SPORTS MANAGEMENT

February 2020 Vol 24 @sportsmag

Liverpool unveils Anfield expansion plans

Liverpool FC has revealed KSSdesigned plans for a £60m expansion of its Anfield stadium and has begun a second-stage public consultation on the proposals.

The plans to expand Anfield, which were first revealed in 2014, were developed following the takeover of the club by FSG in 2010 – putting an end to discussions about a potential move to a new stadium.

Work to expand the Main Stand was completed in 2016, increasing the capacity of Anfield by about 8,500 to 54,074.

An update on the Anfield Road project in June 2018 had cast some doubt on whether it would come to fruition, with the club trying to balance the demand for more seats with commercial viability.

The club reaffirmed its intention to take the project forward in August 2019 – allowing existing outline planning permission to lapse so that "ambitious new plans" could be pursued.

Andy Hughes, chief operating officer at Liverpool FC, said: "The feedback from



our local residents has been essential to the planning process of the proposed expansion. We have been very clear from the start that we will only proceed with this project if we have their co-operation."

READ MORE **ONLINE**



The feedback from our local residents has been essential to the planning process

Andy Hughes



Turning the Bee Network into a 'national blueprint'

Andy Burnham on ambitious cycling project

<u>p7</u>



£72m Alexander Stadium revamp approved

Commonwealth Games venue plans get go-ahead

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Bill Beaumont confirms plans to seek re-election as World Rugby chief for another four years

Bill Beaumont has confirmed that he will stand for a second term as World Rugby chair.

The former England captain has held the role at the world governing body since 2016.

He will look to secure re-election in May and has named French Rugby Federation (FFR) president Bernard Laporte as his vice-chair candidate.

In a statement, Beaumont said: "Having consulted with my union and region colleagues and my family, I can confirm that I will be seeking re-election as World Rugby chair at the council meeting in May.

"I will be standing with FFR President Bernard



■Beaumont (middle) named Bernard Laporte (right) as vice candidate

"I have always sought to lead for the global game, not the few, by engaging with all levels of our sport"

Laporte as my candidate for vice-chair. Bernard is a great servant of the game and shares my vision for a strong, sustainable and inclusive game that provides even greater opportunity for expansion and growth.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed this four-year term and have always sought to lead for the global game, not the few, by engaging with all levels of our sport to understand what really matters to our unions, players, fans, broadcasters and commercial partners."

He added that, if re-elected, he will focus on undertaking further governance reform of World Rugby structures and strengthen and accelerate the development of women in rugby.

"We will be unveiling details of our five-point manifesto in due course," he said.

READ MORE ONLINE

Martin Green CBE takes lead on £120m Birmingham 2022 cultural festival



■ Green is CEO of Birmingham 2022 and was head of ceremonies for London 2012

he 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games will be accompanied by a UK-wide festival celebrating "creativity and innovation".

The festival has been backed by £120m funding from the government and the intention is to showcase the best of the UK's art, culture, heritage, design and technology sectors.

Preparations for the festival will be led by Martin Green CBE, the chief creative officer of Birmingham 2022.

Green was head of ceremonies for the 2012

"It will be a showcase for our creativity and innovation, which will celebrate our values and identities"

Olympic and Paralympic Games in London and also the mastermind behind the hugely successful Hull UK City of Culture 2017 festival.

Green and his team have now begun working with each individual sector across the UK to develop a "vision which engages communities across the UK".

"I believe art and culture have the power to bring

people together, so I'm proud to be working on the project to showcase and celebrate the cultural dynamism of the UK," Green said.

Culture secretary Nicky
Morgan added: "The festival will
give us a fantastic opportunity
to champion all that is great
about the UK. It will be a
tremendous showcase for our
creativity and innovation."

READ MORE **ONLINE**



■ Coward is a former general secretary of the English Premier League

{

"Athletics is a sport that captures the nation's imagination every year, but an Olympic year is even more special"



UK Athletics names Nic Coward as interim CEO

K Athletics has appointed Nic Coward as its interim chief executive.

Coward is a former general secretary of the English Premier League and CEO of the British Horseracing Authority. He has also had two spells as the acting CEO of the Football Association and is the current chair of England Golf.

Coward will lead the national governing body until a permanent appointment is made through the ongoing CEO recruitment process.

UK Athletics has been without a permanent CEO for

nearly 18 months, following the stepping down of Niels de Vos in September 2018.

It is hoped that Coward's appointment will provide some stability at the NGB, ahead of this summer's Olympic Games.

"Athletics is a sport that captures the nation's imagination each and every year, but an Olympic and Paralympic year is even more special," Coward said.

"I'm looking forward to working with the board and all the team, across the organisation, at such an important time for the sport."

READ MORE **ONLINE**



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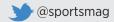
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Prince Harry to continue work as patron of Rugby Football League, despite standind down from Royal duties



■ Prince Harry will continue to work with the RFL despite plans to step back as a 'senior' member of the Royal Family



rince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, has confirmed that he will continue his work as patron of the Rugby Football League (RFL) – despite plans to step back as a 'senior' member of the Royal Family.

Prince Harry succeeded HM The Queen as Patron of the RFL in December 2016 and recently hosted the draw for the 2021 Rugby League World Cup in Buckingham Palace.

Ralph Rimmer, RFL CEO, said the national governing body was "pleased" that the prince would continue his work. "Prince Harry has shown a genuine commitment, getting involved in our community and youth programmes"

"We received a message explaining that the Duke will continue to work with his patronages – as confirmed in the statements from HM The Queen and Buckingham

"We're delighted – he has shown a genuine commitment to working with us, initially getting involved in our community and youth programmes

Palace," Rimmer said.

and sharing his support for England Rugby League.

"He has also demonstrated a personal commitment to our sport's Mental Fitness Charter."

The Prince is an active advocate for the power of sport. In 2014 he founded Invictus Games, the international adaptive sport competition for veterans.

READ MORE **ONLINE**

Wales and Real Madrid star Gareth Bale launches esports team – his second non-football venture

ales and Real Madrid star Gareth Bale has launched an esports team – the second leisure venture the footballer has set up in the past 12 months.

Called Ellevens Esports, the team is co-owned by Bale and 38 Entertainment Group – a company founded by entrepreneurs Jonathan Kark and Larry Cohen.

Ellevens marked its debut by entering a team at the FIFA eClub World Cup 2020 in Milan.

"My interest in eSports started about two years ago watching Ninja stream Fortnite and I naturally progressed to watching FIFA and the FIFA Global Series." Bale said.

"The competitive side was fascinating, so I decided



■ Ellevens Esports is co-owned by Bale and 38 Entertainment

"I decided I wanted to provide an opportunity for gamers who take eSports seriously"

I wanted to provide an opportunity for gamers who take eSports seriously

and want to play for a professional organisation at the highest level.

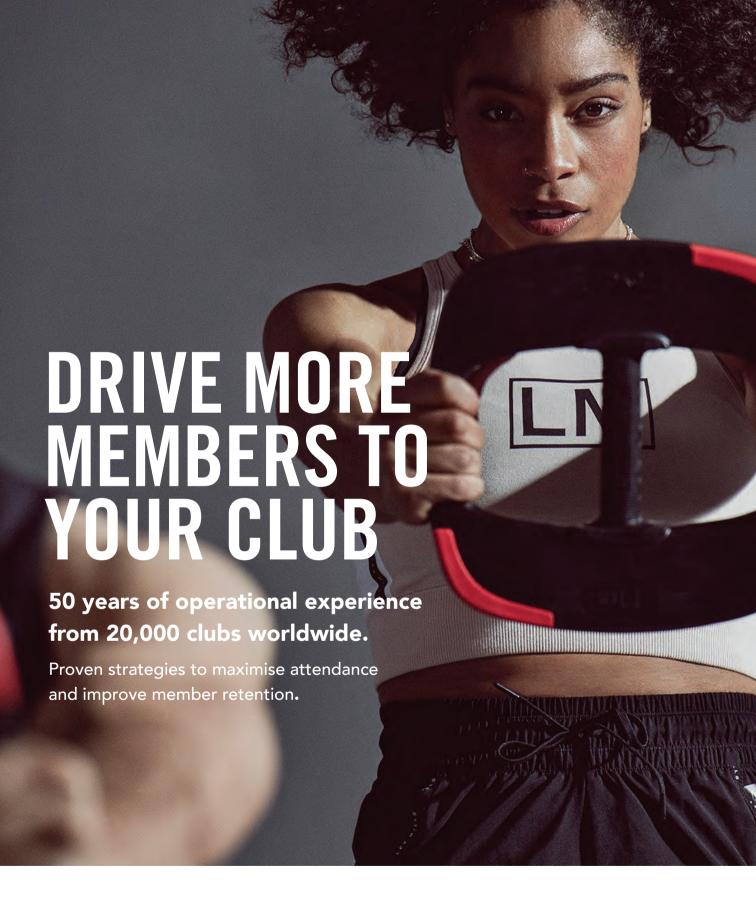
"I am fortunate enough to have been a professional footballer from a young age playing at some of the world's best clubs, and I feel there are lots of similarities between 'real-life' sport and eSports.

"I want to provide the best professional environment for gamers around the world and build an eSports legacy."

In March 2019, Bale became a joint partner and investor in rowing-driven fitness concept Rowbots.

He joined CEO Sam Green and fellow investors Greg Zimmerman and Joshua Barnett in the Rowbots top team to set up a 1,800sq ft boutique studio in central London.

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■ Burnham said the project will take 10 years and £1.5bn to deliver

{

"If the central government help us change our city-region, we can help change the country"



Andy Burnham calls for Manchester's cycling network to become 'national blueprint'

he Bee Network initiative – a joined-up cycling and walking network in Greater Manchester – could provide a national blueprint for improving the nation's health, while also reducing congestion and air pollution.

That is the message from Manchester mayor Andy Burnham in a report outlining the benefits of the "revolutionary" network, which would provide 1,800 miles of protected space for cycling and walking throughout the region.

Commissioned by Burnham, Transport for Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the *Change a region to change a nation* report states that the Bee Network could increase journeys on foot or by bike by 2.5m a day, and save the NHS £6.73bn by improving people's health.

"We need the government to back us with sustained funding – and if they do so, they will be helping to create a model that can be replicated across the rest of the country," Burnham said.

"Put simply, if they help us change our city-region, we can help change the country."

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NEW OPENING

Northern Gateway Sports Park to open

The Northern Gateway Sports Park project in Colchester, Essex, is set to open to the public in the summer of 2020.

The multi-million pound, 76-acre site will provide both indoor and outdoor sports and leisure activities and will be owned by Colchester Borough Council.

Indoor facilities include a five-court sports hall, indoor cricket spaces and a health and fitness club with exercise studios and indoor cycling space.

Outdoors, there will be a one-mile floodlit cycling track, two 3G synthetic football pitches, archery facilities, accessible cycling routes and a learn to ride and cyclo-cross track.

Construction is now underway by contractors R G Carter, with Colchester Amphora Trading managing the build of the development.

Once open, the facility will be operated by Leisure World Colchester, on behalf of the council.

The project has received a number of grants to fund the facilities, including a £100,000 cash injection from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) towards the indoor cricket facility and a further £590,000 from Places to Ride – the capital grants fund delivered by British Cycling and Sport England – to deliver the cycle track.

READ MORE **ONLINE**



■The multi-million pound project will cover an area of 76 acres



The multi-million pound, 76-acre site will provide both indoor and outdoor sports and leisure activities and will be owned by Colchester Borough Council

GRASSROOTS

Youth sports and culture projects receive £7m funding



The investment is part of our long-term plans

to support young people

Nicky Morgan

Sports, arts and heritage-based youth projects across the UK are set to receive a share of a £7m investment from the central government.

The Youth Accelerator Fund has been set up to address urgent needs in the youth sector and expand existing, successful projects run by Sport England, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England and British Film Institute.

Sport England will receive £1.32m to expand its grassroots programmes and offer extra-curricular sport to young people in deprived areas. The National Lottery Heritage Fund will benefit from a



■Sport England received £1.32m of the total funding

£1.27m cash injection, which it will invest in its 'Kick the Dust' project, designed to offer young people heritage-based activities in their communities.

"This investment will pave the way for our ambitious, long-term plans to support young people," said culture secretary Nicky Morgan.

READ MORE **ONLINE**

VALUE OF SPORT

Sport Value Bank to calculate social impact of sport



The launch of SportVB comes at a time when clubs, governing bodies and charitable organisations are seeking to establish the true value of sport to society

A new service aims to offer sports organisations the opportunity to accurately assess, record and value the impact of their community activities.

The Sport Value Bank (SportVB) is the brainchild of The Harlequins Foundation – the independent charity of Premiership Rugby club Harlequins – and has been developed in partnership with social value research consultancy Simetrica, Everton FC and Everton in the Community.

Organisations can access SportVB via an online portal, where they record a range of data for projects



■ SportVB was launched by Harlequins Foundation

such as inputs (such as staff costs), outputs (number of participants) and outcomes (participants' recorded self-esteem improvements).

The system then calculates the overall net social value to society and provides additional data to interpret the source of that social value. SportVB also measures the 'secondary benefits' of outcomes, such as cost savings to government via reduced welfare payments or increased tax revenue.

READ MORE ONLINE

INCLUSIVITY IN SPORT

£1m fund for creation of diverse workforce

Sport England has revealed the 16 projects which will share £1m worth of funding from the Workforce Diversity Great Ideas Fund.

Those receiving grants range from programmes run by local sports clubs to national governing bodies, with each aiming to engage women and/or black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) communities in coaching or volunteering.

These include Brighton
Table Tennis Club, which will
develop a training scheme
that supports community
clubs to have a more diverse
membership and workforce.

Cathy Hughes, Sport England's head of equality and diversity, added: "It's vital for the sport and physical activity workforce to be representative of those taking part, or wanting to take part.

"We know that a workforce which represents women and people from a BAME background will be most effective at engaging them.

"When the workforce is diverse, it can lead to better decision making and greater ability to reach out to people who are currently choosing not to engage with the traditional sport sector.

"We will continue its support for recruiting more people from a diversity of background and experience by working with partners."

READ MORE **ONLINE**



■ The funding will look to engage and create more women coaches



A workforce which represents women will be most effective at engaging them

Cathy Hughes



SPORT AND WOMEN

Project to get menopausal women active

A new project looks to help women who are currently inactive and going through menopause to "access the lifelong benefits of sport".

Launched by charity Women in Sport, the programme aims to re-engage women with physical activity during menopause, so they can remain stronger and healthier into later life.

As part of the project,
Women in Sport will follow
a group of menopausal
women – who are currently
inactive – to develop an
understanding of their lives,
values and motivations.

Previous research by Women in Sport has shown that 84 per cent of women would like to be more active during the menopause. By working with other organisations in the sector, the charity will look to create ideas to support women to engage in physical activity that meets their needs during menopause.

"We are looking develop our understanding of menopause and look at how we can change the conversation around this important topic," said Stephanie Hilborne, CEO Women in Sport.

"We know that women of this age have been overlooked and ignored in their ability to be physically active and we don't think that it is fair for them to be invisible anymore."

Women in Sport has been awarded a £100,000 grant for the project by People's Postcode Lottery.

READ MORE **ONLINE**



■The project was launched by charity Women in Sport





We know that women of this age have been overlooked and ignored

Stephanie Hilborne

MAJOR PROJECT

£72m Alexander Stadium revamp approved



Birmingham 20

Birmingham 2022 is about much more than 11 days of sport

Ian Ward

Detailed plans for the redevelopment of Alexander Stadium in Birmingham have been approved, marking a major milestone in the preparations for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The £72m plan will see the stadium transformed into a high-quality venue capable of hosting a diverse range of sporting, leisure, community and cultural events.

During the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the arena will act as the main venue, hosting the opening and closing ceremonies as well as the athletics events during the 11-day event.



■The stadium will be Birmingham 2022's main venue

Following the Games, the stadium will become a focal point for a range of leisure, health, wellbeing and community activities

"We've always been clear that Birmingham 2022 is about much more than 11 days of sporting action," said Ian Ward, leader of Birmingham City Council.

READ MORE **ONLINE**

Community Leisure UK

The voice for community leisure trusts across the UK

The community leisure trust collective has launched a new brand that seeks to support and develop our public leisure and culture services. **Community Leisure UK** – formerly Sporta - is the association that specialises in charitable leisure trusts across the UK, enabling networking and knowledge sharing with peers and external stakeholders.

Collectively, member community leisure trusts manage a **combined budget of more than £1.6bn**, **employ over 67,000 people**, and receive **233million visits per year**.

Charitable trusts are key community anchors who **reinvest every penny** into developing services focused on their local people across the life course. Trusts are working with more and more partners to develop supported routes to **mental and physical health improvement**, while reshaping services to meet local strategic objectives.

The ultimate aim of community leisure trusts is to **engage all people across the community**, whether that is having a health check, a coffee in a safe and warm space, going for a swim, taking a walk in the park, borrowing a library book or becoming a member of a gym.

Community Leisure UK are keen to help organisations who would like to know more about the public leisure landscape and / or the charitable trust model. Please do get in touch at:

www.communityleisureuk.org

@CommLeisureUK

cateatwater@communityleisureuk.org

Thank you for reading.





FAN SERVICES

Chelsea becomes first EPL club to go vegan

Chelsea FC has become the first English Premier League club to offer fans a food outlet offering exclusively vegan food.

The CFC Vegan Kitchen at the club's Stamford Bridge stadium will provide a range of plant-based alternatives for fans on match days. It will offer dishes such as pizzas, buffalo cauliflower wings, vegan doner kebabs and halloumi and falafel wraps.

The introduction of the vegan option is part of a four-year catering deal the club has signed with Levy UK, which includes a commitment to provide more plant-based dishes, modelled on the 'ideal plate' concept outlined by the global EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health.

As part of a drive for a more sustainable offer – and in line with Chelsea FC's environmental policies – CFC Vegan Kitchen also utilises a re-usable cup initiative and avoids single-use plastics.

"Reducing our environmental impact as well as offering fans plant-based options where we can is something we're very committed to and the launch of the vegan kiosk is a further positive step in doing so," said Simon Hunter, head of venue and development at Chelsea FC.

"We take pride in our forward-thinking and innovative approach within the sports sector as to how we can improve the fan experience."

READ MORE **ONLINE**



■ The CFC Vegan Kitchen at the club's Stamford Bridge stadium





We take pride in our forward-thinking and innovative approach

Simon Hunter

STADIUM MANAGEMENT

Man U plans 'safe-standing' section at Old Trafford

66

Our belief is that the introduction of rail seating will enhance spectator safety in areas where we have seen persistent standing Premier League giant Manchester United has tabled plans to create a safe-standing area at its Old Trafford stadium.

The club has made an application to install rail seating for up to 1,500 supporters in a section of the stadium where supporters persistently stand anyway. The club said the move would improve fan safety.

The plans were discussed at a United fans' forum on 31 January.

"A formal proposal was made to the local Safety Advisory Group (SAG) in December 2019 to request a trial in a small section of the stadium (up to 1,500



■ Clubs who already have rail seating include Celtic

seats in the north-east quadrant)," the minutes from the fans' forum read.

"Our belief is that the introduction of rail seating will enhance spectator safety in areas of the stadium where we have seen examples of persistent standing."

READ MORE **ONLINE**

SAFEGUARDING

New digital portal to help charities with safeguarding



Charities must be safe spaces for everyone

Baroness Barran

The UK government has launched an online portal, aimed at strengthening its support to charities handling safeguarding concerns or allegations.

The portal offers a step-by-step guide to help charities correctly manage their concerns, identify the right people to contact if needed and access helpful resources and advice.

Funded by the DCMS and the National Lottery Community Fund, the £1.2m portal will also offer free factsheets, practical tools, podcasts and videos to promote a good safeguarding culture in charities.



■ The portal will offer tools to promote safequarding

"It's absolutely right that charities have access to the best advice and guidance for dealing with any safeguarding concerns," said baroness Barran, minister for civil society.

"Charities must be safe spaces for everyone – from those who benefit from them to volunteers and employees."

The funding which has enabled the creation of the portal was first announced by former minister for sport Tracey Crouch in October 2018.

READ MORE ONLINE

EVENT ANALYTICS

GHD enters sports – acquires Movement Strategies group

GHD Group has acquired UK-based crowd dynamics consultancy Movement Strategies, signalling the architecture and design giant's entry into the sports and major events sector.

Movement Strategies' services include crowd dynamics, people movement analysis and insight. It has worked with major events – including Olympic Games and World Cups – as well as large venues, including Wembley Stadium, the All England Lawn Tennis club at Wimbledon and the O2 Arena.

Simon Light, GHD's executive managing director for EMEA,



■ Movement Strategies' services include crowd dynamics and people movement analysis



GHD and Movement Strategies provide a complementary fit

Simon Light

said the deal would better meet the changing needs of clients and communities by integrating strategic advisory, technical service excellence and digital solutions.

"The complexity of challenges in the natural and built environment are driving a need for a deeper understanding of issues being faced," Light said.

"We believe that the integration of data-led consultancy and leading

technical services delivered by exceptional people – and through digital technologies – will best deliver the needs of our clients.

"GHD and Movement Strategies provide a highly complementary fit, further strengthening our ability to deliver a positive impact in all our communities."

The merger will add 35 team members to the 600 GHD staff in Europe.

READ MORE **ONLINE**



DIARY

24 FEBRUARY 2020 SAPCA Annual Conference, Awards and Annual Dinner

St George's Park Burton Upon Trent, Staffordshire

The main event for the UK's sports and play construction industry. The one-day conference features a number of keynote speeches, breakout sessions and panel debates. The gala dinner will feature the revealing of the annual SAPCA Award winners.

www.sapca.org.uk

23-25 MARCH 2020

AMI's Artificial Grass

Hilton Hotel, Barcelona, Spain
AMI's Artificial Grass, formally The Grass
Yarn & Tufters Forum, is now in its 14th
year. The well-respected conference
focuses on technical and commercial
developments in the artificial grass/
synthetic turf supply-chain.

www.amiconferences.com

25-26 MARCH 2020

active-net 2020

Eastwood Hall, Nottingham
The event will comprise of inspiring educational sessions, productive one-to-one meetings, a range of networking opportunities and a gala dinner.

www.active-net.org

25 MARCH 2020

The Perfect Storm in Sports 4.0

Middlesex University, The Burroughs,

The Burroughs, London, UK

A part of the university's Distinguished Lecture Series, the Perfect Storm 4.0 will be delivered by John Grisby, professor in Practice of Leadership and Management at Grey Matter Global. The talk will prepare and shift sports businesses and leaders from pre-digital age skills '3.0' to digital age '4.0'.

www.mdx.ac.uk



30-31 OCTOBER 2020

Saltex

NEC, Birmingham
The leading turf management

event for groundscare volunteers, professionals and manufacturers. SALTEX is one of the fastest growing trade shows in the UK and is the annual one-stop-shop for thousands of individuals working to install, manage and maintain outdoor leisure spaces – from sports grounds to leisure facilities.

www.iogsaltex.com

19-24 APRIL 2020

SportAccord

Beijing, China

SportAccord is the world sport and business summit. It is focused on driving positive change internationally and dedicated to engaging and connecting; international federations, rights holders, organising committees, cities, press and media, businesses and other organisations involved in the development of sport.

www.sportaccord.sport

17-18 JUNE 2020

Elevate

ExCeL London

The event attracts thousands of decision makers from independent and multi-site operators – such as sports clubs and universities – to source the latest equipment.

www.elevatearena.com

01-02 OCTOBER 2020

(PAF) The Physical Activity Facilities Forum

Whittlebury Hall, Northants

Now in its sixth year, the PAF Forum
attracts more than 50 supplier delegate
companies. Participants have the
opportunity to meet with a mix of
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of pre-selected and pre-matched
20-minute meetings.

www.paf-forum.co.uk

17 NOVEMBER 2020

SAPCA Technical Meeting

Loughborough University, Holywell Park, Notts. A valuable educational event for the sports and play construction industry, with a programme of expert speakers, covering important topical issues.

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FINAL FEW SPACES REMAINING

24th to 25th March 2020 Eastwood Hall, Nottingham











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SUPPLIER NEWS

Suppliers tell Sport Management about their latest product, design and technology launches







■ The lighting system has improved visibility for customers outside daylight hours

JHP Electrical designs and installs Galaxy FD lighting system at Topgolf Watford



Adam Dukes, Topgolf Watford

READ MORE ONLINE HP Electrical has completed an installation at the Topgolf centre in Watford.

The company, which specialises in sports and recreational lighting solutions, removed all existing range lights and provided a new lighting design scheme.

The busy Topgolf Watford facility – which features 49 hitting bays over two floors – was looking to improve its existing system. JHP replaced the old system with Galaxy FD600 Sports Floodlights.

Adam Dukes, general manager of Topgolf Watford,

said: "From start to finish, the whole team was absolutely fantastic. The survey was done very quickly. Everything moved very fluidly from start to finish.

"The installation itself was efficient, professional and hassle-free and ever since the follow-up service we've received has been second to none.

"I would describe our old range lights as just about adequate. I guess I didn't really realise how much better they could be until JHP installed the new system. The old ones were a bit dull and you couldn't see out to the far targets.

"Ever since the installation, the lighting out at the range is so much better. Previously we could see out to around the 160-yeard mark – now we can clearly see out to our black marker, which is just over 240 yards away.

"Our guests are already saying how much better the new lighting is and how much easier it is to see and track their shots."

SPORT-KIT KEYWORD

JHP ELECTRICAL

SUPPLIER NEWS

Gerflor installs Taraflex flooring at Sheffield school



Oak flooring was used for the gym floor



erflor has supplied the newly-built Astrea Academy in Sheffield – set to become one of the city's biggest schools – with two large sports floor solutions.

The project saw Gerflor supply 550sq m of its Taraflex Comfort vinyl sports flooring for the academy's sports hall, with a further 250sq m in Oak chosen for the gym area.

Taraflex Comfort was chosen as it offers the highest levels of comfort and shock absorption to prevent long-term injuries and immediate injuries on impact.



■ The school opted for a Taraflex Comfort surface in the sports hall

Astrea Academy opened its doors to a handful of students in September 2018. However, in seven years' time, it is set to become one of the city's biggest schools taking children from nursery age up to sixth form.

With the expected levels of growth came the need for vision and future-proofing for the school's infrastructure.

This included flooring for the all-important indoor sports facilities that the academy provides for both pupils and staff.

Luke Cropper, campus manager at Astrea Academy said, "We are extremely pleased with the Gerflor sports flooring."

SPORT-KIT KEYWORD

GERFLOR

Mark Harrod helps Wolves roll out 'wheelie good' goals



olverhampton Wanderers
FC has completed a major
investment project at its
two main venues – Molineux
Stadium and the Sir Jack
Hayward academy training
centre. The upgrades were
needed following the club's
promotion to the English
Premier League in 2018.

At the centre of the works has been the development of the training centre. As part of the project, Wolves took delivery of pioneering DevoShift training goals, supplied by Mark Harrod.

Two years in development, the DevoShift is intended to roll out on to synthetic and highquality pitches, allowing site



■ The DEvoShift goals can be pushed around easily into any direction



Wayne Lumbard (left)

personnel to steer a full-sized goal through access gates with minimal fuss and resources.

"Mark Harrod had developed the concept of a goal, designed to use on synthetic pitches, and wanted to trial it," said Wolves head groundsman Wayne Lumbard. "We were delighted to put the product through its paces, as I believe that latest generation synthetic pitches deserve latest technology goals."

Lumbard adds that the trial was successful. "For groundsmen, this goal is a no-brainer," he said.

"Two people can quickly and easily swivel and push the DevoShift goals in any direction, not just forwards and backwards, as with current equipment."

The new goals are designed to be fully compliant with the new European Standard BSEN16579.

To read more about the new standard, see p. 30.

SPORT-KIT KEYWORD

MARK HARROD









For the first time, we are able to compare perceptions and experiences of disabled people to non-disabled people

Barry Horne, CEO, Activity Alliance





EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

A new study has revealed that four in five disabled people want to be more physically active – but feel that their needs aren't catered for

our in five (81 per cent)
disabled people want to be
more physically active – but are
unable to, as the demand for
their needs is not being met
by operators. The figure comes from
the latest Annual Disability and Activity
Survey, published by the Activity Alliance,
which offers an in-depth comparison
of disabled and non-disabled adults'
experiences of sport and activity.

Less than half (40 per cent) of disabled people feel they are given the opportunities they need to be active, compared to 71 per cent of non-disabled people. Meanwhile, less than a third of disabled people (32 per cent) agree that organised sport is for someone like them – compared to 63 per cent of non-disabled thinking the same.

The revelations come after figures from Sport England revealed that disabled



■ The report's recommendations include a call for the sports sector to challenge perceptions through inclusive and accessible communications

people are twice as likely to be inactive as those without impairments.

To tackle the issues, the report makes three recommendations for sport, health and other sectors to work towards. These are to address the wider determinants of inactivity, to design and lead a choice of accessible activities and to challenge perceptions through inclusive and accessible communications.

"For the first time, we are able to compare perceptions and experiences of disabled people to non-disabled people," said Barry Horne, CEO for Activity Alliance.

"This is a first new step in gathering a snapshot of real life for a huge number of people in our population.

"We want to achieve fairness for disabled people in sport and activity, a position where disabled people are as active as non-disabled people. The findings provide robust insight to Activity





We are all too aware that there's an unacceptably high gap in activity levels between disabled and non-disabled people



Alliance and our partners. This report will be key to helping us – as well as others – to begin changing the reality of disability, inclusion and sport."

Tim Hollingsworth, CEO of Sport England, added: "At Sport England we are all too aware that there's an unacceptably high gap in activity levels between disabled and non-disabled people, and that despite a desire to be more active, many disabled people are missing out on the range of benefits that can be gained through physical activity.

"Activity Alliance's first Annual Survey increases our insight into this issue and throws down a challenge to all in the physical activity sector: to use this new understanding to make sure that far more disabled people can get physically active in a way that is right for them.

"It's a challenge that personally I know we must take up." lacktriangle



■ Less than half of disabled people feel they are given the opportunities they need to be active







INCLUSIVE ACTIVITIES

People from BAME backgrounds 'far less likely' to be physically active



■The report is described as the most comprehensive ever picture of how people from BAME communities are taking part in sport and physical activity

eople from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds are still far less likely to be physically active – despite efforts to tackle the deep-rooted inequalities in activity levels.

The issue has been laid bare in a new report, which also shows that BAME groups are also far less likely to volunteer in sport and enjoy the benefits associated with it.

The report, Sport for all - why ethnicity and culture matters in sport and physical activity, is described as the most comprehensive ever picture of how people from BAME communities are taking part in sport and physical activity. It has been drawn from the survey responses of more than 100,000 people who contributed to the most recent Active Lives Adult and Children Surveys. Published by Sport England, the report shows that, presently, 62 per cent of adults in England meet the



Those from a "mixed" white and Asian background are the most active adults of all – with 74.6 per cent classed as active



Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) guidelines of 150 minutes of physical activity a week. However, just 56 per cent of Black people and 55.1 per cent of Asian people (excluding Chinese) reach this figure.

The differences in activity levels are even greater when looking at ethnic sub-groups.

According to the report, less than half of adults from a Pakistani (48.8 Per cent) and Bangladeshi (49.6 per cent) background currently meet the CMO guidelines. However, those from a "mixed" white and Asian background are the most active adults of all – with 74.6 per cent classed as physically active.

Speaking at a special conference to promote the research in Birmingham Sport England board member and former CEO of Sported Chris Grant said the results of the report show that it is vitally important to "work to close the ethnicity gap in sport participation".



 $\blacksquare \text{There remains huge differences between activity levels between different ethnicity groups}$

"I'm convinced that sport must be a leader, and not a follower," he said.

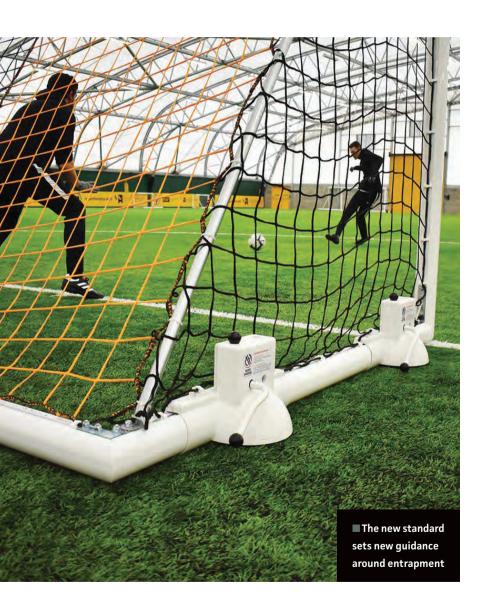
"That's why I want to invite and challenge the whole of sport to come with us on this journey, and in doing so to be clear-sighted and honest about the ways in which we're currently excluding and letting down whole swathes of our population.

"When it suits us, we're happy to talk about the leadership role that sport can play; its capacity to inspire a nation or to transform lives. No other aspect of national life has so many column inches and broadcast hours devoted to it. But there's an elevated level of discomfort when talking about race and culture in sport and we need to get beyond this."



BETWEEN THE POSTS

There is a new safety standard in town for goalposts – but what does it mean?





There is no need for facility owners and operators to automatically replace their existing goalposts



new European standard has come into force, designed to improve safety of football goalposts. The BSEN16579 standard is set to replace two older standards – BS 8462 and BS 8461.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

The biggest change is new criteria that allows mid-weight goals to comply to a recognised standard. This will give consumers a choice. They can opt for strong and robust goals, which are very heavy, or go for less robust but lighter goals. The latter are possibly more appropriate for secured sites where misuse can be controlled.

Another big change is the guidance around entrapment. The new standard aims to eliminate all danger of finger, head, and neck entrapments.

This in mind, the width of the opening/channel often found on the back of aluminium goals will no longer be allowed to be between 8mm and 25mm to avoid finger entrapment. Meanwhile, the maximum size of the football net mesh has been reduced from 120mm to 100mm in order to avoid head entrapment. The new guidelines are based on standards devised for gymnastic equipment (BS EN 913) and are also very similar to existing standards for playground equipment (BS EN 1176).

Another major aspect is the inclusion of wheels in the new standard. Until now, wheels have been seen as accessories and weren't necessarily tested. Now,



as wheels are included in the standard, they too will have to undergo a testing process – if they are supplied as part of a transportation system.

The new standard will also cover rugby posts. This is significant, as there has never before been a safety standard for rugby posts.

The new standard replaces the old ones (BS 8461 and BS 8462) and will sit alongside the existing BS EN 748 standard. The BS EN 748 will continue to be used for senior and 5m x 2m goalposts over 42kg in total weight, while the new standard will cover every other size of goal – such as junior goals (21ftx7ft) and the 12ftx6ft mini soccer goals and senior and 5 x 2m goals under 42kg.

FOR OPERATORS

The changes are currently being adopted by manufacturers, with a number of SAPCA member companies already having completed a redesign of product lines. If a facility operator wishes to receive Football Association (FA) support for a project, new goalposts being bought will need to

BS EN 16579 at a glance

Why is there a new standard?

Up until 2018, individual countries across Europe had their own standards unique to each country. The new standard will now allow free trade within Europe. It is worth noting that Brexit does not affect the status of the standards.

Are there still two standards for football goals?

Yes. The existing BS EN 748 will still outline the requirements for senior and 5m x 2m goalposts over 42kg. The BS EN 16579 will be in place for all other football goals – such as junior goals which are 21ftx7ft and the 12ftx6ft mini soccer goals.

have been tested by an independent test laboratory to demonstrate compliance.

The good news is that the FA has issued a statement, confirming that the governing body still considers goals certified to the previous standards as "good". Therefore, there is no need for facility owners and operators to automatically replace their existing goalposts, providing that the usual, regular inspections are carried out.

However, as manufacturers are updating their products in line with the new standards, buyers of new goalposts should ensure that they are certified to BS EN 16579 (or BS EN 748 depending on the type).

While the new standards aren't enshrined in law, operators have a duty of care to their clients and SAPCA recommends that all facility equipment conforms to the latest standards.

The easiest way to ensure any newly purchased goalposts conform to the latest standards is to choose a SAPCA member company and ask for advice on each individual product.

Collaborative Leadership

aving moved out of government and into the arena of public policymaking, I've become fascinated by the need for a better understanding and implementation of a collaborative leadership model within the sport and physical activity sector.

Collaborative leadership is a management practice that aims to bring managers, executives and staff out of their silos and, instead, work together.

In collaborative workplaces, information is shared organically and everyone takes responsibility for the whole.

WORKING TOGETHER

Time after time I hear the sector ask the government for a joined-up approach and cross-departmental working. I fully endorse this, but it's hard to make the case when the sector still seems way too fractured.

The sector's reaction to a government funding announcement should be "how do we, as a sector, most effectively work together and use the money to provide a solution" – not "how do we, as an individual organisation, get our hands on the money". I have witnessed the latter personally in some of the roles I've held.

It's important to realise that, as we move into a wider policy remit, which covers sport and physical activity, our competitors are not others in our sector – but those competing for our audience time and money. The Sport England strategy consultation only confirms the direction of travel. We are here to change the system, as well as to deliver 'activity' ourselves. In fact, I argue consistently that shifting transport and planning policy will have the biggest impact on our physical activity levels – rather than the direct investment in sport

The money available for direct investment in sport through the DCMS and its NDPBs is minuscule – about the same as the NHS spends in a day. Therefore





Our competitors are not the others in our sector – but those competing for the audience, time and money of our sector

Andy Reed, founder, Sports Think Tank

talk of whole-system thinking and the ecosystem become more important.

Our system is complex and yet all interrelated. I make the case consistently that we need to be working collaboratively at two levels.

Firstly, we need to do it within the sector. I'm in a fortunate position, hovering above the entire sector with a helicopter view. And I have to be honest – while things are better at a leadership level, they're not improving quickly enough through the whole system.

Secondly, we need to learn to collaborate much better with those outside of our sector – and those that we need to influence. We need a level of humility when approaching other agendas. The extended workforce put in place by Sport England should give us a valuable resource and lots of lessons.

US President Harry Truman once said that it is "amazing what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit" – and he was right. If we create an environment where collaborative leadership is the norm, we can achieve so much more.



■Working together will create better opportunities for physical activity at all levels

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