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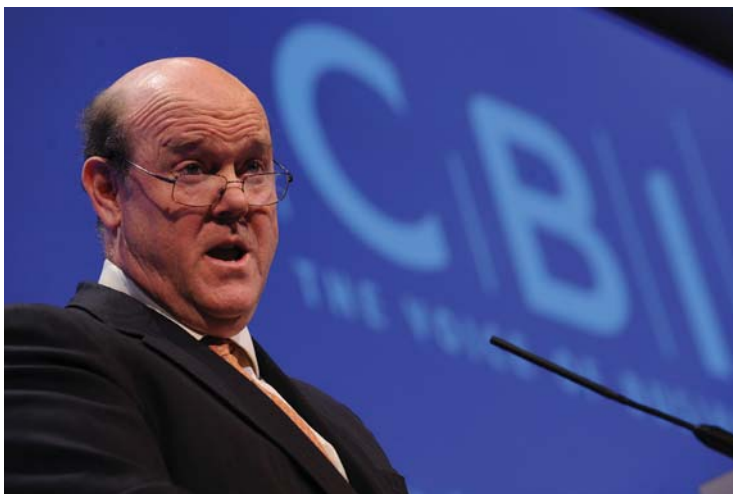
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Exclusive: Serco Leisure sale facing delays

Services giant Serco's plans to offload its leisure arm as part of CEO Rupert Soames' strategy overhaul may be delayed by 'up to a year'.

Serco Leisure – which manages around 60 UK locations including Bisham Abbey and Lilleshall National Sports Centres, plus the National Water Sports Centre – had been expected to be sold this summer, with two UK buyers initially understood to have been in contention.

However, a well-placed source has told *Leisure Opportunities* that the sale may now not be completed for up to a year. Serco's Environmental Services business is also up for sale and it's thought the complexity of divesting from the various leisure and environmental contracts it has in place with local authorities is part of the reason for the slow progress.



Serco CEO Rupert Soames, the grandson of Winston Churchill, wants to sell Serco Leisure

businesses involves “the process of novating a large number of individual contracts with multiple local authority customers.”

Asked by *Leisure Opportunities* for comment on the delay of the Serco Leisure sale, a spokesperson replied: “As we said in the publication of our half year results in August, the potential disposals of both our Environmental Services and Leisure businesses in the UK are ongoing. There is no further update to give at this time.”

Serco Group recently announced its half year results, which showed operating profit fell to a £24.8m loss – down from profits of £28.1m during the same period last year. The filing noted that the sale of Serco's Environmental Services and Leisure

businesses is gradually edging forward in other areas, with the company having recently sold its private sector business process outsourcing (BPO) operations for around £250m. Details: http://lei.sr?a=H5k5Q_O

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APPOINTMENTS

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Potter studio tour set for expansion

The Harry Potter studio tour is about to get a “significant expansion” as Warner Bros has announced multi-million pound development plans for its studios in Hertfordshire.

Following a 10-year masterplan submitted for planning application earlier this month, the Leavesden facility – which has filmed blockbusters including all eight Harry Potter movies, *Goldeneye* and *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* – will increase its size by around a quarter. Since opening to the public in 2012, the active movie studio-cum-visitor attraction has welcomed over five million visitors – more than Edinburgh castle, London Zoo or Stonehenge, according to the studios’



The studio tour recently added Platform 9 3/4

economic and social assessment report. The studio tour has recently announced Halloween events featuring the Dark Arts, running from October 16 through November 1, but has not yet outlined what the expansion plans entail. Details: http://lei.sr?a=M6Z7U_O

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Paralympic hero champions diversity

Nine-time Paralympic champion Lord Holmes and former head of diversity at London 2012, Stephen Frost, are among four new advisers brought in to tackle the Civil Service's poor diversity record.

Lord Holmes – Britain's most successful Paralympic swimmer – will join Frost, Karen Blackett (CEO of MediaCom) and Helena Morrissey (founder of the 30% Club) in the four-strong group tasked with making the Civil Service "more representative of modern Britain".

The appointments were made by cabinet secretary Sir Jeremy Heywood, who is keen to increase the numbers of people in the workforce from under-represented groups.

Several studies have called the civil service's track record on diversity into question. Current figures from the Office for National Statistics show that just 4.7 per cent of top civil servants are black or from an ethnic minority.

Another report by the government's own Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission in 2014 showed that, while just

7 per cent of the UK public attended private school, 55 per cent of Whitehall's permanent secretaries were privately educated.

"A diverse and inclusive workforce is proven to be more effective," Heywood said. "I want Stephen, Karen, Chris and Helena to take a no-holds-barred approach and tell us where we can improve. I'm passionate about encouraging individuals from all backgrounds to aim high, achieve their potential, and in doing so help the civil service become truly socially inclusive."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=v6P8C_O



Paralympic champion Chris Holmes joined the House of Lords in 2013

'Cohesion needed' to boost participation

A government report has called for Sport England and UK Sport to work "better and more closely together" in the areas of participation and the governance of national governing bodies.

The Triennial Review of UK Sport and Sport England, published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) last month, says that while Sport England and UK Sport remain "necessary", the boards of UK Sport and Sport England must agree a memo of

understanding on working together on both talent and participation by December 2015.

Recommendations in the report include:

- The relaxation of National Lottery funding rules to allow Sport England and UK Sport to explore partnerships with the private sector.
- The publishing of a single set of governance requirements for UK Sport and Sport England by the end of 2015 – in time for the next funding cycle.
- UK Sport and Sport England should develop



The UK's two major sporting bodies could work together 'more closely'

a shared vision with NGBs for future efficiencies by June 2016, including the creation of clusters and 'hub locations' across the country to enable co-location. As part of this work, NGBs should be encouraged to realise further cost savings from moving to shared services.

James Allen, head of policy at the Sport and Recreation Alliance said: "We're digesting the findings and recommendations with interest – some look far reaching and significant for our sector. Details: http://lei.sr?a=m2p4v_O

£400m Spurs stadium unveiled

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club (Spurs) has revealed further details of the transformation of its White Hart Lane stadium into a 61,000 seat multi-purpose stadium – set to become the largest club stadium in London.

Plans released yesterday show the £400m project will include four asymmetrical stands, a stadium wrapped in a sculptured mesh and a glass facade to the new home end.

There will also be special design features to allow Spurs to host two National Football League (NFL) games each season under a 10-year partnership signed with the NFL in July.

A retractable grass field, used by Spurs for its home games, will hide underneath it an artificial surface – which will be used to host the NFL games. The artificial playing surface will also be capable of hosting other sporting, entertainment and community events. Plans also show that the stadium will have



The stadium will be designed by sports architects Populous

three tunnels, one for football and one each for the NFL home and away sides. The asymmetrical stands will allow supporters to be closer to the pitch than at any other comparably sized stadium, while the home 'kop' stand will be the largest in the country, holding 17,000 fans. Work has begun on preparation efforts and the stadium is set to open in time for the 2018-19 season. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=m3h5D_O*

London Olympic Stadium back in action

The re-configured London Olympic Stadium hosted its first major event since its radical £272m transformation when France lined up against Romania for a Rugby World Cup game last month.

Designed by sports architects Populous, the stadium has been completely remodelled from its London 2012 configuration and is now the only stadium in the UK specifically designed to host football, athletics, rugby, cricket and concerts.

Work since London 2012

has included the installation of a new flexible seating system to retain the original running track. The automated system allows all four sides of the lower bowl to be moved over the track when in football mode. The fabric roof used during the Olympic Games has also been removed and replaced with the world's largest cantilevered roof – measuring 45,000sq ft in size and 276ft tall at its deepest point.

The new roof is expected to improve acoustics by reflecting the noise of the terraces and projecting it towards the pitch.



The stadium has undergone a £272m transformation

In order to preserve some of the Olympic Stadium's identity, the iconic triangular lighting towers that used to stand over the old roof have been inverted and now hang underneath the new larger roof.


The stadium will become the new home to English Premier League club West Ham from the beginning of the 2016-17 season and now meets UEFA Category 4 classification, the highest available – as well as being fully compliant to IAAF Category 1 standards for elite athletics events. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=j7t2y_O*

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Gym goers at significant risk of 'bigorexia' disorder

Gym goers have been warned of the dangers of 'bigorexia,' an anxiety disorder which can lead to depression, steroid abuse and – in extreme cases – suicide.

Muscle dysmorphia, described as a form of "reverse anorexia," is particularly prevalent among men, whose body insecurities can cause them to go to dangerous lengths to make themselves bigger and more muscular. Symptoms can include abuse of supplements, steroids and protein shakes; prioritising working out over family and social life.

The Body Dysmorphic Disorder Foundation says one in 10 men in UK gyms have the condition, with many cases going unreported. *Details:* http://lei.sr?a=D5n2r_O



Steve Gray (pictured) will replace David Mobbs

Nuffield Health names Steve Gray as new CEO

Nuffield Health has announced that Steve Gray will replace David Mobbs as chief executive when the charity's longstanding leader stands down at the end of this year.

Having led the growth of the health and wellbeing offering at both Lloyds Pharmacy and subsequently at Superdrug, Gray has a strong background in healthcare and was described as the "outstanding candidate" by Nuffield Health chair Russell Hardy.

"Steve's strategic insights into the UK healthcare market combined with his vision for Nuffield Health over the next stage of its development were compelling," said Hardy.

"He has a proven track record of innovation and success across healthcare markets. Nuffield Health is in safe hands."

Gray faces a tough job filling the void left by David Mobbs, who was hailed as a "visionary in healthcare provision." Mobbs has been pivotal in repositioning Nuffield Health from a hospital operator to become the leading integrated health and wellbeing business in the UK. *Details:* http://lei.sr?a=Z5R5f_O

Sports Direct readies 'war chest'

Sports Direct Fitness is laying the foundations for its 'aggressive' expansion over the next year by bringing in fresh blood and setting aside £250m to turbocharge the gym chain's growth.

Leisure Opportunities revealed last month that owner Mike Ashley is happy with the dual-use gym and retail concept devised by the company and is now eager to scale up the rollout of new sites. The '£250m war chest' – first reported by *Property Week* – will be used to gain a stronger foothold in the south east of England as the chain aims to reach its goal of 200 gyms nationwide.

The company plans to launch up to 16 new sites in 2016 under the dual-use concept which has seen it offer memberships from as little as £5 per month.

A senior Sports Direct source confirmed that Ashley has appointed Michael Murray, formerly of Central London Properties, to a new property director role. He is tasked with kicking off the expansion of the business on standalone brownfield sites, which will see



Sports Direct Fitness has so far launched three of its dual-use facilities

Sports Direct aim to capitalise on the synergy between its retail and gym divisions by offering the two prospects side-by-side under one roof.

Having made a dramatic entry into the health club market last year with the acquisition of 25 ex-LA fitness sites, Sports Direct Fitness has so far launched three of its new-build facilities. Having lost out to Pure Gym in the race to acquire LA fitness, Sports Direct Fitness had been rumoured to be sizing up a bid for Soho Gyms, although talks have reportedly since broken down. *Details:* http://lei.sr?a=r2m5p_O

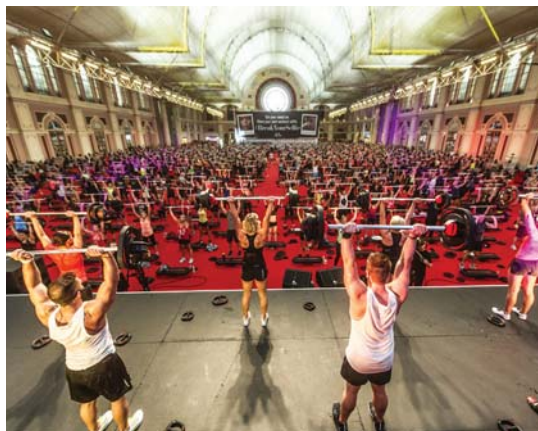
Time for gyms to 'get theatrical'

Gym managers should treat their role like that of a theatre manager and focus on getting the public through the door by promoting and selling an unmissable experience.

That's the view of Les Mills UK chief executive Martin Franklin and global markets COO Keith Burnet, who say gyms need to be able to tell a story that engages and excites their customers if they are to succeed in a competitive market.

Speaking to *Leisure Opportunities* at last month's LIW show in Birmingham, the recently-promoted pair warned of painful changes ahead for fitness businesses not aligned to meeting and anticipating consumers' fast-changing expectations.

They said a reluctance to 'get digital' and re-engineer a business towards innovation and experiences can prove fatal, citing the example of one well-known brand which lost 90 per cent of its capital value in less than two years, simply by failing to adapt to market changes. "As an industry in general, we're very short term



Les Mills promotes several interactive fitness experiences

and I think club managers are too bogged down in the minutiae of running a club to identify threats coming from up ahead," said Burnet. "Managers might be able to tell you where the threats and opportunities are coming from, but very few are in a position to produce a strategy that can deal with them. It's scary to think that a business can fall away so quickly, but these are the dangers if you fail to embrace digital."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=V7p4p_O

Bannatyne: I've been 'betrayed'

TV Dragon and leisure entrepreneur Duncan Bannatyne has said he feels 'betrayed' over revelations of fraud and money laundering by former staff at The Bannatyne Group.

Newly-published accounts show Bannatyne Fitness profits dropped from £10m to £3m in the past year. The accounts make clear what is believed to be the cause: "During the year, the directors identified that misappropriation of the company and the group's assets had been occurring for a number of years by former employees."

Former Bannatyne Group finance director Christopher Watson is expected to confess to charges of fraud and money laundering when he appears for a plea hearing, according to the *Northern Echo*.

Prosecutors say electronic cash transfers from Bannatyne company accounts to Watson's personal accounts and those of his businesses between July 2008 and July 2014 totalled almost £8m, although he is reportedly due to dispute the amount. A Crown Prosecution Service spokesman said: "These sums of money were allegedly used to gamble, settle personal debts and buy and renovate properties."



Bannatyne says top team changes have steadied the business

Watson has not been the only former Bannatyne employee to face police scrutiny recently. In December 2014, former chief executive and MD of the company Nigel Armstrong, was arrested on suspicion of fraud and bailed. Armstrong has since been cleared of any wrongdoing over the case, and is reportedly planning to take Bannatyne to court, seeking a £10m payout for unfair dismissal. Bannatyne has indicated he will strongly contest the claims of his former friend.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=r7N2C_O

Gym Group turns to tech for pricing model

The Gym Group has sought an edge in the competitive budget sector by commissioning a statistical model to understand the impact of price changes on member acquisition and retention.

Budget gyms have harnessed technology and data-driven insight to become the industry's biggest success story of the last decade and The Gym Group has been at the forefront of this. The new data model – created by Retention Guru Dr Paul Bedford and respected fitness industry consultant Rob Gregory – will enable the company to make strategic decisions about pricing and promotions that will have a direct link to products and services.

"We have invested heavily in technology to underpin our business model and this infrastructure enables a wide breadth of high fidelity data across our 1.6 million member records," The Gym Group COO Jim Graham told *Leisure Opportunities*. "We believe that this

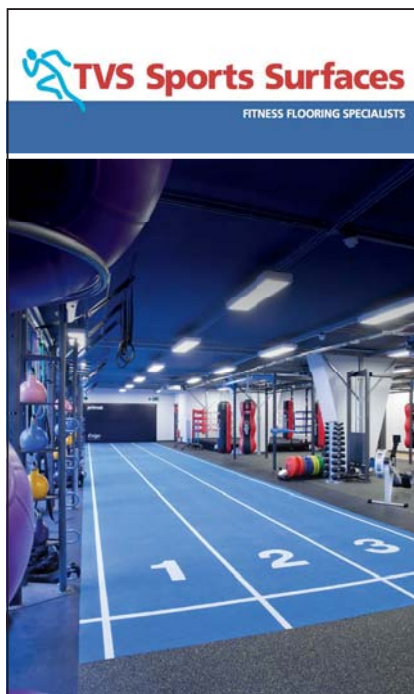


The data model included analysis of 800,000 member records

analytical work, coupled with our combined insight into the human psychology of engagement with and adherence to exercise, is really adding value to our members and will further differentiate us from less data-rich operators."

The data model included analysis of more than 800,000 member records from 50 of The Gym Group's UK sites and took six months to complete. Dr Bedford said the chain's extensive use of technology provided a rich stream of data.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=P7U6Z_O



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£215m Tate Modern addition set for June 2016

A £215m extension for London's Tate Modern will open next year, it has said.

The announcement should assuage fears that construction work for the popular visitor attraction was running behind schedule. The designs have been on the table since 2008, and the extension was originally slated to open in time for the capital's 2012 Olympic Games. The 11-storey addition, designed by acclaimed architecture firm Herzog & de Meuron, will officially open on 17th June 2016, according to Sir Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Modern.

The 65m-tall building will add 21,500sq m of space to the gallery's existing 35,000sq m. Details: http://lei.sr?a=4Q5Z2_O



Paul McCartney performs in a Jaunt VR experience

VR startup Jaunt secures £64.6m to develop tech

A startup virtual reality company in California's Silicon Valley has secured £42m from a number of global firms, including Disney, as media and entertainment companies start to invest in new forms of immersive technology.

Other investors in Jaunt, which has total capital of around £64.6m include companies such as Sky, German media conglomerates Axel Springer and ProSiebenSat.1 Media, government investment firm China Media Capital and Evolution Media Partners.

Jaunt offers a different kind of virtual reality to other companies, creating and distributing live-action VR content, differing from the computer-generated content filling the market right now. Using a spherical 24-lens camera, Jaunt takes footage shot from each lens and puts it all together into one single image, creating a high-definition representation of the real world. The technology offers the potential to completely immerse users into movies or even put them into a live sporting event using a VR headset.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=f6q3G_O

British Music Experience heads north

The British Music Experience (BME), which since 2009 has called London's O2 Arena home, is about to position itself as one of the UK's most prominent and compelling music attractions when it makes a permanent move to Liverpool – the city that gave the world The Beatles.

Following a five-year run at the O2, the BME will be making its new home in the iconic Grade II-listed Cunard Building, with an extensive collection of music and artefacts paying homage to the impact British music has had on culture, fashion, art and politics.

Using tablets and smartphones, guests can “unlock” display cases and listen to tracks by various artists. An interactive studio will allow people to try out instruments, while a dance booth will teach signature moves. The attraction will also include a café and shop with music and pop-culture-related products.

Liverpool's mayor, Joe Anderson, and BME chair Harvey Goldsmith have teamed up to



The BME will move to the iconic Grade II-listed Cunard Building

bring the attraction to Liverpool. It includes more than 600 rare items, such as David Bowie's Ziggy Stardust costumes and original handwritten lyrics by New Order.

“This is a fantastic addition to the city's existing attractions and it makes perfect sense that a museum which celebrates the importance of British music and its influence on society, has its home in Liverpool,” said Anderson.

“Music is inherent here and is entwined with the city's history, present and future.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=P5V6s_O

Museums ‘must devise’ digital strategies

A new study identifying future trends in the museum sector has said that museums must develop digital strategies to survive, as more and more people turn to the internet to soak up culture.

The NMC *Horizon Report: 2015 Museum Edition* – created by The New Media Consortium in partnership with the Balboa Park Online Collaborative – looked at which trends and important developments in technology will drive changes to museum education and interpretation, the challenges ahead and how to overcome them. Compiled by a body of 54 experts, the report charts the “five-year horizon,” looking at more than 13 years of research and publications to identify future trends.

With the need identified for museums to start developing digital strategies if they haven't already, concerns were raised about privacy issues. The report said steps were already being taken by institutions such as New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, which has created its own digital department headed by a chief digital officer, with allocated



Technology is key to the survival of modern-day museums

resources and facilities to enhance innovation and adapt to a changing museum environment. Also raised was the need to improve the “digital literacy” of museum professionals, so they can adapt and interact with an ever-more technology-reliant consumer.

“At the centre is the notion of museums needing to be more responsive to audiences' evolving behaviours to stay relevant,” reads the report. “As a result, they are being urged to balance digital infrastructure and digital mindset.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=q8W5n_O

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HOTELS

Wellness makeover for de Savary hotels

Lana de Savary and her husband, international entrepreneurial businessman Peter de Savary, are building bespoke, intimate new spas at two of their quintessentially English countryside hotels.

"The whole idea is to be completely different than a large spa," said Peter de Savary. "We think small is better than big, and less is more."

The de Savarays are building a £1m spa at The Old Swan & Minster Mill in the Cotswolds, set to open in June 2016 and available only to hotel guests.

"The concept is a spa boutique, with a very artistic, creative vibe," said de Savary. "It's all about an overall lifestyle experience, where you can enjoy the whole ambiance."

De Savary said having a private spa only for guests is a way to keep things less busy, and less crowded. He wants the experience to be "charming, user-friendly, not intimidating – and not just for women." The spa will include both indoor and outdoor components, with five indoor treatment rooms



The Old Swan & Minster Mill will get a £1m bespoke, intimate spa

and two to three gazebo tents on the terrace for treatments when the weather is nice.

"The spa is very much on a relaxation theme," Peter de Savary explained.

The de Savarays are also planning a new spa at their hotel in Devon, The Cary Arms, which is currently undergoing a £1.5m expansion – also adding six chic beach huts and three Riviera villas, all on the water's edge with views across Lyme Bay. The Cary Spa is set to open in May 2016. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=q9m5D_S*

Revealed: most popular luxury hotels

Consulting agency Luxury Branding has published a new report that shows the world's most popular luxury hotel brands, compiled using data on travel feedback site TripAdvisor. The study analysed the reviews of nearly 1,600 hotels across 59 global brands; the results represent the opinions contained in 2.25 million reviews.

According to the report, The Ritz-Carlton is the world's most popular luxury hotel brand. Others

in the top 10 include (in order) Oberoi Hotels & Resorts; Raffles Hotels & Resorts; Langham Hotels and Resorts; Rocco Forte Hotels; Dorchester Collection; Capella Hotels and Resorts; Park Hyatt; Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts; and Armani Hotels & Resorts.

"Due to the internet, luxury travellers are better informed than ever and with the continued rapid growth of sites like TripAdvisor, a more reliable assessment of luxury hospitality has emerged," said Piers Schmidt,



The study analysed the reviews of nearly 1,600 hotels across 59 global brands

who founded Luxury Branding in 2002. "These findings may surprise quite a few in the industry, but the brands' guests have spoken, and now they're being heard."

Mr. Schmidt noted that despite a persistent industry perception that high-net-worth consumers "don't write reviews" or engage with social media, digitally native travelers rely both on their own experiences and those of friends and family in making brand decisions.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=z7r8E_O

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TOURISM

Ex-Man Utd boss to open WTM

The former chief executive of world-famous football club Manchester United will open the World Travel Market London 2015 when it kicks off on 2 November.

The event, which is among the biggest in the global travel industry calendar, is expected to attract 5,000 exhibitors and 9,000 buyers during its run from 2-5 November, with a total of more than 50,000 travel professionals expected to attend.

David Gill, who joined Manchester United as finance director in 1997, helped the Red Devils become one of the richest football clubs in the world, while presiding over a period of unprecedented success on the football pitch. He stepped down as United chief executive in 2013, but remains a non-exec director.

Gill will open World Travel Market London 2015 at the WTM Leaders Lunch, which will host 200 of the industry's most senior executives. Last year's event guest speaker was retail legend Justin King, former CEO of Sainsbury's, and in 2013, former Marks & Spencer chair and CEO Sir Stuart Rose took to the stage.

During this year's lunch, BBC presenter Stephen Sackur will interview Gill



David Gill led the Red Devils to financial success

about his career in the football business as well as his previous careers within travel, offering the senior travel industry audience inspiration and practical business insight.

"I am delighted David Gill has agreed to open World Travel Market London 2015," said World Travel Market senior director Simon Press. "Such a successful and well-known businessman, Gill's knowledge of International business will no doubt offer transferable knowledge to the senior industry leaders of global travel brands sat in the room before him."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=a5j7Y_O

Banksy's Dismaland 'brings in £20m'

Banksy's twisted spin on Disneyland generated more than £20m for the seaside town of Weston-super-Mare in the five weeks from its debut in the middle of August.

Satirising the theme park and tourism industries, particularly Disneyland, Dismaland has somewhat ironically given a great boost to the industry it has poked fun at, with the town's tourism businesses – such as hotels, B&Bs, restaurants and seaside attractions – reporting significant boosts in revenue, according to the local tourism body Visit Somerset.

The Hoteliers Association also reports that an additional 50,000 nights have been sold in Weston-super-Mare's hotels, with each guest spending an average of £150 per night including dinner and drinks. In addition, local shop owners have received boosts in sales, restaurants have often been fully booked and Great Western Railways say that numbers on the Paddington



150,000 people visited the art installation-cum-theme park

to Weston line have more than doubled. Having closed its doors on Sunday 27 September, more than 150,000 people visited the art installation-cum-theme park based in a derelict lido during its five-week run. More than 4,000 tickets were sold every day online and a further 500 queued up daily for a chance to enter the pop-up, which sold out its entire ticket allocation.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=c4t8k_O

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Health Club Management Retention Hub

We've pulled together the latest retention series written for Health Club Management by leading industry experts Dr Melvyn Hillsdon, Dr Paul Bedford and Guy Griffiths. This one-stop online shop gives you quick access to the latest thinking, stats, trends and reports in this vital field.

The screenshot shows the 'Health Club Management Retention Hub' website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like HOME, JOBS, NEWS, FEATURES, BLOG, PRODUCTS, and a search bar. Below this, there are logos for DFC (Debit Finance Company) and SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area). The main content area features three featured articles:

- The TRP 10,000 series** by Dr Melvyn Hillsdon: A report on the TRP 10,000 series, focusing on retention and attrition.
- The Black & White series** by Dr Paul Bedford: A report on the Black & White series, focusing on retention and attrition.
- The Stick Around series** by Guy Griffiths: A report on the Stick Around series, focusing on retention and attrition.

Each article includes a brief description, the author's name, a photo of the author, and a link to the full report. The website also has a sidebar with links to 'Sign up for FREE online', 'Featured Suppliers', and 'Search features'.

This collage features several articles and charts from the Health Club Management Retention Hub:

- ABSENT & EX-MEMBER JOURNEY**: An article discussing the journey of absent and ex-members, including a flowchart showing the progression from 'Absent' to 'Ex-member'.
- NEW YEAR, NEW STRATEGY**: An article by Dr Melvyn Hillsdon discussing new strategies for member retention, including a flowchart showing the progression from 'New Year' to 'New Strategy'.
- The PERSONAL touch**: An article discussing the importance of personal touch in member retention, including a photo of a personal trainer working with a client.
- Retention Series**: A series of articles and charts, including a bar chart showing 'Retention rates by age group' and a line graph showing 'Retention rates by gender'.

Let the experts keep you up to speed on the latest retention trends
healthclubmanagement.co.uk/retention

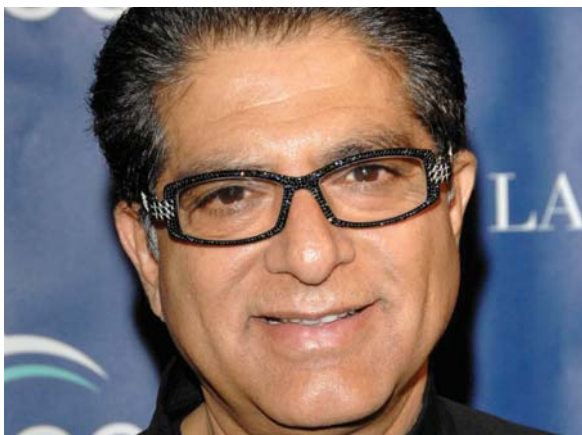
Diverse speaker lineup for GWS

The Global Wellness Summit, set to take place 13-15 November at The St. Regis Mexico City, has announced key elements of its 9th annual conference agenda.

Keynote speaker Dr Deepak Chopra heads up a list of high-profile presenters which includes executives from companies as diverse as Cirque du Soleil and online retailer Zappos; Mexico City's Ministers of Tourism and Health; and panelists from organisations such as Johnson & Johnson, the Mayo Clinic, Duke Integrative Medicine and Harvard Chan School of Public Health.

In addition, top findings from the Global Wellness Institute's major research report on the Future of Workplace Wellness will be presented.

This year's inclusive theme, "Building a Well World," will attract attendees from more than 40 countries and provide a comprehensive look at how the dramatic growth of the £2.1tn wellness sector is transforming personal and professional lives – and what



Keynote speaker Dr. Deepak Chopra heads up a high-profile list

the outlook is for the future. In addition to Dr Deepak Chopra, delegates will hear from: author Agapi Stassinopoulos, filmmaker Louie Schwartzberg, founder of Technogym Nerio Alessandri, Cirque du Soleil's Martin Boudreau, Zappos.com's Maggie Hsu, wellness analyst Thierry Malleret, Zeel USA CEO Samer Hamadeh and Grupo Diarq CEO Gina Diez Barroso. Giselle Fernandez, a five-time Emmy award winning journalist and Mexico native, will emcee this year's event. Details: http://lei.sr?a=n3Q8u_O

Illusion of soft skin acts as 'social glue'

Researchers at the University College London have found that participants in a study consistently rated the skin of another person as being softer than their own, whether or not it really was. The researchers suggest that this phenomenon may exist to ensure that humans are motivated to build social bonds through touch.

"What is intriguing about the illusion is its specificity," said Antje Gentsch of the University College London. "We found the illusion to

be strongest when the stroking was applied intentionally and according to the optimal properties of the specialised system in the skin for receiving affective touch." Gentsch explained that this system typically responds to gentle stroking found in intimate relationships and encodes the pleasure of touch.

"The illusion reveals a largely automatic and unconscious mechanism by which 'giving pleasure is receiving pleasure' in the touch



The phenomenon may exist to ensure humans are motivated to bond

domain," said lead researcher Aikaterini Fotopoulou. Many studies have focused on the benefits of touch for the person receiving it. Yet, Fotopoulou and her colleagues said, remarkably, little is known about the psychological benefits of actively touching others. Researchers believe that this rewarding illusion in the brain from human touch acts as a kind of "social glue," bonding people to each other. Details: http://lei.sr?a=W4F6M_O



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Wigan Council has invested £2.4m in the project

£2.9m Howe Bridge upgrade starting to take shape

Howe Bridge Leisure Centre has opened its brand new health and fitness suite – part of the ongoing £2.9m transformation being carried out at the WLCT-operated site.

Members can now take advantage of a new Technogym-equipped 80-station gym, sauna and steamroom, indoor cycling studio, group exercise studio and new changing rooms. As part of the first phase of improvements, the centre's reception area has also been modernised and a new catering offer, The Subs Bench, has opened for business. The latest development follows the recent opening of the 3G FIFA 2 star pitch. Next to come is a range of innovative leisure products including adventure climbing, an indoor extreme skate park and adventure play facilities.

Wigan Council has invested £2.4m into the project, while WLCT secured an additional £500,000 from the National Lottery's Sport England Improvement Fund. Details: http://lei.sr?a=N9s4K_O

Consultation for Taunton's major mixed use scheme

Taunton Deane Council, working in conjunction with development partner St Modwen, is about to kick off a public consultation about what to do to transform a derelict former cattle market.

Proposals for the site will be unveiled next week, but are set to include a hotel, water-front cafés, bars and restaurants, a cinema, retail, a supermarket, offices and homes.

An important part of the council's regeneration plans, the £105m Firepool development would be one of the biggest mixed-use schemes in the region, with the potential to create more than 1,800 jobs.

Council leader John Williams said: "Taunton needs to be competitive and provide high-quality facilities to attract continued inward investment and satisfy the needs of its growing population. The mix of uses proposed achieves just that."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=U4p5h_O

Bouygues wins £1bn Battersea contract

Battersea Power Station Development Company (BPSDC) has selected Bouygues UK as preferred contractor for Phase 3 of the largest single development project in central London since Canary Wharf.

With the long-running Battersea saga apparently on the road to resolution, Bouygues UK has landed the £1bn+ design and build contract for Phase 3, which features a new pedestrianised high street for London, known as The Electric Boulevard, as well as a number of mixed-use developments. The boulevard will be the main gateway to the entire Battersea development, connecting the Northern Line Extension station to the south of the site with the Power Station.

The team from Bouygues UK will work alongside the Phase 3 principal consultants already appointed. The roll call of big names includes Foster + Partners, the architects responsible for the long sinuous 'Battersea Roof Gardens' building that will comprise new homes, a hotel and one of the largest roof gardens in the capital. Also involved are Gehry Partners, architects



Electric Boulevard will be a focal point of the development

of 'Prospect Place', a collection of five buildings each with striking sculptural façades inspired by London's famous John Nash Regency terraces, and Prospect Park, which houses a new community centre and children's playground.

Work is due to start in 2016, alongside the ongoing construction of Circus West (Phase 1) and regeneration of the Power Station itself (Phase 2).

Details: http://lei.sr?a=F7x5Q_O

Science Museum refurb pushes ahead

London's Science museum has set a November deadline for architects to submit plans for its latest development as part of its ongoing five-year £60m transformation.

In 2015, Zaha Hadid and Muf were awarded separate contracts to redevelop the museum's Maths Gallery and Interactive Gallery respectively. Now, the famous museum is seeking a world-class architect to work on its Exhibition Road entrance, which is expected to welcome more than 3.3 million people through its doors every year.

The 1,200 sq m (12,900sq ft) area of public space, which the Science Museum has taken over from the Royal Mail, was earmarked for development following the museum's purchase of the Post Office building on the north east corner of the site in South Kensington.

The entire Exhibition Road site runs from Hyde Park to South Kensington and has undergone significant development in recent times, most notably the new entrance being built for the nearby V&A Museum.



The entire Exhibition Road site runs from Hyde Park to South Kensington

The outdoor site was developed in 2011 at a cost of £28m and doesn't have kerbs or pavements, with signs, traffic signals and barriers removed to form a "clutter-free" street.

The Science Museum's masterplan will transform around a third of the world-renowned institution over the next five years. Currently in the first stage, the £60m figure has been raised through a combination of generous donations and grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Details: http://lei.sr?a=j9E6F_O



Krasnodar Stadium, Russia

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Wearables: PTs need 'better education'

Exercise professionals need better training to be able to adequately advise their clients on the booming wearable tech market, according to the American Council on Exercise (ACE).

The organisation questioned 58,000 health and fitness professionals on wearable tech to understand how the industry is adapting to this growing trend. It found that 72 per cent of trainers are regularly asked by their clients for insight and feedback on such devices, but only 51 per cent felt prepared to answer those questions. The wearable tech market has boomed in recent years and shows no signs of abating, with devices like the Apple Watch pushing wearables firmly into the mainstream. Currently worth an estimated £3.2bn, the market has been forecast to triple in value over the next decade.

Wearables are able to produce an ever-growing array of metrics and information; however, the interpretation of this data is where the opportunity lies for the fitness industry. ACE said the key takeaway from the survey is that



Interpretation of wearable data is a big opportunity for PTs

better education is needed to ensure clients and trainers are making the most of their investments in wearable technology.

"Wearable activity devices can monitor everything from steps taken and heart rate to calorie expenditure and sleep quality," said Cedric X. Bryant, Ph.D., chief science officer at ACE. "However, it's the trainer's job to translate all of these data into a tangible action plan to drive sustainable lifestyle change."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=5m4x6_O

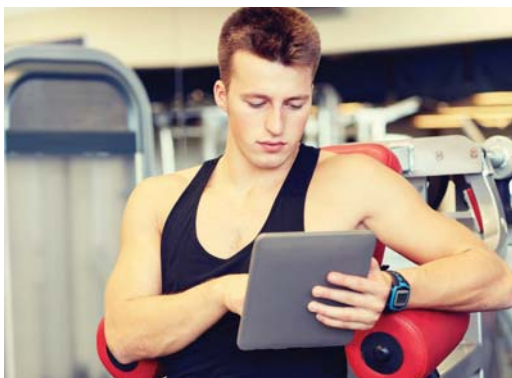
Fitness courses 'lagging in tech uptake'

Fitness training providers and colleges are failing to capitalise on the benefits of integrating technology-enabled learning into the curriculum, according to a new report.

The *Lessons in Technology-Enhanced Learning* study from YMCA Awards – the result of interviews with a group of major UK colleges and private training providers – suggests the health and fitness education sector has 'a long way to go' before it is fully harnessing the benefits of digital learning.

The report reveals that while providers involved in the study are hungry to modernise learning, many feel they are being held back by a lack of resources and the necessary funds needed to meet the essential costs of development, setup and maintenance.

The report highlights a number of persistent barriers to adoption, such as compliance issues and financial restrictions, as well as the surprising digital illiteracy of many vocational students. Meanwhile, participants complained that they were hindered by 'supplier



eLearning can be particularly useful for flexible studying

hype', overwhelming choice, and off-the-shelf eLearning products being too inflexible.

These issues aside, tutors and participants alike said they found eLearning beneficial. YMCA Awards piloted an eLearning course as part of the study and found it helped support flexible learning, with 26 per cent of students choosing to learn outside normal classroom hours in addition to face-to-face learning, while 14 per cent opted to work at weekends.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=X4q5M_O

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To support its continued growth strategy, the Gym Group is seeking to appoint a **Regional Facilities Manager** to take ownership of the management and delivery of all property maintenance across its estate in the Midlands, South-West and Berkshire region.

The Midlands/South-West region is key to the company's growth strategy – currently consisting of nearly 20 gyms, it will grow to have more than 30 sites over the next few years.

The Gym Group has over 1,000,000 sq ft of Gym space across over 65 locations, serving over 350,000 members. There are plans to open between 15 - 20 sites per year over the next few years, and over £50m of funding has been secured to aid the continued growth of this ambitious and exciting company.

The 13th fastest growing company in the Sunday Times Fast Track 100 and a top 15 Sunday Times Best Companies to Work For – the Gym Group increased revenues by 27% last year to £45.9 million - a result of opening more Gyms, of delivering high quality facilities and a model that is fit for purpose for today's economic climate.

Likely to be home-based or at a Gym local to home, this new role has been created to ensure high levels of service continue to be delivered to the operations in the region as the estate continues to grow and mature.



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This is a fantastic opportunity to play a key role in developing one of the largest and most innovative service delivery partnerships in the leisure sector. Combining strong democratic oversight from Belfast City Council, with not for profit involvement with Active Belfast Limited and their strategic operating partner GLL, one of the largest social enterprises and most successful operators in the leisure sector. Be part of the

success story as the Council is planning to invest a further £100m to improve the range and quality of Belfast's leisure facilities.

You will be the key point of contact between the council and its operating partners ensuring delivery of value for money services as defined by agreement. You will have experience of managing

service delivery partnerships and commercial contracts of a significant scale, managing financial resources and building collaborative and effective working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders.

Please visit
www.belfastcity.gov.uk/jobs
to find out more about this role.

**Closing date: 4pm on
Monday 26 October 2015**

Belfast City Council is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. If you have a disability or your first language is not English, please call the helpline on 028 9027 0640. The information can be provided in other formats.



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



General Managers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Regional Facilities Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Midlands / South-West / Berkshire corridor, UK

Pool Operations Manager

Company: Fusion Lifestyle
Location: London, England

Climbing Wall Instructor

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bristol, UK

Sports General Manager

Company: Oxford University Sport
Location: Ifley Road, Oxford, UK

Gymnastic Coaches

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

Lifeguard

Company: GLL
Location: Various locations, UK

Reception / Front of House

Company: énergie group
Location: Dundee, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Royal Automobile Club
Location: Epsom, UK

Football Coaching - USA

Company: UK Elite Soccer
Location: USA, United States

Front of House Apprentice

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Staines, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: Norton House Hotel & Spa
Location: Edinburgh, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Croydon Purley Way, UK

Recreation Assistants

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: North Somerset, UK

Leisure Partnerships Officer

Company: Wiltshire Council
Location: Wiltshire, UK

Operations Manager

Company: Charterhouse Club
Location: Godalming, Surrey, UK

Sales Manager

Company: School Lettings Solutions
Location: Bolton - occasional travel, UK

Leisure Attendant

Company: Brio Leisure
Location: Ellesmere Port, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

Swimming Teacher

Company: Stonyhurst College
Location: Clitheroe, Lancashire, UK

Facilities Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: London, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Charing Cross, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Impulse Leisure
Location: Thurrock, Essex, UK

Gym Manager

Company: énergie group
Location: Tunbridge Wells, UK

Spa Therapists

Company: The Academy
Location: North Yorkshire, UK

Sales Advisor/Club Promoter

Company: énergie group
Location: Tunbridge Wells, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Regent's Place Health
Location: London, UK

General Manager

Company: The Original Bowling Company (AMF)
Location: High Wycombe, UK

Deputy Trainer

Company: The Original Bowling Co
Location: Bristol, UK

Catering Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: Swindon, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Pure Gym Limited
Location: Various locations, UK

Health and Wellbeing trainer

Company: Let's Get Healthy
Location: Birstall, Leeds

Wet/Pool Operations Manager

Company: Fusion Lifestyle
Location: Various locations, England

Recreation Assistants

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bristol, UK

Assistant Gym Manager

Company: Pure Gym Limited
Location: Edinburgh West, UK

Sport and Leisure Traineeship

Company: Nottingham Forest FC
Location: Midlands, UK

Membership Advisor

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bexleyheath, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford - Upon - Avon, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Staines upon Thames, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bristol, UK

Sway Dance Teacher

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bristol

Personal Trainer

Company: énergie group
Location: Various locations, UK

Sports Recreation Assistant

Company: Wycombe Abbey School
Location: High Wycombe, UK

Senior Operations Assistant

Company: Shenley Leisure Centre Trust
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Exercise Referral Instructor

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bristol, UK

General Manager

Company: Fusion Lifestyle
Location: Essex, England

Maintenance Service Engineer

Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Midlands & South England, UK

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Ealing, UK

Sport Facilities Assistant

Company: Southampton Solent Uni
Location: Southampton, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Manchester, UK

Fitness Instructors

Company: Ben Dunne Gyms
Location: Liverpool, UK

Operations Manager

Company: Heriot Watt University
Location: UK

Personal Trainers

Company: Ben Dunne Gyms
Location: Liverpool, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group
Location: Banbury, UK

Senior Sports Assistant

Company: Wandsworth BC
Location: Wandsworth, London, UK

Fitness Operations Manager

Company: Fusion Lifestyle
Location: Surrey, England

Regional Account Manager

Company: Core Health & Fitness
Location: North of England, UK

Dry side Leisure Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: Various locations, UK

Duty Manager

Company: énergie group
Location: Lincoln, UK

Membership Manager

Company: énergie group
Location: Long Eaton, UK

Senior Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: Bath & North E Somerset, UK

Maintenance Technician

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stowmarket, UK

Assistant Manager

Company: The Original Bowling Company (AMF)
Location: Glasgow, Bargeddie

Contract Manager

Company: Fusion Lifestyle
Location: Essex, England

Fitness Tutor & Assessor

Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK, UK

General Manager

Company: Fusion Lifestyle
Location: Bedfordshire, England

Club Manager

Company: énergie group
Location: Tynemouth, Jarrow, Blaydon

Sales Manager

Company: Fusion Lifestyle
Location: Middlesex, England

Front of House Receptionist

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Ely, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: énergie group
Location: Long Eaton, UK

Promotional staff

Company: énergie group
Location: Lincoln, UK

Outdoor Event Manager

Company: Big Bang Promotions
Location: Windsor, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: St Albans, UK

Fitness Operations Manager

Company: Fusion Lifestyle
Location: Essex, England

Swimming Services Engineer

Company: Ipswich Borough Council
Location: Ipswich, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Watford, UK

Head Trampoline Coach

Company: North Warwickshire BC
Location: Coventry, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sutton, UK

Fitness Instructors

Company: Tandridge Trust
Location: Caterham and Oxted, UK

Leisure Assistant (lifeguard)

Company: Tandridge Trust
Location: Oxted, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Tandridge Trust
Location: Caterham and Oxted, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Tandridge Trust
Location: Oxted, UK

Casual Receptionists

Company: Tandridge Trust
Location: Caterham and Oxted, UK

Swimming Co-ordinator

Company: Tandridge Trust
Location: Caterham and Oxted, UK

Programme Manager

Company: Valley Leisure Ltd
Location: Hampshire, UK

Fitness Instructors

Company: Ben Dunne Gyms
Location: Manchester, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Southam Leisure Centre, UK

Swim Teacher

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Southam Leisure Centre, UK

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: East Midlands

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Southall, UK

Every Body Active Co-ordinator

Company: Valley Leisure Ltd
Location: Romsey, Hampshire, UK

Health & Wellbeing Manager

Company: YMCA East Surrey
Location: Redhill, Surrey, UK

Partnership Manager

Company: Belfast City Council
Location: Belfast, UK

Gym Manager

Company: énergie group
Location: F4L Catford, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group
Location: F4L Catford, UK

General Manager

Company: The Original Bowling Co
Location: Bracknell, UK

Dry Side Leisure Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: Bristol, Bath, UK

Apprenticeship in Fitness and Customer Services

Company: énergie group
Location: Wallington, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Swimming Tales
Location: Rayleigh, Essex, UK

Centre Manager

Company: BikePark Wales
Location: South Wales, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: énergie group
Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Liverpool, UK

Head of Corporate Sales

Company: Pure Gym Limited
Location: Field based, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Reading, UK

Casual Cycle Staff

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Farnham, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group
Location: Various locations, UK

Level 3 Personal Trainer

Company: The Body Training Studio
Location: Wallingford, Oxfordshire, UK

Level 2 Gym Instructor (P/T)

Company: The Body Training Studio
Location: Wallingford, Oxfordshire, UK

Personal Training Tutors

Company: The Training Room
Location: Various, UK

Assessors / Internal Verifiers

Company: Diverse Trainers.
Location: Nationwide, UK

Part Time Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stowmarket, UK

Apprenticeship in Fitness and Customer Services

Company: énergie group
Location: Southwark, London, UK

Casual Recreational Assistants

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Coventry, UK

Play Leader/Party Host X2

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bexleyheath, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Matt Roberts
Location: Mayfair, UK

Regional Sales Manager

Company: Sports Art Fitness
Location: North, UK

Sales and Marketing Manager

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

General Manager

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Impact Sales Consultant

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: North West & Scotland, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Swimming Teacher

Company: Becky Adlington's Swim Stars
Location: Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainers Needed

Company: Lifetime
Location: Nationwide, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Feversham Arms Hotel
Location: North Yorkshire, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Fawsley Hall Hotel and Spa
Location: Daventry

Group Spa Manager

Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Nottingham, UK

Spa Therapists

Company: Hand Picked Hotels
Location: Nationwide, UK

Training Manager

Company: ESPA International
Location: Farnham, Surrey (with international travel), UK

Spa Attendant

Company: Dorney House
Location: Worcestershire, UK

Senior Spa Therapist

Company: LivNordic Cayan Tower
Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Therapist

Company: Coworth Park
Location: Berkshire, UK

General Manager

Company: The Wellbeing (London) Co
Location: London, UK

Senior Spa Therapist

Company: Tresco Island
Location: Isles of Scilly, UK

UK Sales Representative

Company: Blinc Inc
Location: UK

Beauty Therapist

Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Brandon, Suffolk, UK

Qualified Head Spa Trainer

Company: Myoka Spas
Location: Malta

Spa Therapists

Company: Everyone Active
Location: St Albans, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Four Seasons Hotel
Location: Hampshire, UK

Beauty Therapy Tutors

Company: The Training Room
Location: Various, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Lakeside Hotel & Spa
Location: Newby Bridge, Cumbria, UK

Spa Manager

Company: Gomersal Park Hotel
Location: West Yorkshire, UK

Therapists / Beauticians

Company: Raison d'Etre
Location: Cairo, Egypt

Champagne Lounge Guest Services Assistant

Company: The Eye Brand
Location: London, UK

Park Operations Host

Company: SEA LIFE
Location: Weymouth, UK

Zoo Manager

Company: Drayton Manor
Location: Tamworth, Staffs, UK

Senior Sculptor

Company: Merlin Entertainments Group
Location: UK

Head of Island Operations

Company: St Michael's Mount
Location: West Cornwall, UK

Customer Service Hosts

Company: SEA LIFE
Location: Manchester, UK

Operations Supervisor

Company: The Cornish Seal Sanctuary
Location: Gweek, Cornwall, UK

Social Media and

Marketing Manager

Company: NAMCO UK Ltd
Location: London, UK

Park Operations Manager

Company: Banham Zoo
Location: Norfolk, UK

Senior Project Manager

Company: AECOM
Location: Hong Kong or Shanghai, China

Water Park Operations

Company: Legoland Discover Centre
Location: California-Carlsbad, US

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Britain feeling better about itself

An increasing number of UK adults are feeling more positive about their lives, according to a Office for National Statistics (ONS) report.

Figures from the *Personal Wellbeing in the UK, 2014/15* show that reported personal wellbeing has improved every year since the financial year ending 2012 – when data was first collected. On average people in the UK rated their life satisfaction as 7.6 – on a scale from zero to 10 – in the financial year ending 2015.

People in London reported lower personal wellbeing than the equivalent UK averages, but London has seen improvements across all the average measures of personal wellbeing, particularly in reductions to anxiety since data was first collected.

ONS director of wellbeing, Glenn Everett said: “We often talk of how the country is doing, usually in economic terms.

“Today’s figures address how people are feeling about their lives. Overall, people are generally rating their lives higher than they did four years ago.” Everett added, however, that – just as is being seen with economic wealth



On average, UK people rated their wellbeing at 7.6 out of 10

– the happiness inequality gap is getting wider.

“What is interesting is that the figures show a slight growth in inequality between people rating their lives highly and those reporting low levels of personal wellbeing. In other words, a growing inequality that policymakers need to consider.”

The ONS report could be good news for those offering leisure activities, as spending on leisure is often seen by consumers as discretionary and non-essential. An increase in wellbeing could mean people have more disposable income.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=z2v5K_O

Zaha Hadid wins RIBA Gold Medal

Zaha Hadid has been awarded the 2016 Royal Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) – becoming the first woman to win the honour in her own right.

Hadid, whose trademark dynamic swoops and complex curves have made her a global architecture star, was approved personally by the Queen for the award, which is presented in “recognition of a lifetime’s work.” Previous winners include Frank Gehry (2000), Norman Foster (1983), Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1959) and Le Corbusier (1953).

The Iraqi-born, London-based Hadid first came to prominence in 1993 with her striking design for the Vitra Fire Station in Weil Am Rhein, Germany. But it has been her work in the leisure sphere which has brought her biggest triumphs, such as the MAXXI: Italian



Zaha Hadid has ascended to architecture’s highest echelons

National Museum of 21st Century Arts in Rome (2009), the London Aquatics Centre for the 2012 Olympic Games (2011) and the Heydar Aliyev Centre in Baku (2013).

Hadid also became the first woman to be awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2004.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=P8n9A_O

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