leisureopportunities

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Bannatyne Group eyes £300m IPO

The Bannatyne Group is sizing up a £300m float on London's Alternative Investment Market (AIM) as owner and founder Duncan Bannatyne seeks funds to expand his health club, spa and hotel empire.

Several sources have confirmed to *Leisure Opportunities* that the company is reviewing its investment options, with an IPO – possibly before summer – the most likely outcome. It is understood that Bannatyne wishes to retain a majority stake in the business that he founded in 1996.

Mirabaud Securities and Allenby Capital are advising

The Bannatyne Group, which hopes to raise fresh capital of around £85m to continue with its expansion and refurbishment programme.

The Group is working through a £16m investment programme to refurbish its 66-strong estate, while it also wants to carry



Duncan Bannatyne founded The Bannatyne Group in December 1996

growth momentum from recent acquisitions.

After a tricky 2015, which saw the jailing of former finance director Christopher Watson for defrauding the company out of nearly £8m, the company now has a new top team in place – helmed by MD Justin Musgrove

- which is committed to leading the business into a new era.

The new philosophy seeks to offer an "upmarket service with budget club efficiency" and has seen heightened focus on customer experience, improved technology and smarter use of the synergies between the health club, spa and hotel arms of the business.

Asked to comment on the IPO plans, a Bannatyne Group spokesperson said: "Bannatyne notes the speculation regarding a potential IPO. Bannatyne is a successful business that is always seeking the best strategic route forward.

"As always we have a number of strategic options open to us, including staying as we are and raising additional finance to expand our business. We have not made any decision on the direction we will take." Details: http://lei.sr?a=W9d3R_O

Budget gyms dominating European fitness market

The budget gym sector increased its dominance in the European fitness market in 2015, according to the findings of the European Health & Fitness Market Study 2016.

The report – presented this month (6 April) by Karsten Hollasch of Deloitte at the European Health & Fitness Forum (EHFF) in Cologne, Germany – showed that the charge of the low cost sector shows no sign of relenting, with fastest growing fitness operators in 2015 coming largely from the low-cost sector. Continued on back cover

Rolling Stones kick off Exhibitionism

A touring exhibition chronicling the life and times of the Rolling Stones has made its debut in London's Saatchi Gallery.

Taking up two floors with nine themed galleries, *Exhibitionism* features a collection of more than 500 original artefacts from the iconic rock band, using interactive and cinematic technologies to offer a unique and rare insight into the band's 50+ year history.

Developed by Australian company International Entertainment Consulting, the exhibition will embrace "all aspects of art and design, film, video, fashion, performance, rare sound archives and, of course, at the heart of it, the Stones' musical heritage."



The exhibit offers rare insights into the band's history

Spanning 1,750sq m in total, each gallery looks at a different period of Rolling Stones history. The tour is the largest of its kind to ever be staged by a band or musician and its collection has been curated for the last three years. Details: http://lei.sr?a=n8y9b_O

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Contacts:

The Leisure Media Company Portmill House, Portmill Lane, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1DJ, UK Tel: +44 (0)1462 431385 Fax: +44 (0)1462 433909 e-mail: please use contacts' fullname@leisuremedia.com

Subscriptions

subs@leisuremedia.com

Liz Terry 01462 431385

Head of News

Jak Phillips 01462 471938

Journalists

Tom Anstey 01462 471916 Jane Kitchen 01462 471929 Kim Megson 01462 471915

Matthew Campelli 01462 471912

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SPORT

LTA eyes bolder facilities strategy

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is gearing up to launch a "bigger and bolder" facilities strategy later this year, according to its director of participation.

Talking to Leisure Opportunities, Alastair Marks said that while the grassroots facilities landscape was "evolving" in Britain, there were ambitious plans in the pipeline to make improvements that would be "built around good people."

He revealed that while there was a good stock of 23,000 courts across the country - 15,000 in traditional clubs, 7,500 in local authority sites - 65 per cent of those needed improvements, while the lack of undercover courts (1,500) had given tennis a "weather surety" problem.

"We have quite a big capital programme in terms of servicing, lights and installing cafes, but in reality we don't have enough money to do everything we'd love to," he said. "We probably put £5m a year into grant funding for facilities, but if you equate that to the landscape I'd say it goes far, but not far enough.



The strategy will be revealed a year on from GB's Davis Cup victory

"We will announce plans later this year about how we're going to do that in a bigger and bolder way. Fundamentally, it will be founded on good people and built around them."

Marks and the LTA have just launched a new scheme - called Tennis for Kids - in which 1,000 Level Two tennis coaches have been trained to run courses for 10,000 children aged 5-8 in schools up and down the country. He said it was part of the LTA's "participation first" strategy, and had been launched to capitalise on Great Britain's Davis Cup win last November. Details: http://lei.sr?a=F9e6v_O

Inquiry to explore Homophobia in sport

A fresh inquiry looking at homophobia in sport has been launched by the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, and is now calling for written submissions.

The inquiry follows a similar piece of work launched by the committee, titled Racism in Football, which found that homophobia was emerging as a bigger problem that other forms of discrimination.

"With this in mind, the Culture, Media and Sport Committee is holding an

inquiry to examine the issue of homophobia specifically, and to take into account a broader range of sports beyond football," said a committee statement. "It is notable that there are currently no openly gay footballers in Scotland and England's professional divisions, and homophobic abuse remains commonplace at matches and online."

The committee wants to receive submissions from interested parties concerning the experiences of gay sportsmen and sportswomen,



Jesse Norman MP is chair of the Culture, Media & Sport Select Committee

the approach of sports governing bodies, how homophobia is tackled in schools, and if football has a problem with homophobic discrimination compared to other sports.

CMS Committee chair Jesse Norman said: "Sport is hugely important to many people, but it is clear that homophobia remains a serious issue across a wide range of British sports. The committee intends to examine why this is so and what can be done to address it." Details: http://lei.sr?a=6h2R8_O

West Ham stadium deal scrutinised

West Ham United will pay £2.5m a year to rent the Olympic Stadium in East London, although all running costs for the stadium will be covered by the taxpayer subsidised London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC).

The LLDC - which operates the Olympic Park on behalf of City Hall - published the full details of the deal it struck with its new tenants following a court order this week, which will see the Premier League club move

in for the start of the 2016/17 season.

Running costs such as undersoil heating and floodlighting, dugouts, changing room and toilet maintenance, security, cleaning and corner flags will be covered by the LLDC.

The 207-page document produced by the LLDC also revealed that the operator will keep the first £4m of any naming rights deal West Ham can strike for the stadium, with anything over that being split 50-50. The



West Ham will move into the stadium for the 2016/17 season

LLDC will take the first £500,000 of catering profits, with a 70-30 split thereafter.

Conversion costs to make the stadium suitable for football totalled £272m, with West Ham chipping in £15m.

West Ham has secured a 99-year lease on the ground. In the event that the club is relegated to the Championship its rent will be halved to £1.25m per annum under the terms of the deal. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=w4v4E_O*

Prince William calls for FA reform

Prince William, has called on the Football Association (FA) to embrace governance reform or risk being "left behind".

Delivering a speech at Wembley Stadium to mark his 10-year anniversary as FA president, the Duke of Cambridge said that "our governance structure is in danger of falling short of modern standards of best practice" and as Britain's national sport football "ought to be leading the way".

"There is a wind of change blowing through global sporting

governance and we need to ensue we do not get left behind," he said. "I know the organisation is currently reviewing the issue and there is an opportunity to seize the initiative by the way in which we reform ourselves."

The Duke – who took over the presidency from his uncle Prince Andrew - acknowledged that it was an "emotive issue" and one that the FA board members, whom he was addressing, "had a stake in deciding".

FA chair Greg Dyke has spent a significant proportion of his tenure attempting to reform the FA council by making it more representative of Britain in its diversity. He has also tried



The Duke of Cambridge is celebrating 10-years as FA president

to release more money for grassroots football and coaching, although both suggestions have proved unpopular in some quarters.

As a result, the ex-BBC director general announced he would step down from his position after July's FA Council meeting, conceding that there would not be a "unanimous position on governance reform in the board".

"What now appears to be the case is that there is a majority position on the board for much needed significant reform," he said in January. "I fully support this but I recognise it is going to be a fight to get through the FA Council." Details: http://lei.sr?a=7m6Q6_O



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Technogym acquires majority stake in Exerp

Technogym has snapped up a majority stake in Exerp - a global digital specialist in fitness club member engagement software, based in Denmark.

The deal – for an undisclosed amount - sees Technogym acquire a 50.01 per cent stake, with minority shareholders of Exerp and its management retaining 30 per cent ownership. The remaining 19.99 per cent share is controlled by the founders and Exerp employees. Technogym expects the new partnership with Exerp to strengthen its digital ecosystem and increase the company's capability to offer fitness operators a complete solution. Details: http://lei.sr?a=z5D8M_O



Beyoncé has launched the Ivy Park collection

Beyoncé unveils 200-piece range of workout gear

Global megastar Beyoncé is hoping to help females get crazy in love with fitness through the launch of her new 200-piece women's workout clothing range.

The Ivy Park collection - partly inspired by Beyonce's daughter Ivy Blue and the Houston park where she worked out as a child – is the fruit of her joint venture with fashion magnate Sir Philip Green, first announced in October 2014. It went on sale across Green's Topshop stores and selected retailers worldwide on 14 April.

As one of the world's most famous celebrities, Beyoncé took to Instagram to unveil the line to her 65 million followers.

Fashion and fitness have been converging for several years now as the 'athleisure' trend - fuelled by the cult status of boutique fitness brands such as SoulCycle - has taken off. Perhaps aiming to emulate the success of female-focused brands such as Sweaty Betty and LuluLemon, Beyoncé is following in the footsteps of stars such as Rihanna, who last year teamed up with Puma to launch a line of trainers for women. Details: http://lei.sr?a=F4H3D_O

Pure Gym: post-referendum IPO

Despite several reports to the contrary, Pure Gym is not planning to list on the stock market before Britain's 23 June EU referendum, Leisure Opportunities understands.

Recent reports suggested the UK's biggest gym chain would "brave the storm" of uncertainty around a potential 'Brexit' and go public in the lead up to the vote, hoping to capitalise on the lack of other IPOs competing for investors' attention.

However, a well-placed source has dismissed these reports as "wildly inaccurate" and said no such listing is expected to take place until after the referendum. They noted that investor jitters ahead of what is expected to be a close vote means it makes more sense for the company to wait, with a view to riding an anticipated wave of investment in the event of a victory for the 'In' campaign.

Leisure Opportunities reported in January that Pure Gym was considering following its budget rival The Gym Group onto the stock market with a float worth £500m or more. Having taken control of the gym



Pure Gym CEO Humphrey Cobbold (right), with founder Peter Roberts

chain three years ago, US private equity firm CCMP Capital Advisors hired the investment bank Rothschild to review options for cashing out on its investment, with investment banks Jefferies, JP Morgan, and Credit Suisse reported to be handling plans for the IPO.

With 150 sites, Pure Gym is the UK's largest gym chain and is currently in the process of converting the majority of the 42 clubs it bought from LA fitness last year for an estimated £70m. Pure Gym is expected to open 35-40 sites (including the remaining LA fitness sites) during 2016. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q9R4z_O

Council charges hit parkrun event

Parkrun - the body which organises free 5km runs for the public - has said it will cancel a regular event after a parish council tried to impose a fee for runners using its local park.

Stoke Gifford Parish Council in Bristol has voted to charge parkrun a "small monetary charge" towards the upkeep of the Little Stoke Park, claiming that participants have damaged the path, monopolise the car park on Saturday and Sunday morning and use the toilet facilities.

The council also said the fact that parkrun is sponsored by national companies was justification for extracting fees. According to a council statement it will need to spend £55,000 in taxpayers' money to resurface the car park and £60,000 to repair the path.

"The parish council cannot and will not stop people from using the parks for exercise and running but when it comes to an organisation with paid directors, fundraisers



Stoke Gifford is the first local authority to try to charge parkrun

and sponsors it would be unfair to expect the residents to pay," said the statement.

Physical activity advocates have expressed dismay, with parkrun describing the vote as "extremely disappointing" and saying it will now have to cancel the regular event.

A petition against the council's charge has been signed by almost 50,000 people, with backing from Paula Radcliffe and Dame Kelly Holmes. Details: http://lei.sr?a=w9R7C_O

HEALTH & FITNESS

1Rebel settles ClassPass dispute

London-based boutique fitness studios 1Rebel and Core Collective have announced they will continue to work with studio subscription service ClassPass following a tense stand-off over proposed pricing changes.

The pair were among a group of London boutique studios which also included The Power Yoga Company, Cyclebeat and Ride Republic - who last month announced their intention to quit ClassPass over plans to reduce the amount of revenue paid to studios.

However, it seems meetings 1Rebel and Core Collective had with ClassPass head of partnerships Michael Wolf proved productive, with the pair both reversing their decisions to leave.

In an email to ClassPass users, 1Rebel said: "After discussions with ClassPass, we are pleased to announce that we will be reinstating all sessions as of this evening (19 March). ClassPass holders will be entitled to three sessions per month as part of their current membership. We are incredibly pleased to announce this and hope it benefits our Rebel Army in the best way possible." It is



1Rebel has said it will continue to work with ClassPass

not clear where the common ground was found in the meetings. Neither ClassPass nor the studios have commented on the specifics of the resolution, with non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) likely to be in place.

As for the other breakaway studios, Health Club Management understands The Power Yoga Company has already left ClassPass and Ride Republic still intends to follow suit, as will Cyclebeat when its contract expires in the next three months. Details: http://lei.sr?a=t3x3Y_O

Fitness First thankful for failed LA bid

Fitness First's fruitless bid to acquire rival LA fitness has proved a 'blessing in disguise' says UK managing director Martin Seibold, helping the gym chain to assert its dominance in the booming London health club market.

Having started to reap the benefits of its £200m+ transformation programme, Fitness First had high hopes of acquiring its longstanding rival when LA fitness was put up for sale in early 2015. However, potential competition issues caused by one London-centric mid-market

operator taking over another meant Fitness First decided to abort its bid, with budget operator Pure Gym acquiring LA fitness in May 2015.

With Pure Gym converting the bulk of the LA fitness estate into low cost clubs, the benefits have been huge for Fitness First, said Seibold, with membership growth of 15 per cent in London since the deal was announced.

"We were gutted that we couldn't buy LA fitness, but our due diligence suggested we wouldn't be able to keep the whole estate and this would have included some of the



Fitness First UK managing director Martin Seibold

best-located clubs," Seibold told Leisure Opportunities. "But it's been a blessing in disguise and our performance in London over the past year has been so strong, we're now in a position where we can look at new sites."

Fitness First now has 24 clubs in central London - putting the chain far ahead of nearest upmarket rivals Virgin Active and Gymbox - and Seibold believes this footprint will pay dividends as the population in the capital continues to grow. Details: http://lei.sr?a=W4D8q_O





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Is it worth training staff when they just leave anyway?



PETER DUCKER is chief executive of the Institute of Hospitality

ach spring the Institute of Hospitality hosts a networking event for students and industry. Passion4Hospitality is now in its sixth year and it provides a wealth of advice for hospitality and leisure management students at the start of their careers.

The all-day programme also includes a debating competition and it is always a pleasure to witness the energy and intelligence that these young people put into persuading the audience. This year's topic was: "It's not worth spending money on staff training. The hospitality industry has such high staff turnover; they all leave as soon as they are trained."

Arguing in favour of this statement, a team from HotelSchool The Hague in the Netherlands said instead of training, companies need to focus on creating positive corporate cultures that emphasise the personal development of their employees. They argued that the industry's approach to training is often too similar to that of training dogs and this makes people leave because they don't feel valued.

The University of Brighton team, arguing against, stressed that ignoring training puts lives and reputations at risk. They concluded that one important way to make people feel valued is to train them.

Although Brighton won the debate, both teams put forward arguments that made a lot of sense. Creating a caring and positive culture within a business which actively shows respect for its employees comes first. This is how successful companies market themselves and make themselves stand out as places where people want to work. Any necessary training comes afterwards.

Research shows that training budgets in hospitality and leisure have increased in recent years for senior managers, but decreased for middle managers and frontline staff. Training budgets should certainly not ignore frontline workers, who make up the majority of our workforce and who are the most likely to stay loyal as a result of the investment. They are far more likely to stay if they feel valued and supported by their employer in the first place.

HOTELS

Marriott and Starwood set to merge

The on-again off-again merger of Starwood Hotels & Resorts and Marriott International looks set to go ahead after shareholders of both companies voted en masse for the proposed deal.

Marriott's cash-and-stock acquisition of Starwood, valued at £8.8bn as of Thursday 7 April, will create the world's largest hotel company. Holders of more than 97 per cent of Marriott shares and 95 per cent of Starwood shares voted in favour of the transaction at separate meetings on 8 April.

Starwood CEO Thomas B. Mangas described the vote as a "significant step toward closing" the deal, which

was almost derailed by a late rival bid. A consortium led by Anbang Insurance Group pledged a higher price for Starwood and only withdrew its proposal to acquire Starwood on 31 March, paving the way for the Marriott/ Starwood merger to move ahead. Anbang dropped its offer "as a result of market considerations" and did not intend to make another proposal, Starwood said in a statement.



Marriott president and CEO Arne Sorenson

Commenting on the shareholders' backing, Arne Sorenson, Marriott's president and CEO, said: "With today's successful stockholder approval milestone, we are that much closer to completing our transaction. Our teams continue to plan the integration of our two companies, and we are committed to a timely and smooth transition." Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z4X2K_O

Hotel set for US Embassy site

Public consultation is imminent for a new David Chipperfield-designed luxury hotel and spa on the famous site of the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square, London.

The embassy will soon relocate from the Mayfair location to a new site at Nine Elms, and real estate developer Qatari Diar has commissioned Chipperfield's studio to breathe new life into the building it leaves behind: a mid-20th century listed structure designed by iconic Finnish American architect Eero Saarinen.

The project will include a 137-guestroom hotel and mixed-use space, including five restaurants, six flagship retail units, a spa and a 1,000-capacity ballroom. An operator for the site has yet to be announced.

"Our design proposals protect and respect the significant architectural and structural characteristics of Eero Saarinen's design, with a focus on restoring and enhancing this unique building to secure its long-term future at the heart of Mayfair," said Chipperfield.



The project will include a 137-guestroom hotel and mixed-use space

"We have studied the building's design and its history as well as its surroundings to deliver an architecturally and socially coherent proposal, which will transform this purposebuilt embassy into a world-class hotel."

According to the developers, the project will lead to further public realm works "to improve the setting of Grosvenor Square as an open, expansive green space for residents and visitors to enjoy." Details: http://lei.sr?a=g3k2W_O



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Historic Brighton Pier sold in £18m transaction

Brighton Pier - one of Great Britain's most iconic seaside attractions - has been sold in a deal worth £18m.

Purchased by the Eclectic Bar Group, which has acquired pier owner the Brighton Marine Palace and Pier Company, the conditional agreement to buy the Grade II-listed structure would be funded through share placing of £8.5m, with a further £13m coming through debt financing from Barclays.

Serial entrepreneur Luke Johnson - who has headed organisations such as Channel 4, Pizza Express and Strada, and is currently chairing the Eclectic Bar Group - hailed the pier as one of the UK's "most recognisable attractions." Details: http://lei.sr?a=z4t5B_O



Hans Ulrich Obrist and Yana Peel

Yana Peel appointed CEO of Serpentine Galleries

The board of the Serpentine Galleries in London - famous for organising the architectural Serpentine Pavilion programme - has announced the appointment of entrepreneur Yana Peel as the organisation's new CEO, in place of departing director Julia Peyton-Jones.

Peel, previously a trustee at the galleries, is the co-founder of the Outset Contemporary Art Fund and CEO of live debate forum Intelligence Squared.

In her new role, she will work with Serpentine artistic director Hans Ulrich Obrist to develop new programmes and audiences for the museums and organise the pavilion programme, which is hosted every year in London's Kensington Gardens.

The project presents the work of an international architect or design team who have not completed a building in the UK at the time of invitation. Architects including Herzog & de Meuron, Jean Nouvel, Sou Fujimoto and the late Zaha Hadid have designed leisure pavilions for the event since Peyton-Jones started it in 2000. Details: http://lei.sr?a=K6V2m_O

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Plans submitted for Emmerdale tour

Commercial property estate agent Lambert Smith Hampton has submitted plans on behalf of UK TV studio ITV for a television studio tour of the Emmerdale set.

Leisure Opportunities exclusively revealed in June 2015 proposals for the live set tour by Continuum Attractions, which detailed the initial plans following great success with its Coronation Street tour, which ended on 31 December.

The ITV studio, located west of Leeds city centre, will continue to operate as an active television production base, with the addition of the tour offering fans a glimpse

of the world and history of Emmerdale.

Along with the likes of Eastenders and Coronation Street, Emmerdale has been one of the UK's most popular soaps since it first graced British screens 43 years ago.

The attraction is expected to draw around 150,000 visitors annually, generating £15m for the local economy and creating 70 new jobs. The tour would have a maximum capacity of 1,500 guests a day, with tours lasting 1.5 hours.

With the success of its Coronation Street attraction, Continuum has doubled its



The attraction is expected to draw 150,000 visitors annually

turnover in the space of two years, boosting its profits by an expected 13 per cent and demonstrating revenues of £18m, thanks in part to the success of 'Coronation Street The Tour', which welcomed more than 850,000 visitors during its April 2014 to December 2015 run.

Continuum, which runs six cultural attractions across the UK, recently announced new operations for 2016, including a collaboration with the Royal Mint on its upcoming visitor centre and the RSPB on a Sherwood Forest experience. Details: http://lei.sr?a=h5B8D_O

Eleven Arches to drive commerce

Anne-Isabelle Daulon, CEO of the upcoming Eleven Arches in County Durham, has said the benefit of the attraction to the local community is at the heart of the multi-million pound investment.

Bringing an estimated £4.75m to the local economy, Eleven Arches' Kynren show, premiering on 2 July, will encourage visitors to the region to maximise their overnight stays, according to Daulon.

"They will visit other local attractions, sleep in hotels and eat in local restaurants," she said, speaking to

Leisure Opportunities. "Overnight guests spent £161 per person in County Durham in 2013. By comparison, day trippers spent only £90."

Eleven Arches has the financial backing of multi-millionaire philanthropist and investment manager Jonathan Ruffer, who grew up in the local area and owns Auckland Castle - the site Kynren will play out on. Ruffer, along with Puy du Fou president Nicolas de Villiers, sees Eleven Arches as a catalyst to spark regeneration in the area. "Both Puy du Fou and Eleven Arches started



The £31m live-action show is coming to the UK in June 2016

from the same premise - to regenerate and reinvigorate a region with a show," said Daulon. "Both Nicolas and Jonathan share the same love for a region and the same passion for history. They also both believe that if you know who you are and where you came from, you will do better in life.

"We will reinvest every year to build the legacy, sustainability and longevity we want to achieve. If people come each year, there'll be more visitors to the castle and surrounding destinations." Details: http://lei.sr?a=g5M8E_O



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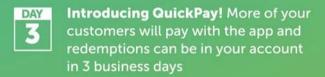




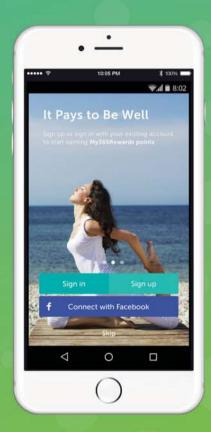
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Global Wellness Day takes shape

More than 3,000 properties across 100 countries are expected to take part in Global Wellness Day (GWD) 2016 on 11 June, as the grassroots initiative continues its rapid growth.

The event – a not-for-profit day of wellness activities founded by Belgin Aksoy of Aksoy Hotel Group and owner of destination spa Richmond Nua - had the support of more than 600 properties in 73 countries for 2015's event, and Aksoy expects that this year will

Across the world workouts, workshops and classes covering mindfulness, yoga, Pilates and many more areas will be on offer to celebrate the fifth annual GWD. Aiming to remove the barriers of exclusivity, this year's theme is "Wellness for Everyone!" with a range of cities, tourism boards, health clinics and national dance companies putting on sessions to educate and inspire the public about the benefits of proactive wellness and mind-body fitness.

see an even bigger number of participants.



GWD founder Belgin Aksoy and Leisure Opportunities editor Liz Terry

"Living well is the simple necessity for every human being on the planet," said Aksoy, who wants to spread awareness of the importance of good physical and mental health.

"To overcome global problems such as depression and lead healthier, happier lives, we need an inspiring beginning. The name of that beginning is Global Wellness Day."

Aksoy also revealed that this year's event will be dedicated to popular wellness industry figure Charlene Florian - who died late last month. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=g8k3V_O*

International Health & Wellness Alliance launches

The global non-profit association IHWA launched this week, opening up membership to the spa and wellness industry. Founded by a group of the global destination spas, IHWA aims to unite all sectors of the wellness industry, identifying best practices and promoting true wellness at a grassroots level, the organisation said.

Incorporated in Australia, IHWA is global in its scope and mission, with board and founding members from Europe, North America, Asia and Australia.

To make wellness accessible to all, membership is available at Corporate, Professional & Associate levels. Details: http://lei.sr?a=r5y7e_O



Inglewood House in Alloa, Scotland

Lotus Spa opens at historic Jacobean mansion

Inglewood House, the Grade A-listed Jacobean mansion in Alloa, Scotland, has been transformed into a hotel and spa after a £500,000 investment.

The new Spa and Leisure Club offers a state-of-the-art thermal suite including sauna, infra-red sauna, steamroom feature shower and heated tiled beds, as well as an outdoor hot tub, Technogym-equipped gym, hair salon, pedicure stations and deluxe treatment rooms with Lemi spa beds.

The spa is using products from Elemis and Vita Liberata skincare brands as part of its extensive range of available treatments.

"The spa is luxurious, well-designed, with no expense spared, and offers a wide range of treatments for our clients to enjoy," said Chloe Simpson, spa manager.

"It has been an absolute joy to witness the transformation of the Grade A listed Jacobean mansion, to the beautiful spa and leisure club it is today. It must be one of the best facilities in Scotland." Details: http://lei.sr?a=m4K7p_O

Mindfulness stars in new Morgans offer

Boutique hotel operator Morgans Hotel Group has launched a series of wellness programmes and partnerships across its brands.

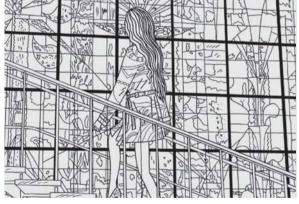
In collaboration with illustrator Peter Arkle, the company has created a mindful colouring book for adults that features iconic elements from Morgans' properties, including the stained glass wall at Sanderson and the pool at Delano South Beach.

Morgans has also partnered with Mindfulness Everywhere

to offer guests who book rooms in special suite categories a free download of its popular buddhify app, which provides access to all of buddhify's more than 80 meditations.

Morgans guests will also receive Mindfulness Cards with meditations and relaxation tips for travellers, created by buddhify founder Rohan Gunatillake.

"Today's travellers are looking beyond fitness to include all aspects of one's wellbeing," said Morgans Hotel Group



Morgans has also created a new mindful colouring book for adults

chief operating officer Chadi Farhat. "Morgans' new wellness programming gives us an opportunity to tell a new story and attract a new generation of guests."

In addition to the brand-wide initiatives, a series of property-specific experiences are also being launched across the company's New York City hotels - including Hudson, Morgans and Royalton - as well as at the San Francisco Clift and at the Mondrian London. Details: http://lei.sr?a=q5m9G_O

The EU and **Tourism**



KURT JANSON is director of the Tourism Alliance

n the lead-up to the referendum there has been a lot of talk in the tourism industry as to whether the sector would be better in or out of Europe. Most of this discussion is centred around two main issues - what leaving the EU would mean for tourists travelling between the UK and Europe and whether tourism businesses would be more competitive if they were free from some of the European legislation that impacts on the sector.

There are a wide range of pros and cons. Tourism flows between the EU and Europe will not be easier, but at the same time they will probably not be dramatically affected either as it would be reasonable to expect that the UK will be able to negotiate an arrangement that helps facilitate travel.

In terms of regulation, there might even be some benefits from leaving the EU with regards to developing an alternative to the Package Travel Directive that was more fit for purpose and reforming the overly complex Tour Operators Margin Scheme that impacts on travel firms.

However, the largest impact on tourism is probably one that is not immediately apparent - finding staff.

As a high-quality service industry, tourism has an almost insatiable thirst for highly-skilled, highly motivated employees. Indeed, Sector Skills Council People 1st estimates the UK will need almost 1m additional employees over the next six years. It also reports that 21 per cent of UK tourism businesses are struggling to find employees with the requisite skills.

Given that a high percentage of this demand for high-skilled staff was being met by immigrants from Europe, if the UK was to leave the EU, this supply would end.

Even more problematic is that the UK's current TIER immigration system is not equipped to allow those people needed to replace the European workers into the country. So the big question is - if the tourism industry hasn't been able to develop suitably skilled workers domestically, and can't gain the skilled workers it needs from Europe, where will these workers come from in future? And how will this impact the quality of the UK tourism experience?

TOURISM

Tourism Symposium targets business

A number of leading lights from the fields of cultural and business tourism are lined up to share knowledge and insight at the annual Tourism Society Symposium.

The two-day event, taking place in Birmingham from 6-7 June, features presentations from an array of high-profile figures. It will bring together more than 200 leading tourism professionals debating topics around the theme, 'The Business of Tourism - What are the new drivers for tourism today?"

Confirmed speakers include David Massingham, co-artistic director of International Dance Festival Birmingham 2016; Creative England CEO Caroline Norbury; Hull City of Culture 2017 CEO and director Martin Green; and Anni Hood, CEO of the Wellness Business Consultancy.

Day one will showcase Birmingham's culture, industry and film tourism during a choice of three walking study tours, followed by a networking supper at Birmingham Council House. Meanwhile, day two will move to The Rep, Birmingham Repertory Theatre for a number of speaker sessions exploring



Creative England CEO Caroline Norbury will take to the stage

the Symposium theme, with case studies and opportunities for networking.

"With future insights into how customers make their destination choices setting the context for a mix of panels, interviews and presentations, the Tourism Symposium promises to be a must-attend event for all tourism professionals," said Tourism Society chair Hayley Beer-Gamage. "We're delighted Marketing Birmingham is hosting the event and providing the wonderful venues of Birmingham Council House and Birmingham Repertory Theatre." Details: http://lei.sr?a=6g9d5_O

Tourism boost for Cornish castle

English Heritage have announced the architectural team led by Ney & Partners have won the design competition to build a new footbridge at Cornwall's Tintagel Castle, a site long associated with the legend of King Arthur.

The firm beat 136 others in the two-stage international design concept competition to secure the commission for the £4m project.

The crossing will be built using local slate and contrasting weathered and non-weathered steel to allow sunlight to play on the structure,

"giving it an ephemeral quality and allowing the bridge to harmonise with the coastal landscape."

The bridge will restore an accessible link to the 13th century castle; a heritage attraction which sits on a jagged rock outcrop currently only accessible by a long stair climb.

Now mostly ruins, the castle is among the remains of a much earlier and more extensive settlement, dating from the fifth to seventh centuries when Cornish rulers lived and traded with far off shores. importing exotic goods and trading tin.



The elegant design for the bridge is based on two cantilevers

The bridge will be used as an educational tool, helping tourists to better understand the site's history - which is also entwined with legendary tales of King Arthur - while also helping to conserve and protect the surrounding landscape.

"We believe the experience of visiting Tintagel Castle is all about discovery and revelation, so it is important to us that our bridge lets the majesty of the site do the talking, that it is not too intrusive," said the studio's MD Laurent Nev. Details: http://lei.sr?a=c4a2U_O



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The project will expand London's cycling network

Peckham Coal Line sees architects appointed

Plans for a new elevated urban park in London along an abandoned coal railway line, have advanced, with architects Adams & Sutherland selected to launch a feasibility study for the project.

From April to November 2016, the practice - who designed the Greenway cycle network near the Queen Elizabeth Olympic park – will outline how best to transform the the disused 900m stretch of coal sidings in Peckham, southeast London, into a carefully crafted green space, tourist destination and local landmark called the Peckham Coal Line.

The project will also expand the cycling and pedestrian network between Brixton and the River Thames. The architects, who won a competition for the project, will be working with engineers Arup, cost consultants Rider Levett Bucknall, planning firm Counterculture Partnership and landscape and planting designers JCLA. Details: http://lei.sr?a=K5m7g_O

Pritzker Prize winner to open-source his designs

Aleiando Aravena, who was awarded the 2016 Pritker Prize in New York this month. has released open-source drawings for his practice's successful social housing designs.

Aravena used his appearance at the Pritzker Conversation at the UN on 5 April to announce the drawings from four projects he deems to have been successful are now available to download from the website of his studio, Elemental.

Aravena wants the documents to be used by government agencies and developers who argue that investment in well-designed social housing costs too much, despite the pressing need for more homes in an era of rapid urbanisation and continued poverty.

Elemental said the downloadable designs provide a reference point for developers and architects, but may need to be modified to comply with local building regulations. Details: http://lei.sr?a=5r6k5_O

Wembley Theatre will be 'unique'

The creative director of Flanagan Lawrence has told Leisure Opportunities about the British studio's design for a ready-to-assemble theatre, which can be used to quickly and efficiently build cultural hubs around the world for urban regeneration schemes.

According to Jason Flanagan, the theatre - which will initially be located close to London's Wembley stadium - will be a "unique cultural venue" with a rotating central auditorium.

"It's a fascinating, quite remarkable piece of design, with an amazing auditorium imagined by Dutch producer Robin de Levita," Flanagan said. "You'll have 1,300 people entering a circular drum on a slowly moving turntable, with the stages all around you. It's the opposite of the theatre-in-the-round, and it allows the action to move across about a dozen quite massive stages, which are the size of film sets."

Productions will fuse film and live action to immerse the audience from all angles.

The theatre's other key innovation is its short life-span in any one



The theatre will initially be located close to London's Wembley stadium

location. The Wembley Theatre - which will be constructed later this year - has planning permission for a decade, after which the plan is to remove it and send it elsewhere.

"Wembley Theatre is really a temporary structure being built on the west side of Olympic Way on the foundations of the old Palace of Industry," said Flanagan. "The building has been designed to have an intentionally quick construction programme that should allow the site to function as a cultural hub pretty quickly." Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z2a9t_O

Vertical forests: the future of cities

Italian architect Stefano Boeri has told Leisure Opportunities how the 'vertical forest' model of architecture promotes wellness and creates sustainable urbanisation in cities.

Boeri is a specialist in the field of green design, having created treetopped towers in Switzerland and Italy, and in an exclusive interview he explained how his "continuous experiment of cohabitation" - in which he covers structures in flora and fauna can change the face of cities. "Multidisciplinary research has

enabled us to develop the building technologies to bring trees very high up in the sky in and around our structures and irrigate them with recycled water," he said. "This advancement, alongside ongoing analysis of the vegetation that can thrive in these special environments, is allowing us to conceive

"The result is new spheres, where people, trees and animals can coexist in an environment of wellness." Boeri said that the architecture industry too often engages in a "merely shallow" discourse about energy

unique buildings specific to their locations.



Boeri believes tree-covered buildings enhance the environment

efficiency, and said truly environmental architecture, such as vertical forests, is necessary "to induce sustainability and a relationship of symbiosis between man, architecture and nature."

He said: "One important method to improve our ecosystem is the 'de-mineralisation' of the cities, that is, the multiplication of green surfaces to find a balance between urban construction and the natural environment. A green surface can reduce the air temperature, sink CO2 levels and reduce noise." Details: http://lei.sr?a=B6j8W_O

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TRAINING

Funding change for SkillsActive

Sport England's funding to SkillsActive - the owner of fitness professional register REPs has ceased and its partnership is under review as the quango moves forward with implementing the recommendations of the government's new sports strategy.

Despite having been a national partner of Sport England, SkillsActive's relationship with the body appeared to be in jeopardy when December's Sporting Future strategy charged Sport England to work with REPs rival CIMSPA to deliver a single set of skills standards for the physical activity sector.

A Sport England spokesperson confirmed to Leisure Opportunities that its funding to SkillsActive has now ceased, with the April-March 2015/16 agreement between the two organisations shortly to conclude and no extension planned. They added that a full review of Sport England's partnerships – including that with SkillsActive – is about to take place.

The spokesperson said: "We are currently gathering the insight - a lot of which will be primary - in order to build a new workforce strategy on solid foundations and customer need. This is an ongoing process



Jennie Price's Sport England is reviewing partnerships

which will take us into the summer as we market-map the sector demand and supply."

They added that CIMSPA already receives Sport England funding to professionalise and improve the skills of those in the industry and a review of this future partnership is already underway.

Meanwhile, SkillsActive announced last week that it has teamed up with sports coach UK to run REPs, although further details of this collaboration have yet to be released. SkillsActive has been approached for comment. Details: http://lei.sr?a=S2N8D_O

PTs on NHS a 'real opportunity'

NHS plans to offer personal trainers and exercise classes to tackle Type 2 diabetes mark an 'exciting milestone' for the fitness sector and a major opportunity to demonstrate its potential to work in synergy with the medical profession.

That's according to Active IQ managing director Jenny Patrickson, who said there is huge scope for exercise professionals to help reverse the growing trend of obesity and Type 2 diabetes, but cautioned that questions need to be addressed over which levels of instructors are best-suited to the task.

The NHS unveiled plans last month to offer exercise sessions and lifestyle education to up to 100,000 patients per year by 2020 as part of the world's first nationwide Diabetes Prevention Programme. Over nine months, patients will receive at least 13 education and exercise sessions of one to two hours per session - making at least 16 hours of 1-to-1 time in total. For Patrickson, recognition of the role that



Jenny Patrickson, managing director of Active IQ

exercise professionals have to play in promoting activity and preventing Type 2 diabetes marks "definite progress" and the awarding organisation boss said the NHS should now work closely with the physical activity sector to define the practicalities of the scheme.

She added there should now be focus on what level of exercise professional is best placed to work with these referred individuals. Details: http://lei.sr?a=b4p5J_O



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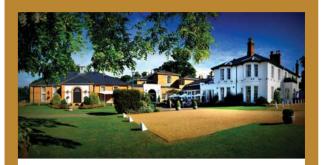
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Leisure Assistant

Company: GLL Location: Wimbledon, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Pure Gym Limited Location: Various locations, UK

Swimming Teacher (Level 2)

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Exeter, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active Location: Bishop's Stortford, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Buckingham, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active Location: Shipston Leisure Centre, UK

Regional Director

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: North and Midlands , UK

Operations Manager

Company: London South Bank Uni Location: London, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Thetford, UK

Membership Advisor

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Exeter, UK

Centre Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Bexley, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: Everyone Active Location: Various locations, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group Location: Various locations, UK

Community Sports Coach

Company: Trowbridge Town Council Location: Trowbridge, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Banbury, UK

Physical Activity Coordinator

Company: Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure Ltd

Recreation Assistants

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Exeter, UK

Duty Manager

Location: Ilford UK

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Exeter, UK

Trainee Duty Manager

Company: Legacy Leisure Location: Thatcham, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active Location: Various locations, UK

Client Liaison Coordinator

Company: Lomax Location: Chelsea, London, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL Location: Various locations, UK

Sales Manager

Company: Keiser UK Ltd Location: Field based, UK

Service Supervisor

Company: Keiser UK Ltd Location: Field based, UK

Swim Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Yorkshire, UK

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group Location: Blackpool, UK

Membership Manager

Company: Coventry Sports Foundation Location: Coventry, UK

Apprenticeship in Fitness and Customer Services

Company: énergie group Location: Oldbury, UK

Swimming Teacher

Company: Everyone Active Location: Ware, Herts, UK

Assistant Director

Company: University of East Anglia Location: Norwich, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active Location: Bristol, UK

Membership Advisor

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Cardiff, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group Location: Various locations, UK

Commercial Director

Company: Abingdon School Location: Abingdon, Oxfordshire, UK

Sports Manager

Company: Brentwood Sch Sports Centre Location: Essex, UK

General Manager

Company: Jump Arena Location: Luton, UK

Trainee Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Shipston Leisure Centre, UK

Gymnastic Coaches

Company: Everyone Active Location: Fareham, UK

Fitness Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: London, UK

Maintenance Engineer

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

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active Location: Sutton, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active Location: Staines Upon thames, UK

Leisure Attendant

Company: Castle Point Borough Council Location: Essex, UK

Deputy Centre Manager

Company: Tone Leisure Location: Somerset, UK

Fitness Leisure Supervisor

Company: Barnsley Premier Leisure Location: Barnsley, UK

Fitness Supervisor

Company: Barnsley Premier Leisure Location: Barnsley, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: Barnsley Premier Leisure

Location: Various, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Bristol, UK

Sales Manager

Company: énergie group Location: Huddersfield, UK

General Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Crosby Leisure Centre, UK

Assistant Manager

Company: Tone Leisure Location: Somerset, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group Location: Croydon, UK

Apprenticeship in Fitness

and Customer Services

Company: énergie group Location: Croydon, UK

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group Location: Reading Central, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Thetford, UK

Relief Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Melton Mowbray. UK

Fitness Instructors

Company: Walsall Council Location: Walsall, UK

(Leisure) Centre Assistants

Company: Walsall Council Location: Walsall, UK

Swim Lesson Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Melton Mowbray, UK

Squash Club Manager

Company: Wycombe Squash Club Location: High Wycombe, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Walsall Council Location: Darlaston, UK Coffee Shop Assistants

Company: Walsall Council Location: Walsall , UK

IQL UK Nat Account Manager Company: Royal Life Saving Society UK Location: Warwickshire, UK

Leisure Assistant

Company: GLL Location: Various locations, UK

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group Location: Dagenham, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Matt Roberts Location: Hampstead, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active Location: Fareham, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Oxford Brookes University

Location: Oxford, UK

Trainee Lifeguard
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Seasonal Instructor

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Merthyr Tydfil, UK

Catering Assistant

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

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group Location: Walworth Road, London UK

Relief Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Shipston Leisure Centre, UK

Assistant Spa Manager

Company: Bedford Lodge Hotel Location: Newmarket, UK

Community Dev Manager

Company: Everyone Active Location: Harrow, London, UK

Fitness Motivator - Part Time

Company: Everyone Active Location: Shipston Leisure Centre, UK

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group Location: London Angel, UK

Sales Advisor

Company: énergie group Location: Wilmslow, UK

Receptionist

Company: Everyone Active Location: Hertford, UK **Tutors and Assessors** Company: Future Fit Training

Location: Nationwide, UK

Duty Manager Company: Soll Leisure

Location: Fleet, UK Sales Consultant - Full-time

Company: Reboot Leisure Location: Milton Keynes MK1, UK

Customer Service Assistant (2) Company: Loughborough University

Location: Loughborough, UK
Swimming Teachers (x6)

Swimming Teachers (x6) Company: Everybody Sport

Location: Various, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Loughborough University Location: Loughborough, UK

Gymnastics Coaches (L 1&2)

Company: Everyone Active Location: London Borough of Sutton, UK

Company: Everyone Active Location: Various locations, UK

Reception Apprentice

Company: Everyone Active Location: Staines, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: Ènergie Group Location: Andover, UK

Contracted Catering Assistant

Company: Everyone Active Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active Location: Cirencester, UK

Centre Manager Stevenage

Company: 360 Play Location: Stevenage, UK

Regional Manager

Company: The Gym Group Location: London area, UK

Head of Business Dev

Company: University of Warwick Location: Coventry, UK

Leisure Attendants

Company: Brio Leisure Location: Various, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Field of Fitness Location: Guildford, UK

Swim Teacher

Company: Everyone Active Location: Fareham, UK

Level 1 and 2 Swim Teachers

Company: Brio Leisure Location: Various, UK

Aquatics Lead

Company: Brio Leisure Location: Winsford/Chester/Neston, UK

Director of Arts and Leisure

Company: Stantonbury Campus Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Aquatic and Fitness Manager

Company: The American School in London Location: London

Physiologist

Company: Speedflex Location: West Byfleet, Surrey, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: énergie group Location: Leighton Buzzard, UK

Assist Leisure Club Manager

Company: Tudor Park Marriott Hotel Location: Bearsted - Maidstone

Member Services Advisor

Company: Pure Gym Limited Location: Leeds City Centre, UK

Leisure Attendants

Company: Walsall Council Location: Walsall, UK

Trainee Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Portsmouth, UK

Recreational Assistant

Company: Parkwood Leisure Location: Portsmouth, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active Location: Sutton, Surrey, UK

Front of House Receptionist

Company: Everyone Active Location: Sutton, Surrey, UK

Recreation Attendant

Company: Everyone Active Location: Sutton, Surrey, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active Location: Sutton, Surrey, UK

Swim Teacher

Company: Everyone Active Location: Southam Leisure Centre, UK

Level 1 & 2 Trampoline Coach Company: Everyone Active

Location: Sutton, Surrey, UK

Centre Manager

Company: Coventry Sports Foundation Location: Coventry, UK

Swim Development Manager

Company: Coventry Sports Foundation Location: Coventry, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Everyone Active Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

General Managers

Company: The Gym Group Location: Various locations, UK

Impact Sales Consultant Company: Xercise4Less

Location: Various, UK

Sales and Marketing Manager

Company: Xercise4Less Location: Various locations, UK

General Manager

Company: Xercise4Less Location: Various locations, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Xercise4Less Location: Shrewsbury, Stoke , Newport

Personal Trainer

Company: Xercise4Less Location: Nationwide UK

GP Exercise Referral

Company: Focus Training Location: Nationwide, UK

Beauty Therapist

Company: Center Parcs Ltd Location: Elveden Forest, Thetford, UK

Spa Therapist PT and FT

Company: Luxury Family Hotels Location: Various locations, UK

Spa Manager

Company: Luxury Family Hotels Location: Various locations, UK

Head Spa Receptionist

Company: Bedford Lodge Hotel Location: Newmarket, UK

Spa Receptionist

Company: Bedford Lodge Hotel Location: Newmarket, UK

Beauty Therapist

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

Spa Receptionist PT /FT

Company: Bedford Lodge Hotel Location: Newmarket UK

Spa Therapists

Company: Hand Picked Hotels Location: Various, UK

Spa Therapists

Company: Lifehouse Spa and Hotel Location: Essex, UK

Visitor Experience Manager

Company: National Trust Location: Westerham, Kent, UK

Visitor Experience and **Fundraising Manager**

Company: National Trust Location: Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK

Guest Service Duty Manager

Company: Continuum Group Location: Portsmouth, UK

Brand Manager (maternity cov)

Company: Chessington World of Adv Location: Chessington, UK

Guest Service Assistant

Company: Legoland Location: Johor, Malaysia

Creative (Resort Theme Parks)

Company: Merlin Entertainments Group Location: Acton, London, UK

Creative Media Supervisor

Company: Merlin Entertainments Group Location: London, UK

IT Local Support Analyst

Company: Gardaland Resort Location: Castelnuovo del Garda VR, Italy

Attraction Host

Company: Shrek's Adventure Location: London, UK

Retail Host

Company: Sea Life Location: Weymouth, UK

Sales and Information Host

Company: Sea Life Location: Weymouth, UK

WZ Brand Manager

Company: Zoological Society of London Location: Whipsnade Zoo - LU6, UK

Visitor Experience Manager Company: National Trust

Location: near Falmouth, Cornwall, UK

Visitor Centre Officer

Company: World Horse Welfare Location: Snetterton, Norfolk, UK

Senior Duty Manager

Company: Science Museum Location: London, UK

Catering Operations Manager

Company: Chester Zoo Location: Chester, UK

Operations Manager

Company: Legoland Discovery Centre Location: Michigan, United States

Hotel Head Chef

Company: Chessington World of Adv Location: Chessington, UK

Marketing Manager

Company: Legoland Discovery Centre Location: Chicago, United States

Finance Manager

Company: Madame Tussauds Location: New York City, USA

Executive Head Chef

Company: British Airways i360 Location: Brighton, UK

General Manager

- Restaurants

Company: British Airways i360 Location: Brighton, UK

Catering Services Director

Company: British Airways i360 Location: Brighton, UK

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Budget sector dominating fitness

Continued from front cover The European Health & Fitness Market Study 2016 showed that the European fitness market was worth £21.2bn in 2015, up from £20.1bn in 2014, representing a 4.9 per cent increase in terms of revenue. Meanwhile, average membership growth in 2015 was 3.9 per cent - 3.4 per cent for the top 10 countries - with the markets in the UK, Germany, Russia and France leading the way.

The presentation showed that 52.4 million Europeans used health clubs in 2015, put-

ting the industry broadly on target to reach EuropeActive's ambitious goal of growing the sector to reach 80 million members by 2025.

Other key findings from the report included:

- The top five European markets represent two thirds of all revenue in the continent - UK, Germany, France, Italy and Spain (ranked biggest to smallest).
- There is a visible correlation between a population's physical activity and fitness market penetration, although GDP and level of urbanisation also play a part.



Karsten Hollasch of Deloitte presented the findings at EHFF 2016

- Markets with a higher market share of the top five operators tend to have lower average membership fees, again demonstrating the strength of the low cost sector.
- M&A activity continued to be high, with 19 activities recorded in both 2014 and 2015, compared to just 24 fitness transactions in total from 2011-2013.
- The five leading commercial equipment manufacturers accounted for about 72 per cent of the global market in 2015. Details: http://lei.sr?a=s5s9t_O

Cycling and walking strategy unveiled

The government has unveiled a new blueprint to boost physical activity and sustainable transport by encouraging more walking and cycling across Britain.

The strategy wants to make active travel "the natural choice for shorter journeys" by 2040 through investment in infrastructure. It includes ambitions to double cycling, reverse the decline in walking, reduce the rate of cyclists killed or seriously injured and increase the number of children walking to school.

Launching a consultation to seek views on the new strategy, transport minister Robert Goodwill said it marked a shift from short term funding streams for cycling and walking to a strategic long term approach.

"The government's blueprint to encourage more people to cycle and walk will benefit the whole of society by boosting the economy, improving health, cutting congestion and improving air quality," said Goodwill.



There is great demand for more cycling investment

"Realising our ambition will take sustained investment in infrastructure. That's why we've committed over £300m to support cycling and walking over this parliament and this will increase further when spending on enhancing existing infrastructure is taken into account." Details: http://lei.sr?a=9w7H3_O

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