

Business



State-of-the-art gym upgrade at health club

AN UPMARKET Lymington hotel is fighting fit after a major overhaul of its gym facilities.

Macdonald Elmers Court Hotel and Resort has updated the design of its workout area and brought in various state-of-the-art machines.

New features include award-winning IC6 Myride indoor spin bikes that allow users to transport themselves to the Italian Alps and SPARC Trainers for high-intensity interval training.

The fitness suite also now boasts SE3 interactive cardio machines and PowerMill Climbers, which have easy to navigate start-up screens, integrated video streaming and internet compatibility.

The new equipment is supplemented by a Life Fitness SYNRGY station. It enables members of all abilities to work out independently or in a small group using one of eight spaces, including a dedicated area for suspension training.

The changes are part of a £2.5m investment programme undertaken by the hotel owner, Macdonald Hotels & Resorts, to improve its health clubs across the country.

Derek McDonagh, Elmers Court regional managing director, said: "We are excited to continue to provide market-leading facilities – and build on our already high standards."

"At a time of year when many of our guests and members are on a health kick following a busy festive season, the investment at Macdonald Elmers Court Hotel & Resort confirms our commitment to providing guests with the best state-of-the-art fitness and spa facilities," he added.

Established in 1990 by businessman Donald Macdonald, Macdonald Hotels & Resorts is now the UK's largest privately-owned four and five star hotel group.

For more information see www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk/spa-fitness

Versatile veterinary practice celebrates 95th anniversary

Family atmosphere makes Seadown special place to work say staff

BY JO ROCHE

AN independently-run veterinary practice which treats a wide range of animals, from owls and raccoons to horses and sheep, is celebrating its 95th anniversary this month.

Hythe-based Seadown Veterinary Group started from humble beginnings above a bakery and has grown over nearly a century into a thriving operation with three branches and a major hospital, employing over 60 staff.

Partner and vet Bob Bentley, who has been at Seadown for 34 years, explains why he believes it is such a special place to work: "We are a close veterinary practice that operates like a family with local advanced practitioners, specialists and staff who are passionate about Seadown and our patients."

"Everyone here works really hard to marry traditional values of compassion and care with modern veterinary medicine and customer service, treating every patient as if it were their own."



(photo: Richard Dunwoody)

"We love what we do and consider ourselves so lucky to live in this area and work with a great team, wonderful clients

and a huge breadth of special patients, from family dogs and cats, to exotics and all sorts of wildlife, and from farm livestock and Forest donkeys and ponies to competition and pleasure horses. It certainly keeps us out of mischief."

Peter Tunney (pictured above), a senior equine vet at Seadown, added: "I also believe it's the fact that so many of the staff have been with the practice for many years. In fact, one member of staff has been with us for over 50 years!"

"The family atmosphere is enhanced by the fact we have five instances where two of the same family are involved with the practice if you include a vet student."

He added: "I could never imagine working anywhere else; roll on the next 100 years."

As well as treating a range of farm, equine and small animal patients, the practice also looks

after Marchwood's military and dockyard security dogs.

Other patients include exotics pets like raccoons and even wild hedgehogs that are brought in by caring locals.

Deeply involved in Forest activities, Seadown provides honorary veterinary services to the New Forest Pony Breeders and Commoners' Defence Association, and takes part in the annual stallion passing, breed shows, point-to-point and welfare tours, as well as providing cover at the New Forest Show every summer.

Equine vet Gillies Moffat said: "We're lucky in having a huge diversity of horses that we treat, not just the ponies on the Forest but everything from competition horses, pleasure ponies and donkeys to miniature Shetlands and we get involved in just about everything too – routine health care, a considerable amount of geriatric

medicine, lameness investigations including stem cell therapy.

"As well as clinical cases we also spend a lot of time with the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Animal unit, due to its position in the UK as leading animal rescue unit, so there have been many an hour spent in bogs and ditches. I think Peter has been up and down cliffs before now too!"

The practice also has a thriving eye referral service for cases which require specialist equipment or attention.

Run by experts Kate McMorris and Anna Jennings, this service delivers routine ophthalmology procedures as well as more innovative procedures to a range of animals including an eagle owl that recently visited the practice.

For more information about Seadown visit www.seadown.co.uk/

Estate agents enjoying move to new office



THE team of four staff at Martin & Co estate agents in New Milton is preparing for a busy spring period after relocating to new offices in Old Milton Road.

Run by Mike Ellis and Becky Troisi, the firm specialises in residential sales and lettings and has been operating in the town for 10 years.

The move, from Parkland Place to Elm Court on Old Milton Road, was undertaken to give the business a more prominent frontage in a bid to attract new customers.

Spokesperson Charlie Fawcett said: "A move is always refreshing, and we love our new location, which really makes us stand out. We are thrilled with the positive feedback we have already received from our clients."

"We are a friendly, approachable, close-knit team of four which always strives to provide a professional and efficient service for all our clients."

"If you're looking for a trustworthy agent with local knowledge and a solid reputation for great service, look no further than Martin & Co."



Jockey and photographer Richard Dunwoody with Kate McMorris, Peter Tunney, Bob Bentley, Anna Jennings and Gillies Moffat of Seadown (photo: Richard Dunwoody)

Electronics firm marks 25 years in business

AN electronics company specialising in speed measuring and data-logging equipment is celebrating completing 25 years in business.

RPR Ltd was set up by Richard Paul Russell at his home in Bankhill Drive in Lymington in 1992, and initially focused on the design and manufacture of wind-speed equipment.

Working with Angus Raby, also from Lymington, he developed the first hand-held electronic anemometer in the mid-1990s.

These Kestrel devices, which RPR still acts as a distributor for, are manufactured in the US today and the firm is now a world leader in its field.

Kestrel products have been used by round-the-world and Olympic sailors, by mountain rescue teams, firefighters, marksmen and in agriculture.

RPR rapidly expanded from its inception and the company moved to the top floor of Lymington Harbour Office, with one of the best views in town, where Richard (pictured centre with employees) and the research and development team still work. But the company also now boasts a manufacturing and sales site in Milford.

Expansion into the creation of SpaceLogger data recorders allowed RPR to become the first company to produce logging and data validation equipment for dental and medical decontamination processes.

RPR's data loggers are also used in garbage trucks, gritting

lorries, roadside speed cameras, harvest weighing equipment, ocean floor data logging vessels and race refuelling systems. In addition, recent IoT (Internet of Things) technology now allows wireless logging.

Larger professional wind and weather monitoring systems are also manufactured by the firm and these use a range of ultrasonic anemometers from another local Lymington company – Gill Instruments Ltd.

These systems are in use on Britain's coast from the Orkneys and Hebrides to Land's End as well as in France and other sites across the world worldwide.

Inshore venues they are used at include pop festivals, nuclear power sites, theme parks, industrial and construction sites as well as all the RHS flower shows.

A website, WeatherFile.com, was set up by RPR several years ago to show live wind and weather from various sites around the UK and Europe. Particularly popular with local sailors is data it publishes from Hurst Castle and Lymington's starting platform at the mouth of the river.

Over the last two decades the company has worked closely with UK sports bodies to provide specialist wind and associate monitoring at competition venues. Richard has personally set up systems at each of the last five Olympic Games for the British rowing, sailing and canoeing teams.



Speaking about the company's success, Richard told the A&T: "The biggest change over the last 25 years has been the internet, enabling us not only to reach a world-wide market through our website but also

the products we develop are becoming more and more connected.

"For example, our weather stations that provide the data on weatherfile.com. In the future we see this internet con-

nectivity as a large growth area for the company in such diverse applications as air quality monitoring to remote industrial machine monitoring."

For more information see www.r-p-r.co.uk



Two directors appointed at accountancy company

A CHARTERED accountancy practice based in New Milton has announced the appointment of two new directors.

Vicki Merifield and Alice Keynes bring a combined 30 years of experience across audit, accounting and tax to the board of David Shores & Co.

Managing directors Terry Smith and Jackie Humphries say these promotions demonstrate the firm's commitment to continued growth and excellent client service.

They said: "We are delighted to welcome both Alice and Vicki to the board. They bring with them a fresh perspective to the business and their appointment will ensure continuity for our clients and staff."

Specialising in business advice, tax and payroll services, the firm has offices at Station Road. For more information see www.davidshores.co.uk

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Whether you have launched a new venture, are expanding, made an important staff appointment, won an award or have any other news, we want to hear from you



Airport announces new destinations

NEW short breaks to destinations such as Iceland and Tuscany have been added to Bournemouth Airport's schedule for 2018 by tour operator Super Break.

Holidaymakers will be able to fly to 25 places from the airport – which has claimed this year's offering is the most diverse yet.

For the first time a range of Super Break short tours will depart on set dates throughout the year, visiting to Akureyri in northern Iceland, Florence, Seville, Gibraltar and Dubrovnik.

Year round flights will be running this year to Alicante, Paphos, Faro, Gran Canaria, Krakow, Lanzarote, Malaga, Malta and Tenerife.

Additional seasonal flights

will operate to destinations including Barcelona, Corfu, Majorca, Menorca, Naples, Rhodes, Dalaman and Turin. Among airlines operating from the site are Ryan Air, Tui, EasyJet and Crystal.

It is the first schedule offered by Rigby Group plc, which bought the airport in December last year. Regional & City Airports, a division of the parent company, is now in charge of running the site along with Norwich, Exeter and Coventry airports.

Details of the full summer and winter programmes have been published in the airport's *Bournemouth Connects* magazine. Airport managing director Paul Knight said: "We're unveiling one of our most interesting

ever schedules for 2018 and we're delighted to be offering people so much choice from their local airport.

"In addition to our well established scheduled and package holiday offerings, we have a new series of fantastic short breaks and year-round sunshine destinations."

He added: "We think people will be surprised at just how flying from Bournemouth Airport can take you – the world really is accessible from your doorstep."

Bournemouth Connects magazine is available from the airport or can be downloaded online at www.bournemouthairport.com/content/uploads/Connects-Bournemouth_WEB.pdf