic beverages is also advisable.

Chinese group tours will bring many opportunities in future, so innovative hoteliers and tour operators will need to do their research and understand the market.

Indian inbound visitor figures aren't quite the real deal



KURT JANSON is policy director of the Tourism Alliance

ast month, figures were widely published showing that India was the most important BRIC country for ■ the UK tourism industry. The figures show that there were a record 375,000 visits to Britain from India last year, up 11 per cent on 2012. These visitors spent a total of £441m in the UK economy - sufficient to provide around 8,000 full time jobs.

This is good news, but not quite as good as you would be lead to believe.

The £441m spent by visitors from India in the UK economy means that India ranks 17th in source markets for inbound tourism. This is one position below Denmark and just above Kuwait, meaning that India accounts for just two per cent of total UK inbound tourism expenditure. And while it is true that India is the most important source market for tourists to the UK from the four BRIC countries, this is nothing new. India has always been the BRIC country from which the UK receives the most tourists as a result of it being the only BRIC country that was part of the British Empire - so there has actually been no real change.

In reality, there are significant problems with inbound tourism from India. For example, while outbound tourism from India has increased by over 60 per cent in the last five years, the number of Indian visitors to the UK has increased by just 7 per cent. There are now just 26,000 more people coming to the UK from India that in 2008. This compares unfavourably with other BRIC markets, such as Brazil, where the number of visitors to the UK has increased by 43 per cent since 2008, or China, where visitor numbers have increased by 81 per cent since 2008.

Even more worrying is that the UK's share of the Indian outbound market last year was just 2.2 per cent - which means that the UK's share of Indian tourists has halved in just seven years. Most of the reason for this decline can be traced back to the government's heavy handed approach to immigration and travel from India. Indians who once thought that their country had a special relationship with the UK, now feel the country is unwelcoming and are voting with their feet by holidaying elsewhere.

TOURISM

Leaders back 'cut VAT' campaign

Tourism industry leaders, backed by MPs from all parties, have launched a concerted campaign for VAT on hotel accommodation and tourist attractions to be cut to five per cent.

Hundreds of companies - as well as Britain's best-selling daily newspaper The Sun - are calling on chancellor George Osborne to make the change, to enable the many regions dependent on tourism to invest in jobs and compete with the cheaper holidays offered abroad.

Tourism chiefs say the VAT cut - which was debated in the Houses of Parliament in February - would make the UK tourism industry more competitive internationally - in the face of the strengthening pound pushing people to head abroad. Britain is now one of only four EU nations to not have cut holiday taxes and one of them, Lithuania will do so next year.

While the UK government insists on charging all holidaymakers 20 per cent VAT, countries like Portugal, Holland and Belgium levy just 6 per cent tax on all hotels, holiday camps and other tourist attractions.

France and Spain charge 10 per cent tax on staying in hotels and holiday parks, while VAT in German hotels is just 7 per cent.

Advocates say the cut would lead to a gain of up to £5bn for the exchequer over 10 years.

Campaign supporters range from industry bodies such as the BHA and BALPA, to small B&Bs, attractions, zoos and major brands.



The cut 'would raise £5bn for the public purse' in 10 years

"We have a fantastic tourism product in this country, with the most beautiful countryside, beaches, landscapes and premier attractions," said Nick Varney, Merlin Entertainments CEO.

"There are also really good accommodation providers out there, from superb hotels to brilliant B&Bs. Let's try and give them a break and do something good for the economy."

Meanwhile, Thomas Dubaere, MD of Accor UK & Ireland, added: "While the UK is a highly desirable destination for tourists, the current rate of VAT, which is double the European average, discourages a large number of potential visitors and prevents the industry from achieving its true potential. A cut in the rate of VAT for tourists would be a major boost for the wider British economy." Details: http://lei.sr?a=6Q4u7

Scotland banking on stellar year of sport

Major international events such as the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles are expected to help Scotland maintain the strong tourism results that have seen the country outperform the rest of the UK in certain areas over the last year.

Scotland welcomed 2.4 million visits from overseas during 2013, reflecting growth of 9.8 per cent, according to the latest figures released by VisitBritain. These visits generated spend of £1.68bn in 2013, which extrapolates as a nominal annual increase of 19.9 per cent.

The figures represent 7.4 per cent of all visits to the UK and 8 per cent of all spend, but show stronger growth than London and the UK as a whole. Tourism spend is expected to grow to £5.2bn by 2025 - buoyed by Glasgow and Edinburgh's positions in the top three cities to visit behind London - and the glut of international sporting events set to take place during 2014 is expected to hasten this further.

"The investment in the events of 2014 such as Homecoming Scotland, the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup will undoubtedly keep up this momentum throughout this



The summer of sport is expected to bring lots to cheer

year and beyond, showcasing Scotland to a global audience," said VisitScotland chair Mike Cantlay. "These (VisitBritain) results are spectacular and a true testimony to the significant investment that has taken place within Scotland's tourism industry. Securing new direct flight routes has also been invaluable." Details: http://lei.sr?a=y3q7r









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An artist's impression of Crystal Palace

London redevelopment of Crystal Palace stalled

Redevelopment plans for London's Crystal Palace have hit a wall as negotiations with the site's investors - Chinese ZhongRong Group and Bromley Council - have taken significantly longer than expected.

Speaking to the Architects' Journal, Green Party spokesman in Crystal Palace Tom Chance said: "We understand that the negotiations are stuck in a catch 22 situation - that the council wants more detail on the plans before it signs off on the land deal, but the developer wants the land deal secured before it puts more money into developing the plans." The Crystal Palace project has sparked a lot of interest, with famous architects eager to be involved. Details: http://lei.sr?a=X8E7T

HLF grant to revive historic building in Northern Ireland

A new type of grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has been awarded to the Northern Counties building in Derry-Londonderry, to transform it from a decaying shell to a boutique hotel.

The Northern Counties building is the first of its kind to receive the new "Heritage Enterprise" grant, with £784,000 awarded to the Inner City Building Preservation Trust (ICBT) for necessary conservation works and extensive remodelling.

Built in 1899, previously a private members' club and then office space, Northern Counties has stood empty since 2005. Its transformation will include vital repairs, the creation of a restaurant and room for 45 new jobs, whilst boosting tourism.

The "Heritage Enterprise" grant comes as a result of a major piece of research called New Ideas Need Old Buildings, undertaken by Colliers International, Spirul Research and Oxford Economics, which demonstrated the positive impact that historical buildings have on the UK's economy and their capacity to boost growth. One of the key findings was that commercial businesses based in historic buildings generate more wealth. Details: http://lei.sr?a=y2m8Q

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

£70m Southampton bid approved

Plans have been approved for the leisure-led £70m Watermark WestQuay development in Southampton centre.

Developer Hammerson - which also owns and manages the nearby WestQuay Shopping Centre - won unanimous support from local councillors for a 10 screen cinema, up to 20 restaurants and a major public piazza.

The new public square, to be located in front of the city's historic wall, has been inspired by water pools created by mudflats on the Southampton coastline and includes a unique water fea-

ture that ebbs and flows like the tide. The piazza will also be used during the year for events, such as open air cinemas and concerts.

Work is expected to start on the initial phase later this autumn, with Watermark WestQuay scheduled to open in autumn 2016.

After this first phase of developments, Hammerson is looking to introduce a second phase, which will likely see the creation of a hotel, retail and office space, as well as a residential tower and underground parking.

ACME is masterplanner and architect for Watermark WestQuay, Grant Associates is



Work is expected to start on the initial phase later this autumn

the landscape designers and Barton Wilmore is providing planning advice on the project.

"This site offers a unique opportunity to deliver an exceptional leisure and dining destination for Southampton," said Hammerson development manager Guy Wells.

"We have been hugely encouraged with the level of support that we have received on the scheme from stakeholders and we have worked very hard with the council to create a scheme which is already generating strong interest from potential occupiers." Details: http://lei.sr?a=7z2B3

Man City owner lands £1bn regeneration deal

The owner of Manchester City Football Club (MCFC) is to lead a £1bn housing regeneration project in east Manchester, which is hoped to prove the catalyst for a raft of leisure developments.

MCFC owner Sheikh Mansour's investment company Abu Dhabi United Group (ADUG) is to partner with Manchester City Council on a 10-year agreement to build up to 6,000 homes in the once rundown east Manchester area.

The deal, worth approximately £1bn, will see 830 private homes constructed in Ancoats and New Islington during phase one of the project. Both neighbourhoods are near to MCFC's Etihad Stadium and new training complex, the Etihad Campus.

According to Manchester City Council, the economic impact of phase one is expected to create significant employment opportunities and lead to increased demand for retail, leisure and commercial developments.



Sheikh Mansour is the owner of Abu Dhabi United Group (ADUG)

"This adds another commercial dimension to the already significant investment made by Manchester City Council and ADUG in East Manchester, and in doing so progresses the regeneration which began in the 1990s and was accelerated by the 2002 Commonwealth Games and ADUG's recent development of the Etihad Campus," said council leader Sir Richard Leese. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=J4c3D*



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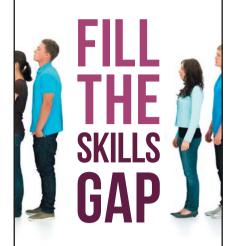
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TRAINING

e-learning tool boosts accessible tourism

A new online training programme has been set up to help Scotland's hotels, visitor attractions, pubs and restaurants better cater for the requirements of people with access needs during this summer's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Scottish minister for tourism Fergus Ewing officially launched the first phase of the e-learning Accessible Tourism Course during a visit to Glasgow this week. With just a month to go until the Games, VisitScotland and its partners believe the programme will ensure all visitors to the city, regardless of their access needs, feel very welcome.

Available free of charge, the initiative will be open to all Scottish businesses and is intended to make sites more user friendly for those with physical, sensory or learning disabilities, elderly visitors and parents with small children. Ryder Cup Europe has already agreed to use the course as part of its customer service training for marshalls and access buddies ahead of the global event taking place this September at Gleneagles Golf Course.

As well as promoting good practice, the training, which is split into four categories - accommodation, visitor attractions,



Minister for tourism Fergus Ewing (left) launches the scheme

restaurants and catering, and pubs and bars will provide users with a better understanding of the requirements of this growing market.

Accessible tourism was recently valued at more than £370m to the Scottish economy, an increase of £37m since 2009. The rise demonstrates the huge potential economic benefits - to hundreds of businesses and services across the country - of catering for this market.

Tourism minister Fergus Ewing said the scheme ensures Glasgow businesses can cater for all visitors. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=d6P3T*

New recruits aid youth outreach effort

Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) has appointed two new health and physical activity development officers to work within their health and wellbeing team. The officers will be tasked with operating two of OCL's busy public outreach schemes.

Julie Hilditch has been appointed to manage the Kids Active Zone.

In April 2014, OCL launched the new junior exercise referral scheme, where Oldham children registering a "very overweight" reading in the national measurement scheme, are offered free or heavily-subsidised member-

ships to local leisure centres and gyms.

Hilditch has worked at OCL for more than 20 years as a swimming instructor. She also has two decades' experience as a health and social care worker within the NHS, so is well placed to provide considered oversight.

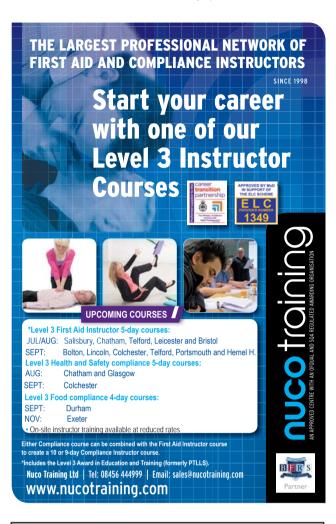
Peter Wolstenholme is the first full time officer of OCL's in-house GP referral scheme and has been appointed due to an increase in referrals. The exercise referral scheme works with 17 GP surgeries offering support to patients



Peter Wolstenholme will assist OCL's in-house GP referral scheme

with various medical conditions. Once they've been referred on to the scheme, they receive a consultation, health check and personalised 12-week plan, giving them access to a wide range of subsidised physical activities.

Peter Wolstenholme is a qualified gym instructor and personal trainer and has worked at OCL for more than five years as a fitness team leader and class instructor. He also holds the Level 3 Wright Foundation GP Referral qualification. Details: http://lei.sr?a=P4G9d





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Dianne Eade, Newquay Zoo Head of Finance, Human Resources and Administration



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Company: Fusion

Location: Haringey, London, UK

Customer Relations Manager

Company: Fusion Location: Southwark, UK

Maintanence Technicians

Company: Fusion Location: Hounslow, UK

Health and Fitness Consultant

Company: Surrey Sports Park Ltd Location: Guildford, UK

Wet Operations Manager

Company: Fusion Location: Uxbridge, UK

Dry Operations Manager

Company: Fusion Location: Southwark, London, UK

Studio Coordinator

Company: YMCA Club Location: Central London, UK

Intensive Personal Trainer

Company: Lifetime Location: Nationwide

Personal Training Diploma

Company: Lifetime Location: Nationwide

Disability Physical Activity & Sports Dev. Officer

Company: GLL Location: Islington, UK

Duty Manager

Company: GLL

Location: Olympic Park, UK

Personal Trainers Company: The Gym Group Location: Various locations, UK

Leisure Centre Manager

Company: Sir Herbert Leon Academy Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active Location: Tenbury Wells, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active Location: Southall, UK

Area Leisure Manager

Company: Freedom Leisure Ltd Location: Woking, UK

Dance Instructors

Company: Everyone Active Location: Aylesbury, UK

Membership Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Middlesex, UK

Receptionist

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Bexley, UK

Head of Client Services

Company: Proinsight Location: Central London, UK

Summer jobs - Lifeguards

Company: GLL

Location: Various locations, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group Location: Harrow, UK

Assistant Duty Manager

Company: University of Leeds Location: Leeds - Main Campus, UK

Receptionist

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Erith, Kent, UK

Apprentice Recreation Assistant

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Erith, Kent, UK

Receptionist

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Erith, Kent, UK

Club Promotional Staff

Company: énergie group Location: F4L Bethnal Green, UK

Personal Trainer in London

Company: énergie group Location: Various locations, UK

Sport Activators

Company: Rugby Borough Council Location: Rugby, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Bexleyheath, UK

Recreation Assistant (FTC)

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Bexleyheath, UK

Sales Advisor

Company: énergie group Location: F4L Bethnal Green, UK

Assistant Manager Group Fitness Coordinator

Company: Broadwater School Location: Surrey, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Ashford Leisure Trust Location: Kent, UK

Phoenix Centre Project Manager

Company: Help For Heroes Location: Tidworth, Wiltshire, UK

Recreation Assistants

Company: Finesse Leisure Partnership Location: Hatfield, UK

Life Guards

Company: Everyone Active Location: Harrow, UK

General Manager

Company: GLL

Location: Camden, London, UK

General Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Shipston on Stour, UK

Assistant Manager

Company: GLL

Location: West Oxfordshire, UK

Operations Service Manager

Company: GLL Location: Islington, London, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group Location: Watford, UK

Centre Manager

Company: YMCA London South West Location: Surrey, UK

Leisure Club Manager

Company: Hallmark Hotels Location: Wilmslow, UK

Womens & Girls Facilitators

Company: GLL Location: Cambridge, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: GLL

Location: London and South East, UK

Learning Support Tutor

Company: YMCAfit Location: Central London, UK

Club Manager

Company: Soho Gyms Location: London, UK

Business Development Manager

Company: Createability Ltd Location: Nationwide, UK

Sales people

Company: Soho Gyms Location: London, UK

Freelance Personal Trainer

Company: Everyone Active Location: Brent, UK

Swimming Teachers Company: Community Swimming Location: Nationwide, UK

Location: Basingstoke, UK

Duty Manager Company: Basingstoke Sports Centre

Deputy Health & Fitness Manager

Company: Basingstoke Sports Centre Location: Basingstoke, UK

Area Sales Managers (North)

Company: Fitness Systems Location: North, UK

Gvm Instructor

Company: Basingstoke Sports Centre Location: Basingstoke, UK

Fitness Apprenticeships

Company: Everyone Active Location: Harrow, UK

Exercise Instructors

Company: Everyone Active Location: Hertford, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Kent, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Kent, UK

Leisure Centre Manager

Company: AirHop Location: Surrey, UK

Personal Trainer/Pilates Instructor

Company: Matt Roberts Location: Mayfair, UK

Personal Trainer/Owner

Company: Your Gym Location: Nationwide, UK

General Managers

Company: The Gym Group Location: Various locations, UK

FOH Receptionist

Company: Everyone Active Location: Malvern, UK

Gymnastics Coach (Part Time)

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Keyworth, UK

Senior Manager

Company: YMCA Fylde Coast Location: Fylde, UK

Senior Manager

Company: YMCA Fylde Coast Location: Fylde, UK

Full Time Operations Assistant

Company: Harrow School Location: London, UK

Personal Trainers Needed

Company: Lifetime Location: Nationwide, UK

Assistant Manager

Company: Powerleague Location: Various, UK

Lifeguards

Company: Everyone Active Location: Stroud, UK

General Manager

Company: Fusion Location: Mountsorrel, UK

Aquatics Manager

Company: GLL Location: Tower Hamlets, London, UK

Fitness Manager (Full Time)

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Solihull, UK

Full Time Recreation Assistant

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Backwell, UK

Head Of Business Development

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Worcester, UK

Dry Operations Manager

Company: Fusion Location: Waddon, UK

Tutors / Assessors / Internal Verifiers

Company: Diverse Trainers Location: Nationwide, UK

Swimming Teacher

Company: Everyone Active Location: Studley Leisure Centre, UK

Fitness Instructor -

Consultant - Freelance Company: NRG Gym Limited Location: NRG Gym Watford, UK

Sports and Outdoor Education Officer

Company: Epic CIC Location: Kensington & Chelsea, UK

Instructors

Company: Les Mills Location: London, UK

Gym Manager

Company: Pure Gym Limited Location: Aberdeen, UK

Divisional Business Manager

Company: Fusion Location: Oxford / West London, UK

Pool Manager

Company: Parkdean Location: Porthcawl, Wales, UK

General Managers

Company: truGym Location: Various locations, UK

Trainee Personal Trainer

Company: The Training Room Location: Nationwide, UK

Operations Manager

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Sales and Marketing Manager

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Receptionist

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Housekeeper

Company: Xercise 4 Less Location: Nationwide, UK

Fitness First Middle East

Company: Premier Training Location: Middle East

Personal Trainer

Company: Amac Training Ltd Location: Nationwide

Gym Instructor

Company: Amac Training Ltd Location: Nationwide

Spa Manager

Company: Cape Weligama Resort Location: Sri Lanka

Spa Therapist

Company: GLL Location: Islington , UK

Beauty Therapist

Company: énergie group Location: Leighton Buzzard, UK

Spa Therapist - Spa London

Company: GLL Location: South East, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Science Museum Location: London, UK

Trade Account Manager (South Parks)

Company: Thorpe Park Resort Location: Chertsey, UK

Tour and Admissions Manager

Company: Bombay Sapphire Distillery Location: Hampshire, UK

Mill Bar and Gin Shop Manager

Company: Bombay Sapphire Distillery Location: Hampshire, UK

Visitor Operations Supervisor

Company: Bombay Sapphire Distillery Location: Hampshire, UK

Web and new Media Manager Junior

Company: Gardaland Resort Location: Verona, Italy

Assistant Manager

Company: The Original Bowling Company Location: Norwich, UK

Assistant Manager

Company: Legoland Malaysia Location: Johor, Malaysia

Manager - E-Commerce

Company: Legoland Malaysia Location: Johor, Malaysia

Entertainment Team Lead

Company: LEGOLAND Florida Location: Florida-Winter Haven, US

Part Time Studio Artist

Company: Madame Tussauds Location: Washington, US

Operations Manager

Company: Merlin Location: Massachusetts, US

Head of Marketing and Sales

Company: Madame Tussauds Location: New York, US

Duty Manager

Company: Legoland Discovery Center Location: New York-Yonkers, US

Trainee General Manager

Company: Mecca Bingo Location: Various, UK

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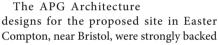
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Green light for artificial surfing lake

An inland surfing lake is on its way to becoming a major new sporting attraction in Bristol, after the project gained planning permission.

The Wave: Bristol is a £6.4m scheme that includes a 300m by 150m surfing lake, capable of producing 120 perfect 1.6m (5.2ft) waves per hour, with each wave big enough for an experienced surfer to ride for 20 seconds. At the centre of the development will be a freshwater lagoon, which will use Wavegarden technology created by a Spanish firm to replicate tidal movements.



by South Gloucestershire Council, which voted nine to one in favour, with one abstention.

The team behind the project wants to provide an experience which brings surfing, nature and education together. It is intended to encourage people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to be outdoors, exercise, have fun and get in touch with nature. Around the lake will be a natural swimming lake and multifunctional gardens including an activity garden, barefoot trails,



A CGI of how the visitor centre will appear, overlooking the surf lake

sensory garden, healing garden, culinary garden, herb gardens and foraging areas.

"This is the culmination of three years' very hard work and we are very excited that South Gloucestershire Council has chosen to give it the go ahead," said Nick Hounsfield, who is one of the co-founders of The Wave.

"We believe that The Wave will have a hugely positive impact on people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities in the local area, Bristol and further afield." Details: http://lei.sr?a=J6s8G

Flame Awards 2014: Winners revealed

Continued from front cover

Among the winners was Everyone Active and Fit For Sport's joint project - Legacy Games to build a sustainable activity and health legacy in communities around the country in the wake of the 2012 London Olympic Games.

"I am absolutely delighted that Legacy Games won the ukactive Flame Award as it shows our industry has embraced and understood the impact and importance of what we are trying to achieve," said Everyone Active South East regional director Duncan Jefford.

Prior to the award ceremony, attendees had enjoyed a packed day of seminars. Keynote speaker Magnus Lindkvist - the worldrenowned futurologist - led things off with a dazzling morning address, and he was followed by rugby legend Will Greenwood and film star Sébastien Foucan in addressing the physical



Around 800 industry representatives were in attendance

activity community, while a selection of industry experts also delivered themed breakout sessions.

To view the full list of winners across the 14 categories, as well as the three special acheivement awards and further details, visit the link at the bottom of this story. Details: http://lei.sr?a=C2e9v

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