

Some of the people involved in the development of the earliest operating organisations:

The directors of **Contemporary Leisure plc** were employees or former employees in the public sector [see Hansard in Chapter]: **Robert Hulbert** (Deputy Director of Leisure Services, Glasgow); **David Bryant** (Director of Leisure for Westminster); **Douglas Stewart** (also Glasgow Leisure Services); **Thomas Kiernan** (civil servant, Northern Ireland); **Charles Bartholomew** was Co. Secretary.

John Staniland and **David Cross** founded **Crossland Leisure**. They were previously centre managers at Farnborough Recreation Centre and Edgebarrow Sports Centre respectively. John Staniland largely left the leisure centre scene after Crossland collapsed but David Cross left before the collapse and went on to start DC Leisure Ltd. Two employees caught in the failure of Crossland, **Pat Rowan** (also former Farnborough employee) and **Andy Bourne**, set out on their own, at that time, with a company in Scotland called **Frontier**. They won a 5-year contract to operate The Play Drome (a large leisure centre operation in Clydebank, similar to the expansive Magnum Centre in Irvine opened in the 1970s). They started to develop a small portfolio of centres. The Play Drome closed eventually and there appears no further record of Frontier.

Stephen Hulme was the employee that started **SLM** (trading now as **Everyone Active**) and in 2020 is still CEO.



Stephen Hulme

Roger Bottomley of Westminster Council Leisure Services (Deputy to Chief Officer David Bryant) led **City Centre Leisure**.

Malcolm Chamberlain, manager of Kingston-upon-Thames Leisure Centre, was party to **Civic Leisure**, working with **Harm Tegelaars** (leisure businessman - owned Cannons Health Clubs).

Peter Johnson, formerly of the Lightfoot Centre and Manager of the Hyndburn LC was the Chief Officer behind the Rochford project and **Circa Leisure** (**John Knowles**, former Director of Leisure for Hyndburn DC, was a regional manager for Circa).

John McGinley, a centre manager in St. Albans established **St. Albans Leisure**, which quickly became **Relaxion**. When Circa Leisure and Relaxion merged to form **Leisure Connection**, some of their founders remained as directors for a period.

Serco Leisure originally recruited local authority leisure management experience. **Ian Phelps**, Serco Leisure CEO, worked in LAs for 18 years and was at one stage Farnham LC General Manager. **Diane Bagley** was recruited to manage at Serco from Eastbourne Borough Council, where Serco had originally secured a contract through establishing a trust dedicated to Eastbourne's Sovereign Centre.

Mark Sesnan has led **Greenwich Leisure** (GLL) from its inception and has become a key industry player, given GLL's size.



Mark Sesnan

Originally Glendale Leisure developed from a forestry industry company and became Parkwood. It is still led in 2020 by its founder, **Tony Hewitt**.



Tony Hewitt

Sarah Watts is founder and CEO of Alliance Leisure.



Sarah Watts