

Business

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Cloud reigns at dance festival

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A Blackpool digital and cloud computing specialist got some worldwide exposure last month at the 94th Blackpool Dance Festival.

As the ballroom and Latin dancers were getting ready to take part in the first day of the event they would have immediately noticed four large screens at the edge of the room.

The management team had introduced a new cloud-based software system to help manage the event.

It was produced by Digitav, based a few hundred yards from the event in the magnificent Empress Ballroom in the Winter Gardens.

The new software was making its first live debut.

Digitav owner Ian Mallam said: "Everything was in place, there was tension in the air and the competitors, their coaches, visitors, the festival management team and the Digitav software developers were ready."

"As the Festival, dubbed The World's First and Foremost Festival of Dancing, began, the first set of results were displayed



Digitav provided cloud computing services for the Blackpool Dance Festival. Inset, Ian Mallam

on screen. There was a flurry of activity as the dancers brought out their mobile phones, photographed the screens and sent the images to social media platforms.

More than 6,480 entries were registered in competitions held over the 13 days of competitive dance. The bright, colourful and famous festival was, as always, a huge success

as was the quieter introduction of the new software."

The software launch was a big success for the managers and competitors and a big success for the friends and families of the competitors too.

Mr Mallam said the day after the competition finished, more than 48,000 people from 66 countries checked the results and rankings on the website.

Nearly 3,000 people were still looking every day.

On behalf of BECL, Michael Williams, managing director, said: "The team at Digitav were great to work with and came

up with solutions to ensure the system was fully operational for the Festival.

The software is key to the success and integrity of the Festival and will be used by The Blackpool Dance Festival in China in the hugely successful Dance Championships in Shanghai in August, and in other competitions in the future."

Digitav was founded in 2006 with help from the council's Get Started service, and specialises in building bespoke cloud-based business software programs and are based in Milbourne Street.

Starbucks' first loss in six years

Starbucks UK has slumped to an annual loss for the first time since 2013, after it was weighed down by cost increases and store closures.

However, the coffee chain saw its tax bill for the year rise despite posting the loss.

The firm's taxes have come under significant scrutiny in recent years after it was revealed in 2012 that the business paid only £8.6m in corporation tax over a 14-year period.

In 2018, Starbucks UK Co-

fee Company saw its corporation tax bill rise by 22.9 per cent to £4m.

The UK arm plunged to a pre-tax loss of £17.2m for the year to September 2018, down from a £4.5m profit in the previous year.

It said it made the loss after it was impacted by "very challenging" high street trading conditions and "generally low" consumer confidence.

Profitability was also dented after a sharp rise in costs last year.

Share Watch

MAJOR INDICES

Index	Price	+/-	+/-%
FTSE 100	7402.33	-14.06	-0.19
FTSE 250	19314.46	+54.07	+0.28
CAC 40	5493.61	-7.11	-0.13
Dax Xetra	12271.03	+25.71	+0.21
Dow Jones (at 6pm)	26582.66	+45.84	+0.17
Nikkei 225	21338.17	+251.58	+1.19

WINNERS & LOSERS

Company	Price	+/-%	Company	Price	+/-%
Vivo Energy	137	+7.03	Senior	207	-10.31
Royal Mail	212½	+5.89	Plus500	529	-7.65
easyJet	910	+5.50	Glencore	263½	-4.87
Greene King	611½	+5.45	Provident Fin	403¾	-3.59
Serco	142¾	+5.15	Petrofac	448¾	-3.55
Kingfisher	214½	+4.13	Rightmove Grp	535½	-3.39
Sirius Minerals	14½	+4.13	Funding Circle Hldg	188½	-3.39
Network Int	575	+3.98	Auto Trader Gp	548	-3.18
B&M	330½	+3.86	Future	937	-3.10
Stagecoach Gp	125½	+3.80	Dunelm Gp	930	-2.92

EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (A\$)	1.7181	New Zealand (\$)	1.7673
Canada (C\$)	1.5848	Norway (kr)	10.28
Czech Rep	26.07	Philippines (ps)	55.73
Denmark (kr)	7.9211	Poland (zl)	4.1788
Egypt (pd)	18.70	Singapore (S\$)	1.6015
Euro	1.0653	Sth Africa (rnd)	16.94
Hong Kong (\$)	9.3937	Sth Korea (wn)	1277.00
Hungary (ft)	323.26	Sweden (kr)	11.23
India (rp)	77.29	Switzerland (fr)	1.1837
Israel (sh)	4.1038	Taiwan (\$)	34.31
Japan (Y)	130.37	Thailand (baht)	34.89
Malaysia (rg)	4.9305	Turkey (lira)	6.9625
Mexico (ps)	21.60	USA (US\$)	1.2099

FTSE 100
down 14.06 at 7402.33 at Close

Fleetwood takes over at Fleetwood

Fleetwood Town has appointed Joe Fleetwood as the club's new Head of Commercial.

Joe has extensive experience in the sporting world having been a former professional golfer, and a senior operator at some of the UK's exclusive leisure facilities.

His most notable role was at Hambric Sports where he negotiated commercial deals on behalf of leading sports

personalities.

The 38-year-old – who is also the older brother of global golf star Tommy Fleetwood – has already begun work at the club ahead of an exciting 2019/20 Sky Bet League One season.



Joe said: "I am absolutely thrilled to be joining such a great club."

"The success over the past decade has been truly inspirational and I hope play a huge part in helping to continue that."

"The club already has a fantastic group of loyal sponsors who have supported the club for many years and I look forward to working closely with them, while also actively searching for new partners."

Joe replaces outgoing Head of Commercial Martin Booker, who has left Highbury after six years.

The club thanked Martin for his service at the club.