

£100m leisure scheme at Magheramorne approved

By **Pete Hayman**

Lafarge Cement UK has been given the green light for the development of a new £100m harbour eco-village on the site of the former Magheramorne Works and Quarry near Larne, Northern Ireland.

Plans for the 153-hectare (378.1-acre) site, which were approved by Northern Irish environment minister Sammy Wilson on 26 June, will include the creation of a major recreational and leisure attraction based around a new World Cycling Centre incorporating an arena, holiday cabins and a sports hotel. An All-Ireland Scuba Diving Centre,



Plans for the 153-hectare site include a major new eco-attraction

which will take advantage of a large lake on the quarry site, a bird watching and interpretation centre and visitor accommodation also feature among the proposals, as well as a short

heritage railway line and historic railway visitor centre for the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland.

A 450-house residential village will be created on a

15-hectare (37.1-acre) section of the site as part of the scheme, which aims to become Ireland's first One Planet Living Community, based on a number of green initiatives.

Lafarge has announced that it will use the profits generated by the sale of new homes to subsidise the implementation of environmentally-friendly measures and the operation of the planned leisure facilities.

Lloyd McNally, spokesperson for Lafarge Cement UK, said: "The site is the largest brown-field site awaiting redevelopment in Northern Ireland and represents a unique opportunity to transform the fortunes of the regional economy."

Redcar's seafront set for £30m redevelopment

Promenade will be divided into three themed zones to attract more visitors

By **Tom Walker**

An 80ft (24.4m) vertical pier is at the centre of new proposals unveiled by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC) for the £30m transformation of Redcar's seafront.

Plans drawn up by a team led by Harrogate-based landscape architects Smeeden Foreman were selected by the council following an international design competition.

Seven Architecture, Arup and Davis Langdon are also involved with the scheme.



Work on the "vertical pier" is expected to start in 2010

Redcar's seafront defences are to be upgraded as part of the project, which aims to create a vibrant promenade

incorporating water cascades, sunshine traps and a performance space in a bid to attract more visitors to the town.

Three distinct zones will be established along the seafront: 'focus', 'fun' and 'nature'. The 'focus' zone will include the vertical pier at the heart of the proposed new performance space, offering a 360-degree viewing platform.

The 'fun' zone will incorporate water play areas, while the 'nature' zone is designed to complement existing environmental features on the beach.

Cotswold sites receive updates

Cotswold District Council is investing £100,000 in refurbishing three leisure centres this summer.

Cotswold Leisure Bourton-on-the-Water will be supplied with new cv, resistance and free weight equipment from Technogym to replace its 38 pieces of existing equipment, which will in turn be moved to sports centres at Tetbury and Chipping Campden.

The refurbishment began at the end of June.

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First Sport Unlimited comes to an end

£36m campaign to get children active a success as more than 177,000 take part

By Tom Walker

More than 177,000 young people have taken part in Sport Unlimited, a programme aiming to get more youngsters playing sport outside of school.

The £36m Sport Unlimited scheme targets children aged between five and 19 who are not naturally attracted to sport, and are not yet playing regular sport in the community.

The initiative aims to get kids active by giving them the freedom to choose the sports on offer. Thousands of activities have already been delivered across a wide range of traditional and less well-known sports including football, climbing, skiing, kayaking and parkour. Over the next three years, Sport Unlimited aims to inspire and help 900,000



The initiative is aimed at kids who normally wouldn't play sports

young people to do more sport - playing a role in delivering a lasting participation legacy from London 2012.

Sport England launched the programme nationally last autumn after a successful trial in 12 areas. According to Sport England, a third of the young people who took part in Sport

Unlimited have gone on to join local sports clubs or continue their participation.

Richard Lewis, Sport England's Chairman, said: "Finding your sport and developing a love for it at a young age is an important step towards continuing participation into adulthood."

UK Sport declares Mission 2012 "on target"

By Edgar Weaver

There are only two sports that are in need of a radical overhaul ahead of the London 2012 Olympic games.

UK Sport has rated handball and sitting volleyball – a paralympic sport – as 'red' in its latest Mission 2012 update. Any sport receiving 'red' status suggests significant change is needed within the sport if performance is to be maximized ahead of the home games. Handball's status is partly result of the sport being placed on the basic London funding cycle, while the British Handball Association's (BHA) submission also highlighted the lack of suitable training and competition venues.

BHA chair, John Brewer, said: "We're not surprised that we got



Handball has been identified as one of only two "red" sports

a red rating, given the cut in funding at the start of the year which resulted in us having to shelve the centralised training programme in Denmark."

UK Sport's Mission 2012 requires each sport governing body to assess its activities across three core areas – athletes, system and climate.

A traffic light rating is applied to each area along with performances achieved on an international level.

The analysis takes place three times a year in the build up to the London 2012 games. The results are then recorded by two panels, one each for Olympic and Paralympic sports.

EHFA and IHRSA sign cooperation deal

Agreement outlines each association's role in the expanding European fitness market

By **Tom Walker**

The International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association (IHRSA) and the European Health and Fitness Association (EHFA) have reached an agreement over their roles in Europe.

Harm Tegelaars, president of EHFA and Joe Moore, president of IHRSA, approved a common way forward for the two industry bodies and the way they conduct their operations in the European health and fitness sector - an industry that generates €20bn (£17bn, US\$28bn) in revenue each year.

As part of the agreement, EHFA will acknowledge IHRSA as the global federation which acts as an umbrella to EHFA - and all national federations - while IHRSA acknowledges



EHFA president Harm Tegelaars (left), with IHRSA's Joe Moore

EHFA as the primary representative body of the European health and fitness industry to the institutions of European governance, including the European Union (EU).

EHFA will also cooperate with IHRSA to actively influence public policy discussions at global organisations, such as

the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Significantly, a clause allows each organisation to hold different positions on individual issues and for the associations to act in the best interests of its stakeholders.

Committee raises Olympic Stadium concerns

By **Pete Hayman**

A London Assembly committee has expressed concerns over the future of the 2012 Olympic Stadium, which is yet to secure an anchor tenant to occupy the site in legacy mode.

The Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee (EDCST) said that the venue could become a "white elephant" if swift action is not taken to obtain an anchor tenant capable of ensuring the east London venue is financially viable after the 2012 Games. Plans to retain the athletics



The Olympic stadium still has no anchor tenant post-2012

track have been scrutinised in the committee's report - *Towards a Lasting Legacy*, which claims that there are no guarantees the stadium will

host events that will attract enough spectators, even when the capacity is reduced to 25,000 seats after the Games.

Other issues raised by the report include the slow progress in creating the Legacy Delivery Company (LDC), which the EDCST said must be accelerated in order for the development of a framework outlining the legacy benefits of the stadium.

The report said: "The committee has particular concerns that the body set up to manage the legacy has no dedicated budget."

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IN BRIEF

Freedom/GLL team begins work in Sussex

► Sports trust Freedom Leisure, in conjunction with Greenwich Leisure (GLL), has taken over the management of leisure facilities in Mid Sussex. The trusts won the five-year contract earlier this year and have taken over the operation of Mid Sussex District Council's three Olympos leisure centres in Burgess Hill, East Grinstead and Haywards Heath, as well as Clair and Martlets Halls.

£2.8m revamp for Donyngs Centre

► Donyngs Recreation Centre in Redhill is in line for a £2.8m refurbishment led by the facility's new operator Nuffield Health. Being created in partnership with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, the revamp is to include the upgrade of the centre's gym facilities to the cost of £320,000. Plans include increasing the number of equipment stations from 72 to 100. A feasibility study is underway to look at initial plans to relocate the gym to a larger section of the centre, the addition of a new cycling studio, a sauna, treatment rooms and a dedicated children's fitness area. The study will also investigate options to remodel the reception, café, changing rooms and soft play area.

Cherwell Council reopens two centres

► Cherwell District Council has reopened two of its leisure centres after refurbishment work. The Bicester Leisure Centre received a £4.3m revamp, and now features a new 10-pin bowling alley, a fitness studio, a young people's gym, a crèche, new changing rooms, a sauna, spa and steamroom and an improved café. Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre has seen £3.6m invested in a new sports hall and swimming pool roof.

Abbeycroft reopens Haverhill centre

Fitness suite doubles in size as part of council's £5.2m redevelopment scheme

By **Tom Walker**

Haverhill Leisure Centre in Suffolk, has reopened following a multi-million pound revamp.

The centre, which is operated by Abbeycroft Leisure on behalf of St Edmundsbury Borough Council, has undergone a £5.2m redevelopment of its facilities.

The centre's fitness suite, which was moved into an adjoining pod during the closure, has doubled in size and has been re-fitted with completely new equipment from Matrix. This is the first facility to have their brand new range with a number of additional features installed.

The main sports hall has been re-fitted with a Beijing Olympics-style sprung floor, while a glass walled second floor mezzanine has been created to add a dedicated combat sports area.



Facilities at Haverhill Leisure Centre include a swimming pool

Other work included the re-tiling of the swimming pool hall, the building of a new spectator seating area and the installation of new lighting and ventilation systems.

The wet change facilities have been transformed into a changing village and made more convenient for family use with individual washroom facilities for males and females.

Warren Smyth, chief executive officer of Abbeycroft Leisure, which operates the centre, said: "As well as the technical side of things, we have concentrated on all the little things that make a great customer experience. Haverhill now has a really impressive community asset and the staff are looking forward to welcoming users."

Refurb for Bell's Sports Centre

A new reception area which has been unveiled at Bell's Sports Centre in Perth, Scotland, is the latest in a string of improvements completed at the site recently.

The facility, which is operated by Perth and Kinross Leisure (PKL), now also boasts refurbished male and female changing rooms, disabled changing facilities and an improved waiting area.

The new facilities for disabled guests include a toilet and shower area with a mobile shower chair and a ceiling-mounted automated track.

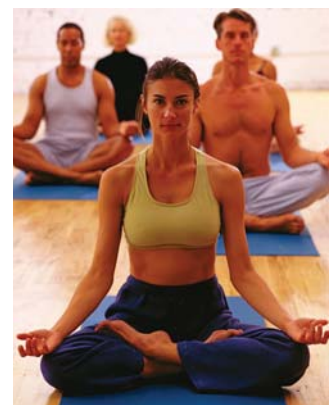
Hot and cold yoga centre to open

By **Sarah Todd**

A new purpose-built health club dedicated exclusively to yoga, wellbeing and pilates is to open in the town Beckenham, Kent in August 2009.

Called Breathe, the club has been co-created by Claire Dunphy and Nick Clarke who both have more than 20 years experience in the health and fitness industry.

Offering a complete range of yoga disciplines, Breathe will feature both hot and traditional yoga classes and is intended to be an alternative to more frenetic gym exercise. Other forms of yoga offered will include Hatha, Lyengar, Ashtanga and Kundalini.



The centre promotes wellbeing

Designed to promote a sense of wellbeing, Breathe will also offer a range of spa therapies in its treatment rooms including homeopathy, acupuncture, osteopathy, Thai massage, reiki and chiropody.

GPs failing on exercise referrals

Lack of funding and poor understanding of scheme identified as barriers for initiative

By **Tom Walker**

Less than half of general practitioners (GPs) have access to an exercise referral scheme

A survey by the Mental Health Foundation (MHF) has found that there are "significant barriers" preventing patients from accessing exercise on prescription.

The report highlights funding constraints within local government and primary care trusts as one of the most significant issues facing the scheme, but also identifies a lack of recognition of the scheme's benefits as a threat.

The report, *Moving on Up*, states that there is a significant lack of awareness of exercise schemes amongst GPs and



The report calls for PCTs to fund a range of exercise activities

other healthcare professionals who might refer patients.

In the report, MHF makes a number of recommendations to encounter the barriers to referrals. These include Primary Care Trusts funding the development of a range of exercise activities; healthcare

professionals and exercise staff working in referral schemes developing closer working links; and a variety of exercise activities to be offered by providers, in addition to gym-based programmes, to cater for patients' different interests and levels of fitness.

Contractor selected for Leatherhead revamp

By **Tom Walker**

Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) has appointed VolkerFitzpatrick, the Dutch-owned construction company, to deliver the £11m refurbishment of Leatherhead Leisure Centre in Surrey.

Construction work got underway on the 22-month scheme in April after the council approved plans drawn-up by A+G Architects, which include a new 438.6sq m



The centre will open in 2010

(4,721sq ft) fitness suite incorporating 100 stations and a 343.4sq m (3,696sq ft) soft

play area. A new, outdoor multi-use games area, two squash courts and a new ground floor entrance foyer will also be created as part of the refurbishment, while the centre's function rooms, the 25m swimming pool and multi-use sports hall will be upgraded.

The refurbishment of the centre, which is managed by Fusion Lifestyle on behalf of MVDC, is expected to be completed by December 2010.

IN BRIEF

New equipment for Richmond sites

► The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Council has completed a £90,000 upgrade of four of its publicly-operated health clubs. Fitness suites at Teddington Pools, Hampton Sports Centre, Shene Sports Centre and Whitton Sports Centre have undergone a revamp which included the installation of new CV and resistance equipment supplied by Cybex. Cybex installed VR1 Duals strength equipment at all four of the sites, as well as an FT360 cable machine at Whitton, 750T Treadmills at Teddington, Hampton and Shene, and Stage 2 IFI accredited CV and strength equipment at the Teddington and Shene centres.

Revamp for Comber Leisure

► Comber Leisure Centre in Comber, County Down, Northern Ireland, is to undergo a £1.5m revamp. The refurbishment will include the expansion of the existing Momentum gym, increasing the amount of fitness equipment from 27 to 65 stations. A new fitness and dance studio will also be built. The existing children's soft play area will be relocated, while the changing facilities and social areas will be updated and the main synthetic sports pitch and tennis courts resurfaced.

Halo Leisure trust launches Fit For Free

► Sports trust Halo Leisure has launched an initiative offering 300 young people the opportunity to get fit for free. Halo is offering 12- to 16-year-olds free access to the gyms and youth exercise classes at six Halo Leisure managed leisure centres in Herefordshire, regardless of whether they are already members or not.

Fitness First teams up with Hylagen

Health club operator Fitness First has extended its spa and beauty offering via a new partnership with cosmetic procedure specialists Hylagen. A total of 17 Fitness First clubs in the UK will now offer members non-invasive treatments, with prices starting at £99 for one treatment area of Botox.

A range of services will be offered through Hylagen concessions, including teeth whitening, dermal fillers, skin peels and hyperhidrosis treatments (for excessive sweating). The services will be available to both members and non-members. Fitness First already offers other beauty services at 97 of its UK clubs.

IN BRIEF

Funding boost for Scottish Judo

► SportScotland is investing £414,940 in the development of JudoScotland. The money will target the key areas of youth participation, and the funding will allow the appointment of more talent coaches to work with judo athletes aged 12-19. The funding also coincides with the first year of JudoScotland's six year plan, which aims to improve youth participation and coaching standards in Scotland.

Legacy facility for Welsh golfers

► The Tycroes Golf Range in Ammanford, South Wales, has reopened following a £150,000 redevelopment programme. The nine-hole facility has been transformed into a legacy venue, designed to cater for grassroots golf. The site's driving range has also been updated with the installation of a ball stop fence. The project was part-funded by a £70,000 grant from the Ryder Cup Wales Legacy Fund. Tycroes is one of eight Legacy funded projects in West Wales with six currently in development and two that have already been completed and opened.

Sport participation survey published

► Sport England has published a quarterly update of its *Active People* survey which compares the demographics of sports participation in England against its annual target to April 2009. A sample of 190,000 people revealed that satisfaction with local sports provision has increased and around 6.8 million adults play sport at moderate intensity three times a week. However, participation by 18 year olds remained unchanged during the past 12 months and some sports have even reported a decrease in participation.

ODA unveils Athletes' Village designs

Plans include more than 2,800 homes to be made available after the 2012 Games

By **Pete Hayman**

Detailed designs for the London 2012 Athletes' Village, which will be used to provide housing for Londoners in legacy mode, have been unveiled by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

Plans include 11 residential blocks, which will offer a total of 17,000 beds for athletes during the Games, as well as open recreational space incorporating a jogging area and a Central Park area.

More than 2,800 homes will be made available to Londoners after the Games, with nearly 1,400 providing affordable housing following a £269m deal between the ODA and the Triathlon Homes joint venture.



Plans include 11 residential blocks offering 17,000 athletes' beds

Residents will also be able to take advantage of more than 10 hectares (24.7 acres) of new parks and open space in legacy mode, while the new Chobham Academy education campus is to be established to cater for 1,800 students.

ODA chair John Armitt said: "By aiming for the highest standards in design, sustainability and construction we will ensure the Village is a high-quality asset for the public-sector that delivers a lasting legacy for east London."

British Cycling outlines four-year legacy strategy

By **Pete Hayman**

British Cycling has unveiled a new four-year strategy aimed at creating a lasting legacy for cycling as a sport and recreational activity in the run up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The national governing body also aims to develop the success that UK cyclists have enjoyed at major international events, including the Tour de France and the Beijing 2008



The strategy aims to build on recent success of UK cyclists

Olympics, to help establish Britain as one of the world's leading cycling nations.

Among the objectives of the Whole Sport Plan for 2009-13 are plans to bring all types of cycling under one British Cycling umbrella, while also increasing the number of people participating in cycling.

British Cycling also intends to work with the government to develop cycling as a sustainable mode of transport, including plans to develop a legal framework that will enable people to use public highways for informal participation.

Sports minister expresses British tennis concerns

Sports minister Gerry Sutcliffe has raised concerns over the progress of UK tennis after all but two British players were eliminated in the first round of The Championships at Wimbledon this year.

Speaking to *BBC Radio Five Live*, Sutcliffe revealed that he was "tired of excuses" for the lack of success and admitted that the way elite players are being funded may need to be looked at.

Sutcliffe told the BBC: "If you look at the Olympics last year, you'll see how well UK Sport did – we put the funding in and we have world-class performances. Those athletes don't get paid if they don't perform, and I think that's one of the key issues we need to look at."



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IN BRIEF

£55m centre planned for Cambridge Uni

► A £55m sports centre is reportedly being planned for Cambridge University. According to the *Cambridge Evening News*, university officials have drawn up plans for a new facility – including an Olympic-sized swimming pool – after the Cambridge University Students' Union launched a campaign for more sports facilities.

Goals centre planned for Lancashire

► Goals Soccer Centres has applied for planning permission to build a £2.3m site in Heaton Park, Prestwich, near Manchester. However, according to the *Prestwich & Whitfield Guide*, locals are divided over whether the proposed site will be good for local sport or open the floodgates to over-development of the park. Some local schools have welcomed the news as Goals has said that pupils will be able to use the centre for free during the day, but others think it will encourage other firms to develop on the publicly-owned park, going so far as to form a Save Heaton Park action group. The council's planning committee is expected to make a decision in August.

Abbeydale Tennis club gets a face lift

► Abbeydale tennis club in Sheffield has undergone a £1.5m redevelopment. Work included the refurbishment of all eight courts, four of which are indoors, and the building of a new clubhouse designed by the Yorkshire-based architects Wildblood Macdonald. The facilities in the new clubhouse include changing rooms, revamped refreshment facilities, a licensed bar, café, roof terrace and a function room for events.

By **Edgar Weaver**

Billingham Forum revamp set to begin

Plans include enhanced sports and theatre facilities as part of 18-month scheme

By **Pete Hayman**

Billingham Forum has closed to the public in order to allow construction work to get underway on a £15m refurbishment scheme at the leisure complex. The work is expected to last for 18 months.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) and operator Tees Active are working in partnership on the revamp, which will include the creation of a 25m swimming pool with a new training pool and learner pool and improvements to the theatre area.

An extended gym, to provide 30 additional stations, a new dance studio and an upgraded ice rink facility also form part of the scheme, as well as improvements to the indoor,



A six-lane swimming pool forms part of the refurbishment plans

two-lane bowls court, two squash courts and the four-court sports hall.

Warwickshire-based constructor Morgan Ashurst has been appointed to deliver the scheme, which aims to 'future-proof' the venue for at least 25 years, as well as

providing a modern facility for local residents.

SBC's cabinet member for regeneration, Bob Cook, said: "The countdown really does begin now for the start of this major refurbishment of what is a hugely popular facility at the heart of Billingham."

Didcot delays sports project

South Oxfordshire District Council has put on hold proposals to build a new leisure centre in Didcot.

The recession has forced the council to postpone plans to replace the Didcot Wave facility with a new-build centre.

Plans for the new sports centre included a swimming pool and a training pool, an eight-court sports hall, squash courts, a gym and a dance studio, as well as an artificial turf pitch, a multi-use games area and tennis courts.

However, the council intends to proceed with plans to create a £500,000 artificial turf pitch to help meet immediate local sports demands.

Swimming nets £3m investment



Kellogg's is providing funding to increase children's participation

By **Tom Walker**

British Swimming has received a £3m investment from breakfast cereal manufacturer Kellogg's to increase children's participation in the sport.

The partnership will help to provide support for swimming at a local level through the Kellogg's Swim Active initiative, which aims to increase accessibility in the hardest to reach communities.

Projects will include closed sessions for children with weight issues, special family sessions, single-sex sessions for Sikh women and transport provision in rural areas.

David Sparkes, chief executive of British Swimming and the ASA, said: "The work of the Swim Active initiative has helped us to bring swimming to many who would not have had the chance to try and enjoy the water otherwise."

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IN BRIEF

Edinburgh's George Hotel revamp complete

► Principal Hayley, the UK and European hotel operator, has completed the final stage of its £20m redevelopment of the George Hotel in Edinburgh, Scotland. The last phase of the multi-million pound project cost a total of £5.5m and included the addition of 50 new luxury bedrooms, as well as a new panorama suite. The general manager of the hotel, David Welch, said: "We are thrilled with the final additions to our refurbishment and development programme. The deluxe double bedrooms have certainly exceeded our expectations." By **Edgar Weaver**

Welcome Break adds to hotel portfolio

► Welcome Break, the operator of motorway service stations across the UK, has added three new properties to its hotel portfolio. The company has taken over three former Purple Hotels properties in Peterborough, Cambridge and Stevenage, Hertfordshire. The hotels have a combined total of 216 bedrooms. Welcome Break is now set to rebrand all three sites as Days Inn hotels after Purple Hotels ceased trading in March.

Dark Star Scotland enters administration

► Tenon Recovery has been appointed to oversee the running of Dark Star Scotland, one of Scotland's largest restaurant, bar and hotel operators, after the Glasgow-based company was placed into administration. Kenny Craig and Tom MacLennan of the London-based insolvency company have been appointed as joint administrators at the company, which operates 14 leased premises in the west of Scotland, including the Buddha Bar chain.

Premier Inn set to open 12 new sites

Budget hotel chain plans to expand portfolio to more than 1,560 rooms by 2013

By **Tom Walker**

Premier Inn, the budget hotel chain operated by Whitbread, has announced that it plans to open 12 new hotels by 2013.

The company has already received planning permission for 10 of the proposed hotels, while it has also secured deals to build properties at Belfast's Titanic Quarter and in Islington, north London.

As well as the Islington site, the company is also planning to open London hotels in Old Street, Greenwich and Waterloo. Other planned sites include Dalkeith, Edinburgh and Inverness in Scotland; Preston, Lancashire; Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire; Sunbury-on-Thames in Surrey; and Rochester, Kent in England.



Four new Premier Inn properties are planned for central London

Mark Anderson, commercial and property director for Whitbread Hotels & Restaurants, said: "We are growing our business to give our customers more choice and more locations where they can enjoy the Premier Inn experience.

"Securing high-value sites in prime locations in London and in key target towns and cities across the UK is the core of our expansion strategy."

The 12 new hotels will bring Premier Inn's total number of rooms to 1,562.

Punch cash call plans approved

Punch Taverns' plans to raise £375m through a new share issue have been approved by the troubled pub operator's shareholders in a bid to further relieve the company's level of debt.

More than 75 per cent of shareholders backed the proposals following the company's interim statement for the 40 weeks to 30 May 2009, which reported that gross debt had been reduced by £404m since the start of the financial year.

Giles Thorley, Punch Taverns' chief executive, said that the share issue demonstrated "determination to move beyond the current challenging market conditions".

Coffee Republic restructured



Administrators have closed some outlets owned by the company

By **Pete Hayman**

Parts of the coffee bar chain Coffee Republic (UK), have entered into administration with KPMG.

Richard Hill and David Crawshaw from professional services firm KPMG Restructuring have been appointed as joint administrators of Coffee Republic (UK), Coffee Republic Franchising and Goodbean. However, holding company

Coffee Republic Plc has not entered administration.

Founded in 1995, there are currently 187 Coffee Republic outlets across the UK and 10 in overseas locations, with 70 franchised through Coffee Republic Franchising and 97 concessions within cinemas, retail outlets and hotels.

Administrators have announced that 11 out of 20 outlets directly owned by Coffee Republic (UK) have shut.



Empty tables – high-end restaurants are suffering the most

No respite in sight for operators

Hospitality operators still being hit by the recession

By **Tom Walker**

The hospitality sector continues to struggle with the effects of the recession, with many operators lowering prices to try and attract customers.

According to TRI Hospitality, UK hotel occupancy continued to fall during the five first months of 2009 by 3.7 per cent, while more worryingly, RevPAR plummeted by 11.8 per cent during the same period.

The decline in RevPAR is due mainly to price reductions and many operators offering "second night free"-type deals.

The trend of cutting prices is most evident in London. PKF Hotel Consultancy research showed that a 7.3 per cent fall in average room rates (from £125 in May 2008 to £116 in May 2009) ensured that occupancy actually remained stagnant rather than falling.

Restaurants too, are feeling the pinch, with high-end sites suffering the most. A recent survey by Moneysupermarket revealed that more than a quarter (26 per cent) of Britons will only visit a restaurant that offers money-off voucher, such as two-for-one deals.

Accor announces voluntary job cuts

France-based hotel group Accor has announced plans to axe hundreds of staff to meet a 15 per cent reduction in support costs.

The voluntary departure plan will affect more than 230 employees from the hospitality company's 2,300-strong workforce, based at group head offices.

The move is a direct result of a sharp decline in the group's fortunes in the first

quarter of 2009, which show no prospects of short-term improvement.

Accor also plans to cut operating costs for owned and leased hotels by €120m (£103m, \$US168m) and renovation spending by €170m (£145m, \$US238m) by the end of 2009.

The group expects hotel development expenditure to reduce by €100m (£86m, \$US140m) during 2010.

Smile, you're in customer service!

The most valuable gift a member of staff can give is free and shouldn't need training

What's the key element in hospitality? Customer service. What's the key element in customer service? A smile.

It's the most valuable gift any member of staff can give to a customer. It's warm. It's welcoming. It can be captivating. It brightens the day for those who receive it. It can shine like a beacon on all those around it.

Why don't more people in hospitality recognize this? Why don't more managers ensure that all members of their staff offer this gift every time they come into contact with their guests? We've all experienced the gloomy receptionist, the indifferent waiter, the surly barman. Basil Fawlty seemingly lives again in some of our hotels, restaurants and attractions – almost as if he's a role model. But the industry is fighting a recession and needs every customer it can attract – and by attracting them, I mean welcoming them.

As we move into the peak summer season, and when competition is so strong, both within the UK and from overseas destinations, that smile could be the difference between customer delight and customer disappointment. We need to make sure that we welcome our visitors. A smile is a key part of that welcome. It gives warmth. It endorses the welcome. It encourages customer satisfaction and disarms any potential customer hostility. It helps make guests happy and ensures that we give them the best time ever – so that they enjoy their visit so much they want to come back.

Little surprise, therefore, that the Hospitality Skills Academy, which is planning to launch customer service training programmes later this year, is promoting a Smiles of Britain campaign. Launched at the recent BHA annual luncheon at Grosvenor House, it is looking to capture the best smile in Britain. Twenty of the best smiles will be invited to attend a photo shoot in London and the winner will be given the chance to be Britain's smile ambassador.

Amazingly, this incredibly strong customer benefit costs absolutely nothing to provide. It needs no budget. It needs no cost centre to be set against. It needs no expensive training programme. All it needs is the right attitude – and the right leadership from the top to encourage it. If hospitality can provide the smile, the smile will win over the customer every time.



BOB COTTON is chief executive of the BHA. *Leisure Opportunities* is a member benefit of the BHA, for your free copy call 01462 471913

IN BRIEF

Early bird registration opens for VAC 09

► Registration for the Annual National Conference of Visitor Attractions (VAC 09) is now open via <http://vac2009.co.uk>. An early bird registration deadline has been set at 6 August 2009, for attendees to confirm their conference place at a reduced rate. The one-day event will take place on 7 October 2009.

Funding boost for Taunton Castle scheme

► A major £6.93m conservation and improvement scheme at Taunton Castle in Somerset has been handed a funding boost by Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (SANHS). The £35,000 SANHS donation will be used to fund repair work at the castle, as well as the creation of new gallery spaces as part of the new Museum of Somerset attraction, which will house collections owned by the society. Bridgwater-based developer Henry W Pollard and Son has been appointed to undertake the restoration of the castle, which will include a new welcome building, a learning centre and a café.

Merlin to extend stays at Alton Towers

► Merlin Entertainments has announced plans to attract more multi-night stays at its Alton Towers theme park in Staffordshire, UK. Announcing its Long Term Development Plan for the park, Merlin said it plans to expand the park over the next ten years by adding a number of new attractions each year - both family and thrill-orientated - to encourage guests to stay longer. Ian Crabbe, divisional director of Alton Towers Resort, said that the group is also looking into the possibility of adding more accommodation, possibly in the form of a third hotel.

Beatles Story launches second site

Pier Head visitor attraction to include Liverpool's first 4D motion cinema

By **Tom Walker**

The operator of the Beatles Story visitor attraction in Liverpool has opened a second site within the new £10.5m Mersey Ferries terminal building.

Called Beatles Story Pier Head, the attraction features a new 4D theatre supplied by Simworx, gallery space showcasing Beatles memorabilia and a Fab4Store retail outlet. The 40-seater Fab4D theatre will take guests on a multi-sensory 4D journey, created in partnership between Simworx and Red Star Studios, through the music of the Beatles. It is the first 4D theatre in Liverpool.

Beatles Story Pier Head is also home to the world premiere of White Feather: The Spirit of Lennon, a personal new exhibition, presented by



The attraction will include a 4D cinema supplied by Simworx

Julian and Cynthia Lennon, showcasing previously unseen Beatles heirlooms.

Jerry Goldman, managing director of the Beatles Story said, "The Beatles Story's expansion in 2008 was incredibly beneficial, both to the business and to Liverpool and we were determined to continue this growth with significant investment in our

second site and in the 4D experience at Pier Head."

Terry Monkton, managing director of Simworx, said: "Jerry Goldman took an active role in the development for the storyboarding of the film.

"Our brief was to create a 'wow factor' for visitors and, as the first 4D cinema in Liverpool, we feel this has certainly been achieved."

Drayton Manor hotel approved

By **Helen Patenall**

Drayton Manor theme park has been given approval to build further accommodation in the visitor attraction's surrounding parkland near Tamworth in Staffordshire.

The 150-bedroom hotel will comprise a 90-cover restaurant and a 60-cover brasserie, as well as a café, a banqueting suite and a creche.

A planning application submitted to Lichfield District Council in 1997 was approved earlier this year, but final authorisation by Government Office West Midlands has only just been granted.

The £14m facility designed by Warwick-based John Pass & Associates and CA design in



The Drayton Manor hotel has been in planning since 1997

cooperation with planning consultants Pegasus is likely to kick off in spring 2010, with completion expected by summer 2011.

Colin Bryan, managing director for Drayton Manor Theme Park, said: "The Drayton Manor Hotel will set a new standard in the UK theme park accommodation."

Chimp escape forces evacuation

Bosses at Chester Zoo were forced to evacuate visitors from the Cheshire attraction on 5 July after a number of chimpanzees escaped from their enclosure into a nearby keeper's area.

Although the keeper's area is not accessible to the general public, the zoo said that it had taken the decision to ask visitors to leave as a "precautionary measure" in the interests of health and safety.

According to the BBC, an investigation is now underway at the attraction into how the chimpanzees were able to break free of their enclosure, while the zoo has offered a free visit to those affected by the incident.



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Third quarter "critical" for tourism

Leisure operators advised by KPMG to cash in on summer trading

By **Luke Tuchscherer**

The tourism and hospitality industries will continue to suffer from the economic downturn, according to KPMG, the financial services firm.

Despite figures showing that the number of companies going into insolvency is set to drop, KPMG said that parts of the leisure industry could be hit hard from September.

Richard Hathway, head of travel, leisure and tourism at KPMG, said: "Throughout the downturn, leisure spend has suffered with hotels and restaurants in particular feeling the pressure.

"The next quarter will be critical for many UK leisure businesses.

"Their hopes for the summer months will rest on people choosing to holiday in the UK, or stay at home and spend more of their leisure pound on meals out and local entertainment.



Operators have been advised to make the most of the summer months

"The period between summer and Christmas is traditionally slower and this year will pose even more challenges than normal, so making the most of summer trading will be paramount."

Westminster Abbey redevelopment planned

By **Helen Patenall**



The revamp will be completed by 2013

Proposals to enhance the visitor experience at Westminster Abbey in central London have been revealed.

The £23m scheme will see the Abbey's small plain pyramid roof being replaced by a more decorative corona.

A new museum and exhibition space showcasing historic treasures and artefacts previously unseen by the public will be housed in the upper gallery, known as the Triforium, while an education centre and a café will provide improved visitor facilities.

No frills flights prosper despite "bad conditions"

More people than ever before are choosing to fly on budget airlines, despite many describing the services provided by the carriers as unsatisfactory.

While British Airways (BA) and Air France-KLM saw a 5 per cent drop in passenger capacity in June, Ryanair, can now boast to be twice as big as BA, as it carried 5.8 million passengers in June

(up 13.8 per cent on 2008), compared to BA's monthly figure of 2.9 million.

A recent study, however, showed how passengers' expectations aren't being matched by the budget airlines.

According to a report by Continental Research, 53 per cent of passengers complained of the unsatisfactory conditions on board low cost airlines.

Arts Council dismisses NCF criticism

Funding body rejects think tank's claims that it is 'amateurish' and wasting funds

By **Tom Walker**

Arts Council England (ACE) has responded angrily to a report by the New Culture Forum (NCF), which accused the arts funding body of being "wasteful and unpopular".

In *The Arts Council: Man-aged to Death?*, the right-wing think tank criticised the way that the ACE operates and called for it to be abolished.

NCF accused ACE of wasting taxpayers' money as a result of increasing administrative costs, sponsoring art projects that have "no real merit" and being amateurish in its approach.

The report, by NCF's research fellow Marc Sidwell, concluded that the ACE has become a disaster and that a radical



IMAGE: TONY HIGGETT

The Public was singled out as a failure in the NCF's critical report

overhaul of arts funding should be undertaken.

However, ACE rejected the claims and said that the report was littered with false statistics and misrepresentations.

In its response, ACE said: "NCF has spectacularly missed

the point. It claims to want to reduce bureaucratic burdens on artists and then proposes massively increasing them.

"The report is hampered and its analysis called into question by some basic errors and highly misleading factual inaccuracies."

Funding boost for Cardiff theatre refurbishment

By **Pete Hayman**

Cardiff's Sherman Cymru theatre is set to undergo a major refurbishment after it received a £3.9m grant from Arts Council Wales.

Plans for the £5.4m scheme include the installation of new seating in both auditoriums to improve audience experience, new toilet facilities and an overhaul of the backstage area to provide improved conditions for performers.



IMAGE: CAPITA ARCHITECTURE

The theatre received £3.9m

The redevelopment of the foyer areas and improved access also form part of the

18-month scheme, which has been drawn up by Jonathan Adams of Capita Architecture, having previously worked on designs for the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay.

Sherman Cymru, which will close in January 2010 to enable work to be carried out, plans to launch a public fundraising campaign in September to help raise the remaining £1.5m, while it is also in discussions with a variety of potential other funding sources.

IN BRIEF

New entertainment venue for Livingston

▶ A new entertainment venue has opened in Livingston, which will provide a new home for West Lothian Council's arts service and a local youth theatre company. The £6m revamp of Howden Park Centre, which was designed by Nicholl Russell Studios, has been funded by the council, along with a £1.29m grant from the Scottish Arts Council. Facilities at the venue, which has been designed to meet new disability regulations, include a 292-seat auditorium, improved flexible spaces, art studios, a gallery area and an improved backstage area.

Wimbledon children's theatre to be revamped

▶ Tim Foster Architects has been appointed to redevelop Polka Children's Theatre in Wimbledon, south London, following a two-stage design competition and the completion of a feasibility study. Plans for the venue include a new domed structure at the rear of the site to house a new auditorium for children aged between one and five-years-old, while the existing auditorium will be remodelled.

Historic UK theatre buildings under threat

▶ Concerns have been raised over the future of more than 80 theatre buildings across the UK after the Theatres Trust published the *2009 Theatre Buildings at Risk Register*. According to the report, the Opera House at Blackpool's Winter Gardens is among the venues most at risk, while empty theatres in Stockton-on-Tees, Hyde and Swansea have also been included on the list. The report features 13 new additions for 2009, although 11 have been removed and two have been downgraded from the 2008 list.

Council unveils plans for Glasgow arts venues

Glasgow Cultural Enterprises (GCE), which operates the city's Royal Concert Hall, is set to be incorporated into Culture and Sport Glasgow (CSG) as part of new council plans.

A business plan is to be developed by Glasgow City Council (GCC) examining plans to transfer the organisation, which also operates

the City Halls and the Fruitmarket venues, into the operational structure of CSG.

The council commissioned professional services firm PricewaterhouseCooper to carry out a review of the current arrangements after concerns were raised the GCE was experiencing increasing financial difficulties.

IN BRIEF

London boroughs to revamp public spaces

► London mayor Boris Johnson has called on London's 32 borough councils to submit their proposals for the refurbishment of the capital's public spaces as part of the Great Spaces scheme. Unveiled in March, the Great Spaces initiative aims to make London a more attractive place to live and work by transforming public spaces that currently offer poor access or that are unwelcoming and unattractive.

New Forest chief to step down

► Lindsay Cornish, chief executive of the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA), has announced that she is to step down from the position after four years with the organisation. Cornish revealed that "ill-informed and libellous" comments reportedly made about her in an anonymous letter from authority staff members to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had contributed to the decision, which she said could damage the reputation of NFNPA.

Royal assent for Broads Authority Bill

► New legislation designed to improve the management and safety of the Norfolk Broads National Park, including compulsory life jacket provision for all hire crafts, has received royal assent. The Broads Authority Bill, which will update the 1988 Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act, was passed by Parliament after a number of minor amendments proposed by the House of Lords were agreed by MPs. Other powers to be handed to the Broads Authority include the ability to introduce compulsory third party insurance for all boats and to control pollution from boats.

Seven UK parks in line for HLF grants

Schemes across Britain have been handed first-round passes for funding support

By **Pete Hayman**

Restoration schemes at seven parks across Britain are in line to receive funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) after receiving first-round passes as part of the Parks for People initiative.

Parks in London, Newcastle, Fife and Swansea will benefit from a share of £800,000 to help with the development of detailed application for grants totalling more than £10m.

Projects in Somerset, Doncaster and Suffolk have also been awarded development funding.

Bentley Park in Doncaster is in line to receive the largest share of the HLF funding, with a first-round pass of £143,000 to be used to draw up a fully-developed bid for nearly £2.1m for restoration purposes.



Penllergare Valley Woods in Swansea is in line to receive funding

Penllergare Valley Woods in Swansea has been given the green light to pursue a grant of £1.95m to fund the conservation of a former estate owned by 19th century philanthropist John Dillwyn Llewelyn, while Raphael Park in London is also on course to receive a grant of more than £1.6m.

Felixstowe Seafront Gardens in Suffolk is seeking £1.8m, while the Exhibition and Brandling Park in Newcastle has been given nearly £100,000 to develop its bid for £1.96m, Marine Cove Gardens in Somerset and Pittencrieff Park in Fife have also been awarded first-round passes.

Trent Vale partnership in bid for funding support

By **Pete Hayman**

A new network of heritage trails could be established in the Trent Vale area if the local landscape partnership is successful in its bid to secure a £1.7m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Trent Vale Landscape Partnership (TVLP) has submitted the final stage of its application to help fund a £2.7m scheme celebrating the natural heritage of the River Trent between Newark, Nottinghamshire, and West Stockwith, South Yorkshire.

Plans also include improvements to rare wetland habitats, the renovation of the Willow Works Heritage Centre in Beckingham, Nottinghamshire, and upgraded moorings on the tidal stretch of the River Trent.



Plans include the creation of heritage trails along the River Trent

Led by British Waterways, the partnership incorporates a number of stakeholders, including Lincolnshire County Council, Nottingham County Council, and Natural England.

Rob Fitzsimons, Trent Vale project manager, said: "We are all hopeful that within the near future we will be able to follow Trent Vale heritage trails, visit

Trent Vale festival events, read the guide to Trent Vale and get involved in the hundreds of volunteering opportunities that will be made available."

TVLP expects to discover whether it has been successful in its bid for HLF funding by the end of September, with projects scheduled to be implemented in early 2010.



SPORT AND LEISURE STATISTICS

FORECASTS FOR THE SPORT AND LEISURE INDUSTRIES

The Sport Industry Research Centre publishes two annual reports, Leisure Forecasts and Sport Market Forecasts. These reports provide valuable insight into future market trends.

Both publications are essential references for industry practitioners, consultants and researchers.

Leisure Forecasts

This publication identifies the way in which economic trends, new technologies and new consumer priorities will shape the leisure industry over the next five years. It is divided into two sectors, leisure in the home and leisure away from home, providing analysis for 24 distinct leisure markets.

Sport Market Forecasts

This publication is produced in conjunction with Sport England. It provides detailed economic information on consumer spending for the entire sports market. It is divided into sport goods and sport services, providing economic analysis for 10 sport markets.

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Barr chosen for Carnegie project

Dunfermline leisure complex to undergo extensive £17m refurbishment

By **Pete Hayman**

Barr Limited, the Paisley-based construction company, has been appointed by Fife Council to deliver the £17m refurbishment of Carnegie Leisure Centre in Dunfermline.

Work at the facility, which will undergo an internal and external renovation, will form part of the council's wider £50m scheme to improve leisure facilities in Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes.

Plans for the upgraded Carnegie Leisure Centre include two purpose-built aerobics studios, a new 90-station fitness suite and new changing and reception areas, as well as a new spinning room and a new indoor play centre for children.

A new health village incorporating sauna, steam and spa services will also be established, while the existing training pool



Plans include a new 25m swimming pool

will be replaced by a 25m, six-lane pool with an underwater, moveable floor. The centre's sports hall will also be upgraded.

The centre has been closed in order to allow work to be carried out, and is scheduled to reopen in January 2011.

What happened to grass roots?

The Games are in danger of becoming a lost opportunity



CHRIS GOTLA is executive director of the *Leisure Property Forum (LPF)*

The Olympic Games are now only three years away and still all media attention remains focused on the financial burden the UK is facing for hosting the event.

What is particularly disappointing, however, is the fact that grassroots sport is not going to get the shot in the arm it deserves. Winning the Olympic Games bid should have provided a platform to get more people, young and old, engaged in sport through a properly planned programme.

We are now over half way through the lead-in period and little progress has been made. Sport in state schools has received little benefit from the Olympics while investment continues to be directed at elite sports.

Until we raise the profile of sport in schools, instead of forcing promising athletes to train outside the curriculum, we will not develop as fast as other countries. The recent British experience at Wimbledon is a classic example where, Andy Murray apart, we were woefully exposed as a fourth division nation – and this with a ludicrously well-funded governing body.

If all the billions being invested in London 2012 had been directed at improving sport in school and in developing skills to reach out to grass root activities, this country would have, in the long run, made a far wider-reaching impact on everyone's lives.

Towcester's masterplans put on display



The masterplan for Towcester town centre

By **Pete Hayman**

A draft masterplan for the redevelopment of Towcester has been put on display by South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) in order to gather the views of local residents and stakeholders

Produced by London-based planning and design practice Urban Initiatives, the 15-year vision for the future of the Northamptonshire town includes the potential development of a new museum and a performance venue for live music.

Council appoints 2014 village developer

Glasgow City Council has selected the City Legacy consortium as its preferred development partner for the 2014 Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village.

The 38.5-hectare (93.9-acre) development will be situated at the heart of the Clyde Gateway regeneration scheme.

The consortium includes architects RMJM, developers W H Malcolm and CCG, Cruden, Mactaggart & Mickel, WSP Consulting and development advisors JLL, as well as Davis Langdon, Turley Associates, legal advisors Burness and Scottish and Southern Energy.

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INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE: WALSALL COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT

The Government's revised Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17, 2002) requires local authorities to undertake assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities. Walsall Council is therefore commissioning an Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Audit and Assessment that requires:

- An audit of existing open space sites and sport and recreational facilities (both outdoor and indoor) in the borough
- An assessment identifying future need for provision, i.e. a supply and demand analysis, as well as work assessing the feasibility of the Council requiring developer contributions towards open space, sport and recreational facilities
- A Playing Pitch Strategy incorporating school playing fields / pitches

The successful regeneration consultancy team must be able to demonstrate:

- A proven track record in developing Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Audit and Assessments (including Playing Pitch Strategy) or similar work
- An innovative approach in developing the Walsall Council Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Audit and Assessment
- The ability to work and consult effectively with the community and stakeholders

To receive a tender 'pack', please contact:

Caroline Glover, Regeneration Directorate, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Walsall, WS1 1TP.

Tel: 01922 653692 or e mail: glovercaroline@walsall.gov.uk

KEY DATES:

Closing Date for receipt of Tender submissions: 12 noon on Friday 14th August 2009 Interviews: Thursday 3rd September 2009

Anticipated contract

commencement:

Monday 7th September 2009



Walsall Council

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF GOLF COURSES – TENDER NO. 889

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE INVITED FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF TWO 18 HOLE GOLF COURSES

Brighton & Hove City Council is keen to enter into a partnership arrangement with an external operator that is suitably qualified and experienced in the management of golf courses. The successful operator will manage two 18 hole golf courses (Hollingbury Park and Waterhall) in picturesque settings on the Sussex Downs to the north of the city. Potential operators will need to be CHAS accredited or hold an equivalent Health & Safety accreditation.

The scope of the contract will include:

- Management and maintenance of two 18 hole golf courses
- Management of all on-site catering arrangements and clubhouses
- Provision of golf professional services
- Provision of an inclusive golf development programme

The contract will commence on 1 April 2010 and run for a minimum period of 10 years although the City Council would be interested to hear from operators interested in a longer contract period.

Pre-qualification questionnaires can be obtained from the South East Business Portal: www.businessportal.southeastie.gov.uk select opportunities page, Brighton & Hove, followed by Management and Maintenance of Golf Courses – No 889; or contact Denise Potts-Morton, Corporate Procurement, PO Box 2500, Kings House, Grand Avenue, Hove BN3 2SR, email: Denise.Potts-Morton@brighton-hove.gov.uk

The closing date for returning the questionnaires to the above address is 5pm on 14 August 2009.

Any requests for further information should be addressed to the Officer detailed above in writing.



Brighton & Hove
City Council

CONCESSION FOR THE OPERATION OF THE DECKCHAIR SERVICE IN THE ROYAL PARKS LONDON



THE
ROYAL
PARKS

The Royal Parks is responsible for the management of London's Royal Parks. Our purpose is to manage The Royal Parks effectively and efficiently; balancing the responsibility to conserve and enhance these unique environments with creative policies to encourage access and to increase opportunities for enjoyment, education, entertainment and healthy recreation.

One of the popular pastimes is relaxing in a deckchair. The operation of the service is carried out by a concessionaire who pays The Royal Parks an agreed percentage of turnover. Deckchairs operate in Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park, Green Park, The Regent's Park and Victoria Tower Gardens.

We wish to hear from any organisation or individual who might be interested in providing the service for at least 5 years, commencing in the Spring of 2010. The operator will be required to provide and maintain the deckchairs and this will be taken into account when agreeing the duration of the arrangement and the concession payments to the Royal Parks. The gross turnover is approximately £150K.

Further information about The Royal Parks can be found on our website www.royalparks.org.uk.

Expressions of interest with details of your experience should be sent via e-mail please to procurement@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk.

Deadline: 10 August 2010.



City of Bradford MDC

www.bradford.gov.uk

Tender for: Junior Youth Inclusion Project Shipley and Keighley

Contract Ref: BMDC/11076

Bradford Metropolitan District Council seeks to procure services for the above project from 1st October 2009. In the first instance the contract will be awarded to ONE organisation for both areas for the period 1st October 2009 until 31st March 2010 with an option to continue for a further year (1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011).

Further Information and Tender documents are to be downloaded from <http://scms.alito.co.uk>. Please ensure you have registered for Bradford MDC to enable access to documentation. If you require any assistance downloading the documents, contact SCMS help desk on 0113 247 4001.

After downloading the tender documents, any queries arising should be directed to: Linda Peacock, 01274 431344, linda.peacock@bradford.gov.uk

The closing date for the receipt of Tenders is Wednesday 5th August 2009 at 2.00pm.



Soft Market Test of Leisure Contract

Eden District Council is considering options for the re-tendering of its Leisure Services contract. The contract will include the management of the following facilities:

- Appleby Pool and Gym.
- Frenchfield Sports Pavilion.
- Penrith Leisure Centre.

The existing contract runs until 31 March 2012.

The Council wishes to soft market test the possible procurement options and packaging of this service to gain a better understanding of the following:

- Contract packaging.
- Contract length - short, medium and long term.
- Flexibility of your solution.
- Views on procurement route, partnerships, trust etc.
- Specifications.
- Risk.

The Council wants to use the results of this exercise to help it shape its contracts and to ensure it provides a procurement package that is attractive and helpful to potential bidders.

The closing date for applications is Friday 7 August 2009.

For further information and an application form please contact Mr A Cozens, Engineering Manager:
tel: (01768) 212448 or email: Adrian.cozens@eden.gov.uk



STRATFORD-ON-AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

LEISURE MANAGEMENT PROCUREMENT

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified leisure management operators, to enter into a contract of up to 10 years to manage the Council's Leisure Centres. Selected tenderers will be encouraged to submit proposals that will deliver the Council's Objectives of improved leisure services, secure investment in existing facilities and sustainable revenue benefits.

The Council has concluded that this is best achieved through contracting with an external operator including existing NPDO's and private sector organisations. The facilities expected to be included in the new arrangement are:

- Stratford Visitor & Leisure Centre
- Shipston Leisure centre
- Southam Leisure Centre
- Studley Leisure Centre

Short listed organisations will be invited to make detailed tender submissions covering all aspects of operation for the facilities and these will be evaluated on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender in line with the principles of best value. The detailed evaluation criteria will be included in the Invitation to Tender.

Potential contractors must complete a Pre Tender Questionnaire and demonstrate a proven successful track record in a variety of areas including delivering innovative partnerships as well as demonstrating a sound financial base to be included on the Council's select list. The Pre Tender Questionnaire will be used to shortlist tenderers.

The Council considers that the existing staff will transfer under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations (TUPE).

Interested organisations can request an information pack and pre-tender questionnaire from Christopher Fennell Community Leisure Manager, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6HX Tel: 01789 260646 Email: chris.fennell@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Phone calls/letters should be made by Friday 31 July 2009 and the closing date for completed questionnaires is 12 noon Friday 21 August 2009.

WWW.STRATFORD.GOV.UK



Sandbach Partnership
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SANDBACH PARK DESIGN CONSULTANCY

Sandbach Partnership, in association with Cheshire East Council and Sandbach Town Council, is seeking a consultancy service to produce a concept design for the enhancement of Sandbach Park. The design is to be built on a sound understanding of the park's local and natural context, community aspirations, and a realistic appraisal of the potential to secure external funding.

Expressions of interest in undertaking the work are invited from suitable organisations who can demonstrate a successful track record in this type of project.

TO RECEIVE AN INFORMATION PACK PLEASE CONTACT:

Bob Hardiker, Sandbach Partnership Project Coordinator,
Sandbach Enterprise Centre, Wesley Avenue, Sandbach,
Cheshire CW11 1DG

bob.hardiker@sece.co.uk

Closing date for expressions of interest 3 August 2009
Tenders to be invited 7 Aug 2009, to be returned by 24 Aug 2009

New Parkour (Free Running) Park for Westminster City Council

Expressions are sought from suitably experienced and qualified companies who wish to be considered for selection to tender for the following project:

Description of the works:

The Council is seeking to procure works to create a purpose built Parkour (Free Running) Park. The new facility will be highly innovative and will seek to provide a safe environment for users to practice and develop their skills. The external facility will consist of full impact absorbing surfacing and equipment will comprise of galvanised steel 'key clamp' type climbing and swinging structures, linear and curved wall sections and chair and box shaped elements, largely made of rendered concrete block work. The facility will also align with the most appropriate European Standards. The total area of the Parkour Park will be approximately 1,000m².

The Council wishes to receive tenders from suitable, reputable organisations which are fully capable of meeting the requirements of the project and can importantly, demonstrate excellent value for money.

Duration: Works are provisionally planned to commence in November 2009.

Your proposal should include details of:

- Company details and organisation
- Company full Health & Safety Policy
- 3 years Audited Accounts including profit and loss
- Details of recent similar projects undertaken by the company
- Company references

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Experience of similar projects
- Demonstration of a successful performance record
- Ability to meet the requirements of the relevant governing bodies
- Health & Safety Policy
- Financial Assessment
- References

Closing date for advert:

Expression of Interest proposals should be sent by e-mail no later than Friday 21st August 2009 to: **FAO Bob Froud**

Materials Science Consultancy,
b.froud@msc-global.co.uk

For further information please contact
Mr Bob Froud at Materials Science
Consultancy on 020 8293 6655.



City of Westminster

PEOPLE NEWS

- Neil Doncaster, the former chief executive of Norwich City Football Club (NCFC), has been appointed the new chief executive of the Scottish Premier League (SPL). The 39-year-old, who has also been a board member at both the Football Association (FA) and the Football League, announced that he would step down as NCFC chief executive in May.
- Public access leisure provider Leisure Connection has appointed Adrian Fisher as its new human resources director. Fisher joins Leisure Connection from construction company Kier where he was head of HR and development. At Leisure Connection Fisher will be responsible for leading the human resources and development agenda.
- Martin Symcox has been appointed by the IQL UK as business development manager. Symcox has been tasked with rolling out the new managerial qualifications to leisure centres, sports facilities and health clubs throughout the UK. As part of his role, Symcox will also assist executive director, Tara Dillon, and pool programmes Manager, Alex Blackwell, in enhancing the organisation's profile as an awarding and governing body within the leisure industry.
- Hilton Hotels Corporation has appointed Andrew Flack as the new vice president of global brand marketing. Flack will oversee Hilton's brand marketing strategies and functions worldwide. A 20-year hotel industry veteran, Flack was previously vice president, sales and marketing, Hilton's Asia Pacific operations.
- Greg Broad has been appointed the new general manager of The Mount Somerset hotel near Taunton. Broad will be responsible for the day-to-day operations at the hotel.

LEISURE LADDER

Eclectic Clubs & Bars

Eclectic currently operates 13 late night venues around the UK, and is planning to expand its portfolio to include 40 clubs within the next few years

REUBEN HARLEY managing director

How did you get to this point in your career?

I've worked in clubs, bars and restaurants for 17 years. I started in the kitchen prepping food at the age of 14, first managed a pub at the age of 19, became area manager for the Famous Pub Co and eventually became operations director at SFI Group for its late-night division - the Latin business Havana Salsa.

What is your day-to-day role?

I lead the Eclectic board and the operational functions of the business, which include marketing, audit and HR.

What has been the high point of your career so far?

The highest point must be successfully achieving financial backing to acquire, in 2006, what is now Eclectic and turning around a non-performing business.

How would you describe yourself?

A straight-talking, self-motivated, grass roots operator with a keen eye for developing people.

How would your critics describe you?

They may mention the odd mood-swing and my very direct approach!

What keeps you motivated?

Watching this terrific business develop on all fronts, and especially seeing our people



move onwards and upwards in the company.

What ambitions do you have?

My aim is to create the premier independent late-night business in the UK, tripling the size of the business as it stands today.

Any advice for up-and-coming management?

Get yourself a mentor who can help work out business scenarios with you.

LEE NICOLSON operations manager

What attracted you to the leisure industry?

I realised there was nothing you could do for a career that would be so much fun and so rewarding on so many levels.

How did you get to this point in your career?

I had to wait until I was 18 for my first role in lower management as a supervisor. I worked six days a week, 16 hours a day and my reward was to become a GM at the age of 21. This eventually led to a role as area manager here at Eclectic when I was 28, running three sites. Two years later I was appointed national operations manager.

What is your day-to-day role?

I start every day by collating the information from the previous day's sales and discuss them with Reuben. I visit at least one site daily, either during the day for a business review or in the evening to witness the operation in full flow.

What are the advantages of working in the leisure sector?

You are being paid to sell good times to your customers – what could be better?

And the disadvantages?

Some people's idea of a good time may not match yours!

What are your ambitions?

I'd like, one day, to be MD of a national company.



What will your next move be?

MD of a national company!

What do you do in your leisure time?

I plan for the following week and get what time I can with my friends and family.

Any advice for people wanting to work in leisure?

You need to be prepared to sacrifice a lot of your free time and give the job 100 per cent.



IMAGE: ISTOCK.COM/DAGAN TREUNOVIC

All forms of dance have seen an increase in popularity in the UK

Increase in dance qualifications

Popularity of dance creates need for more courses

By **Caroline Wilkinson**

The growing popularity of dance as a form of exercise has caused enrollment to the Dance Leadership courses to rise by 25 per cent in the last year, according to Sports Leaders UK - the national sports leadership awarding body.

Dance has become an effective means of engaging girls under 14-years-old in physical activity, who otherwise showed a high drop out rate of mainstream sports. The leadership course, which is accredited by the National

Qualifications Framework, provides trained volunteers to assist in dance delivery initiatives and can be used as a gateway to more formal dance qualifications.

Michaela Hutchings, head of operations at Sports Leaders UK, said: "We expect to register 10,000 dance leaders in the coming year, which has grown from zero in just four years.

Every leader has to complete a period of volunteering in dance training, which is helping to meet the growing demand for dance in schools and community organisations."

NSA accreditation for Leeds college

Leeds Trinity & All Saints college in Yorkshire has launched a new foundation degree for people aspiring to be physical activity teachers.

As Academy Provider for Community Sports Enterprise - accredited by the National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure (NSA) - the college has introduced Supporting Learning: Sport, Physical Education and Health. The work-based

degree is designed for sports coaches and health advisors looking to learn new ways to educate young people about healthy lifestyles.

Individuals will learn to promote positive attitudes for physical activity and develop skills in a range of sports.

A variety of short courses have also been introduced through the NSA, including SportsNutrition, Sports Drinks and Fitness Testing.

Who's a quango? We're employer-led!

It is important that people understand the exact role of organisations such as ours

The row over quangos has hit the headlines once again, with both Labour and the Conservatives wanting to crackdown and relight the 'bonfire of the quangos' in the lead up to a general election.

The term quango is widely used; however I was deeply concerned to hear Sector Skills Councils being referred to in this way by ill-informed spokespeople who clearly hadn't done their research. Sector Skills Councils are independent organisations licensed by government - we are a charity and a membership body.

We are very much led by employers and our work is solely directed by an employer-strong board made up of representatives from across our sector. In fact, we are the only organisation that operates within the sport and active leisure sector that addresses the skills and productivity needs in sport, fitness, playwork, the outdoors and caravan industries. Being licensed by government is a pre-requisite for all Sector Skills Councils. Through this licence, government buys a service from an organisation that meets specific criteria, and being employer led means that we can speak with authority to government departments about the skills needs, funding issues and general landscape of our sector. We can, and do, lobby government departments on behalf of employers as we know what the real issues are, and like quangos, we are seen as the experts in this field and we are not a government department; however unlike quangos, our work is directed by employers, and we are not fully supported by government funding.

It's important that people do not see us as yet another government directed organisation that doesn't know what its like on the ground. We do, we've done the research, and we're out meeting employer's everyday. We are developing solutions - such as the National Skills Academy - to ensure the sector has access to the best training provision, at the best price.

We're working with a sector that is primarily made up of small businesses and we're brokering funding on their behalf. We're producing workforce development tools that help to build a well trained workforce that delivers a quality service. We're working with partner organisations that have a foot in the door to our sector, and we're ensuring that they - through us - support more people, being more active, more often, so that the sector can grow and become sustainable. In short, we ensure that more people are better skilled to deliver the active leisure agenda to benefit the health and well-being of the nation. And that's not the role of a quango.



SkillsActive

**STEPHEN STUDD is
chief executive of
Skills Active**

UNIVERSITY OF WALES INSTITUTE, CARDIFF
ATHROFA PRIFYSGOL CYMRU, CAERDYDD



MA Sport Management and Leadership

This new and innovative course is of particular relevance to experienced professionals such as sport managers and administrators and others involved in the sport and leisure industry who wish to develop their skills in management and leadership.

The programme offers opportunities for professional, personal and career development and focuses on applied and experiential learning. Modules include principles of management and leadership, organisational strategy, planning for business performance and leadership in sports organisations.

Teaching Pattern

Two years part-time comprising six two-day blocks per year.
Year three - final research project.

Further Information: Dr Nicola Bolton

email: njbolton@uwic.ac.uk

or css@uwic.ac.uk

Tel: 020 2041 6591

uwic.ac.uk



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Photo: Scott Ferguson

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Chronic Respiratory Disease Exercise Instructor Course

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

Developed by Loughborough College, the University Hospitals of Leicester and the British Lung Foundation (BLF), with funding and input from Rotherham PCT, the course has been submitted for endorsement at level 4 on the Register of Exercise Professionals. It covers:

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

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

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

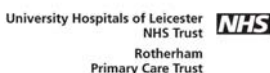
Instructors taking up a bursary will be expected to work with local Breathe Easy support groups to set up exercise classes within the community.

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

e: exercise@blf-uk.org

t: 020 7688 5618

w: www.lunguk.org



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Strategist (Arts, Culture, Heritage & Sport)

£43,809 – £50,024, Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre, fixed-term up to 52 weeks (Ref. AT040/09)

This is an exciting opportunity to provide develop and drive forward Aberdeen's aspirations for culture and sport. The post involves leading key strategic culture and leisure projects including the delivery of our 50m swimming pool; leading the development and delivery of sports and cultural strategies; as well as ensuring that the city's funded culture and leisure partnership organisations are providing the very best for the people of Aberdeen.

Duty Manager (3 Posts)

£22,395 – £25,589, Beach Leisure Centre, one permanent post and two fixed-term posts until 30 June 2010 (Ref.AC156/09)

Sports provision in Aberdeen is about more than looking after a Sports Facility – it's about engaging users, leading a team, identifying opportunity and being proactive in decisions that affect the health and welfare of citizens. You understand customer focused service delivery and can respond to everyday challenges that are presented in a range of athletic and sporting environments. You'll demonstrate knowledge of pool/general plant operations and/or hold a current Pool Plant Operators Certificate.

Closing Date: Monday 3 August 2009 (12 noon)

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



Sandwell Leisure Trust



Job Title: Sport and Physical Activity Manager
Ref: SLT Scale: P2 – P6 (£28,353 to £34,207)
Hours: 37 hours per week.
Location: Tipton Sports Academy, Tipton, West Midlands

It is an exciting time for Sandwell Leisure Trust and our partners in the development of sport and physical activity in the Borough. Sandwell has recently launched its new Physical Activity, PE and Sport Strategy and is recruiting 3 Physical Activity Development Officers to enhance the work of the current team working across the borough.

To complete the team, Sandwell Leisure Trust is now seeking to recruit a well organised and self motivated manager who can manage the team and drive forward the implementation of the Strategy across Sandwell successfully whilst meeting the Trust's key performance targets.

Reporting to the Operations Manager and forming part of the Operational Management Team you will work closely with partner organisations and be responsible for the development and delivery of sport development and physical activity across Sandwell.

You will hold a recognised qualification in leisure management to a minimum level equivalent to NVQ Level 4 or be able to demonstrate a minimum of 3 years proven experience in the development of sport, and physical activity initiatives at a senior level. Candidates must also have a minimum of 3 years experience of working at an appropriate management level.

SO, ARE YOU READY TO GET ACTIVE?

For an informal discussion please call Ash Rai, Deputy Chief Executive on 0121 521 4426 or John Harling, Facility Manager on 0121 506 4981
For an application form call 0121 521 4459 or visit our website at www.sandwell.gov.uk

Closing date: 14/8/09. Short listing will take place on: 20/8/09.

Interviews will take place on: 3/9/09 at Tipton Sports Academy. **More details:**
<http://www.irec.sandwell.gov.uk/recruitment/vacancyservlet?appid=4913>

www.slt.sandwell.gov.uk



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sport & leisure



www.reading.ac.uk/jobs

Sports Officer

SportsPark

This appointment is full-time, permanent
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We need a dynamic, enthusiastic and committed individual to take on the role of Sports Officer at our vibrant sports centre, assisting the Duty Manager in the day-to-day operation and development of the SportsPark.

You will require good customer service and communication skills as well as being conscientious in your work. There will be the opportunity to assist with development projects aimed at widening participation in sport, in addition to daily operational and cleaning tasks.

You will have:

- a good understanding and experience of delivery of an excellent standard of customer service
- the ability to communicate clearly and concisely with team members and customers
- a conscientious and committed attitude to meeting deadlines and to your personal and professional development
- a flexible outlook to your working practices
- an ability to identify solutions to day to day issues

Computer literacy, a first aid certificate and sports coaching qualification(s) would be desirable, however there is scope for achievement and development within the role.

Informal enquiries: contact the Operations Manager, Laura Collins on +44 (0)118 378 8799 or email sport@reading.ac.uk

Closing date: 4 August 2009

To formally apply please visit www.reading.ac.uk/jobs or contact Human Resources, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading RG6 6AH. Telephone +44(0)118 378 6771 (voicemail)

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Applications are welcomed from those with the ability to contribute to effective teaching, tutoring, student support, consultancy, industrial liaison and applied research in leisure and recreation.

The College has a positive policy on staff development which includes support to new staff to obtain a recognized teaching qualification.

Full details and application form can be downloaded from our website at www.harper-adams.ac.uk/staff/vacancies

Completed applications should be e-mailed to vacancies@harper-adams.ac.uk

**Or posted to: Tracey Lloyd – Personnel Administrator
 Harper Adams University College,
 Edgmond, Nr Newport, Shropshire,
 TF10 8NB Tel: 01952 815456**

Closing date: Thursday 30 July 2009



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Plus relocation package**

Halo Leisure is a well established leisure Trust managing a wide range of leisure facilities throughout the county of Herefordshire, and with a turnover of just under £7m we employ over 400 people.

Recognised as a high performing and innovative organisation, we are proud that we have achieved a Quest Highly Commended status for all of our leisure facilities in addition to achieving the Investor in People accreditation.

We now have a vacancy for a talented individual to join our team, and as an experienced Manager you will assume responsibility for overseeing the management of three very diverse leisure facilities situated to the north of the county.

As well as leadership and organisational skills you will need to be able to demonstrate financial acumen, as well as a drive and commitment to delivering continuous improvement and outstanding levels of service to the communities we serve.

In return we offer a generous salary and relocation package, plus the opportunity for you to develop and grow within a challenging and rewarding organisation whilst at the same time living in one of the most beautiful parts of the country.

For an informal discussion relating to the position please feel free to contact the Head of Operations, Scott Rolfe, on 0845 241 0340.

Closing date for applications is 5pm on the 7th August 2009.
Interviews will be undertaken during the week commencing 7th September 2009.



Working together for the people of Herefordshire



**KING ALFRED
LEISURE CENTRE**



GENERAL MANAGER

King Alfred Leisure Centre

M9- £35,953

Maternity Cover

Located on the Seafront the King Alfred Leisure Centre is the largest wet and dry sports centre in Brighton & Hove. The centre includes 3 pools, 2 sports halls, fitness room and indoor bowls centre.

Do you have a degree in a leisure related discipline or equivalent experience at a senior level managing and developing the service of a large public leisure centre? Do you possess good communication, organisational and business planning skills, with strong budget management skills and experience of innovative facility programming and marketing initiatives?

If you do we are seeking an experienced Leisure Centre Manager to lead the operational team of the Centre. In addition, there is the exciting opportunity to be the Client Manager for a £2.25 million project to improve the facility.

For more information / application details contact-
Karen Coomber, Leisure Development Officer,
Tel: 01273 292085;
Email: karen.coomber@brighton-hove.gov.uk

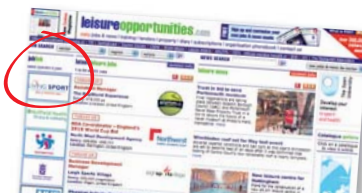
Closing date: 28 July 2009

Interview Date: 6 August or 7 August 2009.

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Receptionist / Club Administrator

2 Positions (Job Share) 32 Hours, c£12 - £13.5k

Independent Tennis & Fitness Club requires a receptionist with administrative knowledge. You will have Front of House experience within the leisure industry and be used to dealing with the public. Knowledge of membership systems is essential, experience of Clubrunner highly desirable. You must be organised, presentable and have good numeric, communication and literacy skills.

Duties include; day to day operation of reception, producing reports, keeping statistical records, providing administrative support to the Tennis, Fitness and Club Managers.

Benefits include; competitive rates of pay, subsidised membership, 20 days Holiday (pro-rated). Job share available depending upon suitable candidates, shifts include evening and weekend work.

Applicants should apply by way of CV and cover letter to

info@thongsbridgetennisclub.org.uk or by post to:

Thongsbridge Tennis Club, Miry Lane,

Thongsbridge, Holmfirth,

West Yorkshire HD9 7RY

Closing date for entries 7th August 2009.

**Senior Football Development Officer**

Circa £25,000 - £29,000



Liverpool County Football Association working in partnership with The Football Association is looking to appoint a Senior Football Development Officer.

This exciting new position will report to the County Development Manager and will commence in September 2009. Based at the County Headquarters in Walton, Liverpool.

The successful candidate will:

- Be a Graduate or of Graduate calibre
- Have significant Sports / Football Development experience
- Experience of managing staff
- Have the ability to lead a team and to work as part of a team.
- Demonstrate individual initiative
- Support team members to set personal objectives and targets
- Be able to work strategically with partner organisations to deliver programmes and courses
- Be have excellent communication and presentation skills
- Hold a Driving licence

The successful candidate will fulfil the following roles:

- Ensure that the Football Development Team work effectively to deliver the County Plan.
- Be responsible for Goal setting with the Football Development team.
- Be responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the workforce including delivery of Key Performance Indicators
- Have a solid understanding of the FA's National Game Strategy.
- Posses excellent customer service skills
- Posses leadership qualities, be fair and have an understanding of Equality and Inclusion issues.

You need to be passionate about and committed to the development of football at a local level. You must be able to motivate people, work under pressure, willing to work flexible hours, handle multiple priorities and be well organised and meet deadlines.

In addition you must have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to influence at all levels. You need to have credible experience in sport/football development. The post will require the need to travel extensively in the local area.

For further information on this role, please contact Hannah Simpson on 01515234488 ext 111 or email hannah.simpson@liverpoolfa.com

To apply for this position, please submit your current CV together with a covering letter detailing how you meet the demands of the post, your current salary and salary expectations. All applications should be marked "Private and Confidential" and addressed to Hannah Simpson, County Development Manager, Liverpool County FA, Walton Hall Soccer Centre, Walton Hall Avenue, Liverpool, L4 9XP or alternatively via email to hannah.simpson@liverpoolfa.com

A Job Description for the post is available for download from www.liverpoolfa.com.

The closing date for this position is 12 noon on 7th August 2009. Interviews will take place on 17th August 2009.

Liverpool County Football Association is committed to equality of opportunity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

Welcome to the brightest lights in the city**Neighbourhoods****Football Development Officer (Community)**

£22,001 - £24,402

Ref: 21622

Full time, fixed term for three years

Based at City Academy Bristol, St George

Working in partnership with a number of agencies, you will increase levels of participation in football in central Bristol while using the sport as a powerful community development tool.

You will be based within The City Academy, a school sports college, and will work with the school to develop, create and sustain a unique football programme. You will also work with the Gloucestershire Football Association to implement national and regional football strategy at a local level.

We're looking for someone with sport development experience or an HNC in a sport or leisure-related discipline. You must have an understanding of current football and sport development strategy and a sound knowledge of local community issues.

Closing date: 5 August 2009.

Our preferred method of application is online, if you are unable to apply online, please call 0117 922 4499. To apply in person, please visit our City Jobshop at 38 College Green. Our full range of opportunities are available online.

Apply Online at www.bristol.gov.uk/jobs

Please note we cannot accept CVs. Applicants must be either EU nationals or hold a current permit that will enable them to work in the UK.

At Bristol City Council, we value having a workforce as diverse as the city we serve. We therefore welcome, develop and promote people from all sections of the community.



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With an ABC audited circulation of **23,035**, Leisure Opportunities is the proven industry market leader for recruitment, meaning your job will be seen by more of the right candidates than in any other publication.

2

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A full listing on the Leisure Opportunities job board - www.leisureopportunities.co.uk along with an email link to deliver cvs direct to your mailbox.

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

PLUS, we have relaunched www.leisureopportunities.co.uk with a new look and lots of extra functionality to make it even easier for candidates to get in touch with you.

3

E-zine advertising

Your jobs are listed on the Leisure Opportunities e-zine, which is sent out to more than **66,000** subscribers who are actively seeking employment.

4

Bonus web and e-zine

Leisure Opportunities works across 27 different leisure markets and is linked to more than 20 industry associations and organisations. As a result, we have launched a range of market-specific job and news e-zines and we're offering all Leisure Opportunities customers the chance to select an additional e-zine listing for each vacancy.

5

Instant jobs email

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

6

Leisure Opportunities' digital magazine

Visit www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/digital to view Leisure Opportunities in digital format. This new service has been designed to put your advertising in front of an even larger audience at no extra charge to you.



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For all applications please send in a CV and a covering letter to enquiries@fitnessagents.co.uk

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BRYANSTON**Fitness Leader**

We are looking for a talented and enthusiastic Fitness Leader to join our existing team of staff, working with pupils, staff and visitors to the School's Sports Centre. This is a year round appointment, working an average of 40 hours per week according to a 4-week rolling rota.

Applicants will either hold a relevant industry qualification and/or a current National Pool Lifeguard Qualification and will ideally have some previous experience of writing fitness programmes, conducting fitness testing and working with young adults. Opportunity will be given for further training.

Further details may be obtained from our web site or from the Personnel Department 01258 484602 personnel@bryanston.co.uk
Closing date for applications: Friday, 14 August 2009

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Can you develop meaningful fitness industry employer relationships? Can you effectively teach and also support our student Personal Trainers in the workplace? If so, why not join our outstanding Foundation Degree in Personal Training and Fitness Consultancy teaching team. Ref: 4558

Apply online: www.candi.ac.uk or please leave a message for an application pack on: 020 7700 9240

Closing date: 3 August 2009 (Midday).

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We celebrate diversity and welcome applications from everyone regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, faith or disability.



UNIVERSITY OF WALES INSTITUTE, CARDIFF
ATHROFA PRIFYSGOL CYMRU, CAERDYDD

CARDIFF SCHOOL OF SPORT, SPORTS FACILITIES

Trainee Duty Manager

Salary: £22,126 - £24,152

(37 hours per week) Post No V506

Working as part of the Operational Team under the direction of the Operations Manager the successful post holder will be responsible for the day to day operations of the Sports Facilities that service the sports curriculum within the School of Sport, the extensive Athletic Union sports programme, the general community use and junior sports courses.

The role will require undertaking recreational assistant duties and covering for the Duty Manager as required, working on a three week rota pattern, including working evenings and weekends. This position provides an excellent opportunity to further your career within a challenging and dynamic department that services a wide range of international standard facilities. The post has been designed to provide aspiring managers with the opportunity to enhance their short and medium term development as an Operational Manager, including undertaking appropriate professional qualifications.



CARDIFF SCHOOL OF SPORT, SPORTS FACILITIES

Fitness Instructor and Trainee Strength and Conditioning Coach

Salary: £18,027-£21,458 (37 hours per week)

Fixed term until 30 June 2011

Post No SP3092

Based at the fitness Centres on both the Cyncoed and Llandaff Campus, the post holder will work under the direction of the Athlete Support/Fitness Manager as part of the fitness team.

The post holder will work on a flexible working pattern including evenings and weekends. The role includes implementing the induction training/fitness testing/personal fitness programmes, and ensuring the needs of students, staff, disabled groups and external users are met. The successful candidate will also assist the Athlete Support/Fitness Manager in the design and implement of training plans and the delivery of the Strength and Conditioning service to the University's selected 180 elite focus athletes drawn from the nine Performance Focus Sports. The position is an opportunity to further your managerial experience, and is designed to enhance your development in the strength and conditioning field, including undertaking appropriate professional qualifications.



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UWIC is one of the leading sports Universities in the UK with some of the finest sports facilities, including an excellent National Indoor Athletics Centre, Regional indoor/outdoor tennis complex, 25m swimming pool, sports halls, gymnasia and dance studios. If you believe you have the potential to take on either of these two posts with its current and future challenges, we would like to hear from you.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 4th August 2009
Interviews for both posts: Week commencing 7th September 2009

For application forms and further details:

www.uwic.ac.uk/jobs

or Human Resources, UWIC, Llandaff Campus,
PO Box 377, Western Avenue, Cardiff, CF5 2SG
or Tel: 029 2041 7026

or email: humanresources@uwic.ac.uk

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news & jobs at www.leisureopportunities.co.uk

Construction work underway at 2012 canoe venue

White Water Canoe Centre in Hertfordshire will be available to the local community after the London Games

By **Pete Hayman**

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has announced that construction work on the new London 2012 White Water Canoe Centre in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, is now underway.

Morrison Construction has been appointed to build the new 10-hectare (24.7-acre) facility, which will host canoe slalom events during the 2012 Games before becoming a canoeing and white-water rafting venue for the local community in legacy mode.

Facilities at the venue will include an Olympic-standard, 300m (984.3ft) competition course with a height drop of 5.5m (18ft) between the start pool and finish pool, a 160m (524.9ft) intermediate and training course with a 1.6m (5.2ft) height drop and a 10,000sq m (107,639sq ft) finishing lake.

The new Canoe Centre will also include a facility building and pumping house incorporating a reception, a café, changing rooms, offices and spectator viewing areas.



The centre will become a white-water venue in legacy mode

Bristol City FC submits plans for stadium scheme

By **Pete Hayman**

Bristol City Football Club (BCFC) has submitted detailed plans for the construction of a new £65m stadium at Ashton Vale, as well as outline proposals for a mixed-use scheme on surrounding land.

Plans for the new 30,000-seat venue have been drawn-up following three sets of public consultation with local residents and stakeholders, and also



The designs for the £65m site

includes the potential to add a further 12,000 seats as part of Bristol's bid to be a host city for the 2018 World Cup.

The new stadium, which has been designed by Populous, will occupy a former landfill site adjacent to the Long Ashton park and ride facility.

BCFC chair Steve Lansdown said: "A new stadium would bring substantial benefits for both the Club and the city as a whole, creating a world-class sports facility, strengthening the local economy and driving the ongoing regeneration of south Bristol."

Kirklees invests in exergaming

Kirklees Active Leisure, which operates 14 leisure centres in West Yorkshire, is investing £175,000 in expanding its fitness provision for children.

SHOKK's X-ertain equipment will be installed at Whitcliffe Mount Sports Centre and Dewsbury Sports Centre, including wireless dance mats and balance boards.

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