

DW swoops for entire Fitness First estate

DW Sports has become one of the largest health club operators in the UK in one fell swoop with the acquisition of Fitness First UK and its whole 62-club portfolio.

The deal will almost double DW's current 78-club estate to 140 sites, although most significantly it will give the operator a foothold in the south of England which has proved elusive thus far.

Both organisations declined to disclose the value of the deal.

Fitness First's brand will be maintained, and the business will continue to be led by managing director Martin Seibold, who will "work closely" with Scott Best, managing director of DW Sports.

Owner and chief executive of DW Sports, Dave Whelan, highlighted Fitness First's "significant investment in its brand portfolio" as a key factor in the deal, and committed his business to "continuing that investment" going forward.



Dave Whelan (left) and Scott Best (right) said the company would invest in the sites

As part of that investment, Best said that the chain was looking to install swimming pools in some of the larger London clubs.

However, DW only plans to retain 48 of the acquired sites in the long-term, and has exchanged contracts with other unnamed

operators for 14 Fitness First sites that are "not core to its future plans".

Among those thought to be in the hunt for the surplus sites are The Gym Group and GLL.

In early September, the former's chief executive John Treharne told *Leisure Opportunities* that it had "exchanged contracts on four sites from another operator", but he declined to comment further on the deal.

GLL is understood to be eyeing the clubs as it bids to expand on its 250-club strong portfolio.

"The acquisition of Fitness First will allow DW Sports to

invest further in innovation, upgrading and maintaining the existing Fitness First sites," said Best. "At the same time, we plan to invest in new openings for the brands and the continued refurbishment of our DW portfolio." Details: http://lei.sr?a=e7R8K_O

Merlin gets £5m fine for Alton Towers Smiler crash

Merlin Entertainments has been fined £5m after last year's horrific Smiler crash at Alton Towers – an accident which left five visitors with life-changing injuries including two leg amputations.

"No financial penalty can put the clock back, and should not be seen as putting a value on the victims' injuries," said judge Michael Chambers, delivering his verdict.

"It was a needless and avoidable accident in which those injured were fortunate not to have died."

Continued on back cover

Pure Gym confirms stock market plans

Budget health club operator Pure Gym has announced plans to float on the London Stock Exchange in a deal which could see it raise £190m.

The UK's largest private gym chain said it would use the funds raised through the initial public offering to bolster future growth opportunities.

"We are ready to become a listed company," said Humphrey Cobbold, CEO of Pure Gym.

"An IPO will enable us to be an even stronger counterparty for landlords, further raise our profile by building greater awareness of our strong brand, and provide a mechanism for incentivising the colleagues who have worked so hard to build the UK's leading gym business.



Cobbold said Pure Gym was 'ready' for the move

"We have a well-established and committed management team and are already benefiting from the scale of our 167 gym estate which provides a fantastic platform for future expansion in the fitness and health arena."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=P8p6T_O

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SRA takes over charity assets

Sport volunteer charity Join In Trust has closed its doors, with all its assets moving over to a consortium headed up by the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

Join In was established in 2012 to create a volunteering legacy following the London Olympics of the same year.

While the charity was originally funded by the Cabinet Office and founding partner BT, *Leisure Opportunities* understands that both have pulled their resources, and Join In failed to find adequate commercial partnerships to make up the shortfall.

According to information held by the Charity Commission, Join In generated £2m of income in 2014, down on the £6.5m it was granted in 2013.

"While the Join In Trust will not continue past the autumn, we are thrilled that our innovative work on volunteering has become the blueprint for the DCMS sport strategy, and that Sport England has pledged to invest up to £30m in a new volunteering strategy, enabling more people to enjoy the benefits of volunteering," said chief executive Rebecca Birkbeck.



Boggis said she was delighted to take the brand on

During its four years of operation the body engaged with 8,000 grassroots sports clubs, and recruited and retained more than 100,000 volunteers a year for grassroots sport. Comedian and activist Eddie Izzard was the body's patron.

While the charity will dissolve, the brand will remain under the stewardship of the Alliance and consortium partners Do-it.org, GLL, Jump, Volunteer Kinetic and Volunteering Matters.

Leisure Opportunities understands that there are no funding partners yet in place.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=J2x9R_O

More sports clubs own facilities

The number of sports clubs that own their own facilities has surged by 20 percentage points over the past three years – although several clubs still experience "very big problems" in terms of securing availability.

The Sport and Recreation Alliance's *What's the Score?* report, which is a snapshot of sports clubs in England and Wales, revealed that 41 per cent of the 812 surveyed sports clubs owned their own venues compared to 21 per cent in 2013.

Despite this, the number of clubs relying on public facilities also grew from 49 per cent in 2013 to 57 per cent in 2016.

Around 25 per cent of sports clubs said the availability of facilities was a very serious problem, with basketball clubs (26 per cent) the most affected.

Indeed, basketball had the lowest number of clubs (6 per cent) that owned facilities, and had the most number of clubs that hired facilities (96 per cent), up on the 91 per cent recorded in the 2013 survey.



Basketball clubs owned the fewest venues and made the least revenue

Ninety-three per cent of swimming clubs hired public facilities in 2016, up from 91 per cent three years ago. Gymnastics and trampolining also had a large proportion (71 per cent) that hired facilities.

Approximately 17 per cent of basketball clubs claimed they were in a serious financial problems, and accumulated the lowest average annual revenue of £21,443. Golf clubs had the highest average annual revenue of £703,754 compared with the overall average of £149,262.

Details: http://lei.sr/?a=F7N6x_O

£15m earmarked for cycling facilities

Around £15m of government funding will go towards the development of cycling facilities in England if it wins the bid to host the 2019 World Road Cycling Championships.

Last month the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) revealed that it was going to earmark £24m for the event, and now culture secretary Karen Bradley has confirmed £9m will be used for hosting the event, with the rest going towards grassroots facilities.

The facilities money be spent on traditional facilities and closed road circuits, according to a parliamentary statement made by Bradley.

As well as the £9m being spent on competition preparations, a further £2m is expected to come via commercial channels, while UK Sport is "considering" a contribution of £3m.

"If the bid were to be successful, it would



The race will take in all parts of Yorkshire if the bid is a success

provide British cyclists with a home advantage at a key strategic cycling event one year prior to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games," said Bradley's statement.

"It is also expected the event would deliver significant economic benefits to the towns and cities where the Championships are staged."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=e7G9S_O

Horridge slams kid's organised sport

Organised sport should not be used to engage children in physical activity as it alienates them from taking part in regular exercise, according to the chief executive of Fit For Sport.

Addressing industry delegates at Leisure Industry Week in Birmingham, Dean Horridge said that the way we engage the younger generation with physical activity in the UK was "terribly wrong", and that some children left primary school without learning to catch – but were then expected to play cricket in secondary school.

He said that while it was commendable that the government has made Sport England responsible for the out of school activity for children five and above, as opposed to its previous requirement of 14-plus, he emphasised that the quango would need to work with a wide selection of partners to successfully engage a high proportion of children.

The government's obesity strategy – which lays out the requirement that children should participate in 30 minutes of physical activity in school – had increased the urgency to engage children, said Horridge, but the focus had



Horridge said the way kids are engaged in sport is "terribly wrong"

to be on "fun activities" like tag, rather than structured team sports.

"We should be teaching children to run and catch, not spending 25 minutes talking about technique," he said.

Fit For Sport will launch its Healthy Active School system in January 2017, which measures the physical fitness of children. In the pilot stage – where one millions kids were challenged over a three-year period – 67 per cent were unable to do continuous star-jumping for one minute.

Details: http://lei.sr/?a=f3D2q_O

Governing bodies and clubs receive millions in EU funding

Several UK sports organisations – including national governing bodies and Premier League football clubs – have received millions of pounds worth of grants from the European Union's Erasmus+ programme.

A report put together by the European Observatoire of Sport and Employment (EOSE) has revealed the extent to which the British sport industry is supported by the EU.

In 2015, 55 organisations received £3.6m in decentralised funding for vocational education and training programmes, as well as youth-orientated projects. During that period League Football education was awarded the largest single grant of £460,323.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=s6h8U_O



Saracens won the Premiership title last season

Saracens school gets government green light

A plan put forward by Premiership rugby club Saracens to establish a new secondary school in its surrounding neighbourhood has been approved by the Department for Education (DfE).

The Saracens High School Free Trust School will be located in the Colindale area of Barnet, a stone's throw away from the current Premiership champion's Allianz Park.

According to the club, the school will be created "in response to the urgent need for more school places across the London Borough of Brent" and will be built on its "sporting beliefs to create a school environment where every individual student matters".

Saracens is working in partnership with the Saracens Sport Foundation, Middlesex University, the Orion and Goldbeaters Primary School Gold Star Federation and Ashmole Academy.

Gordon Banks, Saracens community director, said the school was "an important part of the ongoing regeneration of this area, helping to raise aspirations and providing its young people with a great start in life".

Details: http://lei.sr?a=H3g6P_O

National Fitness Day gets 100,000 people active

This year's National Fitness Day (NFD) on 7 September encouraged more people to get physically active than ever before, with more than 100,000 estimated to have taken part in activities during the day.

In total, the day saw a record number of 18,000 events held across the UK, with thousands of UK gyms and leisure venues throwing open their doors to engage the public in free physical activity taster sessions.

NFD's main sponsor, retail giant Argos, celebrated the day across its 800 stores with activity operators hosting a range of fun fitness classes including in-store circuits, Body Jam sessions and outdoor workouts. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=H8u5A_O*



£80,000 has been invested into the new café

Bannatyne Group serves up healthy eating café

Health club operator Bannatyne Group has ploughed an £80,000 investment into creating a healthy eating café at its York location.

The club has been refurbished with new food preparation equipment, furniture and open spaces for members to enjoy the range.

Called B-Fuelled, the range offers 28 dishes, 24 of which are less than 500 calories. If the trial is successful, the concept may be rolled out across 40 of Bannatyne's 66 health clubs in the UK.

As part of the move, the York centre is being used to trial a new partnership with giant coffee shop chain Starbucks.

Justin Mulgrove, chief executive of Bannatyne Group, said B-Fuelled helped to offer its members the "most comprehensive service possible".

"We recognise that more and more of our health club members are seeking a holistic approach to wellbeing that includes fitness, relaxation and nutrition, so we have taken steps to ensure that our offering all align, and allow members to reach their goals sooner," he added. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=u9T3T_O*

Obesity strategy offers opportunity

Operators in the sport and leisure sector have an opportunity to develop their offer as a result of the government's childhood obesity strategy, according to Public Health England (PHE).

Talking at Leisure Industry Week, PHE deputy national leader for adult health and wellbeing Dr Mike Brannan said that the sector would be critical in helping to fulfil the guidelines for children's physical activity outside of school time, but could also be drafted in to help educational institutions.

The strategy – launched in late-September – made clear that schools were expected to get students involved in at least 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day, although the stipulation was "voluntary".

Brannan told delegates from the sport and leisure sector that their expertise could be used in a school environment where teachers and education professionals did not have their skills and expertise in cultivating physical activity programmes.

He added that early years centres would be of most need of support as the Chief Medical Office guidelines recommend three hours of physical activity per day for under-fives.

According to PHE statistics, the UK takes part in less physical activity than



Inactive childhoods increase chances of adulthood obesity

comparable western nations such as the US, France and the Netherlands.

Moreover, only 34 per cent of men and 24 per cent of women are undertaking the appropriate level of muscle and bone strengthening activities.

Brannan said that to complement outcomes in the government's sport strategy and Sport England's Towards an Active Nation blueprint, sport and leisure operators should focus on the inactive by working with local stakeholders, such as councils, and developing insight based programmes which are targeted to relevant groups. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=T6r9e_O*

'Reset-ember' drives gym returns

The beginning of a new school year has coincided with an influx of people going to use the gym, according to a study conducted by Fitness First.

After the New Year, September has been recognised for being the "second peak for resetting healthy habits", with internet searches for fitness classes surging by 825 per cent month-on-month from August.

The study also found that searches for 'gym' increased by 39 per cent month-on-month, leading to September being dubbed Reset-ember.

The rise in interest has been reflected by visits to Fitness First gyms in September over the last few years. In 2014, the large gym chain saw visits increase by 48,000, while in September 2015 there were 31,700 extra visits.

Lee Matthews, Fitness First's fitness and marketing director, said there had also been

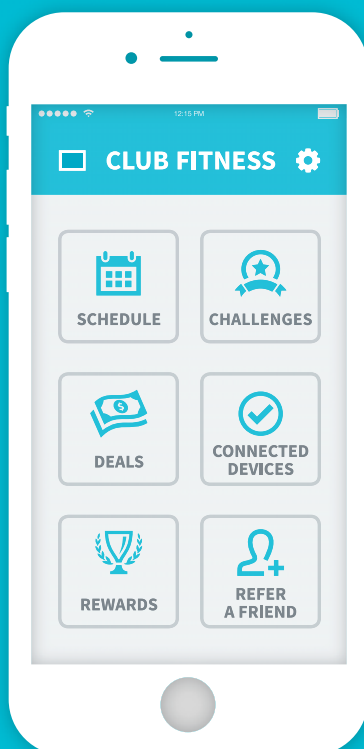


Searches for gyms on the internet have risen 39 per cent

a 27 per cent increase in member attendance over the first week of September.

"It stands to reason that summer breaks, having kids at home and the temptation of lazy days in sunny beer gardens leaves fitness at the bottom of the priority list in August," he said. "But our figures show that come September, Britons are craving routine and a health kick." *Details: http://lei.sr?a=M3h6y_O*

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Escape Fitness turns testing centre into fitness studio

Equipment provider Escape Fitness has transformed its Cambridgeshire testing centre into a fitness studio for staff and members of the public.

Called The Escape, the gym will offer employees and clients the chance to use the equipment it develops, and work with Escape trainers and fitness professionals.

The Peterborough-based centre provides classes for “all levels and competencies throughout the week”, including crossfit training, core training, and combat

fitness programmes such as Battle Fit, as well as the “high-intensity functional fitness programme” Move It.

Escape hopes the venue will showcase the organisation’s “design, commitment to innovation and overriding passion for fitness”.

“As the business expanded, I knew I wanted to work with people who were passionate



Employees and members of the public will be able to use the fitness studio

about fitness – and I knew we would need our own onsite gym,” said Escape customer solutions director Matthew Januszek.

“The Escape lets us work towards our personal fitness goal alongside our friends and co-workers, using the equipment we design and build in-house.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z6u5t_O

Xercise4Less to establish new Manchester site in Middleton

Budget gym operator Xercise4Less will establish a new club in Middleton, Manchester in December this year.

Well-known for offering memberships from £9.99 per month, the company will make the new site its 42nd club nationwide, which will create around 40 jobs in the local community.

The gym will have 400 pieces of equipment and a dedicated combat zone with boxing ring and MMA cage. A self-contained ladies gym and large main studio – offering 200 free classes a month – will also be included in the site.

Director of property and construction at Xercise4Less, Darren Pallett, said the new gym would be “one of the largest, industry-leading facilities” in the Manchester area.

Director of property and construction at Xercise4Less, Darren Pallett, said the new gym would be “one of the largest, industry-leading facilities” in the Manchester area.



Xercise4Less already has 41 sites open across the country

“To celebrate the opening, we are offering a limited number of special ‘founder member, price4life’ memberships at an exceptional rate of £9.99 per month. People just need to register their interest through our website to take advantage,” he said.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=E7p2T_O

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Radisson Blu opens spa in Edinburgh's Royal Mile

The Radisson Blu Hotel in Edinburgh, Scotland, has completed a £12m refurbishment by adding a new Melrose Spa and Health Club to its location in the heart of the Royal Mile.

The urban spa offers a fitness centre, sauna, steamroom, indoor swimming pool, three treatment rooms, and a dedicated nail bar.

Facial treatment highlights include the Elemis White Bright facial, designed to illuminate pigments and provide natural radiance, as well as a wide range of Caci treatments, including the Caci Super Non-Surgical Lift.

An on-site Perfume Studio Experience also allows guests to create their own unique fragrance, designed to capture 'the essence of you.'

Details: http://lei.sr?a=p5h7E_O



Spa Week takes place 31 October to 4 November

Free participation offered for National Spa Week

In a bid to make 2016 the most successful UK National Spa Week to date, the UK Spa Association has made it free for spas, salons and suppliers to participate in the publicity event.

Taking place from 31 October to 4 November, Spa Week is a rallying call to the UK public to recognise the health, social and relaxation benefits of salons and spas, and this year has a theme of 'Spa for everybody and mind.'

"While we have come a long way in attracting a wider range of customers to spa and treatments, there is still the perception of spa and salon treatments in the UK as a treat – a gift one might buy only for special occasions," said Charlie Thompson, chair of UKSA.

"It's high time that the spa industry elevated itself within the public arena as an essential health service that has a great deal to offer in combination with more widely recognised options such as gyms, sports clinics and even counseling."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=C4x5x_O

Well Living Lab studies wellness

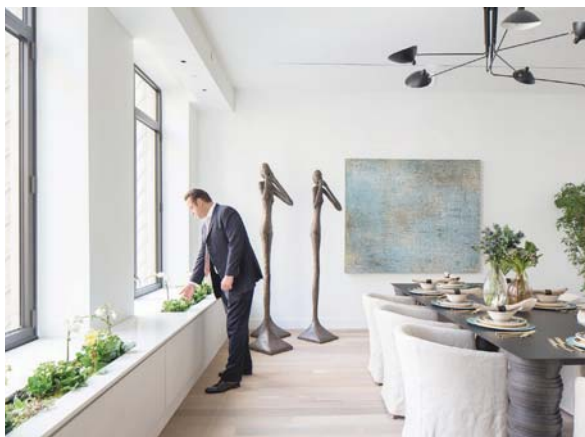
The Well Living Lab – a research centre investigating the links between health and well-being and indoor environments – has announced its founding "alliance members".

Architecture and engineering firm Arup, technology giant IBM, real estate developer Lendlease and energy saving window company View Inc are among the founding supporters of the project.

The announcement was made during the first Well Living Lab Alliance Summit, which was held on 13-14 September in Rochester, Minnesota.

A collaboration of wellness real estate developer Delos and non-profit healthcare group Mayo Clinic, the Well Living Lab expands upon the principles of the WELL Building Standard – which focuses on how indoor environments consider air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort and mind.

The lab generates evidence-based practical information to create healthier indoor environments "in which to live, work and play"



The Well Living Lab expands upon WELL Building Standard principles

CBRE Group, the world's largest manager of commercial buildings and Chinese developer Sino-Ocean Group are the two other founding members of the lab.

International Flavors & Fragrances Inc, which designs products consumers can taste, feel or smell, and healthcare group the Noaber Foundation have also joined the lab as Sustaining Alliance Members. Steel and energy company Welspun is a Supporting Alliance Member. Other interested companies are invited to join the alliance. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=9f3V5_O*

Loch Tay gains wood-burning sauna

Scotland's first loch-side wood-burning sauna experience has opened on the shores of Loch Tay.

The Hot Box has been created by architects McKenzie Strickland Associates on Taymouth Marina in the village of Kenmore. Stretching 40ft (12.19m), the sauna is designed to offer panoramic views across the loch to the adjacent hills.

Guests are encouraged to sit in the sauna, where there is a wood-burning stove, before leaping into the cold waters of the loch.

Alternatively, they can pull on a cord to tip a water barrel suspended above the patio, releasing a splash of cold water.

"The Hot Box is a project that has been an absolute joy to plan and create and we are incredibly excited about its launch," said studio partner Naomi Strickland. "The health benefits of saunas have



The sauna offers panoramic views of the picturesque Loch Tay

been known for hundreds – perhaps thousands – of years, from detoxification to improved cardiovascular health.

"The really unique and exciting part about The Hot Box is the wonderfully reinvigorating dunk that can be had in that rather large pool in front of it, which you'll know as the loch." *Details: http://lei.sr?a=h9n5k_O*

Social hotel reaches funding target

A photographer to the stars successfully funded a Kickstarter campaign to open a design-led hotel chain he believes can change the world.

Jeremy Cowart – who has photographed celebrities including Taylor Swift, the Kardashians, Britney Spears and Sting – has managed to raise more than US\$500,000 (£385,000) to begin the design process for his first ‘Purpose Hotel’ in Nashville, Tennessee.

Cowart’s idea is to create a global hotel chain whose profits sponsor children in need and a range of important causes.

“We want to reimagine the hotel as a creative, interactive experience that ignites the imagination, promotes play and fosters community,” said Cowart. “We aim to create a joy-filled space where this generation can come together and make awesome things happen.”

The design of the first hotel will include flexible elements so the look and feel of the building can be regularly changed, new issues can



Cowart’s Kickstarter has raised well over US\$500,000

be highlighted and more items can be acquired to bring about a positive community impact.

Cowart said: “We’re dreaming of Purpose Hotels dotting the map and eventually spanning the globe. We’re not just building a hotel chain; we’re innovating a business model that reimagines the hotel concept and allows hundreds of organisations to multiply their efforts and hundreds of thousands to fulfil their purpose.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=4P3Q6_O

Flamingo Land eyes second resort

Flamingo Land Limited could be about to add a second resort destination to its portfolio after Scottish Enterprise named the operator as preferred developer for a 200,000sq m (2.1 million sq ft) family-oriented leisure resort in Loch Lomond.

The £30m (US\$38.9m, €34.9m) investment would be the first of its kind for the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, with the tourist resort dubbed ‘The Iconic Leisure Resort Loch Lomond’.

The Flamingo Land proposal calls for a comprehensive masterplan

for the site including lodges, a boutique hotel, hostel and glamping pods together with a range of family-based attractions and restaurants that are “fitting with the aims of the National Park” in which the land sits.

Flamingo Land Limited – a Scottish-owned company – currently operates Flamingo Land theme park and resort in North Yorkshire, welcoming more than 1.5 million visitors a year.

In a statement, the operator said that it is looking to build on the existing success of Loch



£30m would be invested into the Loch Lomond development

Lomond Shores, which has seen visitor levels steadily increase over the last five years to 1.25 million visitors annually.

The move to develop the resort has come up against some opposition, with a petition to ‘Save Loch Lomond’ from commercial developments gaining more than 8,000 signatures, with people calling for the Scottish Government to keep the National Park a ‘gem for future generations’.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=w4Y6a_O

Let’s stamp out modern slavery in tourism industry



PETER DUCKER
is chief executive
of the Institute
of Hospitality

This summer Prime Minister Theresa May announced a £33m commitment to fight the ‘barbaric evil’ of modern slavery, one of the most profitable types of crime today after arms and drugs trading.

Modern slavery (or human trafficking) involves the deceptive or coercive recruitment, transportation, and harbouring of individuals by traffickers who have absolute control over them and exploit them in many ways: through forced prostitution, forced or bonded labour, domestic servitude, forced criminality and forced organ removal.

A large proportion of trafficking is done, often unwittingly, through hospitality and tourism businesses which, by their nature, facilitate the movement and accommodation of traffickers and their victims.

Current research estimates that there are more than 115,000 annual victims of human trafficking in the European hospitality industry. Traffickers always seek paths of least resistance and hospitality and leisure businesses can offer these paths.

Research shows that some of the working practices in our industry, the blurred lines resulting from the business models utilised and the design of organisations, render the industry complicit and not always unintentionally.

On 1 November an Institute of Hospitality webinar will present exclusive findings from a two-year project by researchers from the University of West London, Oxford Brookes University, the Lapland University of Applied Sciences and the Ratiu Foundation for Democracy.

The project, known as Combat THB, has developed a preventative and remedial training toolkit for all levels of staff in the hospitality and tourism industries. To achieve this aim, the project examines trafficking from an operations (business) perspective, a law enforcement perspective and a victim’s perspective and explains what hospitality employees can do to prevent, mitigate or eliminate the risk of modern slavery in their businesses.

To take part in the 1 November webinar, go to: <http://bit.ly/IoH-Webinars>

Lack of compelling content VR's number one obstacle

A new study has suggested that the number one obstacle for virtual reality right now is a lack of compelling content.

The survey by Perkins Coie looked at 650 AR/VR startup founders, executives with established tech companies and investors.

The survey results suggest that respondents believe a lack of compelling content is the biggest obstacle to mass adoption of AR and VR tech, while cost was also identified.

Of those surveyed, 37 per cent said that an inadequate content offering is the biggest challenge to face to the emerging industry, while reluctance to embrace AR/VR innovation in the mainstream was second with 23 per cent. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=W6e9g_O*



Museums can be the life blood of rural destinations

Museums crucial to rural and coastal tourism, MPs told

Museums play a vital role in the tourist economy for rural and coastal destinations across Britain, according to the leaders of the UK's national collections and major regional museums.

A response to MPs leading the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Efra) select committee – which is investigating the role of tourism in rural growth – a joint response by the Museums Association, the National Museum Directors' Council and the Association of Independent Museums, delivered evidence showing the impact of museums on these areas.

The joint response said that museums in rural areas can make those places attractive to live and work in and bring both direct and indirect employment to an area, as well as drawing in overnight visitors and attracting tourists in both high and low seasons.

The report added that local authority budget cuts meant that these rural attractions were not “assured for the future”, and that such cuts would have a “serious impact on the future vitality” of the museums sector.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=x6a8v_O

Aquarium plan for Southampton

Plans are currently in the works to develop a multi-million pound aquarium project in Southampton, combining undersea creatures with a showcase of the region's strengths and its links to the high seas.

Dubbed ‘Southampton Living Waters’, the project is the brainchild of Dr Clive Bennett – retired head of Zoology and visiting fellow of the University of Southampton – who was inspired following a trip to California in 2014.

“When I retired I took a trip to Los Angeles to visit a friend who in his retirement moved on to become chief fundraiser for the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. What he showed me was inspiring,” said Bennett, speaking to *Leisure Opportunities*.

“I came back to Southampton at a time when there was a public consultation for the Royal Pier site. When I got back I met with city council leader Simon Letts to discuss the aquarium proposal, who told me to form a business plan and then come back and meet with them.”



The aquarium will also promote Southampton's maritime history

Working on a pro-bono status, the project has received offers from several aquarium specialists, including French designers Ocean Projects and former National Marine Aquarium managing director, David Gibson.

According to Bennett, the Solent Council had been seeking projects beneficial to the entire region of Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight, so decided to publicly unveil its plans.

“The timing has been good for us in that respect,” he said. “The project provides a focus for an attraction and acts as a magnet for businesses.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=g4y9a_O

Cleethorpes' Pleasure Island closes

Pleasure Island Family Theme Park in Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire, will close its doors permanently at the end of its current season after 23 years of operation.

Park owner Melanie Wood attributing the decision to a decline in visitor numbers meaning the park is not making enough money to sustain itself financially.

Originally a subsidiary of Flamingo Land, the park will close on 29 October, with its annual fireworks display the last event being held.

“For the past seven seasons we, as a team, have tried very hard indeed to keep the business going but unfortunately there have been too many hurdles,” said Wood in a statement.

“Despite heavy investment over the years the visitor numbers continue to fall and the good August weather this year sadly was not enough to sustain the business.

“In truth it has been a massive struggle from day one but I lived in the hope that with the support of such a loyal and dedicated team and some good weather we would get through.



Pleasure Island first opened its doors to the public in 1993

“The park will remain open for the rest of the season, meaning there are just eight days of normal operation left plus, of course, our last firework event.”

The future of the site is yet-to-be determined, but the council has been informed of the decision. The attraction's bar and restaurant will survive the closure, shutting down through the winter for renovations and improvements before being reopened in Q1. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=z7Q4j_O*



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Brexit priorities for tourism sector



KURT JANSON
is director of the
Tourism Alliance

It's now three months after the referendum and the Tourism Alliance has undertaken a second survey of its member organisations to determine their views on both the future and priorities for the UK's forthcoming negotiations with the EU.

In a previous survey conducted just after the referendum we found that there was a split between the perceptions of the domestic tourism industry and businesses that depended on inbound tourism. Inbound tourism businesses were very concerned about their long-term future due to the unknown nature of future travel arrangements between the UK and the rest of Europe, while the domestic industry view was that there would be benefits from being outside the EU.

As a result, 30 per cent of inbound businesses said that they were putting investment plans on hold while 20 per cent of domestic businesses said that they would be increasing their investment levels.

The second survey suggests that the views of these two sectors have become much more aligned over the last three months. It found that both the inbound and the domestic sectors are both experiencing a short-term gain due to the fall in the value of the pound making the UK cheaper for overseas visitors and overseas holidays more expensive for UK resident.

However, 48 per cent of domestic businesses and 52 per cent of inbound businesses now expect that Brexit will adversely impact on them in long-term, while only 16 per cent and 18 per cent respectively think that there will be a long-term benefit.

When asked about the priority issues for the sector following Brexit, both the inbound and the domestic tourism industries came up with the same "top 3" issues, albeit in a different order: maintaining the freedom of movement for EU visitors to the UK; maintaining access to EU workers; maintaining EU-related funding streams for tourism.

This indicates that there is a consensus forming within the tourism industry about the impact of Brexit and what the government needs to do in order to safeguard the growth that the sector has been providing for the UK economy.

TOURISM

July breaks inbound tourism record

July 2016 has broken the record as the best month ever for inbound tourism for Britain, according to new statistics released on 23 September.

The figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) showed an increase of 2 per cent on the same period last year, with 3.8 million people visiting the UK from overseas.

Additionally, overseas visitors to the UK spent £2.5bn – an increase of 4 per cent on the previous year's figures.

The statistics show a record July for inbound visits from European countries, the UK's largest visit-generating region, 3 per cent up on last year with 2.3 million visits in the period.

North America – Britain's most lucrative market – also included strong growth, with visits up 5 per cent to 580,000. Visits from the 'rest of the world', which includes Australia, China, the Gulf markets and India, were up 6 per cent to 790,000.



3.8 million people visited the UK from overseas destinations in July

"Britain is a world-class visitor destination with our stunning countryside, historic buildings and vibrant culture scene attracting a record number of visits from around the globe," said tourism minister Tracy Crouch.

"We will continue to support the industry to ensure it thrives and that growth in the sector benefits the whole country."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=F2j8D_O

Spike Island turns tourist friendly

The City of Cork is expecting to welcome 100,000 visitors a year to Spike Island by 2020, following £5.2m of renovations to turn the former jail into a tourist attraction.

The 103 acre (416,000sq m) island in Cork Harbour, dominated by the 18th-century Fort Mitchel, underwent tourist-friendly renovations after Cork Council took over management from the Department of Defence in 2010.

Spike Island is most famously known as a prison, with thousands of its inmates transported from there to Australia in the 19th century.

The site was originally a monastic settlement in the 7th century, with its first artillery fortification built in the 18th century.

"A lot of people don't realise that Spike Island was the largest prison in the world in 1850," said John Crotty, general manager of Spike Island, speaking to *Irish Times*. "It was the largest prison in Britain and Ireland before and ever since. There has never been anything bigger; it was much bigger than Alcatraz, for example, so it has a massive story to tell."

Among the works carried out on the island,



Spike Island is most famously known as a prison

a new pontoon has been installed for better tourist access, while the Goal Punishment Block and Shell store have been refurbished for public exhibition. Additionally the new Military Exhibition Yard has been built and the café has been extended.

The refurbishment is being carried out in multiple phases, with future plans to add an aquarium and a museum within the existing fort structures, while plans to install self-catering accommodation are also on the cards.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=N9K5a_O



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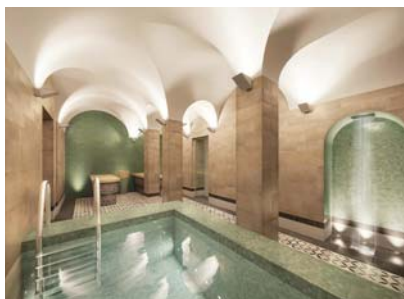
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The facility will have a pool and wellbeing areas

£5m Turkish bath in Newcastle gets green light

A £5m (US\$6.5m, €5.8m) proposal to reopen Turkish baths in Newcastle, UK, has moved a step closer with the council granting planning permission.

Charity Fusion Lifestyle is behind the project, which will see the baths and pool re-established in the north-east city by 2018. The venue will be kitted out with new health and wellbeing facilities, a spa and bistro cafe.

Work is expected to begin in early 2017 to transform the Grade II listed building following the green light from Newcastle City Council.

Local architecture firm Napper Architects have been appointed to work on the project.

"As well as the pool and Turkish baths, there will be a range of health and wellbeing facilities including fitness facilities, exercise studios and treatment rooms," said chief executive of Fusion, Peter Kay. Details: http://lei.sr?a=K9Z3m_O

Government approves AFC Wimbledon stadium plan

AFC Wimbledon has finally been given the all clear to press ahead with its new £20m, 11,000-seater stadium proposal after the government opted against intervening in the planning process.

The League One football club received a letter from secretary of state for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, confirming that the department would not be calling in the planning application.

Javid's letter signals an end to a protracted planning process, which lasted 20 months, and should now see AFC Wimbledon move back to its traditional home in Merton.

Erik Samuelson, chief executive of the club, said the support the club received from Merton Council, among others, during the process had "sustained" the bid. Details: http://lei.sr?a=T3d9v_O

Everton closes in on new stadium

Everton football club is working with US design firm Meis Architects to create a vision for a proposed new stadium.

Meis Architects founder Dan Meis told *Leisure Opportunities* that the studio was working with the Premier League club, but couldn't comment further on the plans at this early stage of the project.

The Liverpool-based club has long made clear its wish to relocate from its current home at Goodison Park as it bids to expand its growth and challenge for top honours. These efforts have escalated since former Arsenal shareholder Farhan Moshiri acquired a 49.9 per cent stake of Everton in February.

Moshiri has spoken of his wish to provide the club with a "suitable stage to perform on".

In May, the club abandoned plans to build a new stadium in the Walton Hall Park part of Liverpool due to a lack of economic viability, turning its attention instead to two other brownfield sites.



Everton FC is looking to move from its home at Goodison Park

While the location of the new ground remains a mystery, Liverpool mayor Joe Anderson revealed on Twitter that the project is "closer now than it was last month and closer now than it's ever been."

The studio have previously designed grounds for AS Roma and a proposed Las Vegas Major League Soccer franchise, as well as numerous arenas around the world.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=B7g3s_O

£14.8m leisure hub plan for Pontefract

Wakefield Council has revealed plans to replace three existing swimming pools in West Yorkshire with a new £14.8m "flagship" leisure centre for the region.

Facilities at the new centre, to be located at Pontefract Park, will include a 10-lane swimming pool, studio pool with moveable floor and a splash pad water confidence area.

The centre will also house a large health and fitness club, exercise studios, a two-court sports hall, a 'clip and climb' area, café and soft play area as well as meeting rooms for community use and referral rooms for exercise.

Outdoor facilities include tennis courts, an activity and exercise space and five-a-side 3G football pitches.

If the proposals are successful, it would result in the closure of Castleford and Knottingley's current leisure buildings in January 2017. It is proposed that Pontefract Pool would remain open until around the time the new centre was built.



Plans for the new centre include a 10-lane swimming pool

"Wakefield Council spends more than £750,000 every year subsidising Knottingley Sports Centre and Castleford Pool," Shaw added. "We simply cannot continue to do this."

"Ideally, we would have liked to keep all the existing facilities open until the new leisure centre is built. However, this is just not possible. Over £146m has already been wiped off our budget and there are more government cuts to come. Details: http://lei.sr?a=c7f2X_O

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Situated in Poole Park with an estimated 0.5 million visitors every year. Other attractions include two cafes – one with indoor ice rink and soft play area, boating lake, tennis courts, putting-green and a series of outdoor gym facilities. The Park is well visited by local people and has a significant foot-fall especially in the summer months and at school holiday time.

The Council welcomes proposals from suitably experienced and competent providers that integrate a value-for-money outcome for Borough of Poole in terms of investment and revenue, in addition to applying a willingness to develop the services for the potential local and day visitor markets.

We encourage engagement from appropriate parties that consider how the concession can be managed to maximise usage whilst sympathetically improving the site. The Council is seeking to evaluate the market's capacity and capability to deliver this service and appetite of the market to compete for these options.

To receive a market sounding information pack, please contact the **Recreation Development Team** on 01202 261333 or recreation.development@poole.gov.uk



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TRAINING

NML dementia scheme gets rollout

A pilot programme by National Museums Liverpool (NML) created to improve dementia care will soon be rolled out across the UK following a successful trial run.

NML's Train the Trainer scheme, the first of its kind, is designed for carers of people living with dementia, using a series of documentary-style films and discussions to guide participants through issues surrounding dementia care.

According to an independent evaluation by the Institute of Cultural Capital, the museum-led scheme resulted in 97 per cent of participants agreeing that they understood the principles of person-centred care and 100 per cent of participants agreeing that they understood what living well with dementia meant.

The Tier 2 dementia care training scheme was commissioned by Health Education England and was built on the success of NML's House of Memories programme, which has trained more than 10,000 family or professional carers in person-centred dementia since its creation in 2012.



The scheme was built on the success of NML's House of Memories

"We see museums as experts in looking after memories, so we have used our own sector knowledge to develop the House of Memories training and resources to help to support people living with dementia and their carers," said Lucy Cattell, NML communications manager.

"Our approach has given health and social care professionals a unique perspective on how to engage, support and communicate with people living with dementia."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=k2s7y_O

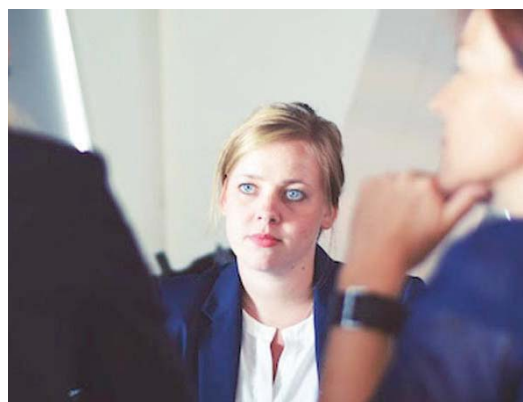
CSP invests in board training

The nationwide network of 45 County Sports Partnerships (CSPs) has invested in a board development programme over the past 12 months to better connect its members and to "ensure that the right culture is embedded" in governance.

The training programme, supported by Sport England, has included networking events, training workshops and webinar sessions on topics such as board recruitment, effective governance, and the future direction of CSPs.

The training sessions, which were facilitated by business management consultancy Campbell Tickel, have been recorded to provide a resource for future CSP board members.

"There are approximately 450 board members across the CSPs who make a huge commitment to the CSP Network and collectively they have a wealth of experience and skills," said Richard Saunders, chair of the CSP Network Board. "We recognise the significant role that they



The scheme has included networking, workshops and webinars

play, particularly the chairs, in setting the strategic direction for the CSP, ensuring that the right culture is embedded and providing performance oversight.

"High governance standards will be even more important as part of the new government and Sport England strategies, and we want to make sure that CSPs are looking ahead and are fit for the future."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=b9d8C_O



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Up to £33,000 plus bonus and benefits (OTE £50,000)

New Opening, Hollywood Bowl is coming to Southampton!

As a General Manager with us you'll provide outstanding leadership, coaching and support for your team, you'll be passionate about providing exceptional customer service and you'll be committed to creating a fun and safe environment for customers and the team. Whilst doing this, you'll be driving sales and making your centre profitable and you'll ensure that your centre's standards are the best they can be at all times.

Deputy Manager, Milton Keynes UK

Up to £24,000 + bonus (OTE £32,000)

If you're looking for a Deputy Manager role that gives you more variety, challenges and opportunity than ever before, Hollywood Bowl Milton Keynes is definitely the #Place2B. As our Deputy Manager you will be responsible for supporting our Centre Manager with the overall performance of the Centre and the Team.

General Manager, Worthing UK

Up to £31,000 plus bonus and benefits

Are you ambitious? Do you want to be part a successful Leisure business that offers you all the opportunities you need to develop your career in management?

As our General Manager you will be responsible for the overall performance of the centre and the team to deliver financial targets and service standards in the 4 key result areas. This centre is always busy and the role is very varied and hands-on.

Please send your CV and cover letter to Laura Purvis: lpurvis@hollywoodbowl.co.uk clearly stating which role you are applying for.

#Place2B

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That's what we are, as The Original Bowling Company. And that's what we like all our people to be - original.

BE AMBITIOUS

You'll notice it in everything we do. We love to see it in everyone who works with us. We'll help you get where you want to be.

BE FANTASTIC

The customer experience comes from everyone who works here. That's why there is no better place for a fun working experience.

BE HAPPY

There's a real buzz working with your team and being there for our customers. It's what makes everyone come back for more.



hollywood bowl

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Assistant Manager

Company: Benfield School
Location: Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

General Managers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Rotherham

Recreation Assistant (lifeguard)

Company: GLL
Location: Various locations, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Loughborough University
Location: Loughborough, UK

P/T Swimschool Coordinator

Company: Aspire Leisure Centre
Location: Middlesex, UK

Centre Manager

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Bicester, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Leicestershire, UK

Health Club Manager

Company: Livingwell
Location: Maidstone, UK

Swimming instructor

Company: énergie group
Location: Leighton Buzzard, UK

Cycling Training Co-ordinator

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Hounslow, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group
Location: Wembley, UK

Partner Support Assistant

Company: Move GB
Location: Bath, UK

Sports Leader

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Redcar, Cleveland, UK

Shop Associate

Company: Equinox
Location: London, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations UK

Front of House Receptionist

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Carshalton, Sutton, UK

Macmillan Move More

Physical Activity Coordinator
Company: Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire
Location: Worcester, UK

Part Time Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Southwark, London, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: énergie group
Location: Loughborough, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Redcar & Cleveland, UK

Duty Managers

Company: Stevenage Leisure Limited
Location: Hertfordshire, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: West Berkshire, UK

Sports Facilities Manager

Company: Thinking Schools Academy
Location: Medway, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Hengrove Park, Bristol, UK

Trainee Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Hengrove Park, Bristol, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Newport, Wales, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Redcar & Cleveland, UK

P/T Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Ware, Herts, UK

Recreation Apprenticeship

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Ware, Herts, UK

Senior Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: Swiss Cottage, UK

Fitness Instructor (16hrs)

Company: énergie group
Location: Dundee East, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Swansea, Wales, UK

General Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: St Albans, Hertfordshire, UK

Store Manager

Company: Fitness Superstore
Location: Leeds

Recreation Assistants

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bristol, UK

Personal Trainers Wanted

Company: Soho Gyms
Location: London, UK

Sales Manager

Company: Soho Gyms
Location: London, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Customer Service Advisor

Company: Move GB
Location: Bath, UK

Sales Manager

Company: énergie group
Location: Forest Hill, UK

Front of House Receptionist

Company: Everyone Active
Location: St Albans, UK

Sport & Wellbeing Assistant

Company: University of Southampton
Location: Southampton, UK

Lifeguards

Company: Stowe School
Location: Stowe, Buckingham, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Spelthorne, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Spelthorne / Sunbury, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Reading, UK

Club Promotional Staff

Company: énergie group
Location: Forest Hill, UK

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Rotherham, UK

Sports Centre Manager

Company: Bablake School
Location: Coventry, UK

Club Manager

Company: Soho Gyms
Location: London, UK

Team Leader

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Epping, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Enderby, Leicestershire, UK

Business Dev Manager

Company: HR Solutions
Location: Southampton

Leisure Attendant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Epping, UK

Membership Sales

Company: énergie group
Location: Enfield, UK

Front Of House Supervisor

Company: Ilkley Lawn Tennis Club
Location: W Yorks, UK

Water-ski Instructor

Company: Mark Warner Holidays
Location: Greece, Sardinia and Corsica

Fitness Instructors

Company: Highgate School
Location: London N6, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: énergie group
Location: Croydon, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: Ilkley Lawn Tennis Club
Location: W Yorks, UK

Casual Fitness Instructor

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bristol, UK

Catering Manager

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Weston-super-Mare, UK

Duty Officer

Company: Denbighshire County Council
Location: Rhyl, Wales, UK

Senior Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford Upon Avon, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Basildon, UK

Membership Services Officer

Company: Preston City Council
Location: Preston, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Basildon, UK

Works Supervisor

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Basildon, UK

Team Leader

Company: Tonbridge & Malling LT
Location: Tonbridge, Kent, UK

Recruitment Administrator

Company: énergie group
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Group Exercise Instructors

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, UK

Technical Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Plymouth, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Cirencester, UK

General Manager

Company: The Original Bowling Co
Location: Southampton, UK

Deputy Manager

Company: Chichester Racquets Club
Location: Chichester

Sales and Events Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Kettering, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

General Manager

Company: The Original Bowling Co
Location: Worthing, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Loughton, Essex, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Cirencester, UK

Membership Administrator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Hinckley, Leicestershire, UK

Sales Manager

Company: Conscious Water
Location: London & Home Counties, UK

Golf Services Supervisor

Company: Glendale Golf
Location: Nottingham, UK

General Manager

Company: Jump Arena
Location: Luton, Bedfordshire, UK

Account Manager

Company: XN Leisure
Location: Southern region, UK

Sales Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Loughton, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: St Albans, Herts, UK

Level 2 Gymnastics Coach

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Redcar, Cleveland, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Studley Leisure Centre, UK

Regional Co-ordinator

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

Recreation Assistants

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, UK

Female Health Club and Spa Manager

Company: SportsJobs4Women
Location: Island of Bahrain, Bahrain

Lifeguards

Company: Stevenage Leisure Limited
Location: Hertfordshire, UK

Sales Advisor - Fitness

Company: Lifetime
Location: Bristol, UK

Gym / Club Team leader

Company: truGym
Location: Peterborough, UK

Sales Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Solihull, UK

Leisure Manager

Company: LED Leisure Management Ltd
Location: South Somerset, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Waterloo, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: Énergie Group
Location: Fulham, UK

Swimming Teacher

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Ware, Herts, UK

Area Sales Manager

Company: eGym
Location: Nationwide (UK travel), UK

Membership Sales Consultant

Company: énergie group
Location: Portsmouth Fit4less, UK

Leisure Centre Supervisors

Company: Warwick District Council
Location: Warwick, UK

Sales and Fitness Manager

Company: énergie group
Location: Portsmouth Fit4less, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: énergie group
Location: Various locations, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Sales Representative

Company: Sports and Play Ltd
Location: Midlands, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Middlesbrough, UK

Female Instructors and Fitness Managers

Company: SportsJobs4Women
Location: Arabia, UAE

Tutor/Assessor/IQA

Company: The Fitness Collective
Location: Dubai, UAE

Front of House Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Spelthorne, UK

Active Leisure Apprenticeships

Company: Babcock International Group
Location: Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainer Career Package

Company: Amac Training Ltd
Location: London & surrounding areas

Gym Manager

Company: énergie group
Location: Portsmouth Fit4less, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Attention Personal Trainers

Company: Club Training
Location: Nationwide Opportunities

Membership Consultant

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

General Manager

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Hartlepool, Wakefield UK

Sales and Marketing Manager

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

Impact Sales Consultant

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: National role, UK

Fitness Instructor apprenticeship

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

GP Exercise Referral

Company: Focus Training
Location: Nationwide, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Bedford Lodge Hotel
Location: Newmarket, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Lifehouse Spa and Hotel
Location: Essex, UK

Holistic Spa Therapist and Senior Spa Therapist

Company: Spa Shell
Location: Ludlow, Shropshire, UK

Beauty Therapist

Company: Wyboston Lakes
Location: Wyboston, Bedfordshire, UK

Beauty Therapists - Part-time

Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Wiltshire, UK

Senior Spa Therapist

Company: Corinthia Hotel
Location: London, UK

Spa Receptionist

Company: Corinthia Hotel
Location: London, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Corinthia Hotel
Location: London, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Coworth Park
Location: Ascot, Berkshire, UK

Operations Manager

Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: Philadelphia, US

General Manager

Company: Continuum Attractions
Location: Glasgow, UK

Head of Hotel Operations

Company: Legoland
Location: Windsor, UK

Profit Protection Manager

Company: Merlin Entertainments
Location: Midway North America, US

Model Designer

Company: Legoland
Location: California, US

General Manager

Company: Continuum Attractions
Location: Portsmouth, UK

Area Commercial Manager

Company: Continuum Attractions
Location: North, UK

Hotel Manager

Company: Mark Warner Holidays
Location: Europe

Business Manager

Company: World Horse Welfare
Location: Somerton, Somerset, UK

Commercial Experiences

Company: Science Museum
Location: London, UK

General Manager

Company: Madame Tussauds
Location: San Francisco, US

Operations Manager

Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: Chicago, US

Maintenance Manager

Company: Madame Tussauds
Location: New York NY, US

Marketing and

Development Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Maidstone, UK

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Smiler accident a 'catastrophic failure'

Continued from front cover

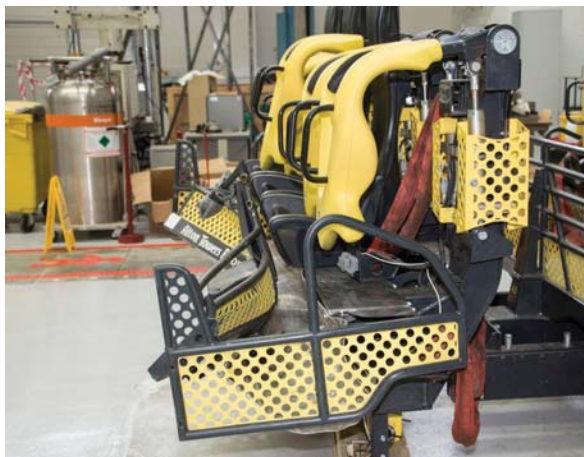
Delivering his verdict in front of Vicky Balch and Leah Washington – who each lost a leg in the Smiler crash – and Joe Pugh, Daniel Thorpe and Chandaben Chauhan, who were all seriously injured, judge Michael Chambers said the Smiler accident was a “catastrophic failure” of safety by Merlin, ruling that the crash was not caused by human error, but by an absence of safe systems.

The judge said the case was aggravated by the lack of access to those injured, that left them hanging in the air for significant amount of time following the crash.

Chambers added that the crash was “foreseeable” and that Merlin had fallen “far short of required standards” in terms of safety protocol and that the system of training for its engineers was “woefully inadequate”.

The judge did acknowledge that Merlin had since taken “full and extensive steps to remedy the problems,” and that the operator has a “good health and safety record overall.”

During the hearing, the collision was likened to having the same impact as a 1.5-tonne family car



The collision was likened to the same impact as a car crashing at 90mph

crashing at 90mph (144.8kmph), and that those on front row of the Smiler train could see what was going to happen moments before the crash.

The judge said that the wounds suffered, both physical and psychological, had “changed the lives of the some of those injured, in the most dramatic way”.

Speaking outside court after sentencing, Paul Paxton, the lawyer representing eight of the victims, said his clients had been “shocked and disappointed by the catalogue of errors” that led to the crash. *Details: http://lei.sr/?a=D3s5b_O*

'Fight exclusion' urges culture minister

The UK's new culture minister Matt Hancock has urged the museums industry to fight exclusion, promising a “frank assessment” of the challenges facing the sector as part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) Museums Review.

Speaking at an event hosted by the Creative Industries Federation, Hancock said that review would cover how best to support museums large and small, help widen participation and support both digital innovation and learning.

“No one should be excluded from any of your industries because of their accent, their gender, or their postcode,” he said. “As the prime minister said on the steps of Downing Street, it's part of building a country that works for all, not just the privileged few.

“Just as culture transcends boundaries and speaks to the common humanity in us all, so creativity allows us to transcend the circumstances of our lives. So let us drive open diversity.”



Hancock was appointed culture minister in July

The review was unveiled earlier this year as part of the culture white paper – the first in more than half-a-century and only the second ever published in the UK. Following the paper's release, then culture minister Ed Vaizey pledged to put the arts “at the heart of everyday life”. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=e3h8E_O*

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