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Zoe Gillings, British Olympic snowboarder

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Making it safe

Sports facility designers rarely make the headlines, but the tragic death of Georgian luge competitor Nodar Kumaritashvili at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver has brought facility design and the practices and policies which drive it, right into the public eye for the very saddest reason.

There will be an inquiry to establish exactly what happened, but as we go to press, opinion seems divided, with some saying the course was safe, attributing the accident to an error made by Kumaritashvili and portraying him as an inexperienced competitor. Others echo the view of Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili, who said that even if a mistake was made: "One thing I know for sure is that no sports mistakes should lead to a death, no sports mistakes are supposed to be fatal." Kumaritashvili, far from being an inexperienced competitor, was a veteran of five world championships and ranked 44 in the world. He died when he flew off the course at 90mph and hit a post during training.

While it's understandable that the IOC and the Vancouver organising committee will want to distance themselves from any claims of liability resulting from this death, there's a wider debate to be had about how far and fast sports facility design develops and how much we push it in pursuit of records.

Many sports take place within fixed environments which are constructed to exact tolerances to ensure consistency and the only major developments which take place in these sports are those delivered by improvements in athletic performance, in technique or in equipment design and construction.

Sports like the luge rely on records being set by the achievement of a top speed rather than a speed measured over a given distance, but are we pushing facility design too fast in pursuit of records?

The majority of winter sports, however, are played out in facilities which vary on a competition by competition basis, making comparisons difficult – it's simply who's fastest on that course on that day. We can't ultimately know whether the gold medallist in the downhill skiing in one Olympic Games is a better skier than the medallist in the following Games, because there can be no consistency in the course when variables such as natural terrain, snow or ice conditions and the weather dictate the challenge.

As a result of this, sports like the luge rely on some world records being set by the achievement of a top speed, rather than just a speed measured over a given distance and one of the aims of the designer is to create a 'fast course' where records can be broken. One question to be asked about Vancouver is whether the design of the course pushed too far too quickly. Were the athletes ready for a course that challenging and were enough allowances made in the design to accommodate errors if any were made?

The course is incredibly fast, with competitors reaching world record speeds of 154mph and a number of other crashes happened in training before the accident occurred.



The luge is a dangerous sport and of all the things that could go wrong, flying off the top of a wall is one of the most obvious, yet at the point where Kumaritashvili left the track, the safety wall had been cut down to a lower level, while the metal posts next to the track had been left unpadding.

In situations where facility design is going up a gear to push for world records and to take a sport forward, extra safety features need to be built in to avoid accidents having serious consequences. Facility designers have a clear responsibility to ensure that the fatal combination of factors which led to Kumaritashvili's death can never be repeated and that failsafes are built into the design of all extreme sports facilities in the future.

Liz Terry, editor lizterry@leisuremedia.com

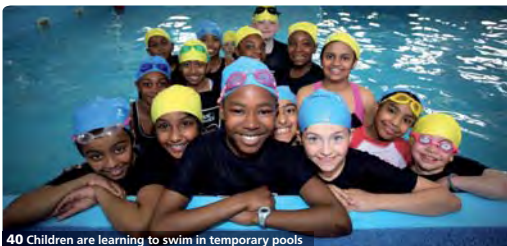
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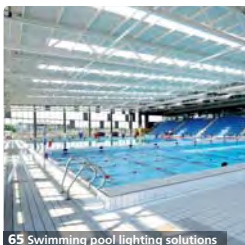
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SAPCA

Sports Management is the official magazine of the Sports and Play Construction Association (SAPCA), the trade body for the UK's sports facility construction industry. Sports Management and SAPCA work in partnership to promote high standards in the design, construction and maintenance of UK sports facilities

Measuring the impact of sport

As the use of sport as a policy tool for crime reduction, education and health promotion becomes increasingly widespread across Europe, there's a need for sport-based organisations to measure the impact their initiatives have on communities – particularly during this current climate when public spending is under great scrutiny.

To address this, Nottingham Trent University's School of Education is working with Notts County's Football in the Community Team to review, design and develop a new monitoring and evaluation tool which can be used to assess the impacts of sport-based initiatives.

The team will be drawing on the experiences of the Football in the Community staff, observing community activities and outreach work and interviewing funding groups to get their perspective on what they're looking for. It's hoped that once this toolkit is complete, it can be rolled out for wider use and help organisations to provide solid evidence of the positive impacts of their work on the community.

Dr David Hindley – sports governance expert
School of Education, Nottingham Trent University



Nottingham Trent University will evaluate Notts County's Football in the Community scheme

A helping hand for community-run pools

I believe that swimming will continue to play a unique role in UK society. It remains the most popular participation sport and has the potential to impact on the government's target towards the London 2012 legacy to increase by two million the number of active people in the UK. However, accessibility is key to this objective so it's important to have an affordable network of quality swimming pools, which are managed to meet the expectations and needs of the population.

While modern, well-equipped pools encourage public use, retaining sustained loyalty calls for a modern

management approach where the customer is at the heart of the decision making process. Pool operators who adopt this approach should be able to grow their businesses, but due to the high energy consumption related to pool operation, some facilities up and down the country have been forced to close.

The threat of closure, however, is galvanizing some communities into action. While not the only solution, we could see more communities taking ownership of and operating pools in the future.

With this in mind, the ASA and the Asset Transfer Unit (the provider of expert advice on the transfer of underused

land and buildings) are working to help local communities realise the benefits of running their own facility rather than see its doors closed.

The ASA has produced *Guidance for Community Owned and Managed Swimming Pools* – a document inspired by the stories of facilities such as the Portishead open-air pool in North Somerset, to show how running your own pool is possible.

The document offers advice on how best to establish a trust, considers the processes which will lead to success and explains how to avoid some of the pitfalls.

We hope this guide and the case studies and resources it includes, will inspire community groups as well as provide links to relevant sources of advice and funding. Visit www.swimming.org/communitypools to view the document.

David Sparkes, chief executive
The ASA

“**The ASA and the Asset Transfer Unit are helping local communities to realise the benefits of running their own facility, rather than seeing its doors closed**”

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John Goodbody reports on

The National Facilities Inquiry

As a new inquiry into the state of sports facilities in the UK gets underway, it's salutary to look back exactly 50 years to the *Woffenden Report 1960* and to see just how far we've come, or not come, in the half-century since its publication. The *Woffenden Report* has shaped many of the outlines of British sport since 1960 and certainly prompted the impetus towards the building of indoor centres in the 1960s and 1970s, which were previously so lacking for public provision.

However, one sentence from the report caught my eye, which seems as true then as it is today. When discussing playing fields, it states: "There must not only be an adequate acreage of grounds, they must also be in the right place." I'll be surprised if the new independent Facilities Inquiry, for which the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) is providing the Secretariat, does not reach exactly the same conclusion. And there is very little anyone can do about it.

New playing fields, or in many cases artificial pitches, cannot be put down in inner cities, where, of course, they are most needed. Frequently however, town and city suburbs have a surplus of grass pitches – those that over the last 50 years have not already been built on.

It is particularly topical that this inquiry, chaired by John Inverdale, the TV presenter, should be coming out in May because simultaneously the government is about to issue its own PPG Note 17 on facilities, with a consultation period of 12 weeks, although any action will almost certainly be delayed until after the General Election.

The *Woffenden Report* hailed the arrival of floodlights, which were just beginning to have an impact on sports such as professional football, although seldom, because of the cost at that time, at grass-roots level. Their subsequent installation at sports centres has



“There are thousands of tennis courts and artificial pitches which could be used in the evening, if only they could be lit”

transformed the playing of football, tennis and hockey. However, their use could be even more widespread but for the difficulties of getting planning permission for their installation. There are thousands of tennis courts and artificial pitches which could be used in the evenings, if only they could be lit.

There is a strong view that one way forward would be to allow floodlights in such circumstances without applying for planning permission, but allow objections on their installation to be considered by the local authority. In other words, the onus would be shifted to the objectors. Another way to increase use is to have temporary floodlights, which can be erected without planning permission. The light spill from both permanent and temporary floodlights is, in any case, now more restricted than it was even 20 years ago and so disturbs neighbours less than hitherto.

Of course, the building of sports centres does require planning permission and I believe that other countries in Europe seem to enjoy greater flexibility than is the case in Britain. Both public

bodies and private companies have often lamented the difficulties of putting up indoor tennis centres or multi-purpose halls.

Another area that the inquiry will examine is whether the facilities that exist are being used sufficiently, such as those in schools when the pupils have left the premises. The answer is almost certainly no. Some of the best facilities in the country are in schools, particularly in the independent sector.

The inquiry will find that the quality of facilities is crucial in persuading people to take part in physical activity and continue to do so. Dilapidated premises are not likely to attract people, which is why private health clubs put such a premium on appearances. The inquiry has announced that it wants to look at how local authority centres can attract new users, something that will help Sport England reach its target of an extra one million people participating in physical activity.

One wonders whether the inquiry will suggest that local sports facilities be free? We await its conclusions with interest. ● *John Goodbody has covered 12 successive Olympic Games for the Sunday Times*

Sutcliffe: Clubs missing out on tax benefits

Sports minister Gerry Sutcliffe has called on thousands of amateur sports clubs across the UK to join the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) scheme in a bid to benefit from major tax savings.

More than 5,500 sports clubs are currently registered with the CASC initiative, which has saved organisations more than £60m in tax relief over the past seven years and is designed to provide more money to drive a sporting legacy post-2012. Launched via the 2002 Finance Act, the CASC scheme enables amateur sports clubs that meet certain eligibility criteria to receive mandatory business rate relief for 80 per cent of total rates bills and the potential to reclaim Gift Aid on donations.

Sutcliffe said: "It is great that we have signed up more than 5,500 clubs to the Community Amateur Sports Club scheme and that many sports clubs are reaping the benefits it brings. But there are thousands of clubs out there that are missing out.



More than 5,500 clubs are currently on the CASC scheme

"Sports clubs will play a crucial role in helping us reach our goal of getting two million people more active by 2013. Being part of the scheme means that clubs will have more funds at their disposal to help increase participation." Brigid Simmonds, chair of the Central

Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), added: "Through registering as a CASC, clubs can keep the money they have raised in the community. That means it can be reinvested in kit, in coaching and in facilities – all for the good of local sport."

Work set to start on £3m Thame facility

The Thame Football Partnership has announced that work is set to start later this month on the construction of a new £3m community football centre at Church Farm in Thame, Oxfordshire.

Plans for the 20-acre (8.1-hectare) site boast nine pitches, including floodlit main and artificial pitches.

When completed, the venue will become the new home of the Thame Boys, Youth and Girls Football Club and Thame United Football Club (TUFC).

More than four years of work has gone into the development of the proposals, which has seen Thame Football Partnership work with consultants Sports Solutions GB and a range of other local delivery partners and funding organisations.

Thame Town Council, the Football Foundation and South Oxfordshire District Council have all contributed towards the scheme, as well as capital



The venue has been in planning for more than four years

released from residential planning permission granted at the former home of TUFC.

Oxfordshire County Council has provided a long lease for the majority of the land for a nominal rent in order to help progress the scheme, which is now set for completion in the autumn. Details: thamefootball.co.uk

Olympic chiefs seek views over ExCeL plans

Plans to stage seven Olympic and six Paralympic events at the ExCeL conference venue in London's Docklands during the 2012 Games have gone on public display.

People are being given the chance to comment on the proposals before the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) submits its planning application to Newham Council in February.

The seven Olympic events due to be staged at ExCeL include boxing, fencing, judo, table tennis and taekwondo, as well as weightlifting and wrestling. The six Paralympic events include boccia, judo, powerlifting and table tennis, as well as volleyball and fencing.

LOCOG chair Sebastian Coe said: "ExCeL is an important venue for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games."

Football centre plans unveiled

Plans for the development of a new National Football Centre (NFC) on a 330-acre (133.5-hectare) site near Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, have been unveiled by the Football Association (FA).

Kit supplier and national team sponsor Umbro is working alongside the national governing body on the venture, which will see the new facility named St George's Park in a bid to reflect the national identity of the site.

It is anticipated that the new St George's Park centre will enable the FA to deliver its coach education agenda, as well as providing a learning, training and development site for refereeing, administration, sports science and medical disciplines.



The centre will be used by the FA for all national team training

England's 22 FA-supported football squads – including the senior team – will use the complex as a training base, which will include 12 full-size pitches and a multi-purpose sports hall. A 150-bed, four-star hotel and an 80-bed, three-star

hotel are also planned as part of the NFC scheme, as well as a regional conference venue, a banqueting suite and training and seminar rooms.

The sports hall will boast facilities for Futsal and partially-sighted football.

£30m community sports hub planned for Warrington

Warrington Borough Council (WBC) has given final planning permission for the £30m Orford Park Project.

Billed as one of the UK's first sustainable community sports hubs, the Orford Park Project will be located in a Super Output Area, already regarded as an example of best practice in promoting joint service delivery, health and wellbeing.

When completed, the centre will provide a variety of community, health and education facilities including a community sports village complete with pools,



The centre will provide a variety of sports facilities

sports hall, health and fitness suite, football pitches, library, health centre, and a £3.9m 14-19 Diploma Centre.

Scheduled to open in November 2011, Orford Park is expected to have two million visitors each year.

The development will be funded in partnership by the Northwest Regional Development Agency, Sport England North West Region, the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery Fund, as well as the Department for Children, Schools and Families through the Building Schools for the Future programme.

RFL UNVEILS NEW COACHING INITIATIVE FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES

A new initiative has been launched in a bid to encourage members of black and minority ethnic (BME) and faith communities to sign up to rugby league coaching.

The Rugby Football League (RFL) has teamed up with Sporting Equals in order to offer the new Level One certificate in Coaching Rugby League, which aims to provide partici-

pants with an introduction to working with adult and junior teams.

Cliff Simms, a sports consultant with Sporting Equals, said: "We want to engage and promote positive initiatives to tackle race and faith inequalities, change attitudes and cultures to participation in all sports and ultimately develop a fair and representative sporting nation."

Sarah Williams, RFL equality and diversity manager, added: "The purpose of the low cost Level One coaching initiative is to reach these under-represented groups and encourage them to be involved in our game."

The coaching initiative, which costs £25 per candidate, will take place on 27 March and 10 April at a yet to be confirmed venue in Yorkshire.



Darwen's new £12.7m leisure complex is now open

New centre set to open in Darwen

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (BDBC) officially opened a brand new £12.7m leisure complex in Darwen, Lancashire, to the public on 29 January.

The new three-storey centre incorporates a 25m, eight-lane swimming pool with a Sport England-funded moveable floor, a small pool, an 80-station gym, a multi-purpose fitness studio and a multi-use sports hall.

More than £250,000 has been invested in equipment for the centre's new gym and the creation of a new health suite, including a sauna, steamroom and a massage, aromatherapy and treatment area.

The venue's main swimming pool has been designed to competition standard and is equipped with electronic timing equipment, a video and results scoreboard and a spectator area capable of seating 250 people.



Council approves Parc Eirias proposals

A major new Centre of Excellence for sport, leisure and culture is set to be established at Parc Eirias in Colwyn Bay, North Wales, after plans were given the green light by the local authority.

Planning officials at Conwy County Borough Council have given the go-ahead for the new facility, which will boast a rugby training pitch, a 2,000-seat grandstand, team changing facilities, a weights room and floodlights, as well as car parking.

The Parc Eirias development will provide a home for the new North Wales Rugby regional team.

University sports centre proposals unveiled

A new indoor sports and multi-purpose arena is set to be developed on the site of a derelict former fruit and vegetable market under plans unveiled by the University of Worcester.

Planning permission is now being sought by the university to transform the Hylton Road site on the outskirts of the city into a new dual-use facility to be used by both students and the local community.

The university will also acquire land adjacent to the market site, which will be redeveloped to include new teaching facilities and additional car parking space.

David Green, vice chancellor, said: "We've long hoped to be able to develop a major indoor sports and multi-purpose arena."

£21m leisure centre opens in Bletchley

Bletchley Leisure Centre – a new £21m health and leisure complex near Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire – has opened to the public.

Bedford-based contractor SDC Builders started construction work on the Holder Mathias Architects-designed centre in April 2008 as part of a wider multi-million pound scheme to improve Bletchley, led by Milton Keynes Council.

Facilities at the new Bletchley Leisure Centre, which replaces the town's former complex, include a 780sq m (8,396sq ft), fitness suite equipped with 100 pieces of Matrix Fitness Systems machines and a free weights area.

An eight-lane, 25m swimming pool; a sauna and steamroom; a six-court sports hall; four squash courts and a seven-rink bowls facility also form part of the site, along with a gymnastics hall, a multi-purpose hall and a café.

In addition to the new centre, as part of the scheme work has been carried



The centre boasts a 25m swimming pool and a six-court sports hall

out on the public street to create a plaza between Elizabeth Square and the building's entrance.

The scheme has been funded by section 106 contributions, the MK Tariff initiative and government contributions, as well as match funding from a number of sports agencies, including Sport England.

Regional voice in grassroots sport

The government's drive to get a million people playing more sport is to be promoted by nine new champions, one for each region in England.

The Regional Champions for Community Sport will act as advocates for grassroots sport and Sport England's plans to increase participation.

They will help to develop and take forward local partnerships that improve sports provision and take-up, as well as securing continued investment for grassroots initiatives.

Announcing the move, sports minister Gerry Sutcliffe named the appointees as Stephen Castle (East of England), Manjula Sood (East Midlands), Shaun Dawson (London), Peter Rowley (North East), Pam Jervis (North West), John Cove (South East), Tim Coventry (South West),



The new appointments are aimed at increasing grass roots participation

Dave Long (West Midlands), and Yuri Matischen (Yorkshire and Humber). Each will be expected to commit an average of half a day a week to their new roles.

Sutcliffe said: "Our new champions have an important role in taking forward the spirit of partnership that is essential to making our aim of getting many more people playing sport a success."

INDUSTRY COMMENT



Baroness Sue Campbell CBE, chair, Youth Sport Trust

Fifteen years ago the Youth Sport Trust was established as an independent charity with a mission to build a brighter future for young people through PE and sport. Working with partners across the public, commercial and charitable sectors, we set out to create a world-leading system that reached all young people.

Since then, there has undoubtedly been a significant transformation; more young people are participating, leading and performing in school sport than at any point in our history. Investment from central government and lottery sources will exceed £2.4bn between 2003-2011 and there has been significant additional resource from local councils and across the private sector.

The recent 2010 Sports Colleges Conference, enjoyed by 2,000 head teachers and key-decision-makers in sport and education, showcased this transformation, which has often been referred to as a 'quiet revolution'. The challenge now is to make some noise about the great things that are happening.

While it is important to recognise and celebrate progress, we need to make further advances, and at a faster pace, if we are to reach every young person and ensure they experience the very best PE and school sport has to offer.

The spotlight now shining on school sport is a result of this progress and a growing belief that PE and sport can make a major contribution to many agendas; educational achievement, public health, community cohesion and, of course, sporting performance at the highest level.

New sports complex for Rochdale

Plans for a major new swimming pool and sports complex in Rochdale, Lancashire, have taken a step forward after the local authority set aside £8.2m for the scheme.

The new facility will replace the outdated Rochdale Baths on Entwisle Road, forming part of a wider £33.8m capital programme announced by Rochdale Borough Council in July 2007 to coincide

with the launch of cultural trust Lin-k4Life. Other projects forming part of the capital programme include the £14m Middleton Arena, which opened in January 2009; a £300,000 extension to Hollingworth Lake Water Activity Centre; an £80,000 upgrade at Bowlee Park Sports Centre and the construction of the £10.3m Sports, Culture and Leisure Village in Heywood.

UNIVERSITY REVEALS SPORTS CENTRE PLANS

Plans for the development of a new multi-million pound sports complex on the site of the University of Oxford's existing Iffley Road facility have been unveiled at a new public consultation.

Designed by FaulknerBrowns Architects, the project will see the Iffley Road centre overhauled to provide facilities for more than 80 indoor sports, while the existing swimming pool will be integrated into the main venue.

The university has already received approval from Oxford City Council

(OCC) for the development of a new tennis centre but is now aiming to gather comments on the sports centre proposals before submitting a planning application in spring.

Proposed facilities at the new Iffley Road complex will include one double-sized and one single-sized sports hall linked by a timber and glass structure. This structure will house the main entrance and atrium foyer, a two-storey gym, a café/restaurant and multi-use sport rooms.



Pools set to close in council savings drive

Swimming pools at Shelton and Tunstall in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, are facing closure as part of efforts to help the local authority reduce expenditure over the next three years.

Stoke-on-Trent City Council (STCC) is also proposing that classes run at the city's Gymnastic Centre are moved to Dimensions Leisure Centre in a bid to base leisure provision on "quality rather than quantity".

Councillor Derek Capey said: "These are difficult decisions but they have to be made."



The centre's facilities include a martial arts studio

£9m centre opens in Cumbernauld

A new £9m sports and leisure complex, which is scheduled to be used as a venue at the 2011 International Children's Games, has opened to the public in Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire.

Designed by Edinburgh-based JM Architects, the two-storey Broadwood Sport and Leisure Centre was delivered by Mansell – part of the London-based Balfour Beatty Group – adjacent to Clyde Football

Club's (CFC) existing 8,000-seat stadium. Facilities at the 3,800sq m (40,903sq ft) centre include a 90-station fitness suite and a spinning studio equipped by Technogym, two aerobics studios and a multi-purpose, four-court sports hall, which can cater for a range of indoor sports.

There is also a three-level soft play area – designed for babies, toddlers and older children; a martial arts studio and beauty treatment and therapy rooms.

Grassroots football hub for Hackney

The Hackney Marshes are to be developed and transformed to house a new grassroots football hub as part of the London Borough of Hackney Council's redevelopment plan for the area.

Ireland-based John Sisk & Sons has been appointed to deliver the £5.7m facility, to be called Marsh Community Hub when it opens in late 2010.

The project includes improvement works on the existing pitches, a new, full-size artificial turf pitch, a footbridge over the River Lea to connect the East and South Marshes and a large, multi-use pavilion and clubhouse. The new building will include community and spectator facilities on the first floor, with changing rooms located at ground-floor level with provision for disabled players.

Scotstoun stadium reopens

The Scotstoun Stadium in Glasgow has been officially reopened by HRH The Princess Royal following a £17.6m redevelopment of the facility.

New amenities at the venue include a 5,000-capacity grandstand, new indoor athletics training facilities, an indoor 100m running track, grass and all-weather pitches and a new fitness suite.

The existing outdoor 400m track has also been renovated and the café, foyer and reception areas extended.

Among those people expected to make use of the new facility are athletes in training for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The stadium will also become the training ground of the Glasgow Warriors rugby team as a result of a partnership between Scottish Rugby, Glasgow City Council and Sport Glasgow.

The Warriors will have access to a grass training pitch, a 3G all-weather



The new £17.6m centre was opened by HRH The Princess Royal

training pitch, a strength and conditioning suite, the 100m indoor running track, a physiotherapy suite, changing rooms, a player lounge and a meeting/video analysis room.

Approval for Knowsley centre

Knowsley Council has approved plans to build a new £16.1m leisure complex at the site of the St Thomas Becket School in Huyton, Merseyside.

Plans for the centre, to be called Knowsley Leisure and Culture Park, include two 25m indoor swimming pools, a six-court sports hall, a health and fitness club, squash courts, dance and exercise studios, a café and spa facilities.

One of the two pools will be built as an eight-lane competition pool with 300 spectator seats. There will also be extensive conferencing facilities capable of hosting a range of sporting and cultural events, including award ceremonies and arts performances.

The investment in the complex is part of the council's larger, £25m Leisure Fa-



Plans include a 25m swimming pool

cilities Strategy. Work will commence on site in Spring 2010 and the centre is due to open in Autumn 2011.

The planning application also included the creation of a £5m OurPlace youth facility, for which a funding application has been submitted to the Big Lottery Fund.

RUFC secures new stadium site

Rotherham United Football Club (RUFC) has confirmed that plans for a new multi-million pound stadium have taken a step forward as the club has acquired a site for the development.

The club, which competes in Coca-Cola Football League Two, currently plays its home matches at the Don Valley Stadium in Sheffield but is now set for a return to Rotherham after acquiring the former Guest and Chrimes Foundry site.

RUFC chair Tony Stewart said: "The former Guest & Chrimes Foundry site has now been confirmed, this is an ideal site for our new home back in Rotherham, it will also provide significant regeneration benefits and leave a legacy for the future."

New 'adiZone' set for Canvey Island

Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) has announced that it has secured funding for the development of a new outdoor multi-sports facility in Canvey Island, Essex.

The adiZone venue, which will be in the shape of the London 2012 Olympic logo, will feature basketball and football facilities, a tennis wall and an outdoor gym, as well as areas for dance, aerobics, martial arts and other activities.

CPBC has already received £75,000 from the adiZone Rollout Trust and £54,000 from the Veolia ES Cleanaway Pitsea Marshes Trust. The remaining £21,000 will come from savings from the council's budget.

Everton FC in fresh stadium talks

Everton Football Club (EFC) has confirmed that it has held "positive" discussions with Liverpool City Council (LCC) over potential sites for the future development of a new stadium.

The Premier League club is now looking at options within the city boundary after plans for a 50,000-seat venue at Kirkby as part of a joint scheme with Tesco were rejected by the government.

Improvements to the town centre, new leisure facilities, a new Tesco Extra store and a housing development were also included as part of the Destination Kirkby scheme, which was turned down by communities secretary John Denham despite the approval of Knowsley Council.

EFC warned in 2008 that the success of the Kirkby scheme was critical to ensure the club's future.

FUNDING BID FOR ST ALBANS LEISURE PLANS

St Albans City and District Council's (SACDC) bid to secure a £500,000 cash injection towards the new multi-million pound Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre development has moved to the next stage.

The local authority is now set to submit further details to support its funding bid as part of the government's Free Swimming Capital Modernisation Programme, administered by Sport England. An initial 173 applications from across the UK were made to

Sport England to receive a share of £10m earmarked by the government. The St Albans project is one of only 45 to move onto the second stage of the process.

When complete, the new Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre will include a 200-station fitness suite with a cycle spinning studio; a regional competition-sized 25m swimming pool; a 17m learner pool; a four-court sports hall; two exercise studios; a climbing wall and a soft play area.

Edgbaston revamp contractor named

Warwickshire County Cricket Club (WCCC) has appointed Uxbridge-based contractor Galliford Try to deliver the £24m redevelopment of Edgbaston stadium in Birmingham.

Work is expected to get underway in March 2010 and will see the stadium's seating capacity increase from almost 5,000 to 8,250.



CHESTER JOINS SPORT ENGLAND AS COO

Rona Chester, group finance director at the Law Society, has been appointed to the newly-created role of chief operations officer (COO) at Sport England.

Chester, who will take up her position on 1 March, will be responsible for the organisation's functional areas of finance, business planning, information technology and grants management.

Sport England CEO Jennie Price says: "This role sits at the heart of our organisation. With Rona's considerable experience in both the public and private sectors, I'm confident that we'll build upon the standards and momentum we've established over the past two years."

Sir Craig Reddie advises the UKAD

Sir Craig Reddie, one of the UK's top-ranking international sports officials, has been appointed as a special advisor by UK Anti-Doping (UKAD), the new independent drugs panel.

Reddie, a member of the International Olympic Committee's ruling Executive Board, chair of the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Finance and Administration Committee and former chair of the British Olympic Association, will offer advice and guidance to the new agency.

Reddie said: "The establishment of an independent national anti-doping organisation within the UK will serve



British sport well and remove any perceived conflict of interest. I look forward to helping progress this important part of the overall sport infrastructure."



HOLL IS CEO AT SCOTTISH ATHLETICS

Nigel Holl, director of netball at England Netball has been appointed chief executive of Scottish Athletics.

He replaces Geoff Wightman, the former British international marathon runner, who is leaving to take up a new role as the first managing director of British Road Running.

Holl, who has represented Scotland in international ultra-marathon events, helped to set up and establish the Scottish Institute of Sport, where he became programme manager. He has also worked for England Hockey and the All England Women's Hockey Association as director of coaching.



SPORT AWARDED IN NEW YEAR HONOURS

A number of people involved in the sport industry have been recognised in the Queen's New Year Honours list.

The list of notable sports figures is headed by Ian McGeechan, the former Scotland and British Lions rugby coach, who was knighted; while Phillip Darnon, the chair of British Cycling was given an OBE for services to transport, as was John Derbyshire, the racing manager and performance director of the Royal Yachting Association.

Gymnast Beth Tweddle (left) was awarded an MBE for winning her second World Gymnastics title and Andrew Wood, the manager and head coach

at the Ipswich Gymnastics Centre also received an MBE for his services to sport.

Another MBE recipient was six-times World Canoe Champion Anna Hemmings. She was told she would have to retire from elite sport in 2003, after being diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, however she resumed training two years later and went on to win National, European and World titles before retiring from the sport last year.

Jean Pickering, the 1946 European long jump champion and Olympic 80m hurdles bronze medalist in 1952, was awarded an MBE for services to athletics and the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund.

Building Better Businesses: event highlights

The Sports and Play Construction Association's (SAPCA) annual conference and dinner offered an excellent line-up of topical sessions and networking opportunities at the Holiday Inn in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Chaired by former Olympian and TV pundit David Moorcroft OBE, contributors at the 'Building Better Businesses'-themed conference included The Football Association, the Lawn Tennis Association, Partnerships for Schools, Sport Northern Ireland, WRAP, Citydesk Sport and Advantage West Midlands.

Former England manager Graham Taylor OBE was guest speaker at the dinner.



Graham Taylor, Chris Trickey and David Moorcroft



FA national facilities manager Mark Pover discusses the FA's strategy for sporting success



Dale Williams promotes 'lean thinking'



The meeting of minds



David Moorcroft and Tony Hession



Magic tricks at the dinner sponsored by Murfitts Industries



An opportunity for industry networking



Steve Shipperley and MC Charlie Dagnall

Karen Maxwell discusses the power of sport, developing partnerships, raising participation and the Timothy Dutton Enquiry with the chair of Sport England

Richard LEWIS



Richard Lewis' life revolves around sport. He plays tennis, he works out at the gym and enjoys walking and cycling when at home in Yorkshire. At work, he dons his rugby jersey for three days a week as chair of the Rugby Football League (RFL) and the other two days he's tasked with leading Sport England's mission, together with chief executive Jennie Price, to encourage a million more people to play sport regularly.

"I'm a great believer in the power of sport and its positive role in society," he enthuses. "It's an exciting and challenging time to be involved – particularly leading up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games."

His genuine enthusiasm and easy-going personality is a natural fit in this dynamic industry, but his proven track

record in turning a sports organisation around is a likely reason why he was invited to chair the government funding body in April last year.

Eighteen months earlier, Derek Mapp resigned the post in a row over Sport England's change of funding direction from active pastimes, to more traditional sports. In contrast, Lewis is a traditional sports advocate; bringing 30 years of management and development experience to the role. Following a career as an international tennis player and coach, he was appointed director of tennis at the Lawn Tennis Association from 1998 to 2000 before heading the RFL as executive chair from 2002 to 2009.

He still chairs the Rugby League European Federation and is deputy chair of the Rugby League International Federation, but he stood down from his executive duties at the RFL to become non-executive chair when he embarked on his four-year term at Sport England.

"It was basically a turnaround situation at the RFL," Lewis says. "It was in debt by £1.9m, a restructuring had taken place with a new board appointed and the chief executive and chair role was combined to give more authority. Coming from outside the sport, I think I was able to bring independence and, together with current CEO Nigel Wood, delivered stability to the organisation. Since 2002, the RFL's declared profits, it's more family-orientated, supported by sponsors that fit well within this market and has witnessed increased participation."

Partnerships

Lewis intends to mirror the RFL's success story during his tenure at Sport England. "I believe that stability is not only what Sport England needs but what sport needs in general," he explains. "The RFL gained a reputation as a good working partner with sponsors, government agencies and local authorities. What Sport England is particularly good at is bringing people together and creating partnerships for the benefit of sport in general – and this is the way forward if we want to deliver our targets. It can't be achieved alone. It requires different organisations to work together to deliver what everybody wants: more people playing more sport, more often."

Sport England is part of a strong sports administration partnership with UK Sport, the Youth Sport Trust and the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) – for which Lewis was previously chair of the Major Spectator Sports Division. According to Lewis, Sport England also boasts good relations with the current government and opposition parties so "if there's an issue to sort out it can be dealt with quietly behind closed doors" – although he's keen to stress the importance of "sticking to the current path, delivering what we've set out to do and not to chop and change".

With a general election just three months away, Lewis wants to keep to this course of action regardless of what political party gets into government. "It'll be up to us to respond to what the



"I believe that sport is worthy of investment during difficult economic times because of the positive role it plays in society"

new ministers and government want to achieve in the area of sport, but at the same time we need to respond in a way that doesn't blow us off course," he says. "Our key objective, which all political parties have already signed up to, is to work through the national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) to deliver our sporting targets."

When asked whether he shares the industry's concern of a possible funding drought in sport provision post election and particularly post 2012, he laughs: "Not really. I believe that sport is worthy of investment regardless of the economic circumstances – in fact arguably more so during difficult social times because of the positive role it plays within society. I think most politicians get that in a big way. However, if budgets are tight then we'll respond in a positive manner and certainly won't back ourselves into a corner – but I'm pretty optimistic about the future."

Measuring participation

It's a little over a year since Sport England chief executive Jennie Price announced that the funding body would be investing £480m in 46 NGBs to develop grassroots potential. Since then, the NGBs have drawn up strategies to widen sport participation, advice and support has been offered where needed and funds handed out.

Far left and below: Richard Lewis and Minister for Sport Gerry Sutcliffe promote softball to a group of youngsters at a Sport Unlimited event



PE: SPORT ENGLAND

Sport England has been tracking sports participation for three consecutive years

Sport England is measuring participation through The Active People annual survey, which measures how many people participate, who they are, what sports they do and how this varies across the country. Now in its third year, the research company Ipsos MORI interviews 192,000 people by phone each year – 500 in each local authority – and asks what sports were played within the previous month and at what intensity. The latest findings of Active People 3 (AP3) (see p44) – released in December 2009 – revealed that 6.82 million people now play sport at least three times a week, an overall increase of 115,000 compared with the results of the previous year's Active People 2 survey.

Critics have questioned the process of capturing this information, but Lewis

says: "The survey is very robust but if something comes out that hints that the survey can be improved and tweaked with a slightly different methodology then we'd do it – that's for sure."

AP3 revealed that boxing, table tennis, canoeing and netball are currently meeting their targets for the first year, with cycling and athletics reporting a combined increase of more than 240,000 weekly participants. Meanwhile, football and swimming both failed to report any growth of participation among disabled people and women were also down.

Commenting on these results, Lewis says: "Out of 46 sports there will be some that will always find it hard to hit target and, given time, some that would. If all 46 were hitting targets and





The AP3 survey revealed that 6.82 million people now play sport at least three times a week

➔ growing rapidly then everyone would be crying fix or foul. The important thing is that we've now got statistical information and I know from having been involved with sport for a long time that factual information is key. Once you've got the facts, they allow you to interpret them and take a strategic view on whether you need to continue what you're doing – on the basis that you believe that it will work over a period of time, or decide to readjust and rethink some of your strategies.

"It's a partnership situation," Lewis explains. "Rather than beat someone up because a target hasn't been reached, we concentrate on what we can do to help people reach their objectives. The longer we run this survey, the more information will become available."

Regarding the fall in participation in the women and disabled people sectors in AP3, Lewis says Sport England had predicted these findings and has already concentrated investment in those areas. "The Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation has given us some good pilot studies and disability sport has been recognised by the NGBs in their sport plans," he says. "However, you can invest a large sum of money for a relatively small return in terms of actual aggregate numbers but it still

"Of course we need more sports facilities, but we've also got to make sure we maximise the use of the ones we've got"

makes it the right thing to do. I think disability sport is probably a good example of doing the right thing for the right reason, as opposed to just hitting targets," Lewis says.

Lessons learned

Sport England's auditing process was under the funding spotlight last year, when it was found that the World Class Payments Bureau had dispensed £19.7m between 1999 and 2007 – without the apparent knowledge of Sport England executives.

Timothy Dutton QC's subsequent investigation into the account found no specific instances of fraud at the bureau, which paid grants, salaries and expenses to small NGBs unable to handle large sums of money. However, he uncovered a lack of governance of sports bodies and a recommendation was made to establish a dedicated Sports Governance Committee to address the wider issue of NGB governance.

Lewis agrees with this recommendation to monitor NGBs receiving funding more closely. "Establishing a kite mark method of standards assurance to give public confidence in organisations that run a sport that involves membership or an affiliation fee is a point well made by the

Dutton Enquiry. It may lead to a lot of issues, such as where do you draw the line, how you get them to apply and how to enforce it, but nonetheless it's an area that's well worth looking at for the public good."

Easy access

Lewis acknowledges that one of the biggest barriers to participation is sports clubs' regular access to adequate facilities. "We'd like to work with everybody on this," he admits. "Progress is being made in improving our relationships with local authorities to maximise the use of facilities but there are barriers, such as insurance and caretaking, that are not easy to overcome. During this time of belt tightening and financial rigor, using what you've got has to be one of the obvious things to do rather than asking for more money to build more facilities. Of course we need more facilities but we've also got to maximise the use of the ones we've got."

To encourage dialogue between the various stakeholders, Sport England ran three Connect events around the country last year, which were attended by many local authorities and Community Sports Partnerships and Lewis says more are planned. "These events certainly help to maximise partnerships at a local level, because when the various stakeholders get together and start talking that's when positive things start to happen." ●



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- Surveying and painting running tracks
- Pressure cleaning/Aqua vacing sports surfaces and marking tracks
- Repairing/resurfacing running track surfaces or Mondotrack FTX.
- Line painting – using a high-quality paint made specifically for running tracks
- Line marking on all man-made surfaces

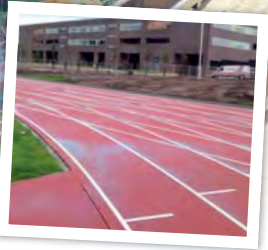
Ahead of the game

White Line Services has been involved in many interesting and varied sports projects, including:

- Pressure cleaning the track at Crystal Palace Stadium to ensure a safe, new-look for the 2008 London Grand Prix
- Surface cleaning, repairs and relining the track at the Birmingham Alexander Stadium in time for the GB selection trials for the 2008 Olympics
- Washed and remarked the track at Stoke Mandeville Stadium – the official training venue for athletes preparing for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Washed, red texture sprayed, surveyed and line painted Kirkwell Athletic Stadium in the Orkney Islands, Scotland

Recent news

- Surveyed and painted lines, at the Scotstoun Stadium, which will be part of the 2014 Commonwealth Games
- High pressure cleaned/Aqua-vaced, re-surfaced, set out and painted lines at Sutton Indoor Athletic Arena
- Repaired Carlisle Stadium Track in January 2010, ready for the track season
- Surveyed and painted the lines of the 2790m-high athletics track for the 16th Bolivian Games in Sucre, Bolivia
- Provided a new surface, set out



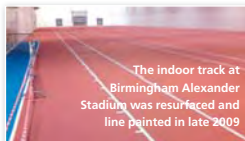
Above: New six lane track at Kirkby School, Liverpool on a Mondo track surface
Main pic: The 16th Bolivian Games in Sucre, Bolivia

and painted lines for the indoor track at Birmingham Alexander Stadium for Olympic training

- 2009 Hutchensons Grammar School, Glasgow we surveyed and line painted a new 6 lane track with 8 lane sprint straight with a full size artificial Hockey pitch infield

Indoor cleaning

We now have an indoor track washing machine which cleans track surfaces (including Mondo). It removes all dirt – leaving a pristine looking surface. Our machine will clean and suck up the water and the same time leaving a freshly washed and dry track ready for use.



The indoor track at Birmingham Alexander Stadium was resurfaced and line painted in late 2009



Canterbury Christ Church University sports hall was marked out in July 2009

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Karen Maxwell talks to some of the people involved in the bidding for and funding of strategically important UK-based sporting events

The UK Sport MAJOR EVENTS TEAM

LIZ NICOL – C00



Liz Nicol was CEO at England Netball for 16 years before joining UK Sport in 1999 as director of elite sport. She moved into a strategic role across investment and performance in Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth sports after the Beijing Games. This investment accounts for nearly £100m a year in world-class performance and £4m a year in major events.

UK Sport recently announced a programme of 64 secured major international events between now and 2012, across 30 Olympic and Paralympic sports, to be held at 20 locations throughout the UK. In order to award lottery investment into these events, the UK Sport board established a Major Events Panel made up of expert committee members that review applications from sport's national governing bodies (NGBs) then advise our board on support and investment.

We're not responsible for the delivery of an event we invest in; but we support those that are and help establish formal, organisational structures for technical delivery and share best practice – whether it's ticketing, sound systems or security.

We fund an event to ensure that it's world class in the way it's delivered and its impact is a positive one for the UK



Working in partnership with the NGBs, cities, regions and home county agencies, the Major Events department helps an NGB prepare its bidding proposal and liaises with the regional partner, which has an interest in the local benefits of the event being hosted in its community. If the business plan meets the right criteria, our organisation puts lottery funding into the event to ensure that it's world class in the way it's delivered and that the impact of hosting the event in the UK is a positive one – in terms of the engagement of people, spectators and volunteers. The home advantage also offers a performance benefit to our athletes and can further provide a positive impact in terms of the respect the UK gains internationally for putting on a good show.

Although we're working towards creating a performance benefit for our athletes towards the London 2012 Olympic Games, we're now starting to bid for events post-2012 so this focus is shifting to a broader perspective on performance as well as benefits in the engagement of people, economic impact and creating a legacy for the public investment of 2012 facilities and the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Looking ahead, we're committed to continuing with our funding programme post-2012, but of course the challenge will be how much there will be to invest due to the uncertain political and economic situation. Our strategy from 2013 through to 2018 is to link in with the government's 'golden decade of sport', which started on 1 January 2009 and there are significant events to bid for towards 2019.



Lottery funding ensures an event is world-class in its impact and the way that it's delivered

NIGEL WALKER – CHAIR, MAJOR EVENTS PANEL



A former Olympic high-hurdler and rugby union player, Nigel Walker was a development officer for the Sports Council for Wales and assistant team manager with the Welsh Rugby Union, before becoming the head of sport for BBC Wales in 2001. He joined the UK Sport board in 2006, is a member of the Audit Committee and was appointed as chair of the Major Events Panel in the summer of 2009.

My role is that of panel facilitator. Although having only held the role of chair for six months, so far I've observed one meeting and chaired two others.

The panel members are all experienced in sport – many of them have sporting backgrounds or are representatives of prominent associations and have invaluable experience in putting on major events around the country. Panel members include Paul Bush, COO at Event Scotland; Rob Holt, CEO 2010 Ryder Cup; David Carter, CEO at the ECB; Wendy Walker, COO at Salford City Council and Phil Carling chair of the Sports Council in Wales.

Should an NGB wish to submit a bid to host a World or European championship in this country, the panel would receive the application together with the relevant paperwork. A meeting with the NGB would be arranged in order

We will be involved in the London 2012 test programme, whereby all venues will host a world-class event in the preceding year

for the panel to critique the bid and discuss the issues that surround its successful delivery. These issues include the opportunity for sport officials to gain experience of working on a major event, how the event could promote the sport to the public and above all, how it could give elite athletes the opportunity to compete in a major championship on home soil. All these issues go into the mix and we either say yes or no then agree on the level of funding.

If we're able to tick all the relevant boxes, we're assured of a brilliant event. If the majority of boxes are ticked then the event could still be worth staging with the panel having to decide on the level of funding based on the level of shortfall, and the benefit to that sport and those who participate in that sport.

Obviously the ability and enthusiasm to host a successful event is not uniform across the country. Some county councils and regional authorities are more focused on sport and prepared to put their own money into bringing sport to those areas. However, this is not the only factor that needs to be taken into consideration. The idea is to have a good spread of events around the UK. The Welsh Assembly Government, for example, is hoping to put together a budget to attract more major international events in the future.

This department will be involved in the London 2012 Olympic test event programme, whereby all venues will host a major world-class event in the preceding year. Our programme of World or European events will offer ideal testing opportunities for properly-trained technical staff and we are also assisting with the upskilling of officials and volunteers.



The department ensures that the hosting of an event engages people, spectators and volunteers

LUCY CRICKMORE – EVENTS CONSULTANT



With a background in sports event management, Lucy Crickmore is one of a team of three events consultants that work across a portfolio of Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth sports.

I'm office-based but the job can take the consulting team all over the UK depending where an event is taking place.

"Our main function is to offer NGBs technical support and guidance in terms of event delivery, which includes help with managing the budget and overseeing the main decision-making aspects of hosting the event.

One of the things I love about this job is that it's so diverse. You could be working with an incredibly experienced sport, with a huge budget and an events team that has successfully delivered major international events for a number of years or a small NGB run by a network of volunteers that have little or no event management and delivery experience.

One event that I'm working on at the moment is the Goal Ball World Championships, which will be hosted in Sheffield this year. It's the first major event of its kind hosted in the UK and 16 men's and 12 women's teams will compete. A largely volunteer-led Paralympic sport, Goal Ball is played on a volleyball court by visually impaired athletes who roll a ball with a bell in the middle of it towards the goal at either end of the court.

We will support the NGB by getting an event management company on board and linking it up with the other delivery partners. The successful delivery of the event will help to up-skill the NGB, raise the profile of the sport and give officials vital experience of working with athletes who have varying levels of visual impairment, which will help them fill vital roles at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.



SIMON MORTON – HEAD OF EVENTS DEPARTMENT



Simon Morton came to UK Sport from the International Badminton Federation. As head of marketing he dealt with the sport's global sponsorship, TV rights and production and gained invaluable experience in bidding for event staging contracts.

I lead a team of six event consultants and also look after event strategies for British Cycling and the Great Britain Boccia Federation.

My role is to oversee the team's consultancy work by risk assessing individual events and looking at how successful strategies could be embedded into other organising committees. Managing financial investment is a big part of this remit.

Long-term event hosting strategies help to assess why an event should be held in the UK and how best to bid for and secure it

UK Sport has a large major event programme in the run up to 2012 and budgets are likely to fluctuate in each of these events, which means we are continually challenging, managing and forecasting financial spend across the portfolio. We also manage and maintain links with our sporting partners, which include the NGBs of sport as well as the city, regional and national partners which help to host and fund the events. This partner network is increasingly important to make sure the events have a sound financial basis.

The team develops long-term event hosting strategies with its lead sports, which help to assess why the events should be held in the UK and how best to bid for and secure them. The consultants make lottery funding recommendations and monitor this support during the life cycle of the event. We iron out problems early on with business planning, budgeting, forecasting and benchmarking and risk assess to ensure that we are not bidding for events that may be undeliverable.

We also offer technical support to NGBs that may not be set up to stage a major event, as these can evolve into massive enterprises compared with the amateur competitions they were 10-15 years ago. NGBs can now find themselves dealing with multi-million pound budgets and the financial and foreign currency risks that go with them, as well as massively increased TV production, rights and coverage. We also help NGBs deal with complex issues relating to venue specification and an increased number of spectators.

Andy Hunt

We talk to BOA CEO and chef de mission for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games, Andy Hunt, about Games preparation

What is your career background?

After building and selling a successful customer relationship management consulting business in the 1990s, I joined the board of business process outsourcing specialist Vertex in 2002, then lead the finance services and private sector businesses. Prior to joining the British Olympic Association (BOA), I was the managing director of Reliance Security Services – a £240m, 10,000 employee security services specialist.

What does your role as Chef de Mission of Team GB entail?

I suppose it's comparable to being the chief executive of Team GB. It focuses on providing leadership and management. I will be strongly supported by Clive Woodward and Mark England as deputy chef de missions for sport and operations respectively.

How does the BOA deliver its key objectives to Team GB?

The support team includes world-class experts across performance, medicine, logistics, communications, hospitality and marketing.

How does the BOA prepare Team GB for the Winter Games and what will be its role during the event?

In many respects, the BOA is the 'Team behind Team GB.' Supporting athletes and sport performance is at the centre of everything we do. Our mission is to enable every team member to reach their full potential and in so doing, achieve a personal best performance. Specifically, the BOA provides:

- A world-class performance environment for all Team GB athletes competing at the Games. We deliver performance centres that provide key services and facilities designed to enhance preparation for, and recovery from, competition and training during Games time.



“The BOA's guiding philosophy is 'better never stops' and we've left no stone unturned in our Games preparation”

- A sports science and medical research and development programme, which provides expertise on acclimatisation, hydration, jet lag and performance clothing etc.
- Operational and logistical support before and during the Games, which includes kitting out (with support from British Airways and adidas respectively), accreditation, accommodation, transportation, legal advice and media relations.
- Plans and operates the preparation camps, in Calgary and Lake Placid, which Team GB athletes use to train and acclimatise in the vital final few weeks prior to Olympic competition.

What challenges do you anticipate encountering in the run up to the Games?

The BOA's guiding philosophy is 'better never stops' and we've worked relentlessly over the past years and months to ensure that we've taken any possible challenge into consideration and left no stone unturned in our preparation.

How will the Games help to raise the profile of winter sport to the UK population?

We want Team GB athletes to inspire the next generation of Olympic sport participants and enthusiasts through their performance and conduct as ambassadors for our country during the Winter Games and the BOA will continue to work closely with the national governing bodies of Olympic winter sports to help create opportunities for young athletes to get involved.

Although we are keenly aware of the challenges posed by the traditionally powerful winter sport nations, we have achieved World Championship level success in curling, bobsleigh and skeleton in 2009. When you consider the climatic conditions of the UK and the fact that our winter athletes receive the equivalent of 1.5 per cent of summer sports funding, the results produced by our athletes are quite remarkable and I have every confidence that they will produce outstanding performances in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. ●



Vancouver 2010

WINTER OLYMPICS



The 2010 Winter Olympics are split between Vancouver, Richmond and Whistler, offering separate athletes' villages and medals ceremonies. Brian Robinson reviews the competition facilities

In the City > > >

Richmond Olympic Oval – 12 events

Located 10 miles south west of Downtown Vancouver, the long track speed skating venue is a major capital and revenue expense for every Winter Olympic Games. Long track first moved indoors at Calgary in 1988. Since then, four more Olympic Ovals have been constructed and all have struggled financially. Essentially it looks like a 400m indoor athletics track covered in hard fast ice.

The new 33,750sq m Oval includes 7,600 seats and forms the centrepiece of a re-energised Fraser Riverfront. Cannon Design's Bob Johnston, who led the design team, had previously worked on Calgary and Salt Lake City. Structural engineering of the roof by Fast and Epp includes hollow wood steel 'V'-shaped glulam arches which span the 310ft width. These conceal mechanical and electrical ducting and sprinklers. The spacing between the arches has prefabricated panels, many of them from wood infested with mountain pine-beetle, which retains its strength if harvested quickly.

Track talk

World records are shared between the Calgary Oval (3,500ft) and Utah Olympic Oval (4,000ft). The hard, fast ice achieved at high altitude will not be replicated with the barometric pressure and humidity of sea level Richmond. However, the refrigeration system creates different ice conditions around the track. The ice on the bends can be softer so that athletes can hold an edge better, while the straights are harder to build speed.

Legacy uses

Richmond is hoping to avoid over-dependency on speed skating by developing a 6.5acre community sports hall. The eastern third will continue as ice with two full-sized rinks. The middle will be a hardwood floor area the size of eight basketball courts for basketball, indoor soccer, volleyball, badminton and handball. The final third will be a 110m athletics sprint straight with the capability to include a 200m athletics track. The floor areas will be interchangeable and capable of conversion back to long track skating. A fitness centre will cover 2,100sq m. There will be a publicly accessible indoor rowing and paddling tank and 1,500sq m given over to sports science and rehabilitation.

The City of Richmond will need a minimum endowment legacy of C\$60m (£35m) through the Games Operating Trust to offset the Oval's operating costs. Tourism Richmond is using the venue as a gateway to its broader offerings at Golden Village Asian area and Steveston historic fishing village.



Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Centre

Hillcrest Park is home to an ambitious redevelopment projects. Hosting men's, women's and wheelchair curling, the Nat Bailey Stadium and three separate clubs for racquet sports, gymnastics and indoor bowls are unaffected by the 2010 developments. Four existing facilities, however, will be demolished by 2012: Percy Norman Pool, Riley Park Rink and Community Centre, a changing block for outdoor sports and Vancouver Curling Club's facility.

2010 and legacy uses

The Olympic Curling venue was completed in December 2008. The City of Vancouver has taken the opportunity to create a new aquatic centre, which will open in summer 2010, alongside the curling venue. It has an eight-lane 50m pool and an outdoor pool. The curling venue will be converted into a full-sized ice rink and eight curling rinks. The club will gain three more rinks and instead of ice on a sand floor in a 60-year-old building, it will have perfect ice on a concrete pad.

The new building will include a community centre, an aerobics studio, a fitness centre and childcare facilities.



The building's curves blend with the undulating terrain of Queen Elizabeth Park but the outstanding feature is the co-ordinated planning between the Vancouver Parks Board, the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) and architects Hughes, Condon Marler, with local sporting interests – putting community legacy at the forefront from the outset. This will enable post-Olympic conversion to the highest standards.

About the rink

A purpose-built competition curling facility has been created which should meet the highest expectations of the sport. Air currents are critical where even body heat from spectators generates flows. Placing the 5,600 seats on both sides, not one, will reduce these.



Canada Hockey Place

South east of downtown Vancouver, this 1995 Arena, also called GM Place, hosts 100 events annually and has 19,300 seats. Additional locker rooms are the only upgrade.

About the rink

Ice hockey fixtures will be shared between Thunderbird Arena and Canada Hockey Place. The 2010 Games will be played on narrower National Hockey League rinks at 61m x 26m rather than the usual Olympic size of 61m x 30m. The difference is estimated to have saved C\$10m (£6m) of conversion costs at Canada Hockey Place.

UBC Thunderbird Arena



The University of British Columbia had four ice rinks, of which three were demolished, leaving the 1963 Bauer Arena. Two new rinks have been constructed and will host ice hockey and sledge hockey during the Games.

The Olympic venue will have 6,800 seats with generously sized changing rooms warmed under-floor by heat recovered from refrigeration.

The principal architecture and interior design were done by Kasian, working with design-build contractor Bird Construction. Interesting features include

artificial ice in both the player and penalty boxes to aid transition to the competition surface and plexiglass panels in the boards for better spectator viewing of sledge hockey.

Legacy

The tight plan of the three rinks allows maximum flexibility to use one facility with its ancillary accommodation or more than one for a larger tournament. The venue will become a recreational and high performance multi-sport venue.

Pacific Coliseum

The Coliseum in Hastings Park, which will host short-track speed skating and figure skating is more than 40 years' old. It has received replacement seating creating a 14,200 capacity, an expansion of the ice surface, some improvements to the ice plant and heating and ventilation and washroom upgrades.

After the Games, it will continue as an events arena for hockey, ice shows, boxing, basketball, concerts and trade and consumer shows.



In the Mountains > > >



Cypress Mountain

In the mountains, but part of the Vancouver scene, this local North Shore favourite is about to hit the big time with new courses for aerials, moguls, ski cross, half-pipe, snowboard cross and parallel giant slalom.

VANOC paid for improved snow-making, shaping the courses, creating an in-ground half-pipe plus a freestyle arena for moguls and aerials to host freestyle skiing and snowboarding. Venue capacities are 12,000 each for the freestyle stadium (aerials and moguls), 12,000 for the skier and boarder cross and 8,000 for the half-pipe.

Legacy

In winter 2010-11, Cypress will reap the rewards of Olympic exposure. In preparation, the Resort's Boyne group owners have built a day lodge, moving one chair lift and installing another to open up Raven Ridge – creating nine new runs. This has produced a 40 per cent increase in terrain which will make Cypress an option for visitors who want a day or two's snowsports on a Vancouver city trip.



Whistler Olympic and Paralympic Park

Located 15 miles south west of Whistler in the Callaghan Valley, the Park consists of three separate venue stadiums for ski jumping, cross country skiing and biathlon – all within a compact 1sq km area to a masterplan created by Ecosign of Whistler. Sandwell Engineering headed the design team. The ski jumps are by CJP Architects' in conjunction with Edwards Daniel of Salt Lake. Jumps are set into stands of large trees to limit wind. The 930sq m day lodge by Merrick Architects is a stunning combination of wood and glass with generous eaves, nestling in a coniferous backdrop.

Legacy

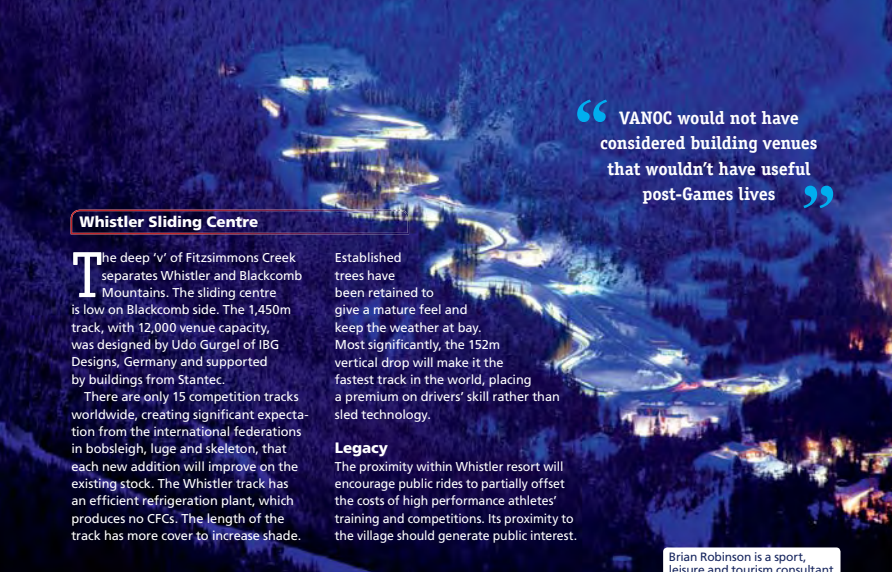
The venue will showcase Nordic competitions and support the development of local Nordic programmes. Recreational use will be enhanced by 25 miles of additional trails in addition to the nine miles of competition trails.

Games Operating Trust

A Games operating trust fund of C\$110m (£64.5m) from the Canadian and provincial governments had grown to C\$125m (£73.2m) by December 2007. Recession losses in 2008 reduced this to C\$100m (£58.6m). The plan is to use 40 per cent of the endowment income to support the Richmond Oval and 40 per cent to support the Whistler Olympic Park and Sliding Centre – with 20 per cent as a contingency.

At first, the budget seemed well gauged but recession has left a potential shortfall unless market rates recover. After the Games, Whistler 2010 sport legacies trust hopes to support the high performance athletes' centre costs out of its endowment share.





“VANOC would not have considered building venues that wouldn't have useful post-Games lives”

Whistler Sliding Centre

The deep 'V' of Fitzsimmons Creek separates Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains. The sliding centre is low on Blackcomb side. The 1,450m track, with 12,000 venue capacity, was designed by Udo Gurgel of IBG Designs, Germany and supported by buildings from Stantec.

There are only 15 competition tracks worldwide, creating significant expectation from the international federations in bobsleigh, luge and skeleton, that each new addition will improve on the existing stock. The Whistler track has an efficient refrigeration plant, which produces no CFCs. The length of the track has more cover to increase shade.

Established trees have been retained to give a mature feel and keep the weather at bay. Most significantly, the 152m vertical drop will make it the fastest track in the world, placing a premium on drivers' skill rather than sled technology.

Legacy

The proximity within Whistler resort will encourage public rides to partially offset the costs of high performance athletes' training and competitions. Its proximity to the village should generate public interest.

Brian Robinson is a sport, leisure and tourism consultant

Legacies beyond Olympic competition facilities

Vancouver was the first Winter Olympic Games to have legacy comprehensively planned into the Games even before the bid was won. In June 2000, 2010 Legacies Now was established, initially to help build support for the bid. In March 2002 this was transformed into a not for profit organisation.

After bid success the following year, 2010 Legacies Now expanded its

mandate to include sport and recreation, arts, volunteerism, literacy and community development and cohesion.

The vision has been to create sustainable legacies that will benefit all 4.4 million British Columbians as a result of the Winter Olympic Games.

The delivery vehicle for this legacy plan has been partly through an astonishing 100 Spirit of BC local

community groups. It's an inspiring and ongoing story which can be followed through the website www.2010legaciesnow.com

"Legacy planning is in the DNA of this project," John Furlong, CEO of Vancouver Organising Committee, explains. "VANOC would not have considered building venues that wouldn't have useful post-Games lives."

Whistler Creekside

VANOC's investment has consisted of re-contouring the men's and women's courses for alpine skiing and installing an improved snowmaking system. Essentially the infrastructure already existed around the Dave Murray Downhill Course and Franz's Run.

After the Games, the slopes will revert to ski trails as part of the Whistler Blackcomb

resort and will be used for national and international training and events.

The resort has used the Olympics to dovetail its immense investment in the 2.75-mile long Peak to Peak Gondola project, which links Whistler and Blackcomb mountains at high level. Opened in December 2008, this is transforming the way visitors move around.





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- > *Delivering several training facilities for the 2012 Olympics*
- > *Financial, environmental and socially sustainable solutions for leisure facilities*

The Surrey Sports Park joins a long list of sporting facilities completed by Willmott Dixon. The company's track record for successfully creating high quality places for sporting excellence, leisure and recreation put it in the fast lane for UK providers of sports and leisure facilities.



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Corby East Midlands
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SURREY SPORTS PARK

A highly-specified sports complex will open at the University of Surrey this April. Crispin Andrews met up with CEO Jason Harborow to find out how he's planning to make it a success

People in and around Guildford, students and elite athletes will all benefit from the University of Surrey's new £36m sports facility, but chief executive Jason Harborow has loftier ambitions for the Surrey Sports Park – he wants it to be a training venue whenever a top sporting event takes place within a reasonable flying distance.

"Never mind the south-east or even England, we want to be one of the top facilities in Europe," he says. "It's a short trip from here to Gatwick Airport and then only two and a half hours to the south of Spain and four to Russia."

The Chinese Olympic team has already declared an interest in using the site as a training venue in the run up to 2012

Forward thinking

Harborow pictures the scene in a few months' time. It's a warm August afternoon, a few weeks after a Legends tennis match between John McEnroe and Tim Henman marks the park's grand opening and the place is heaving with activity. The car park is full, radio and news journalists hover in the back-ground and TV camera crews set up. The Women's Rugby Union World Cup has come to England and three thousand excited spectators descend on the university. But they're not alone.

Twelve thousand students have access to the sports facilities throughout the year and although it's the summer break, there are still a few using the tennis and squash courts, the 120-station fitness

centre and the Olympic-sized pool. Others have come to watch the England Pakistan Test Match on the big screen in the bar, or enjoy the women's rugby from the veranda of the first Starbucks coffee shop to appear in a European sports centre.

Local residents are here too. Some play badminton in the sports hall, others take part in football matches on one of the 10 outdoor grass pitches. Dance classes are going on in the purpose-built studio and parents look on as their children race up and down the climbing wall.

Every day the park is buzzing. Superleague netball team Surrey Storm, formerly Brunel Hurricanes, are practicing ahead of their first league game of the season in the purpose-built sports hall and injured Premiership rugby players use the fitness centre every day to speed up their rehabilitation. Three weeks ago, Surrey County Cricket Club's second team played its first game, under the watchful eye of park ambassador, former England and Surrey star, Alec Stewart. The national league squash team – also called Surrey Storm – is training at the six-court venue and former Olympic swimmer, Mark Foster – another park ambassador – is helping out with a swimming session in the pool.





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Above: The eight-court combined sports hall has a 822 seating capacity. Below: Surrey Storm netball team is based at the park

▶ Anyone who can look at a building site – which is what the Surrey Sports Park is at time of writing – and visualise so clearly and passionately its amazing potential, is a pretty driven individual. Yet Harborow envisages a future exactly like this for the park. “We have a facility unlike any other in the country. One that combines high quality places for people to play sport – both indoors and outdoors. Lots offer one or the other, but not many do both,” he explains.

The former Liverpool Culture Company CEO is determined to use his sports business knowledge to attract the best corporate partners and sponsors. Now responsible for managing the 2010 Women’s Rugby League World Cup at the site, Harborow was previously the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games; commercial general manager, Wigan FC’s JJB Stadium operations director, centre manager for Europa Pools and general manager at the Robin Park Arena and Sports Centre. He has a straightforward solution to the issue of conflicting interests when deciding who will use what and when.

“It’s simple,” he says. “The park is big and will be open 350 days a year from

PITCH CARE

The sport pitch terrace construction by Spade Oak – comprising two full-sized synthetic football/rugby pitches (a 3G Tiger Turf Soccer Real and a Tiger Turf Evolution), two junior football pitches and a cricket square – took almost two years’ to complete due to exceptionally wet summers in 2007 and 2008. The company also constructed eight porous macadam tennis courts, three of which are also line-marked as netball courts.

Work on the 40,000sq m (131,233sq ft) pitch area started with stripping off the topsoil and then loading the subsoil and spoil to form the sub base level, which had to be heavily compacted to prevent future settlement. The topsoil was then re-spread over the area and laser levelled. Due to the heavy clay content and high percentage of flint in the top soil, it required a great deal of preparation to avoid potential flint injury to players.

Sand was then spread on the top soil and incorporated into the surface with specialist machinery. Fertiliser was applied and the area had a final light cultivation and level adjustment. A hard-wearing mixture of red fescue and rye grass seed mix was then sown; as it

can withstand dry conditions and does not require much fertiliser. Once the sward had established, 9,500m (31,200sq ft) of land drainage was installed along with a further 37,000m (121,400sq ft) of sand slits to ensure the surface was well drained and can be used even in very wet weather. The turf surface then received another 1,000 tons of sand to ensure an even playing surface.

A new irrigation system has also been installed, which will allow the ground staff to use large self travelling irrigators in dry weather. This will be essential for renovating the pitches after tournaments and at the end of season.

The university ground staff took over the maintenance in November 2009, as Spade Oak was responsible for the first year’s maintenance. The ground staff are highly trained in all aspects of turf care and ongoing work will include mowing, fertilising, aeration, weed control, pitch marking and improving the sward cover with further dressings of sand to maintain and improve the surface levels.

Modern grass seed mixtures, material, line marking compounds and maintenance techniques will be used to ensure the facilities are kept to a high standard.

“Our facility combines quality places to play sport, both indoors and out. Lots offer one or the other but not many do both”

5am to midnight, so lots of people can use it at whatever time they want.”

Featured facilities

Four glass-backed squash courts sit alongside two major show courts, where there is seating for 160 spectators. Across the walkway there are three multi-purpose sports halls, two of which can be combined to make an eight-court hall with 822 Bleacher seats available should a top basketball or netball event come to the park. With sprung Junkers floors, the halls reach international specification for netball and basketball and the walls in the smaller hall have been painted blue for high-performance badminton. The halls also cater for martial arts, table tennis,

volleyball and can be used as a high performance indoor cricket coaching centre.

The swimming pool is big enough to host regional competitions and national training; a traversable boom separates the pool into two sections. In the first, a moveable floor makes an ideal surface for water polo because it can be set to a 2m depth all over with no shallow end, and assists swimmers’ training times because, says Harborow: “the deeper the pool the faster the time.” He says the Guildford City Swim Squad will use the pool and a synchronised swimming club and water polo team has also shown interest in using the facility. “There are enough seats, about 100, for regional events. We’re not looking to attract national competitions, but we do want top swimmers to train here,” he says.

Mark Foster believes that the pool will have a significant impact on the development of British swimming. “Facilities of this standard are absolutely essential to enable swimmers of all levels to reach their full potential,” he says. “I did my





A traversable boom separates the 50m pool, which can be used for regional events

JOHN WATERMAN – WILLMOTT DIXON PROJECT DIRECTOR

It's always a balance between affordability and design when building traditional leisure facilities, but Surrey Sports Park has stepped up a gear in terms of architecturally pleasing features. They've used their money well and pushed the boundaries on sustainable design and operation.

The facility has been awarded 'very good' status in its BREAM accreditation (an international environmental assessment for buildings around the world), which is an amazing feat for a building of this size.

Some of the unique features include:

- wind catchers on the roof of the sports hall for natural air ventilation
- an energy-efficient, remote-controlled lighting system
- a remote-controlled facility management system
- a weather station on the roof which control opening sashes to the roof lights
- a Biomass boiler, fueled by locally sourced wood pellets
- grey water (rain water) is used in the toilet flushing system

► early training in a 20m pool and it wasn't until I got access to better facilities that my swimming career began to take off."

Foster talks about high quality facilities as one of three key elements for creating international success in the pool, as well as coaching expertise and role models. He explains that building such venues takes time and money, before comparing the UK's facilities with those in America where he once trained. "Over there, every major university has a 50m pool and as a result every university is used as a training centre for the leading American swimmers."

Surrey's outdoor facilities also reflect the park's multi-use ethos. Grass pitches are high enough standard for first-class cricket and international rugby and

Harborow expects a deal to be sealed with an as yet unnamed Premiership Rugby Union side that plans to relocate to the park. The two-lane 60m sprint track will be built to international standard and aimed at sports men and women returning to fitness after injury, rather than as a venue for competition. "It will support our fitness suite so athletes can take fitness tests and do shuttles and sprints during rehabilitation," Harborow explains.

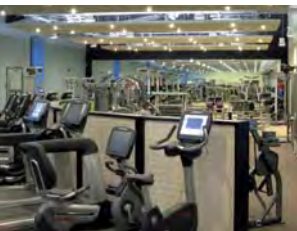
Of the three all-weather pitches, two are sand dressed for hockey and one 3G pitch is ideal for top-level soccer and rugby. Supplier Spade Oak says the surfaces have a long pile and rubber-sand mix in-fill with a shockpad option. The integral cushioning effect of the crumb-rubber infill, coupled with the long pile gives the surface the characteristics of a well-maintained natural grass pitch.

Eight floodlit tennis courts and two netball courts complete the outdoor

range and plans are already afoot to develop an indoor tennis centre and another for real tennis – a minority sport worldwide, but of historical interest locally – as phase two of the project, on university land adjacent to the current building.

What's most surprising about the park however, is not the ambition of those who run it or its potential, but the fact it has been built at all. Unlike the USA, there is no widespread culture of the UK investing in top-level sports facilities at its universities. Harborow explains that although lots of quango money was promised it never materialised, so the university decided to use its own resources to build the park. If things go according to plan and the park becomes one of Europe's top sports facilities, it will have been money well spent. ●

Crispin Andrews is a freelance journalist





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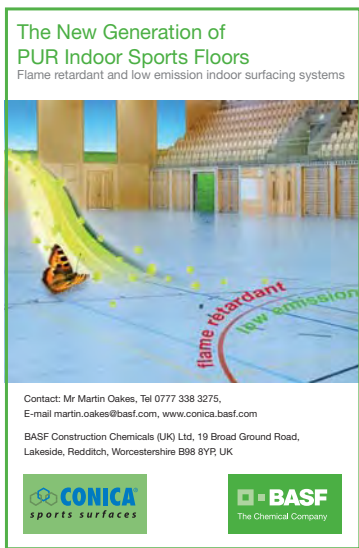
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The National Volleyball Centre

High quality sports facilities can breathe new life into athletes, structures and towns alike. Leila Dukes looks at the new National Volleyball Centre in Kettering to investigate the background and the effect of undergoing refurbishment

Top class facilities are the starting point to nurturing sporting excellence. Athletes and participation levels are encouraged by the presence of state-of-the-art amenities, which can also have a direct influence on the surrounding area and economy.

Kettering's National Volleyball Centre is a good example: a space that was originally constructed nearly 20 years ago as part of a leisure and conferencing complex was reborn as a hub of national sporting pride last November.

The new centre supports efforts to boost the country's participation in sport in the run up to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. David Atkinson, managing director of Kettering Conference Centre, said: "Kettering Conference Centre is well known in the region and now with the National Volleyball Centre, we have national status."

Team work

Volleyball England, the recognised national governing body (NGB) for volleyball in all its forms, teamed up with Kettering Conference Centre to create the base for training and competition for the national men's, women's, junior and sitting volleyball teams. The new centre has already proved invaluable for its role in launching Volleyball England's Can You Dig It campaign, which aims to get thousands more young people playing volleyball in the coming years.

Funding for the centre was secured for a four-year period. Apart from Volleyball England's significant investment of £460,000, other funding partners included Phoenix Leisure/Kettering Conference Centre (£160,000), Kettering Borough Council (£30,000), Northamptonshire Enterprise (£30,000), the East Midlands Development Agency (£20,000) and a contribution to the new equipment from Pte Ltd/Schelde International (£5,000).

The launch of the national centre was especially poignant given Volleyball England's past. Previously, players and

coaches were based at a disused airbase in Upper Heyford with poor facilities, where top athletes had to endure leaks, draughts and exposed building work. The governing body made the difficult decision in the summer of 2008 that the Upper Heyford site was too dangerous to continue using as a training base.

Luckily, this decision coincided with a large-scale volunteer conference held at the Kettering Conference Centre. Craig Handford, head of technical development and Excel (performance programme) at Volleyball England, said: "When we saw the centre our immediate thought was that it could be expanded to hold four full-size international volleyball courts."

Kettering was also an attractive prospect thanks to its location at the centre of England with superb links by road, rail and air. The site already had sport and theatre facilities, with the potential to create accommodation space for the athletes too. Consequently, the turn-around of the project was remarkably rapid.

Minister for Sport Gerry Sutcliffe said: "The opening of the centre just six months into Volleyball England's new strategic plan shows the sport's ambition to grow and form strong partnerships."

Specific Requirements

The centre had been identified by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games as a potential training venue for the 2012 Olympic and

The centre is home to the England squads and GB Paralympic Sitting programme





Captain of the GB Indoor Volleyball team Maria Bertelli (above) opens the centre

Paralympic Games, the site operator was not aware of the elite requirements for volleyball at the time. Standing volleyball involves a lot of jumping, diving and quick movements, whereas the Paralympic discipline of sitting volleyball requires players to maintain contact with the floor with their buttocks at all times during play. These characteristics mean the quality of flooring is crucial to the welfare of the player, as inferior flooring can trigger injury and hinder development.

The necessary refurbishment work required to bring the court space to a standard fit for high quality training and competition included:

- The repair of the existing wooden floor space – replacing damaged sections where necessary – ensuring a surface that is uniform and free from obstacles, including covers for existing divider board fixings where they impinge on the playing area
- The re-configuring of the existing (three-court) space to include:
 - four volleyball courts to international specification
 - one central show court to international specification
 - 12 mini volleyball courts, based on badminton markings
 - six short/sitting volleyball courts
- The decommision of existing bolt in floor sockets to install permanent sockets, rings and covers for sunken posts
- Skim sanding the existing wooden flooring to ensure a smooth and even surface that's flush with permanent fixings
- Re-marking the existing floor space according to the court configuration – ensuring all volleyball line markings appear continuous and uninterrupted by any other markings that may be present
- Re-sealing the wooden surface – ensuring a non-slip finish suitable for indoor sports provision
- Installing new divider curtains so that all four courts may be safely operated

as independent, self-contained areas – ensuring that any tracking maintains a free space above the court of a maximum height

- Providing four dry wipe white boards with gridlines on each court space
- Developing and evolving a high-quality lighting system that ensures uniform coverage, which is commensurate with the regular usage of the centre
- Providing retractable seating to a standard suitable for large scale spectator events
- Redecorating the balcony and arena area in keeping with the newly refurbished flooring and curtain

“ **The partners involved with the National Volleyball Centre worked together at great pace and with joint expertise** ”

Flooring features

The floor is a Junckers Clip sports floor system, based on 22mm solid boards laid as a floating floor with clips on a resilient foam underlay. This is an 'area elastic' type of sports floor with medium shock absorbency and elasticity.

The floor was laid on an insulated screed, containing underfloor heating pipes. The refurbishment consisted of sanding the floor to bare wood, sealing it and then applying two coats of lacquer and new sports markings.

The post sockets were installed by diamond drilling a 10mm oversized hole and then using an epoxy grout to fix the sockets. The removable posts were then dropped into the sockets.

When not in use, the socket holes are covered by a flush fitting timber cover to match the floor surface, ensuring minimum disruption and smooth play. Sunken posts are now the international

standard and the recommended option for any facility offering volleyball as per the NGB's new technical guidance notes.

Schelde International part-sponsored the new equipment fit for the centre, such as posts, nets and referee stands.

Home advantage

As well as the obvious benefits of having a safe environment in which to train, there is an added competitive benefit of a home advantage for big games.

During the official opening, Michael Cowland, leisure and cultural services manager at Kettering Borough Council, said: "This initiative is as much to do with the feel good factor of elite sport as it is about the sport itself. For residents to know that some of the best players in England are regularly training and competing in their home town raises local aspirations."

Cllr James Hakewill, Leader of Kettering Borough Council, agrees: "By working with Volleyball England, the Northamptonshire Sports Partnership and local clubs, there are opportunities for anyone in Kettering to take part in volleyball. The additional opportunities for local people to engage in the sport also meet many of our objectives for improving the health and fitness of the borough's residents."

Lisa Wainwright, chief executive of Volleyball England, was pleased and encouraged to see one of the NGB's key Excel outcomes being achieved so quickly. "All the partners involved with achieving this project worked together at great pace and with joint expertise and I'm particularly looking forward to seeing our major events being hosted in the new venue."

The project was even mentioned in Parliament by Kettering's MP, Philip Hollobone, with the words: "Rugby has Twickenham, football has Wembley and now volleyball has Kettering." ●



TARAFLEX

Sports flooring for the next generation

Although used at elite levels of sport, the majority of Taraflex sports flooring has been installed in education, community sports centres and health and fitness facilities. It is within these local sporting facilities that the majority of tomorrow's sporting household names train in the early days.

Players benefit from the safety features designed into Taraflex technology. Dual Density CXP foam backing ensures comfort under foot, Protocolsol® surface treatment ensures freedom of foot movement and excellent traction for many sports at varying levels and guarantees no friction burns when diving or falling.

John Stewart (pictured back right) plays basketball for England and loves playing on Taraflex. "Gerflor floors lead athletes to smile, not wince when other floors let them down." Sean Hendry (pictured back left) is an up and coming British volleyball player who says: "Playing on Taraflex fills you with confidence and you instinctively raise your performance!"

Also pictured are Darius Knight (back second right) British Table Tennis, Holly Lam-Moore of the British handball team and Dean George (back second left) who is with the British Badminton Team. They are all unanimous that playing on Gerflor Taraflex Sports Floors ensures less threat of impact injury and raises their game.



Whatever your age, or ability, Taraflex sports flooring provides the perfect surface to play on

Manufactured since 1947 and used at every Olympic Games since 1976, Gerflor has a fantastic pedigree at elite levels of sport including: badminton, volleyball, handball, table tennis, tennis, basketball, football / futsal, floorball, netball, goalball and Boccia.

Taraflex Sports Flooring by Gerflor is the most widely specified synthetic sports surface in the world. The benefits extend throughout the life of the facility and its durability and ease of maintenance is enhanced with a patented 'no polish for life' surface treatment.

All Taraflex sports systems comply with the European Standard for Indoor Sports Surfaces EN14904 and are manufactured in Europe to very high quality standards.



For further information and specification advice, please contact Darren Wood Taraflex Sport manager on +44 (0)7836 366579 email: contractuk@gerflor.com or visit www.gerflor.co.uk

Gerflor
theflooringroup



GYMNASTICS

2009 was a successful year for British Gymnastics, with Beth Tweddle achieving Gold, Daniel Keatings winning the all around Silver medal at the World Championships and club membership nearing a record 200,000

PH: MIKE DUNCAN, COURTESY OF BRITISH GYMNASTICS

Founded in 1888 as the British Amateur Gymnastics Association, British Gymnastics (BG) – the UK's national governing body (NGB) for gymnastics – is a not for profit organisation dedicated to developing the quality of gymnastic provision across a range of disciplines. The organisation is a member of the World Governing Body for Gymnastics (FIG), the European Governing Body (UEG) and the British Olympic Association (BOA).

Gymnastics is an accessible and inclusive sport offering opportunities to all ability levels and ethnic groups within a range of controlled learning environments. It promotes an active and healthy lifestyle and is recognised as forming the basis for physical literacy by developing fundamental movement skills.

These days, interest in the sport has never been stronger. Hundreds of thousands of young gymnasts enjoy the sport in the school environment, take part in the recreational sessions offered at

many leisure centres and enjoy membership of BG-registered clubs that offer a complete development pathway from beginner through to Olympian.

Development

Following the 2009-2013 Sport England funding round, BG England secured £11.3m for the development of the sport in England, which has enabled the sport to build capacity in order to support grassroots and clubs. The 45-strong development team supports the clubs, coaches and volunteers with the aim of increasing and sustaining participation and improving the quality of provision and performance levels throughout the sport's pathway.

Club Support

BG England's development officers offer support to clubs by securing funding for development, encouraging new coaches and volunteers to join the club and help to support training and

development programmes.

More than half the gym clubs in England are either working towards or have achieved their GymMark accreditation, which incorporates Sport England's Club Mark criteria – a nationally-recognised accreditation and the sign of a quality club. GymMark has proved to be an excellent marketing tool for increasing membership – by demonstrating that member clubs have addressed issues such as equality and child protection, which gives confidence to parents choosing a club for their children.

The foundation for any sports club is its junior structure, so by encouraging and attracting young members, clubs are building a strong future. GymMark provides an excellent template for continuing club development. Likewise, in developing coaches, officials and volunteers, as part of GymMark, the clubs are given help and advice in developing the skills of everyone involved.

As part of the new Club Development Strategy 2009-2013, BG England plans to help clubs with their business planning and sustainability by providing a series of business models and case studies. ▶

“ **The NGB plans to help clubs with sustainable business planning by providing business models and case studies** ”



To support teachers with gymnastics delivery, BG has reviewed, updated and reorganised its teachers' awards

► Branching out

In addition to supporting the traditional clubs, BG is keen to take gymnastics to a wider audience. To do this the NGB plans to target HE and FE establishments with newly launched opportunities to take part in league competitions and festivals around the country.

Programmes are also being developed for the older generation (60+) to create socially-orientated opportunities that will help with movement, co-ordination and on going physical activity.

New activities within gymnastics include freestyle and cheerleading/street cheer. Both activities appeal to later teens/young adults and help to engage boys and girls in a positive activity in a safe environment with qualified coaches.

Volunteering

Volunteers interested in becoming gymnastic coaches, officials or administrators need dedication, desire, solid leadership and communication skills and of course, a passion for the sport.

Leadership is a growing area within the sport and BG England is currently delivering a number of programmes and initiatives to support young volunteers.

Courses such as the Helpers and Event Officiating Award aim to provide an opportunity for people of all ages, gender and ethnicity to learn and develop appropriate skills and attributes to assist with the organisation and running of gymnastics and trampolining clubs, extra curricular sessions and the confidence to officiate at gymnastic events.

The sport's most dedicated young leaders can attend the National Young Leaders Camp. The programme is designed to equip future generations of

leaders with the skills and networking opportunities to help them develop as officials, coaches and administrators to service sport in the future. The generic sessions offered at the camp in 2009 included coaching, officiating, club management, administration, team building, sports psychology and professional development planning.

Regionally, BG England hosts leadership academies that embrace youth involvement and bring together young volunteers (aged 12-24) from an education, club and community setting. The academies help the young leaders to develop skills while volunteering within gymnastics and give them ideas for ways to support and be involved in their clubs and communities to make a difference. Academy members are also provided with the opportunity to volunteer at national, regional and local events and within a club setting.

Key volunteers within these settings will be provided with mentoring, training and support to ensure that they receive a high quality experience. Along with the serious side of the academy comes a chance for young people with similar interests to get together as a social group and have fun.

Facilities

Gymnastics is a facility and equipment driven sport and because of this the provision of gymnastic venues is key to the development of the sport.

BG England is currently undertaking a 'club profiling' exercise that will map out the current club and facility situation and form the basis for a new facility development strategy. This will show where the dedicated facilities are

situated, what gymnastics disciplines take place within each facility and the levels of performance in each club. Having this understanding will not only help direct future funding and resources, but will also allow complementary projects and strategies to be implemented.

The development of facilities allows the sport to increase membership, generate improved income for clubs and provide additional training time for talented gymnasts to help improve levels of performance. With many clubs struggling to meet demands and experiencing waiting lists, increasing capacity through the development of facilities is a crucial area of investment for the growth of the sport.

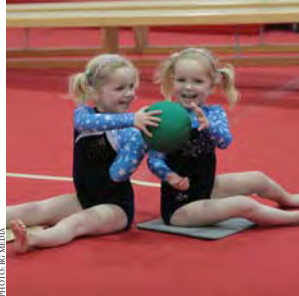
As part of the 2009-2013 Sport England Whole Sport Plan grant, BG will invest £2.75m into the development of facilities over the next three years. The fund will provide support to various facility projects that can help meet the sport's targets in terms of growing and sustaining participation.

BG England helps clubs to develop and improve facilities that meet the demands of all disciplines and assists projects that can prove they can make a long-term impact, be self sustainable and provide a high standard of service to customers while making a direct contribution to the key aims of the sport.

Due to the current high demand for the development and improvement of gymnastics facilities, BG is constantly working with and seeking new partners to support capital projects. The NGB continues to be very successful in securing funding from a variety of partners, such as local authorities, Sport England, the Building Schools for the Future initiative and private investors.

Gymnastics in schools

At a time when fitness levels in children



Gymnastics promotes an active and healthy lifestyle and forms fundamental movement skills for other sports



are low and the number of children who are deemed to be obese is growing, BG is striving to make a contribution to the wellbeing of future generations.

Gymnastic movements underpin all other areas of PE and provide the basic physical literacy components of agility, balance and co-ordination that set a child up to be capable and confident to take part in other sports and physical activity. The organisation recognises the challenges that non-specialist primary school teachers have in delivering an effective and enjoyable PE curriculum to children. It addresses this by offering support to build confidence in providing effective gymnastic sessions both in and outside of the curriculum.

To help support primary and secondary school teachers with gymnastics delivery, BG has reviewed, updated and reorganised its teachers' award courses, within the following areas:

- **The Introductory Level** is aimed mainly at primary non-specialist teachers. This course deals with safety, teaches set moves, incorporates apparatus and sequencing into skill work, gives an understanding of good body

management and identifies and remedies common faults.

- **The Intermediate Level** is aimed at primary school teachers who wish to start an after-school gym club. This course deals with setting up a club and gives an introduction to warm up exercises, floor skills, basic vaulting, acrobatics, aerobics and rhythmic disciplines of gymnastics.
- **The Intermediate Level (Skills for Secondary Schools)** includes progressive work on floor, rebound, acrobatic, aerobic and rhythmic gymnastics.

- **The Advanced Level** course builds on the work of the intermediate courses for teachers who want to increase their gymnastic knowledge.

To support the work of teachers and to encourage school/club links, BG, in conjunction with local authorities, specialist sports colleges and regional gymnastics associations have recruited 145 community sports coaches across England.

Their role is to support teachers with the delivery of national curriculum gymnastics, develop extra-curricular clubs in both the primary and secondary sectors, provide competitive or display opportunities in gymnastics for the schools and

link schools to existing BG registered clubs. The aim is to provide exit routes and further opportunities for the children and teachers involved in gymnastics.

Marketing

Like other successful organisations, BG is a strong brand that lives up to its promise and inspires commitment and loyalty. A strong brand implies high levels of awareness and a belief that the brand promise is relevant to the needs of those involved in the delivery of the sport or those that have an interest in it.

BG also helps develop the traditional club sector, while helping other sectors of the sport to build a higher quality of provision. An example of this is the BG Proficiency resources.

The organisation recognises that to retain teenage and adult gymnasts and attract new participants, both the programmes and the imagery used to promote them need to be targeted and age-specific. Work has begun to address this and to increase the ease of access into the sport. With its diverse range of disciplines, there is definitely something for everyone in gymnastics. ●



Temporary Swimming Pools

Pete Hayman looks at how temporary swimming pools can help people in hard-to-reach areas learn to swim and transform a venue into a water-based attraction

In an October 2008 report examining the provision of public swimming pools and diving facilities across London, the London Assembly's economic development, culture, sport and tourism committee suggested that better access could be provided by increasing the use of mobile or temporary swimming pools.

Since the publication of that report, London mayor Boris Johnson has continued to affirm his commitment to driving up sports participation throughout the capital in the lead up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Part of his focus during 2009 was to increase swimming opportunities.

Despite the committee's findings that a lack of accessible facilities was "unlikely to improve by 2012", efforts to improve swimming provision among communities with limited opportunities have been increasingly facilitated by the use of temporary pools. This was underpinned by the launch of the PlaySport London: Make A Splash scheme in October 2009, which received £7.5m to fund the use of mobile swimming facilities for 12 weeks in three different locations.

Swimming Partners

Delivered in partnership with children's charity The Variety Club, serviced office providers MWBex, the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) and London Swimming, the scheme's first mobile pool was installed at the Greenwood Primary School in Ealing and plans are

in place to unveil a second pool in early 2010. Another of the initiative's partners, Total Swimming, is providing the template for Make A Splash, to complement its own Pools4Schools programme.

Total Swimming founder Steve Parry developed the idea of using temporary swimming pools to help children learn how to swim after returning from his medal-winning performance at the 2004 Athens Olympics. Having become frustrated with low attainment rates for Key Stage Two pupils being able to swim 25m, Parry decided to do something about it.

We want to provide five hours of quality teaching provision, on a ratio of one teacher to seven swimmers, to 740 children per six weeks



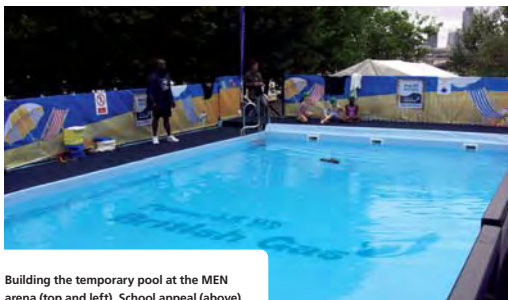
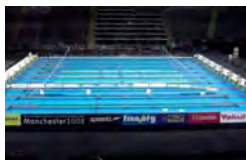
Steve Parry

"We were hit with the fact at the time that one in five kids leaving primary school were not reaching the national curriculum requirement of being able to swim 25m and found out that some of these negative figures linked to areas of deprivation, ethnic minority groups or kids who did not have access to swimming pools," he said.

With the help of commercial sponsor British Gas and a collaboration agreement with the ASA, the Pools4Schools initiative moves temporary facilities around the country on a six-week basis in a bid to help boost attainment rates, although Parry admits the scheme's success is down to varying factors.

"In terms of the planning, just the health and safety issues about sticking a temporary swimming pool into a school hall obviously makes a lot of people very nervous, whether it's asset teams at the councils, headteachers or the partnership development manager," explains Parry. "The reason it's worked for us is that we know a lot of people in swimming and we also understand what it takes to learn to swim in an effective way."

"Per programme, we want to provide five hours of quality teaching provision, on a ratio of one teacher to seven swimmers to 740 children, per six weeks. That's more than 3,500 hours of teaching swimming hours for the children. Our aim with the temporary pools model is to teach 10,000 kids to swim through the Pools4Schools programme and another 5,000 to swim through Boris Johnson's



programme. That's 15,000 for 2009. This year, we hope to get closer to teaching 25,000 kids using this method."

It's showtime

Temporary swimming pools are not just an effective means of helping people learn to swim. Such facilities also play an important role in showcasing water-based activities and staging major competition events in venues that are traditionally renowned for 'dry' use.

The annual Leisure Industry Week (LIW) event at Birmingham's NEC boasts a temporary pool to showcase pool building and maintenance technology, as well as demonstrations in the latest swimming training techniques and initiatives.

LIW has partnered with AstralPool since 2005 to provide a temporary SkyPool facility. Show organiser Jonny Sullens explains that the relationship has enabled the event to boast the pool area, despite having little margin for delay as a result of tight tenancy arrangements.

"We begin with a planning meeting," says Sullens. "Then Astral liaises with its partners and submits technical plans to our operations team. These are checked by an independent health and safety advisor before being approved."

"Astral arrives at the NEC to install the pool as soon as our tenancy commences," Sullens explains. "Time is the main challenge, as we have just three days to build the pool and one-and-a-half days to dismantle it. In addition, the power at the NEC runs beneath the

floor so we need to be extra vigilant about leaks or overflows."

The SkyPool system has also been installed for use at the FINA long and short course World Swimming Championships in indoor arenas in Manchester, Barcelona and Shanghai. The company was also the first to install a 50m x 25m x 3m temporary pool at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne, Australia. AstralPool commercial manager Simon Jones says that each venue needs to be able demonstrate it can accommodate the SkyPool.

"We carry out a site survey to check that the venue is capable of a pool installation and if the required electrical, water and waste drains services are suitable. If there are any doubts over the suitability of the floor then we recommend that a structural survey is carried out. This is particularly essential when installing a 25m or 50m pool."

Ensuring that plumbing and filtration systems are designed correctly is another part of the SkyPool's operation that is determined by the nature of the venue.

"The filtration plant design depends on the pool size," Jones says. "The filtration plant is pre-plumbed onto skids at our factory, these are then ready for installation at the venue. When large pools are installed the filtration plant would normally be situated under the temporary pool deck and the filtration plant would be designed to fit underneath. On smaller pools,

space and access are often limited so we design the plant to go through double doors and moved using pallet trucks."

Another mobile pool provider Invarmex's managing director Bill Tuplin also advocates the benefits of temporary swimming pools. "We can provide a 25m pool in a dry stadium, erect in double-quick time and take it down even quicker," says Tuplin. "So the stadium can revert back to its dry state for the next event."

Furthermore, Invarmex and AstralPool have both seen local authorities and leisure operators look to the use of mobile pools to retain swimming provision in an area where permanent facilities are undergoing refurbishment. But Steve Parry believes that temporary pools can complement existing provision.

"If people don't want to spend £4-5m on a 25m swimming pool that's only going to affect a certain area, they can invest in a facility that they can then move around to schools or groups based on needs," he says. "However, I would hope that in the long term there is enough pool access for children and adults across the country. Temporary pools shouldn't be used as an excuse not to build proper leisure facilities. They should be there to accompany the delivery of swimming and not to replace pool space." ●

Pete Hayman is a Leisure Media journalist

Liz Behnke advises on the funding streams available for sports projects and offers practical advice on how to access it

CHASING THE MONEY

With the advent of Lottery funding for sport back in the 1990s it seemed to many clubs that if you had a project, all you had to do was put in an application and wait for the funds to arrive. Then the Football Foundation came along, and the same seemed to happen for football projects.

Today we're in a very different world. Lottery income has dropped and funding is distributed in a different way. There are still many funding streams available but to be successful in accessing it you have to think smart and be focused on your project.

What's out there?

There are a number of different funding sources available, depending upon the scope of your project and its location. The list includes:

- Trusts and charities
- Sport England's Small Grant scheme
- The Lottery (via Sport England)
- Landfill tax
- Coalfield regeneration trusts
- The Football Foundation
- The Rugby Football Foundation
- The governing bodies of sport
- Local authorities
- Health authorities
- TV fund raisers ie Sport Relief
- Sponsorship
- Sportsmatch
- The National Sports Foundation

Some, but not all national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) now have their own capital and revenue grant schemes. These all have their own criteria, but most will look to achieve Sport England's aim of getting one million people more active, more often.

There are also many more funding sources at local level, but these can be very specific. The Directory of Grant Making Trusts (www.grantsonline.org.uk) or Funderfinder (www.funderfinder.org.uk) can be used to track them down.

Planning your project

When planning your project and developing your business plan there are three key areas that need to be addressed:

- 1 Strategic Need
- 2 Local Need
- 3 Sports Development

1 Strategic need

You need to consider where your project will fit into the bigger picture. Will it be a key facility for your local area, for the county or region – or is it a local scheme which will only benefit a small key group of people? This is an important issue to consider, as it will determine where you can seek funding. Funding bodies

will expect you to have consulted with a range of organisations, such as:

- The NGB specific to your sport
- The local County Sports Partnership (CSP)
- The Local Authority
- The Community Sports Network

You also need to identify the local competition. Your project is important to you, but is it to others? If there are already similar facilities in the area, then will the market be able to sustain another one?

2 Local need

At a local level, it is important to identify who uses your facilities and who doesn't. If people aren't using your facilities, then it's important to find out why. This can be done through a local survey to highlight whether people are actually interested in your project.

Another area to examine is whether you are able to meet any additional, unmet demand – both now and in the future – as this will impact on what type of facilities you need to provide.

You will also need to identify local competition, ie is there a similar facility being planned locally that you weren't aware of or is there already something in the next town with an underused capacity?

“Any organisation that's prepared to fund a sports project will have its own agenda, whether that is increasing participation or a specific interest in your sport”



Three key areas need to be addressed in the business plan: strategic need, local need and sports development³

3 Sports development

Think about whether a funder would be interested in investing in a project if they could see any improvement as a result. Sports development is one way of proving this and is often ignored when planning a new facility.

It's critical to identify potential new customers. Most funding bodies will want to see an increase in participation as a result of their investment and will want to ensure that it is a benefit to the local community – they want some pay-back for their investment.

It's no use seeking to improve your existing facilities if this will only benefit a small group of people. CSPs, local authorities and Sport England, to name a few, want to see an increase in participation and will only support projects which can demonstrate they can achieve this.

Two new tools which are available to help you make the case are Active People and Market Segmentation.

- The Active People Survey is the largest survey of sport and active recreation undertaken in England (see p44) and now has three years' worth of available data. It creates a baseline against which active participation can be measured anywhere in the country and is a valuable tool for anyone planning a new facility to use in identifying their local participation rates. Full details can be found on the Sport England website (www.sportengland.org).

- Market Segmentation is tool that has evolved from the Active People Survey. It helps to understand what motivates people to play or not play sport.

Based around 19 common groups of people, it can be explored at differing geographic levels, to find out what people's sporting habits are in a community, local authority or region. Detailed

information on how to use this tool can be found on CSP or Sport England websites.

Linked to this advice, you need to identify what is limiting your development. Is it poor changing facilities, bad drainage, a lack of floodlit facilities, or indoor space or just the location, which means you can't expand and therefore need to find another site?

Taking all of this into account will demonstrate to a potential funder that you're planning ahead and thinking about how your club will grow and benefit the local community.

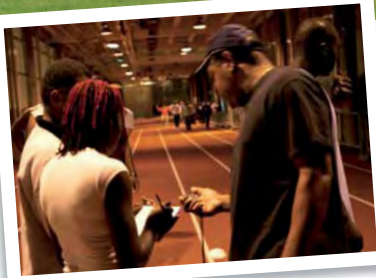
Sports development planning is about having a clear vision for the future and it can be summarised in six key words:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Aims | What are you aiming to achieve? |
| How | are you going to do this? |
| Who | is going to do the work? |
| When | what are the timescales involved? |
| What | is the project? |
| Review | How will you know what has been achieved? (You need to have a way of reviewing the progress throughout the project). |

Your project

In addition to all of the above, there are a host of other issues you will need to consider about your project.

- These include:
- Marketing of the facility/project
 - Access issues
 - Charging policies
 - Management of the facility
 - Operational issues
 - Programming
 - Income and expenditure plans



All of these make up your project and if they can be presented in a clear and logical way, then your chance of securing funding increases.

The funders

It's worth remembering that any organisation that's prepared to fund a sports project will have its own agenda – whether that's increasing participation or a specific interest in your sport. The key message here is to get to know your funders and be clear about what their criteria are. Are they seeking payback in any form? Are they focusing on any specific target groups such as young people or people with a disability.

Make sure that you read the funder's documentation carefully before you begin to complete it. If you are unsure about anything, then seek clarification. Many funders are happy to offer advice and would prefer people to come to them first to see whether their project is eligible before an applicant spends a lot of time developing a project that isn't fundable.

In other words, in order to obtain funding – know your project, know your funder and above all, keep it simple. ●

For more information contact Liz or Mike at szygy@szygyileisure.co.uk

Published in December 2009, the third round of the Active People Survey (APS3), conducted by Ipsos MORI, shows that Sport England is now 115,000 closer to its target of getting one million people playing more sport by 2012/2013. Andrew Haylett reports

ACTIVE PEOPLE SURVEY 3

The third Active People Survey, which ran from October 2008 to October 2009, follows on from the previous two surveys conducted in 2005/6 and 2007/8.

Following the implementation of Sport England's new strategy (see interview p16), the Active People 2 (APS2) survey provided the first set of measures for a number of key indicators. These included the original KPI1 three times 30 minutes (3x30) participation in sport and active recreation indicator, the new one million target indicator and the new National Indicator 8.

With the publication of Active People 3 (APS3) it is now possible to make a comparison with the previous results, details of which are outlined on page 45.

National Headline Results

APS3 shows that 16.6 per cent of all adults aged 16 and over participated in sport at least three times a week at a moderate intensity (one million target indicator). An increase of 115,000, this equates to 6.93 million people. This compares with

16.4 per cent (6.815 million) in APS2 and 15.5 per cent (6.295 million) in APS1.

Participation against the KPI1 target has also seen a significant increase from APS2 to APS3, and is now 21.6 per cent compared to 21.3 per cent in APS2 and 21 per cent in the first survey. The percentage of adults meeting the NI8 target has also risen from 21.2 per cent in APS1 to 21.9 per cent under the new APS3 results.

Between the APS1 and APS2 surveys, there was a significant decrease of nearly 3 per cent from 69.5 per cent to 66.6 per cent in the proportion of adults saying they are satisfied with local sport provision. However, the findings of the APS3 survey show that this percentage is now 68.4 per cent, which is certainly a move in the right direction.

Sports Specific Results

Participation in sport is defined as the percentage of adults aged 16-plus taking part in a sport at moderate intensity for 30 minutes or more at least once in the last week.

Although swimming continues to be the most popular sport, topping the table in all three survey periods, the sport is actually witnessing a decline in numbers. Over the course of APS3, 81,900 fewer adults participated in swimming than in 2007/8. Looking back to 2005/6, the number has fallen by over 111,000.

It is in both cycling and athletics that we see significant increases when comparing APS3 with both APS2 and APS1. Between 2007/8 and 2008/9, 112,900 more people participated in cycling and 127,600 in athletics.

While football remains statistically unchanged from APS2 to APS3, more than 100,000 extra people participated in 2008/9 than during the first survey in 2005/6. Golf participation has decreased, with 50,700 fewer people taking part in APS3 compared to the previous year.

Active People Diagnostic

During 2009, Active People Diagnostic was upgraded to incorporate the new APS2 data. The diagnostic allows

One million indicator: This is the number of adults (16 and over) participating in at least 30 minutes of sport at moderate intensity at least three times a week. This does not include recreational walking or infrequent recreational cycling, but does include cycling if done at least once a week at moderate intensity and for at least 30 minutes. Other more

intense activities such as power walking, hill trekking, cliff walking and gorge walking are also included.

KPI1: The percentage of adult participating in at least 30 minutes of sport and active recreation (including recreational walking and cycling) of at least moderate intensity, three days a week.

NI8: This indicator measures the percent-

age of adults in a local area who participated in sport and active recreation, at moderate intensity, for at least 30 minutes, on at least 12 days out of the last four weeks (equivalent to 30 minutes on three or more days a week). NI8 includes five light intensity sports (yoga, pilates, indoor and outdoor bowls, archery and croquet) for those aged 65 and over.

“Although swimming continues to be the most popular sport, it’s witnessing a decline in numbers”

in-depth interrogation of the sports data at numerous geographical levels, as well as providing analysis of data by a wide variety of socio-demographic variables, survey questions and Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

The site remains open to the public and to date achieved more than 6,000 registered users since its launch in 2006. During the 13,000 times the site has been accessed, users have clocked up 340,000 page views while investigating their particular areas of interest.

The original features of the service remain, but have been added to with new questions and variables implemented and new modules made available. This continues to provide users with a wide range of analysis tools and overview modules, starting with the very simple ‘top line’ information by sport, indicator or region, to the fairly complicated dissection of results such as by survey question or detailed demographics. With multiple surveys now on the site, users can also compare results over time.

The structure of Active People Diagnostic has been reordered slightly and the look and feel of the site upgraded to give it a modern edge. The key areas are detailed below.

Key Performance Indicators

This section of the site offers the user results for the main KPIs by individual local authorities, county councils, Community Sport Partnerships (CSPs), regions and on a national level. Each KPI is displayed by

| Activity | AP51 (2005/6) | | AP52 (2007/8) | | AP53 (2008/9) | | ± participants AP53 vs AP52 |
|-----------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Swimming | 3,273,800 | 8.04% | 3,244,300 | 7.83% | 3,162,400 | 7.57% | -81,900 |
| Football | 2,021,700 | 4.97% | 2,144,700 | 5.18% | 2,122,700 | 5.08% | -22,000 |
| Cycling | 1,634,800 | 4.02% | 1,767,100 | 4.26% | 1,880,000 | 4.50% | 112,900 |
| Athletics | 1,353,800 | 3.33% | 1,612,100 | 3.89% | 1,739,700 | 4.16% | 127,600 |
| Golf | 889,100 | 2.18% | 948,300 | 2.29% | 897,600 | 2.15% | -50,700 |

For the third survey in a row, the top five most popular sports ranking remains unchanged

key socio-demographics and compared with the previous years of the survey. At county council and local authority level you can also assess how each area compares with another. A summary of results for each of the main KPIs, by all local authorities can be accessed and downloaded from here.

The new dashboard module displays results for the main KPIs by individual local authorities, county councils and CSPs in interactive charts. A summary of each KPI by area is displayed and the user can then access a breakdown by key socio-demographic group achieving the target. Previous AP1 and AP2 survey results are also shown for comparison.

Sport results

Users can access information by Sport England-funded, as well as unfunded, sports from this area of the site. National participation rates, club membership, tuition and participation in competition are displayed in an understandable format.

Another new dashboard module provides a profile of participants in Sport

England-funded sports. The make up of all participants is shown by the standard key socio-demographic groups and compared with the profile of the overall population of the UK, as well as to participation rates from APS1.

Interactive element

The Interactive element of Active People Diagnostic remains unchanged, however it been upgraded and expanded to allow more options and greater flexibility. Here users can continue to build profiles of respondents and compare results using the profile analysis menu. The cross tabulation function now features the new survey questions and variables, which offers the opportunity to run results by an increased number of breakdowns, bases and sub-groups. The comparative analysis module has also been upgraded to allow a greater number of sports or areas to be compared at the same time.

The AP53 data will be available to examine later in the year. ●

Andrew Haylett is a research manager at Ipsos MORI research company

What's the cost of going GREEN?

Will sports turf follow other industries in going green? The STRI's Lee Penrose reports

Reflecting on 2009, we had the banking crisis, followed by the recession and the year culminated with the Climate Summit in Copenhagen, which focused our attention on the environment.

We're becoming almost immune to the shock messages released by governments and environmental pressure groups. We've seen pictures of polar bears starving through lack of hunting ground, huge chunks of ice slipping into the sea and rising sea levels swallowing small villages in the South Pacific. The problem seems so big that individuals don't feel sufficiently empowered to make a difference, so most of us take the easy option and simply leave it to someone else.

However, addressing climate change could offer opportunities for the groundsware industry – by cutting costs and promoting their facilities.

Marketing opportunities

Although most people don't want to lose their resource-hungry lifestyles, one of the easiest ways to make a difference (and ease the conscience) is to purchase

products and services that have environmental or green credentials. Increasingly sports and amenity facility managers are recognising the value of developing robust environmental policies, which can be a great marketing tool.

Ecology and grant funding

Managing outdoor sports or leisure facilities offers many opportunities for environmental improvements and cost savings. During many years as an ecological and environmental consultant, I've seen opportunities at a variety of sites – from public parks, private estates, schools and hospital grounds, through to cricket squares, Premiership training grounds and golf courses. Each presents its own set of circumstances, but all offer the opportunity to improve working practices and deliver an environmentally sustainable experience for the user.

Simple measures, such as changing the management of non-use areas of the land can bring about considerable ecological gains, while even the most basic of energy surveys and efficiency reports can save up to 20 per cent on an annual energy bill. Grant funding is available

Burhill Golf Club has reduced its running costs and increased its market share of visiting golfers

BURHILL GOLF AND LEISURE

Based in the south-east of England, Burhill Golf and Leisure operates 10 golf facilities, ranging from pay and play through to the prestigious Old Course at Burhill Golf Club in Walton on Thames, Surrey.

Like many golf facilities at the outset of the recession, the management had two choices, to either slash green fees

(and therefore income) in an attempt to attract new golfers, or increase the quality of the courses in order to set them apart from neighbouring clubs.

The operator made the decision to improve its market position through investing in the courses.

An environmental policy was developed for the group and an environment and

ecological management programme was developed for each site.

In addition to the obvious benefits of reducing energy and water bills and improving habitats on the golf courses, the group has recorded a significant reduction in running costs and has increased its market share of visiting golfers through the quality of its courses.

for numerous environmental initiatives, details of which can be obtained from STRI's Ecology Environment Unit.

Water management

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is the single most significant piece of water legislation to affect land managers in the past 30 years. In contrast to previous water quality-focused legislation, the WFD will give more consideration to the ecological status of fresh water. Broken down into distinct river basins, the WFD's effect on individual managers will vary from region to region – depending on the water problems in each area. However, common themes across facilities in the UK will include the appropriate sourcing and efficient application of irrigation water, the storage of pesticides and fertilizers and the cleansing of waste water following machinery wash down. There are examples of best practice advice freely available at www.nroso.npct.org.uk and www.stri.co.uk

Waste management

A change in attitude has altered the way in which sport facility managers deal with the waste arising from routine maintenance over the last 20 or 30 years. Prior to that time, most managers would collect green waste and compost it on site, producing a usable material thereafter. In recent times, with readily available cheap fertilisers and no recompense for the indiscriminate disposal of green waste, these practices have been all but forgotten. However, green waste management systems are now beginning to make a comeback.

The cost of material disposal to landfill has doubled over the past four years and now stands at some £48 per tonne. Equally the cost of nitrate- and potassium-rich fertilisers has also increased over the same period. With a little forethought and planning the green waste arising from the everyday maintenance of your facility can be collected, stored, managed and transformed into a useful and cost-effective fertiliser or construction material. Developing a good

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER SPORTS GROUNDS

The Quintin Hogg Memorial Sports Grounds at the University of Westminster consists of a few natural turf, rugby and football pitches, tennis courts and a synthetic five-a-side pitch.

A short-term ecological improvement programme was drawn up by the STRI, which included changing the routine management of many areas, so staff time could be reallocated to more core activities during the summer months.

Funding via the London Tree and Woodland Grant Scheme, for the introduction of 1km of native hedgerow, was successfully acquired. Old, rusty fences have now been replaced with a diverse hedgerow that is creating wildlife habitats and developing a more secure and pleasant setting for visitors.

Other projects implemented within the programme include the development of wildflower areas and an allotment to grow organic fruit and vegetables. Projects in the pipeline include a water capture and storage/re-use system.



composting system is not rocket science, but it does require a little consultation that will bring dividends in the long run. Dr David Lawson is a leading expert in composting and turf management at the STRI and would be happy to advise.

The future?

Apparently, the Chinese word for problem is the same word they use for opportunity. This has never been truer when it comes to the environmental pressures that are facing our industry. At some point we can either be reactive to legislation and climate change as it impacts on our day to day management or we can be pro-active by embracing change and turning these opportunities to our advantage. ●

Lee Penrose is a senior consultant, Ecology and Environment, at STRI www.ecology@stri.co.uk

ST ANDREWS LINKS TRUST

The wash-down of maintenance machinery is a problem at every golf club or sports facility. This issue is particularly exacerbated on an open links site such as St Andrews Golf Club in Scotland.

Although not loaded heavily with pollutants, this water often contains moderate levels of herbicides, fertilisers and other pesticides, which can pollute nearby ground water, streams, ditches and ponds. In order to retain its position as one of the most environmentally-sound golf facilities in the UK, the Links Trust is currently part way through the installation of five reedbed filtration systems, which will appropriately clean all waste water following machinery wash-down prior to discharge. The systems were designed by the STRI and installed under licence from the Scottish Environment and Protection Agency.

The typical cost of a reedbed construction including design and materials is around £5,000. It's a very cost-effective and environmentally sound option with no ongoing maintenance or running costs.

Five reedbed filtration systems have been installed at St Andrews Golf Course to clean waste water

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YEAR-ROUND TENNIS

Indoor tennis facilities are key to encouraging people to play the sport on a more regular basis. Karen Maxwell visited the recently opened tennis airhall at Easton College in Norwich and highlights two further new indoor facilities

It's a well-known fact that tennis courts around the country are inundated with eager players during the two weeks of the Wimbledon tournament every June, but this intense interest usually dies down once the typical British weather hampers year-round play.

However, a growing supply of indoor facilities at tennis centres around the country is allowing the budding tennis champions of the future, as well as tennis enthusiasts who enjoy playing the game as a way of keeping fit, to play come rain or shine.

Norfolk newcomer

Jamie and Judy Murray, the brother and mother of tennis ace Andy, witnessed the official opening of the tennis centre at Easton College in Norwich recently.

The £3.2m development, consisting of four indoor tennis courts under a Yeadon Domes airhall and four more in a permanent structure, has added a pay and play facility to Norfolk's tennis

landscape, in which provision had been four courts down after the closure of Lakenham Tennis Club two years earlier.

Renowned for its land-based agricultural curriculum, Easton College has recently expanded into sport provision, bolstered by the new tennis facility; two recently-installed, full-sized football pitches (including a 3G synthetic turf pitch) and an existing multi-use sports hall, to facilitate its 330 full-time sports students.

Built with partnership funding from the Learning and Skills Council, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), Norfolk Lawn Tennis Association and the college itself, the project was completed in two phases.

In autumn 2008, the first stage of the tennis centre development became operational with the construction of the four-court air hall. Building work on the second phase finished in June 2009. This included the permanent structure, featuring four acrylic indoor courts, changing rooms, toilets,



refreshment areas, offices, seminar rooms and a viewing gallery.

Programming

As well as developing a tennis culture for the sports students at the college by offering LTA courses and in house placements for trainee leisure assistants, the pay and play indoor facility has also enhanced regional tennis provision.

"The first phase of the project became operational almost straight away as Norfolk Tennis desperately needed more courts for the coming winter," Easton College sport and tennis manager Matt Breese explains. "It was



Jamie and Judy Murray encourage young tennis players at the air hall official opening

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“We decided not to compete with other tennis providers in the area, we wanted to work in partnership with them”

a tough six to nine months running a no-frills, basic facility, but the advantage was that the tennis venue started to pay for itself from day one.

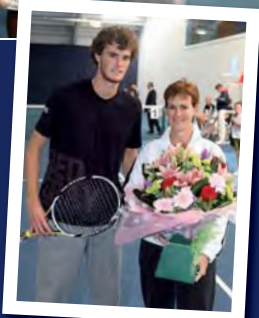
“The centre inherited Lakenham Tennis Centre’s tennis programme and although, due to the two-year gap, the number of children on the programme had dwindled from 240 to 80 players, it was better than starting from scratch and allowed us to inherit two established coaches,” Breese says.

Partnerships

A Level 4 tennis coach, former tennis manager at Leeds City Council and LTA tennis development manager for the South East region, Breese joined the project to put the business plan for tennis provision together and gain LTA

support. The initial plan was to run it as a letting facility, but when he came on board Breese had other plans. “We decided not to compete with other tennis providers in the area, we wanted to work in partnership with them by providing an all-weather pay and play scheme instead of going down the membership route, so it’s open to everyone,” he says. He also saw the benefit of running their own tennis programme to ensure that the facility would be busy throughout the year.

Now running more than 80 coaching sessions a week for both performance and social players as well as weekend tennis events, Breese says the centre is very much the result of solid partnerships between other tennis facilities, Tennis East, Norfolk County Sports



Partnership (CSP) and the local School Sport Partnership. “We’ve set up a CSP-backed 10-week tennis programme for adults who want to get back into the sport and are also currently working with children from 16 local schools, where we offer teacher training, host inter-school competitions and fast track good players towards performance programmes,” Breese says.

“I suppose with my tennis experience I know what’s out there, regarding funding, support and partner opportunities. We’ve topped the LTA’s league table for Clubmark status, we receive LTA performance funding, which subsidises the court costs for coaches, kids’ equipment and off-court responsibilities and we regularly liaise with the tennis development manager at Tennis East to ensure that we are doing the right thing for local tennis investment,” he says.

Marketing

During the summer of 2009 when the whole facility was up and running, Breese set up an agreement with the

CASE STUDY

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WALLSEND, NORTH TYNESIDE

Construction has started on the new indoor tennis complex at Churchill Community College in Wallsend, North Tyneside, to create an all-weather facility for students, local residents and tennis clubs.

The four-court centre – consisting of a steel-framed, waterproof fabric structure, is set to be built over the school’s existing tennis courts, which will undergo improvements as part of the scheme and will link with other indoor sports areas at the school. Nearly £500,000 has been invested into the

new facility by the LTA as part of British Tennis’ Places to Play strategy to boost participation. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has also contributed.

Matt James, LTA UK head of performance, says: “Indoor facilities make a huge difference to the number of playing hours in the winter months. Improving and increasing facilities for the whole community is key to increasing the number of people playing tennis, keeping them in the game and supporting talented players to achieve their potential.”

Norfolk 100-team adult tennis league to allow the use of the facility during inclement weather. "This ended up being a great marketing ploy because it brought active tennis players from the surrounding areas to experience what we had to offer once all the facilities were finalised," says Breese.

Having the Murray duo opening the facility also attracted a lot of regional interest. "Lucky for us the club opening fitted well with their RBS sponsor commitments," Breese explained. "We gave RBS the use of the facility for a half-day corporate event and we're able to have James and Judy for two hours after that.



We invited players and partners from the Norfolk county tennis league and we were able to give a backdrop to tennis progressions on court – then Jamie partnered a national LTA coach in an exhibition doubles match. We subsequently got media publicity from the local newspapers, radio and TV stations."

Breese may have got the facility on Norfolk's tennis map and has a responsibility to ensure that the courts are busy from a commercial standpoint, "but, he says "we also want to ensure that courts can be hired at short notice to encourage people into the sport any day of the year." ●

CASE STUDY

GOSLING INTERNATIONAL HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE

The recent construction of a tennis air hall at Gosling Sports Park in Welwyn Garden City has given a substantial boost to tennis provision in the Hertfordshire area.

Having been awarded International High Performance Centre status by the LTA in the summer of 2009 (one of four in the UK), the Sports Park's tennis centre is already a training base for a number of national and international-standard players – including 12 AEGON FutureStars. However, the pay and play court rental policy allows for wider participation – attracting tennis enthusiasts from the Hertfordshire and North London area, regardless of their age, ability and ambition in the sport.

Thanks to a £400,000 grant from Sport England through the LTA, the Bridome air hall construction was part of a wider £4.7m redevelopment of the 50-acre sports park site, which links the tennis centre to both new and existing buildings. New facilities include a 100-station fitness centre, a spa complex, a golf driving range, new changing rooms, a sports retail outlet, new offices and a reception area. The park also houses a 170m ski and board centre, an athletics track, a cycling velodrome and a 3G football pitch, sports rehabilitation and wellness centre.

The extended tennis facility is a welcome extension to the sports park. It offers nine indoor championship acrylic

courts, four covered American clay courts, five outdoor floodlit synthetic grass courts, three outdoor floodlit championship acrylic courts and the air hall has increased the number of indoor hard courts by four.

Matt Willcocks, tennis director at Gosling, says: "The tennis bubble has enabled our coaching team to continue the drive to get more people into the sport. By building on the success of our performance programme, we have used our expertise, in partnership with Hertfordshire LTA and other funding bodies, to provide further opportunities to schools, clubs and members of the community."

The tennis centre currently has links to 13 schools in the Camden area and is involved with a four-place tennis scholarship at a nearby private school.

Willcocks is working towards the tennis provision becoming the best in the world by 2012. "We have 150 action points to achieve that long-term goal, which means we have something to do every day to get there," he says.

Grant Shapps MP (pictured centre with ball) opened the facility, which is run by Matt Willcocks (far right)



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North Yorkshire installation for Hippo

A range of interactive water play equipment has been put in place at Hambleton Leisure Centre in Northallerton, North Yorkshire.

A Waterball, complete with a four-arm interactive mast (pictured) is the main focus of the installation, with a themed fish shower, waterwheel, pipefalls and tipping buckets housed at the top of the mast.

At the bottom, multiple water jets and fill and spill buckets provide additional interactive features.

sport-kit.net keywords
hippo leisure



Science in Sport sponsors Sir Chris Hoy

Sports nutrition company, Science in Sport (SiS) has announced its official sponsorship of World and Olympic champion track cyclist, Sir Chris Hoy.

The first athlete to officially represent the brand globally, Hoy (above right) will be featured in a series of online videos, which will give an insight into the cyclist's training techniques and nutritional requirements.

SiS will also work with Hoy in the run-up to the London 2012 Games.

sport-kit.net keyword
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HS Sports installs Colorado system at Corby Pool

A timing, scoring and display system from Colorado Time Systems has been installed at the recently opened Corby International East Midlands Pool in Northamptonshire.

Suitable for swimming and diving events – as well as water-polo – results, scores, advertising and live video can be shown on the company's 2.2m x 4.8m display screen.

The pool also utilises Colorado Time Systems' quick connect system that consists of a single cable from each starting block to the pool deck to reduce on-deck wiring. Furthermore, each starting block



sport-kit.net keyword
hs sports

also houses an integrated speaker, connection plate and Relay Judging Platform (RJP) with speedlight, which is said to be the most accurate way to judge relay exchanges.



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greenfields

GreenFields – FIFA Preferred Producer

Synthetic surfaces company GreenFields was awarded FIFA Preferred Producer status at the FSB trade fair in Cologne, Germany.

The FIFA quality concept for synthetic football turf was developed to standardise the quality of football pitches and to guarantee the safety of football players.

As a FIFA Preferred Producer, GreenFields takes full responsibility for the production, installation and maintenance of artificial football turf from inception to completion.



Standards for ARTIFICIAL GRASS FOOTBALL PITCHES

The FA has replaced its Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches for Community Use with the revised FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (2009 edition). Alastair Cox discusses the new standard and how its adoption by the FA will affect the UK sports surfacing market

The FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf (FQC) was launched in 2001 and has been updated a number of times since then, most recently in May 2009.

In 2005, harmonisation with UEFA resulted in FIFA developing two categories of pitch certification, FIFA Two Star being designed for top level use and FIFA One Star having slightly wider bands of performance and being aimed at training and moderate-use community pitches.

The latest revisions have now increased the differences between the two categories; FIFA Two Star remaining the higher category, being intended for professional clubs and national stadia, while FIFA One Star is now focused on the ability of surfaces to withstand significantly higher levels of use as often found on community pitches.

To achieve the new objectives, the FIFA One Star category has been significantly revised so the laboratory testing procedures an artificial turf surface must satisfy before being considered suitable for installation now include a simulated use-test

that is four times as severe as that used previously. It is this new FIFA One Star category that the FA has now adopted.

As the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf is linked to a commercial licence, FIFA has also published the International Artificial Turf Standard (IATS) for companies not wishing to join the FIFA Quality Concept; the IATS is technically equivalent to the FIFA One Star category and compliance with either is recognised by the FA.

How does a pitch obtain FIFA certification?

To ensure that certified pitches are well constructed, with surfaces of proven quality and are installed at sites with adequate allowance for maintenance, the FQC includes a comprehensive series of laboratory and site tests and inspections.

These are designed to provide wide ranging protection to purchasers of artificial grass pitches and reassurance to funding bodies. This greatly reduces the risk of low-quality surfaces or

inadequate maintenance leading to unsatisfactory or unsafe pitches.

The steps to a pitch being certified by FIFA:

STEP 1 – the manufacturer of the artificial turf surface has the product tested in the laboratory by a FIFA certified test institute for a series of parameters that include:

- ball/surface interaction
- player/surface interaction
- effects of simulated use
- resistance to artificial weathering (UV resistance)
- durability and the effects of artificial ageing

Only products that fully satisfy the laboratory test requirements of the FQC (2009 edition) may be installed on pitches requiring FIFA certification.

STEP 2 – following the construction of a pitch, it is then subjected to a series of sports performance and construction tests which have been designed to ensure that the artificial sports turf surface has been installed correctly. ▶

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Measuring the 'angle ball behaviour' of artificial grass for community use

“Failure to maintain a pitch correctly is a common cause of poor performance and can result in invalid warranties”

- ▶ Even the best quality surfaces will not perform acceptably if they are poorly or incorrectly installed. For a pitch to satisfy the field test requirements of the FQC it has to pass all the tests undertaken in each of the six test positions; there is no tolerance of unacceptable performance.

STEP 3 – samples of the installed artificial turf surface and infill are taken from the site to the laboratory for analysis to ensure they are identical to those that satisfied the laboratory test requirements (Step 1).

If the materials are found to be different, the pitch will not be certified by FIFA as the surface's ability to provide acceptable long-term performance has not been proven.

STEP 4 – as part of the field test, an audit of the maintenance equipment and training provided to the ground staff is undertaken.

If the equipment is not as specified by the surface manufacturer or inadequate training has been provided, FIFA will not certify the pitch, as failure to maintain a pitch correctly is the most common cause of poor performance and often results in warranties becoming invalid.

Pitches satisfying the demanding requirements of the FQC are certified by FIFA for one year for the FIFA Two Star category and four years for the FIFA One Star category, although FIFA can (and does) undertake spot checks at any time and if a pitch fails, its certification is cancelled. In addition, the FA's competition and funding rules may require more frequent testing of FIFA One Star category pitches.

Training and small-sided pitches

As the FIFA Quality Concept for Football only covers full-sized pitches, the FA has specified that small-sided and training pitches should be field tested in accordance with British Standard BS EN 15330: Surfaces for Sports Areas. This specification for synthetic turf surfaces is primarily designed for football (which has similar field test requirements to the FIFA One Star category) and recommends the artificial turf surface satisfies the laboratory test requirements of the FQC, which are more demanding than the British Standard.

Converting existing synthetic grass pitches

As an increasing number of sand-filled artificial turf pitches are being converted to long-pile football surfaces, particular consideration needs to be given to the provisions made in the FQC for such projects – when an existing shockpad is to be retained and incorporated into the new artificial turf surfacing system.

As the performance and durability of the football turf is significantly influenced by the shockpad, it is important that only surfacing systems incorporating shockpads with similar performance characteristics to the existing one are considered for the resurfacing. Consequently, the properties of the retained shockpad must be measured on-site prior to tenders being sought (which will require the existing synthetic turf surface to be cut to allow access to the shockpad). Contractors bidding for the resurfacing will then know what the performance of the shockpad is and can select an appropriate football turf surfacing system.

What will happen to the FA Performance Standards?

As part of the harmonisation of standards, the FA has agreed to withdraw, with immediate effect, its Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches for Community Use – published in 2004. In addition, FIFA accredited laboratories (that the FA requires to undertake laboratory and field tests will not undertake tests in accordance with the FA standard – so even if it is incorrectly specified pitches cannot be tested by recognised test laboratories. ●

Alastair Cox is director of Labosport – a FIFA accredited test laboratory

Further Information

Further details about the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf, FIFA accredited laboratories and copies of the laboratory and field test requirements may be downloaded from the FIFA website at www.fifa.com/aboutfifa/developing/pitchequipment/footballturf/index

Guidance on the testing of artificial grass football surfaces and the testing of installed pitches in accordance with FIFA and FA requirements may also be obtained from Labosport at info@labosport.co.uk

The FA, in conjunction with Labosport, is currently updating its guidance notes on artificial grass pitches and these will soon be available on the FA's website at www.thefa.com



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Women's changing rooms

Changing rooms play a large part in poor sports participation levels among females and operators need to take some tips from the retail industry if this trend is to be reversed.
Kath Hudson reports

A few years ago, while heavily pregnant, I went for a swim at a hotel. Dressing in the communal changing room afterwards, with no place to hide, I noticed the horrified expression of an eight-year-old girl staring at my belly. I've never felt so self-conscious and didn't go back. It seems I'm not alone. Many women in the UK are naming poor changing rooms, – which offer no privacy, are unclean and don't offer the facilities to make themselves look presentable afterwards – as a reason to duck out of sport.

According to research from the Women in Sport and Fitness Foundation (WSFF), just 3 per cent of females in the UK play organised team sports and 80 per cent don't do enough physical activity to benefit their health. The changing

facilities were often to blame: 83 per cent said they wanted private changing cubicles and 56 per cent want hairdryers.

"Women are now used to high quality environments, such as shopping malls. The retail market is very sophisticated in its approach to targeting women, we're competing with them and women are voting with their feet," says Sue Tibballs, CEO of WSFF. "Women are demanding as consumers. In the past, the sports sector has taken a one-size-fits-all approach, but now we need to differentiate. The design of the physical environment is important. In sport it's often not thought about sufficiently – particularly for those women whose cultures require them to cover up. Some sports clubs don't provide basic amenities like places to change, or toilets for women to use. Guys don't mind as much, but with women cleanliness is important."

ACCESSIBILITY

If changing rooms can be off putting to the general population, it creates a whole new raft of problems for people with disabilities. According to Claire Robson, project, education and standards co-ordinator with the Inclusive Fitness

Initiative (IFI), varying levels of accessibility are seen: "Not all facilities provide features such as changing beds and hoists, meaning some disabled people have to change on the floor and some accessible changing rooms are being used as store rooms."

Robson says, although ideally that beds and hoists should be available, one of the most important elements in making changing rooms accessible is to provide unisex changing and toilet areas, as consideration and provision must be made for disabled people with a carer of the opposite sex.

The IFI offers operators the option of going for a voluntary accreditation, which goes beyond the registration requirement levels of the Disability Discrimination Act. Its work is mainly guided by three documents: Sport England's Access for Disabled People, the British Standard 8300: 2009 and the Approved Document M of the Building Regulations.

Feedback from disabled people is also fundamental to the development of the IFI mark standards and the Changing Places toilets campaign is leading the way in these developments.

“ If the locker rooms feel luxurious, users are more likely to think they are getting good value for money ”





A selection of well designed locker rooms: JJB Southampton (bottom left), SeaWest in Denmark (insert), Xcel in Elmbridge (below right) and locker rooms at the East Midlands International Pool in Corby (bottom)

WOMEN'S CHANGING ROOM WISH LIST

- 78 per cent want sport to reflect the customer-friendly experience of shopping
- 83 per cent want private changing cubicles (91 per cent among schoolgirls)
- 56 per cent want hairdryers (62 per cent of schoolgirls)
- 28 per cent want full length mirrors
- 23 per cent want free towels
- 20 per cent want music
- 25 per cent of schoolgirls want hair straighteners

THE SOLUTION

A full refurbishment might be beyond the budget of many facilities, but there are some simple things that can be done which make a big difference. "Cleanliness is really easy to rectify and the lack of it is a big turn off, especially in swimming pool changing rooms," says Tibballs. "It's the simple and relatively cheap things which can make women feel like their needs have been taken into consideration. We've been too far the other way for too long and we need to redress the balance."

Many local authorities are now taking the matter seriously, including Gateshead Borough Council, which is currently refurbishing a number of its changing rooms and, because the area has a large Jewish community who require privacy when they change, have briefed designers, LSA Projects, to create an area which can be closed off at certain times.

Associate director of S&P architects, Mark Thomas, says the company is currently involved in a number of refurbishment projects to upgrade changing rooms. "We know operators and local authorities are taking this seriously both because of customer expectation and also because of legislation relating to inclusive design," he says.

"There are a number of important criteria to create a well designed changing



room. The space must be functional, robust and easy to maintain, because dirty or broken changing rooms may present concerns for health and safety, or just give the wrong impression. "And they need to be aesthetically pleasing and easy to use."

Just as changing rooms can be a barrier to participation, good facilities can remove it. "If the locker rooms feel luxurious, users are more likely to think they are getting good value for money and will want to come back," says Sean Smyth, commercial director for LSA Projects, which aims to create the luxury feel of a private health club in public leisure facilities, with the use of a huge colour range, woods and Corian.

John Gibbs, managing director of Craftsmen Quality Lockers, agrees that many people are looking for a reason not to participate in sport, and changing rooms can offer a prime excuse. He also makes the point that as leisure facilities want to encourage people to stay



after their workout or sports game to use the social facilities, there needs to be the provision for people to shower, dry their hair and make themselves presentable. He gives his criteria list: "Showers with the right sized doors, hairdryers that work – with shelves and mirrors. The stowage requirements need to be right, as many people now have huge sports bags that need horizontal lockers and ideally there needs to be space to store shoes separately. Colour selection of floors and tiles is important so that they don't look dirty after one person has walked on them. Bright lighting can make people feel overly self conscious."

These findings send a clear message to operators that sub-standard changing rooms will no longer be tolerated. The perception of a facility is often dictated by the changing rooms and so to skimp in this area is a false economy. ●

Kath Hudson is a freelance journalist

INCLUSIVE PLAY

Rachel Scott and Victoria Turner discuss the importance of play for disabled children and KIDS' role in providing guidance on inclusive play provision

All children have the right to play in their local communities. It's essential to healthy physical, social and emotional development and a fundamental part of childhood. Through play children learn how to negotiate, take risks and overcome obstacles. Most importantly it's through play that children develop friendships and a sense of belonging to a peer group.

Playing together

Disabled children need to play just as much their non-disabled peers and indeed the benefits of play and physical activity can be even greater, so it is vital they don't miss out. However, many barriers to play, leisure and making friends are put in the way of disabled children and young people.

Local authority play pathfinders and play-builders will deliver £235m in play investment to transform play spaces



A survey carried out by Contact a Family in 2002 revealed that disabled children and young people are frequently excluded from play and leisure facilities, with parks and playgrounds cited as the least user-friendly. A more recent consultation carried out in 2009 of more than 4,000 children and young people in Dudley, revealed that disabled children are disproportionately susceptible to bullying and therefore least likely to use outdoor play spaces.

In response to these findings, the Midlands Architecture Centre (MADE), in partnership with Dudley Play Pathfinder, drew up a design manifesto with recommendations to encourage disabled children to enjoy outdoor play spaces. The Play Together manifesto was endorsed by KIDS – a charity for disabled children – and Play England and can be downloaded from www.made.org.uk

Previously, many of those responsible for planning services for disabled children rarely looked beyond special educational needs provision in schools or specialist and segregated services out of school. Within play, childcare and leisure service providers have rarely seen the inclusion of disabled children in ordinary settings a priority.

Happily, it appears that both the value of play to children's wellbeing and the importance of inclusion are filtering through to government policy. The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Disability Equality Duty are changing

expectations, requiring local authorities and service providers to address the specific requirements of disabled people and to ensure that 'reasonable adjustments' are made to facilitate their inclusion. In addition, two major government initiatives are paving the way for significant progress to be made for disabled children. Aiming High for Disabled Children (2007) presents local authorities with a requirement to develop a wide range of short breaks for disabled children and the National Play Strategy (2008) asserts that play areas must be 'accessible for all local children, including disabled children'.

The Children's Plan and National Play Strategy

The Children's Plan outlines the government's strategy for improving services for children and young people and their families over the next 10 years. Play is prioritised in a National Play Strategy, as are the specific requirements of disabled children which are addressed in proposals relating to housing, poverty, bullying, play, sport, extended schools, school exclusion, childcare, staying safe and positive activities for young people.

The strategy signifies the biggest policy commitment and investment in children's play that England has ever seen. Local authority play pathfinders and playbuilders will deliver the government's £235m investment in play and transform local areas into innovative play spaces. The responsibility now falls to local authorities to ensure that this right becomes a reality.

KIDS is working closely with Play England to provide advice and guidance on inclusion to play pathfinders and

“To create truly inclusive services and activities, it's vital to engage young people in the decision-making process”



GUIDELINES FOR AN INCLUSIVE PLAY ENVIRONMENT

In order for disabled children to access play spaces, forward planning is essential. Good practice must be embedded from the onset of the design stage. Start by carrying out an access audit and check what is required under the DDA. Ensure that children can get to and from the play setting and that once there, they can move around the area freely and have access to appropriate toilet/changing facilities.

For further information refer to:
www.changing-places.org

Ensure that notices are clear and visible and that signs are colour-coded and in braille. You can also use different scents or pictures to differentiate between areas of the play setting. The use of sensory stimulation and natural resources such as wood, stone, water and sand can greatly enhance a play area as well as adding play value. Even a simple arrangement of rocks and logs and natural earth mounds has a high play value and can be far less costly than installing specialist play equipment.

Clearly a play environment cannot be

designed or adapted to allow for every requirement or impairment. The important point is to provide as much variety as possible – in terms of play value, access, equipment, challenge and risk. Disabled children need an element of risk and challenge in their lives to enable them to develop and learn new skills.

A welcoming attitude

It's important for service providers to take a proactive approach to promoting inclusion, which moves beyond ticking boxes on accessibility and meeting government requirements. A 'can-do' approach alongside adopting respectful attitudes is best engendered through training and KIDS provides a wide range of training courses on inclusive play that can be adapted to your setting's requirements.

In order to create truly inclusive services and activities, it is vital to engage young people in the decision-making and evaluation processes. With the right support, training, environment and attitude, inclusion is possible and can be a positive experience for all.

playbuilders receiving funding under the strategy. A working group has also been set up to explore ways in which local authorities can integrate their short breaks and play investments so as to enable greater opportunities for inclusive play provision through the public, voluntary and community sectors.

A number of good practice briefings have been produced under this contract which highlight the successful work being undertaken by local authorities who have begun to link their short breaks and play funding and incorporate inclusive design principles within their play

areas. The briefings can be found on www.kids.org.uk/playengland

KIDS runs a number of projects which promote inclusive play – namely, the Playwork Inclusion Project (funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families) through which the organisation has produced a range of resources – and the Inclusive Playground Project which works with local authorities and play manufacturers to raise awareness of inclusive play and assist with the design of their play areas. ●

For further details visit www.kids.org.uk



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Bathed in sunlight at
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SWIMMING POOL LIGHTING

Achieving optimum lighting conditions is a necessity for most indoor sports, however, swimming brings a very particular set of problems to overcome and considerations to address
says Mark Thomas

Swimming continues to be the second highest participation sport in Great Britain, second only to walking, which doesn't share the same need for specialist facilities or equipment.

The success of the GB Swimming team in Beijing in 2008 combined with the UK's preparations to host the London Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012 have no doubt helped to maintain swimming's high public profile. This has led to the demand for more 50m pools around the country – many of which are at various stages of design and construction and will have the potential to host major swimming events, as well as meeting the demands of the local community.

Going natural

More than ever, maximising the use of natural lighting in swimming pools is an important objective for owners and operators, due to the environmental sustainability and cost benefits that it brings, as well as the improvement to the user experience. Roof lights and windows are an important feature of the pool design, providing contact with the outside world and advertising swimming to people passing by.

The orientation of the building and the placement of roof lights and glazing need to be very carefully considered in relation to controlling glare and environmental impact. It is important to provide a balance of natural light while avoiding areas of high contrast,

resulting in dark or dull areas in the pool hall. Natural light levels will vary throughout the day and across the year. Swimming pool halls are often most susceptible to excessive glare when the sun is low, during early morning and late evening, and for extended periods during the winter months, when the water surface can appear to be 'mirrored' – which could impair a lifeguard's ability to see bathers below the surface. There's usually a trade off between making the most of the contribution of natural light and controlling specular glare, solar gain and heat loss at acceptable levels. The use of artificial lighting in a swimming pool therefore makes an important contribution to maintaining safe conditions at all times of the day.

Selection, location and ambience

The selection and location of light fittings should aim to minimise the risk of glare and reflectance from the pool. Problems are most likely to occur with wall-mounted fittings where they are directed across the pool and can cause difficulties in visibility for bathers, staff and spectators. As a result, up-lighting rather than direct lighting is preferred for general illumination, as this minimises glare and provides more even distribution and better uniformity. However, it may not always be possible to achieve lighting levels with up-lighters alone and it may be necessary to supplement these with carefully positioned downlighters for when natural lighting levels fade.

Light fittings should preferably be located above the pool surround to make

Natural lighting at The Peak swimming pool in Stirling Sports Village





➔ them easily accessible for relamping or maintenance. Where this is not possible, the fittings should be accessed from a service gantry. The fittings, all associated brackets and cable trunking need to be designed to resist the high temperatures and humidity that form the potentially corrosive atmosphere typical in a swimming pool hall environment.

Materials used in construction should be carefully considered and bare metal components in mild steel or stainless steel should be avoided due to corrosion risks in a pool environment.

Fittings should be fully enclosed and have a high Ingress Protection (IP) rating (at least IP54) that demonstrates that it is able to effectively resist the entry of moisture. The most suitable fittings are

Swimming pool ambience can be greatly enhanced by the use of underwater lighting with the benefit that it improves the appearance of the pool and the pool hall – especially at night. Lighting in the pool improves visibility below water level and illuminates underwater swimmers to improve safety within the pool.

Swimming and diving pools frequently include moveable floors, so the positioning of the light fittings relative to both water level and the depths that the moveable floor will be commonly set at must be accounted for.

Underwater lighting should only be installed in the side walls of the pool tank and not aligned with the swimming lanes; however, underwater lighting

Roof lights and windows provide a natural feature for Corby Swimming pool

Televised events have much higher lighting requirements than generally required for day-to-day use. Typically, lighting for conventional TV cameras require 1,400-1,500 lux. However, high definition digital TV cameras are likely to require in excess of 2,000 lux to achieve picture quality. Whether such requirements justify permanent lighting or provision for additional temporary lighting will depend on the frequency and scale of the event. If the broadcast lighting is to be temporary, it will still be necessary to allow for the ingenious positioning of cameras to cover the event while making sure the risk of glare or silhouette is kept to a minimum.

Temporary lighting will need to be safely integrated and installed alongside the permanent lighting – accounting for additional power supply, safe cabling routes and provision for operational control systems. The lighting required for broadcast will involve either temporary power supply or substantial surplus provision within the existing electrical infrastructure to meet the additional demands. The additional heat generated by the lighting will also need to be accounted for in the temperature and ventilation control systems of the swimming pool hall. For the highest profile sporting events where the television images is broadcast around the globe, the competition venue may be effectively blacked out and all lighting controlled to enhance the theatrical experience for all. ●

Mark Thomas is associate director at S&P Architects

Pool ambience can be enhanced by underwater lighting which improves the appearance of the pool and safety

fluorescent or discharge fittings, as low wattage fittings are unlikely to achieve the overall lighting needs economically. The factors that determine the selection of a particular type of discharge fitting include illumination performance, lamp life and energy efficiency. The colour rendering of the lamps will also determine the visual comfort and ambience for bathers, spectators and staff.

For larger projects, consultation with lighting consultants or specialist lighting companies may be required to enable accurate computer modelling of the space in order to establish optimum illumination, and these may have their own impact on the design of the pool space itself.

may be switched off during competitive swimming, diving and water polo.

Meeting sport lighting requirements

Lighting proposals should take into account the recommendations of the CIBSE Lighting Guide LG4: Sports Lighting, which gives both general and specific advice for swimming pools.

National and international sports governing bodies for swimming have their own minimum requirements for lighting for competitive swimming. FINA, for example, requires a minimum of 600 lux at pool ends which increases to 1,500 lux over the whole pool for Olympic or World swimming events.

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Getting security right is crucial to the successful handling of a major sporting event says Crispin Andrews

SPORT EVENT SECURITY

Security and access control are not just about making sure participants, support staff, spectators, media and stadium personnel are safe; it's also about ensuring a high-quality experience for all concerned – free from unnecessary external pressures.

The former Transport Police chief – Sir Ian Johnston's appointment as security director for the London 2012 Olympics shows the importance the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) attach to ensuring effective security provision at the showcase event.

He will be responsible for security inside the venues and the key link with the Home Office's Olympic security directorate.

Olympics Minister Tessa Jowell says that she wants to create "an environment in which people from all over the world can come and enjoy the Games". To ensure this, effective and comprehensive security arrangements are key.

Olympic security strategy

The Olympic security strategy sets out the principles that underpin the government's planning for Olympic security, the threats the UK faces and how the government will achieve its

“Careful selection and training of security staff enables those with the right skills to be deployed in the right places”



aim of ensuring a safe and secure event. It also illustrates the multi-dimensional nature of modern security arrangements.

The strategy aims to protect Olympic and Paralympic venues and support transport infrastructure to ensure the safety of those attending. It prepares for incidents that may impinge on the safety and security of the Games and ensures capabilities are in place to mitigate their impact, while also identifying and disrupting potential threats. Also outlined within the strategy are command, control, plan and resource measures for the safety and security operation, as are procedures to engage with international and domestic partners and local communities.

Work is already being done to mitigate risk to the Olympic sites. Where appropriate, the design and construction of Olympic venues and infrastructure will seek to 'design out' security vulnerabilities and the Metropolitan Police has established a dedicated team to police the Olympic site. This team works alongside UK Border Agency staff, who ensure that only people who have a right to work in this country are able to access jobs on the site.

Sport security issues

At operational level, arranging security for all major sporting events provides many challenges. It requires focused solutions that take into account the context in which the event takes place.

Mike Lee, managing director of Constant Security Services, explains that on the day, it is important to anticipate the problems a specific environment or context could throw up and have contingency plans in place to ensure the event runs smoothly, should problems arise. "Delays to public transport or an incident on a road can mean too many people turning up at once," he says. "You need good queuing facilities and the capacity to put up additional crowd barriers at short notice so unforeseen situations can be managed."

For Lee, security is only as good as those who are carrying it out. So not only must all those involved co-ordinate their efforts under a single system – free of ego and inter-

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organisational rivalries, but they must also be made aware of the operation's bigger picture and be clear about their specific role within it. "At a football match, for example, there are lots of people moving at once, whereas at a racecourse, movement is less concentrated but more fluid and continuous," Lee explains. "Requirements for a weekday meeting attended by racing enthusiasts will be different from those needed at a weekend meet where social spectators, maybe even hen and stag parties, will be present."

Communication is key

The key to effective on-day security is communication and the quality of leadership, Lee explains. "Leadership should be centralised and where more than one organisation is involved, united," he says. "Clear messages can then be relayed directly to keep staff informed of what is needed of them throughout the day."

Careful selection and training of security staff enables those with the right skills to be deployed in the right places. Lee explains how he often employs staff with experience of nightclub work as 'troubleshooters' who have the ability to keep a low profile so that people can enjoy themselves but who can react quickly if a problem arises. Students from local universities are often used to meet and greet or at trackside. "Although you have to be careful not to put inexperienced stewards in potentially confrontational situations," he adds.

Last year's attack on members of the Sri Lankan cricket team in Pakistan by Islamic extremists shows that security can not just be confined to the stadium and surrounding areas. Often it's about being proactive rather than reactive making arrangements which anticipate and head off any problems.



Above: More than one million fans entered the Fan Zone in Vienna during the 2008 European Championships. Bottom: York racecourse security

At the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany and during the 2008 European Championships in Austria and Switzerland, dedicated 'fan zones' within host cities provided a centralised spectator area. At Excel in London one of the 2012 Olympic venues, a one way system utilising the two nearby Docklands Light Railway stations, along with careful timing of event start and finish times, is being planned to prevent overcrowding.

Utilising Volunteers

The cost of effective security must also be taken into account. Employing enough professional security personnel to deal with all the potentialities of a major sporting event is beyond the means of many organisers, so it is up to security companies to provide advice and training for individuals who are volunteering for the duration of the event only.

Lee explains that volunteers should be encouraged to feel like part of the team and not second-rate stand-ins for the professional security guards. "As a steward you need to be flexible, but consistent in applying the rules to make sure people are safe and can enjoy the event," he adds.

He recalls how his security team was called on to evacuate 60,000 people from Aintree after a bomb scare during the 1997 Grand National. "Once word got round what was happening, there were people who actually wanted to stop moving quickly and safely towards the exit, so they could buy a programme – just to say they were there on the day the meeting was abandoned!

"It's a serious business," Lee adds. "But good security officers need excellent social skills and a sense of humour because you never know when you will have to deal with this type of bizarre situation." ●

Crispin Andrews is a freelance journalist



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RISKS of running a SPORTS CLUB

Although risks relating to health and safety are the ones most associated with sports clubs, there are a range of other regulations that organisations are obliged to comply with and some can present major operational challenges. Richard Tolley explains

Developing a health and safety policy, completing risk assessments, undertaking training programmes and ensuring record keeping is up to date are all time consuming tasks that sports clubs may not consider part of their core activities. However, a little investment in establishing some thorough processes can save a lot of hassle down the track.

Risk-free events

Even clubs which have an admirable record of risk management for their core

The challenge is to have appropriate controls in place to avoid this type of incident occurring. Maintaining an emergency response plan for a facility can be a complex task. Having a detailed plan that deals with emergency evacuation routes and is easily understood by all staff, as well as being regularly practiced, is an important basic risk management control. Having a plan that adequately deals with temporary visitors to a facility is key, as is a plan that is able to respond to issues as wide ranging as flooding, explosions, gas leaks and fires.

“By making risk management core to their day to day activities, sport clubs can stay on top of the game”

activities can overlook the risks associated with running events and putting on fundraising activities.

A fine of £20,000 has already been enforced upon one sports club when its fundraising activities resulted in a child falling from a tractor being used to give fun rides. Commenting on the incident at the subsequent court hearing, the judge said the club had been “amateurish” in its approach to its responsibilities and further added that he wanted to “bring home to people who run these organisations that such irresponsible attitudes cannot be tolerated”.

Maintenance issues

Simply maintaining facilities requires not just a level of investment but also detailed consideration of all the controls that are needed to prevent accidents and injuries. These can range from the facility's own workforce involved in maintaining buildings, fields of play or equipment, to contractors working at a facility – such as window cleaners, builders and decorators.

Whether monitoring safe methods of work, providing personal protective equipment or using permits to work, a clear understanding of risk issues and

- ➔ mitigation measures is required. For example, sports clubs should consider implementing regular inspections of sports equipment and facilities through a daily safety checklist. Facilities with water storage systems should use an expert contractor to monitor the potential for an outbreak of legionella.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

One area that clubs need to manage closely relates to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Clubs should develop and implement a safeguarding policy for facilities where adults work with children



Clubs should implement a safeguarding policy where adults work with children

and vulnerable adults and ensure it is a fundamental part of any risk management programme.

Operators of sports clubs have had to cope with an increasing number of risk issues in recent years and there's no sign of the list receding. However, by having a clear understanding of their responsibilities and obligations to their stakeholders, and by making risk management part of their day to day activities, sports clubs can improve their operating performance and stay at the top of their game. ●

Richard Tolley is a senior vice president in Marsh's Global Sports and Events Practice Richard.N.Tolley@marsh.com

INSURANCE FOR SPORT

Insurance is an essential requirement when protecting individuals and organisations in this increasingly litigious age. It's important to note that some insurance is compulsory by law or by affiliation to particular sporting bodies.

Unfortunately insurance can be full of its own peculiar rules and penalties so it is worth taking it seriously if you are to avoid the traps and bunkers.

To ensure that you have the right cover we would recommend speaking to a specialist insurance broker. An independent insurance broker will provide you with the correct cover and be available to help you throughout the year.

The following is a summary of some of the more commonly requested insurances. (Information supplied by Mann Broadbent. www.mannbroadbent.co.uk)

| | |
|---|---|
| Public Liability | This will cover you for injury to members of the public or damage to their property. Cover can sometimes be extended to include player to player or member to member claims |
| Products Liability | This will cover you for injury to members of the public or damage to their property caused by a product you make or supply, this includes food and drink |
| Employer's Liability | If you employ anyone (including part-timers and unpaid volunteers) the law requires you to have this insurance which covers you for injury to employees |
| Buildings, Contents, Kit and Equipment | This can cover you for eventualities such as theft, fire or storm, etc. Cover can be extended to cover equipment worldwide if required. You may also wish to include goods in transit and money |
| Business Interruption | If your buildings, contents, kit or equipment are damaged, then business interruption insurance can help reduce losses by paying for lost income and alternative premises and equipment rental |
| Professional Indemnity | This covers you should you be accused of giving incorrect advice or making an error or omission |
| Directors and Officers (committee members/trustees) | If you are a limited company or a committee then this is designed to protect individual directors or committee members should they be personally accused of failing in their duties |
| Personal Accident and Illness | This will pay a weekly benefit following injury or illness, or pay a lump sum following permanent disability or death. Policies can either benefit individuals or the club/organisation |
| Travel | This can cover things such as cancellation, baggage, delays, medical expenses or repatriation, etc. |
| Tour Operator's Liability | If you are organising travel and accommodation then you may fall within Tour Operator regulations, which may legally require you to take insurance and/or a bond |
| Kidnap and Ransom | This insurance will pay for a negotiator and the ransom as well as other essential services |



Speedminton for all ages and abilities

PE and sports equipment provider Davies Sports is distributor of a racket game called Speedminton.

Loosely based on badminton, players hit shuttlecocks, named 'speedsters', which are heavier and more compact than traditional shuttlecocks. This means that the game is played at a pace more akin to squash or tennis and over a more expansive area, such as a tennis court.

The game can even be played without a net, with the speedsters having to land within the boundaries of the court in order to score a point.

There are four racquets to choose from, including the SJ-R racquet for juniors, and three adult frames (S100, S300 and S500). The S100 is made for the average player, while the high-end, full graphite S500 is suited to the more experienced player.

There are a range of Speedminton packages available, including one designed specifically for schools. The Speedminton school set contains 12 racquets, 18 funspeeders (a lighter speedster designed for shorter distances) and 24 Gecko goal markers for the set up of courts. A sports bag is also included for storage and easy transportation.

The equipment is suitable for use both indoors and out.

sport-kit.net keyword
davies sports

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For more information, or to contact any of these companies, log on to **www.sport-kit.net** and type the company name under 'keyword search'

Molten unveils its latest volleyball

Sport ball manufacturer Molten has launched the Molten FLISTATEC® V5M5000 volleyball.

Approved by the FIVB (Fédération Internationale de Volleyball), Molten claims that the new ball is its most visible and stable volleyball yet.

A softer, thicker microfibre layer on the outside of the ball, as well as raised hexagon-shaped designs on the surface of the ball help to increase grip for players.

The red, green and white colour scheme is designed to allow the



sport-kit.net keyword
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ball to be more visible against any backdrop, including spectator stands. The new ball is available in sizes four and five.



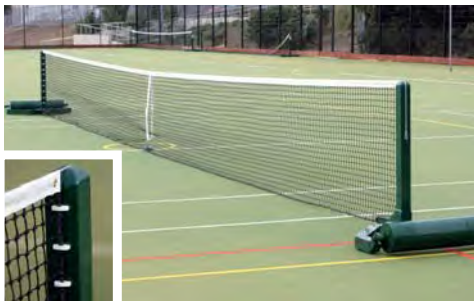
sport-kit.net keyword
hexa sports

Hexa Sports launches new sports posts

Birmingham-based Hexa Sports has introduced some new products to its range – including tennis posts and volleyball posts.

Incorporating a flange base for floor mounting, the posts are manufactured using a heavy gauge square steel tube with cast aluminium caps and a brass winder. The posts are also fitted with wheels to assist with removal when not in use.

Hexa supplies a range of nets and accessories to complement the posts. It also sells a range of other sports equipment, such as football goals and cricket nets.



Harrod launches its 2010 range of products

Sports ground equipment and netting company Harrod has released details of its new product lines to be launched this year.

The TEN-150 weighted tennis posts (right of image) will include the company's roller system to ensure they can be moved quickly and efficiently. The posts have been specially designed with multi-court facilities in mind.

The new VOL-055 competition

telescopic volleyball post features a safe net tensioning system. This allows simple transitions between heights, along with a further fine adjustment mechanism for added accuracy.

Harrod's range of badminton equipment has also been redesigned to conform to new European safety standards.

 sport-kit.net keyword
harrod



Stadia Sports unveils latest catalogue

The 2010 catalogue from Stadia Sports features items for more than 30 different sports. One such item is the Harrod 'Fence Folding Hockey Goal' (pictured above).

The goal features a pivot joint system that allows operators to fold the goal against the surrounding fencing when not in use.

In turn, this allows sports such as football to be played on the same surface without any obstructions.

The uprights and crossbar are made from 75mm (3in) x 50mm (2in) reinforced aluminium and have an extra heavy duty 7mm thick reinforced front wall to help prevent potential ball damage.

Three different sizes are available for purchase, catering for projections ranging from 2.1m (7ft) to 4.8m (16ft).

 sport-kit.net keywords
stadia sports

Training DVDs from Neuff Athletic


UK athletics equipment company Neuff Training offers a range of DVDs for coaches which highlight techniques and training drills, suitable for athletes from club level to elite standard.

One such range is the *Track and Field News* collection (pictured), which covers a variety of events including sprints, discus, pole vault and high jump.

As well as covering specific events, Neuff also supplies DVDs covering plyometric training, which is designed to encourage fast, powerful movements which can then be carried over to the athlete's required discipline. All of the titles from Neuff are suitable for use by UK Athletics (UKA) coaches from level one through to level four.



Neuff Training is owned by Dr Alan Neuff, a UKA level four coach who has been involved with athletics for the past 40 years.

 sport-kit.net keyword
neuff training

SAPCA DIRECTORY



The Sports and Play Construction Association, SAPCA, is the recognised trade organisation for the sports and play facility construction industry in the UK. SAPCA fosters excellence, professionalism and continuous improvement throughout the industry, in order to provide the high quality facilities necessary for the success of British sport.

SAPCA represents a wide range of specialist constructors of natural and synthetic sports surfaces, including both outdoor and indoor facilities, from tennis courts and sports pitches to playgrounds and sports halls. SAPCA also represents manufacturers and suppliers of related products, and independent consultants that offer professional advice on the development of projects.

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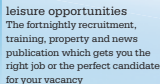
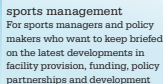
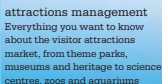
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2-4 MARCH 2010

Ecobuild

Earls Court, London, UK

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8-10 MARCH 2010

Global Sports Forum

Barcelona, Spain

This exchange platform attracts a wide range of personalities from the world of sport who come together and debate international economic, social, political and cultural issues connected to sport. Tel +33 (0)1 58 47 83 93 www.globalsportsforum.org

21-22 APRIL 2010

Science, Technology and Research into Sport Surfaces (STARSS 2)

Loughborough University, UK

Born out of the SportSURF network, this conference brings together academic disciplines and industrial parties to discuss and formulate research needs for sports surfaces and their interactions, for the future. The key themes at this year's event will be 'injury risk' and 'surface performance'. Email sportsurf@lboro.ac.uk www.sportsurf.org

21-22 APRIL 2010

Stadium Business Summit

Croke Park, Dublin, Ireland

Hosted at one of the largest stadiums in Europe, this international meeting of experts will include speakers from Middlesbrough FC, Donbass Arena in the Ukraine, the O2, the Rose Bowl and the Millennium Stadium. Tel +44 (0)208 144 7266 www.thestadiumbusiness.com

30 APRIL - 2 MAY 2010

The London Golf and Tennis Show

ExCeL, London, UK

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