

Sport England invests in poorest children

Sport England is investing in a programme which aims to offer children from some of the country's poorest areas the opportunity to get physically active.

The grassroots sports body has handed a £500,000 grant to charity Sport Inspired, which offers youngsters the chance to try out a sports that may not have traditionally been accessible in their area.

The funding is expected to see more than 9,000 children, young people and families benefit from Sport Inspired's "United by Fun" programme over the next four years (between 2020 and 2023).

Among the initiatives will be one-day sports festivals, which give young people the opportunity to try a activities such as parkour, martial arts and fencing.

"The project will focus on the communities who are most in need, working with local schools, sport clubs and community partners to provide more opportunities for local young people to access sport or physical activity," said



■ The funding will be distributed by Sport Inspired

Mike Diaper, Sport England's executive director of children and young people.

"The focus will be on the joy of taking part. Our research shows that enjoyment above competence is the main driver in getting active." Inspired Sport was first set up in 2008.

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The focus will be on the joy of taking part

Mike Diaper



VENUES

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BUSINESS

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...but Premier League still rules the roost

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Dan Meis reveals final designs for Everton FC's new riverside stadium

Dan Meis has revealed the final designs for Everton Football Club's new stadium on Liverpool's Bramley-Moore Dock, which were submitted to Liverpool City Council in a planning application.

Initial designs for the stadium were released in 2019, after which a public consultation process was carried out.

The response from fans was overwhelmingly positive, but a number of changes have been made nonetheless.

Most notably, the multi-storey car park will now be integrated into the stadium, rather than be a separate structure, and additional environmental measures,



■ Everton appointed Dan Meis to the project in September 2016

"We have invested an enormous amount of effort in creating a design that respects the dockland setting"

including wind baffles, have been incorporated into the designs.

The 52,000-capacity stadium is inspired by the historic maritime and

warehouse buildings nearby and its design makes use of brick, steel and glass to combine historic and modern elements.

There will be four distinctive stands, including a steep, 13,000-seat stand, and the design will help to retain crowd noise within the stadium.

Colin Chong, stadium development director at Everton, said: "This project has been designed from the ground up with the site's heritage in mind – getting this right has always been our priority.

"We've invested effort in creating a design that respects and looks at home in a dockland setting."

READ MORE ONLINE

Sport England funds four new management appointments at physical activity body ukactive



■ The new appointments are (from left) Gemma Williams, Chris Foster, Emma Thomas and David Gerrish

Sport England is providing ukactive with funding that has allowed the non-profit organisation to expand its management team with four new appointments.

According to ukactive, the four new members of staff will "help grow its membership base" and are the result of a growing strategic partnership with Sport England – which aims to "maximise the opportunities and reach of the nation's physical activity providers".

The new recruits are Chris

"With these team members in place, we are ensuring that our members receive the best support available"

Foster, head of learning and development; David Gerrish, head of digital transformation; and Gemma Williams and Emma Thomas, who will both be client services managers.

"The partnership with Sport England is built to help reinvigorate the physical activity sector to develop and improve its offer to get people more active," said ukactive CEO Huw Edwards.

"With these team members we are ensuring that our members receive the best support available in their work to get the nation moving."

Williams started her career at David Lloyd Leisure in 2009, while Thomas has spent 10 years in public sector leisure.

Gerrish has more than 30 years of leisure experience and Foster 15 years.

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■ Reed received an OBE for services to sport in 2012

**"Never has the need been greater
for social change – and sport can
tackle a vast array of issues"**

Sport for Development Coalition appoints Andy Reed as chair

The Sport for Development Coalition (SFDC) has appointed former MP Andy Reed as its new chair.

Reed, who has previously chaired the Sports and Recreation Alliance and is the founder of Sports Think Tank, succeeds Matt Stevenson-Dodd, who has held the role on an interim basis since 2018.

The SFDC describes itself as a "growing movement of organisations, networks and funders", focused on using the "power of sport and physical activity to generate positive social outcomes". It is supported and funded by Sport England, Comic

Relief and the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.

"Never has the need been greater for social change – whether it's the focus on the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals or the need for social cohesion and integration in our communities," Reed said.

"The many charities and organisations within the sport for development movement are already tackling a vast array of issues, from youth violence, social isolation and dementia in the elderly to wellbeing inequalities, discrimination and deprivation."

• To read more, turn to p.14
for a column by Andy Reed

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Sue Campbell receives damehood, as sportspeople feature heavily in New Year's Honours



■ Campbell was among a host of sports people receiving honours in this year's list.

Former UK Sport chair, Baroness Sue Campbell, has received a damehood in this year's New Year's honours list.

The long-time sports administrator – who was named as one of the 100 most powerful women in the UK by the BBC in 2013 – became baroness in 2008 in recognition of her successful period at UK Sport.

"These things are an immense privilege, but they're also something you accept on behalf of an awful lot of

"These things are something you accept on behalf of an awful lot of other people who make your job possible"

other people who make your job possible," Campbell said.

Campbell was among a host of sports people receiving honours in this year's list.

A number of players and staff associated with the World Cup-winning England cricket team received recognitions. Captain Eoin Morgan was made CBE, while there were OBEs for coach Trevor Bayliss and all-rounder Ben Stokes.

Women's sport was well-represented this year, with taekwondo double Olympic gold medallist Jade Jones being given an OBE, alongside Solheim Cup captain Catriona Matthew.

Others included footballer Jill Scott, netballers Serena Guthrie and Jo Harten (both MBEs), heptathlete Kelly Sotherton (MBE) and squash world champion Laura Massaro (MBE).

[READ MORE ONLINE](#)

Old Trafford looks to improve visitor experience – appoints Merlin veteran Steve Davies as ops director

Emirates Old Trafford – the home ground of Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC) – has appointed a visitor attraction specialist as its new operations director.

The appointment of Steve Davies is part of a strategy to improve the venue's visitor experience and to make it an "all-round destination" – rather than simply a place for sport.

Davies joins from Merlin Entertainments, where he has spent more than 14 years working at visitor attractions in several senior roles – including head of operations at Alton Towers and operations director at Chessington World of Adventures.

He joins Lancashire Cricket – which owns the Emirates



■ Davies spent more than two years at Madame Tussaud's in London

"It's my job to help build on what has been achieved over the last decade here"

Old Trafford – from Madame Tussaud's London, where he's worked as GM since 2017.

"Emirates Old Trafford is an iconic sporting institution, with a fantastic history and

rich heritage – and the plans for further development and growth are something that really excite me, particularly with the new spectator stand and the extension of the Hilton Garden Inn hotel over the next few years," Davies said.

"It will be my job to help build on what has been achieved over the last decade here and deliver the best possible experience for all our members and supporters, both on domestic and international match days.

"I am very much looking forward to becoming part of an already successful structure and playing a role in the future of both the club and the venue."

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■ Warr was appointed director of performance in 2016

"We would like to thank Chelsea Warr for the significant contribution she has made to British Olympic and Paralympic sport"

UK Sport performance director steps down just months before Tokyo 2020

Chelsea Warr, the UK Sport performance director, has stepped down from her role to join the Queensland Academy of Sport as chief executive later this year.

Warr, who is Australian, has been seen as one of the key figures behind Great Britain's successes at the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

She joined UK sport in 2005 as a performance programme consultant and was later promoted to the head of Performance Pathways, where she pioneered Great Britain's talent identification and development programme.

The programme has fast-tracked hundreds of athletes into world-class programmes – and discovered

Olympic champions Helen Glover and Lizzy Yarnold.

She was promoted to deputy director of performance in 2013, playing a pivotal role in building the high-performance strategy for Tokyo 2020, and was named director of performance in 2016.

During her time at UK Sport, Great Britain has climbed the medal standings at each Games – finishing second in the table in 2016 with 67 medals.

In December, Warr said that Team GB could surpass their record medal haul from Rio at this summer's Tokyo Games.

"We would like to thank Chelsea Warr for the significant contribution she has made to British sport" UK Sport said in a statement.

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SAFETY

Stadiums face 'airport-like' security measures

Sports stadiums and large entertainment venues in the UK could soon be forced to implement airport-style security checks, after the government offered its backing to the controversial "Marty's Law" proposals.

Marty's Law is a campaign led by Figen Murray, the mother of Martyn Hett, who died in the 2017 suicide bomb attack at Manchester Arena.

Murray has campaigned for sports stadiums, concert halls and other entertainment venues to be forced to adopt a range of measures – such as the installation of metal detectors – and to compel public venues and spaces to implement specific security policies.

Writing in the *Mail on Sunday* security minister Brandon Lewis has now suggested that the government was "100 per cent" behind the proposals driven by Murray.

"The Prime Minister (Boris Johnson), home secretary (Priti Patel) and I are all 100 per cent behind Figen and are working to improve security measures at public venues and spaces," Lewis wrote.

"We are working quickly to come up with a solution that will honour Martyn's memory and all of those affected by terrorism."

The comments followed Manchester City Council becoming the first to commit to adopting Marty's Law.

[READ MORE ONLINE](#)



■ Stadiums could be forced to implement stringent measures



“

We are 100 per cent behind Figen and are working to improve security measures

Brandon Lewis

MARKETING

This Girl Can celebrated for 'real' female sport stories



“

This Girl Can is about helping women feel confident

Lisa O'Keefe

The latest edition of the highly-successful This Girl Can Campaign has been celebrated for its "taboo-busting" and "brave" take on what female fitness and sport really look like.

The new body-positive advert is seen as a perfect antidote to what has been described as "unrealistic and negative images of women" often used in fitness-related online content and media marketing campaigns.

According to Sport England, the film has been designed to show the raw, unfiltered reality of women exercising in whatever way that works for them.



■ The advert show a 'raw, unfiltered reality' of sport

Lisa O'Keefe, Sport England director of insight, said she hopes the advert will convince women they don't need to be in shape or super confident in their bodies to take part.

"This Girl Can is about helping women feel confident, so they can overcome the fears about being judged," O'Keefe said.

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Barcelona tops 'money league' - but EPL still rules the roost



Broadcasting deals remain the largest individual revenue stream, comprising 44 per cent of total revenue of European clubs

Spanish champions Barcelona FC generated more money than any other football club in Europe for the first time in history, overtaking its fierce rival Real Madrid in the annual Deloitte Football Money League chart.

Barcelona generated revenues of £741.1m during the 2018-19 season, with second place Real Madrid making £667.5m.

While the top two in Deloitte's list come from the Spanish La Liga, it is the English Premier League (EPL) which was again declared the richest league in Europe, with eight EPL clubs



■ Barcelona generated revenues of £741.1m in 2018-19

making it into the top 20 revenue generators. Manchester United (with revenues of £627.1m) remains the highest earner among English clubs, with four other EPL clubs making it into Europe's top 10 – Manchester City (£538.2m), Liverpool (£533m), Tottenham (£459.3m) and Chelsea (£452.2m).

As for sources of income, broadcasting deals remain the largest individual revenue stream, comprising 44 per cent of total revenue of European clubs.

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MAJOR PROJECT

Luton Town clears final hurdle to stadium

Championship football club Luton Town has cleared the final legal hurdle standing in its way to begin work on a new 17,500-seater stadium.

The High Court confirmed that no appeal has been made within the deadline against the pre-Christmas decision to dismiss a call for a Judicial Review on the planning approval the club secured for its Newlands Park project.

Capital & Regional – the owner of The Mall Luton in the centre of the town – had originally asked for a judicial review on the decision to back the Newlands Park development. It did not, however, pursue the claim within the 6 January deadline.

Newlands Park is a mixed-use development to be located at Junction 10 of the M1. The project has been designed to fund the stadium project and will include leisure facilities, offices, retail units, restaurants and a 300-bedroom hotel.

The club has already been granted planning permission for the stadium by Luton Borough Council.

"This decision means we are finally able to move forward in plans to build a new stadium for the football club, and play our part in helping to regenerate our town with two developments that will bring thousands of jobs," the club said in a statement.

[READ MORE ONLINE](#)



■ Newlands Park is a mixed-use development supporting the stadium



This decision means we are finally able to move forward in refreshing the four-year-old plans to build a new stadium for the football club

Luton Town FC statement

SWIMMING

Swim England programme goes global

Swim England's Learn to Swim Programme has been adopted by a Lithuanian swimming club – marking the project's international debut.

Plaukimo Klubas Banga contacted Swim England in June 2019 with the view to implementing the framework.

Following consultations, the programme was introduced at the club in November 2019.

All of the programme's Swim Awards have now been translated into Lithuanian and Banga has presented their first Stage Awards to their swimmers. The team at Banga is also receiving ongoing training and reviews from the Swim England Learn to Swim Team.

According to Sigita Špokienė, general manager at Banga, the introduction of the programme has already brought 'added value' to the club.

"Our swim school has been in business for three years," she said. "However, we do not have a unified swimming training system, so we are very pleased to have the opportunity to partner with Swim England."

"We are grateful for the training provided. It was useful, hard-working and full of good energy training for our coaches."

"We are pleased to have added value to our customers and employees."

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■ The Lithuanian club first contacted Swim England in June 2019



We do not have a unified swimming training system, so we are very pleased to have the opportunity to partner with Swim England

Sigita Špokienė

PLANNING

Playing field protection measures working "in most cases"



Protecting these fields is at the heart of what we do

Nick Evans

New figures show that playing field safeguarding measures, designed to protect sports provision in planning applications affecting playing fields, have been successful in '94 per cent of the cases'.

Sport England is a statutory consultee for all English local councils on any planning application that would affect or lead to the loss of a sports playing field.

It has adopted a stance where, unless a developer can prove their proposal will improve or protect sports provision at the site, it will automatically object to the plan.

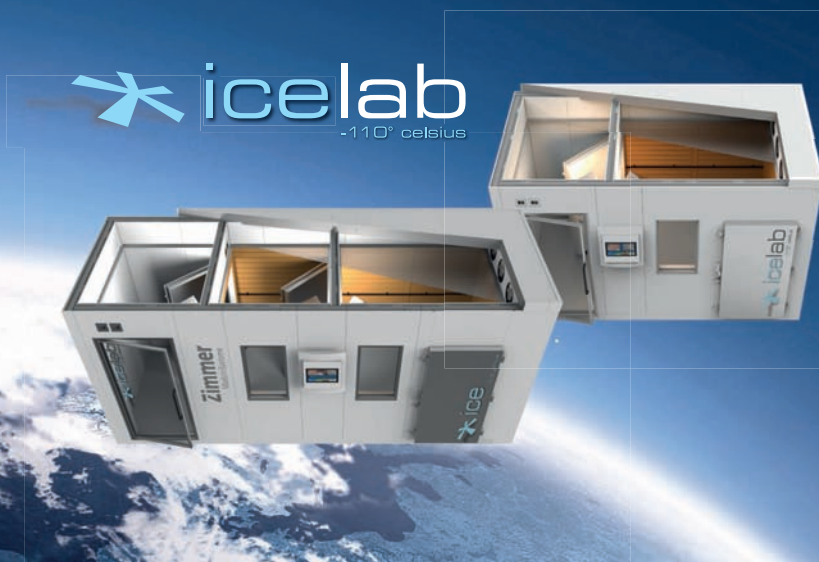


■ 1,274 applications affected playing fields in 2016-17

"Protecting these fields is at the heart of what we do – enabling more people in local communities to take part in grassroots sport and physical activity," said Sport England head of planning, Nick Evans.

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MAJOR PROJECT

Next stage of Old Trafford plans approved

Trafford Council has approved plans to build a new 4,850-seater stand at Emirates Old Trafford – the home of Lancashire Cricket.

The new stand will increase the capacity of Emirates Old Trafford to 26,700, making it the largest cricket ground outside of London.

As well as the extra seating, the plans will see the creation of a cricket museum and retail shop.

The current Red Rose Suite will also be replaced with a more modern suite with a pitch view.

Also included in the plans – the next stage of the £60m redevelopment of the historic ground – is an extension of the Hilton Garden

Inn hotel, which opened its doors two years ago.

Construction of the stand is part of a larger redevelopment of the stadium and its surrounding areas. The plans – designed by architects BDP – will see Trafford Town Hall and adjoining properties being turned into a new 'Civic Quarter'.

"The decade-long £60m redevelopment of the ground was so that the club could host major competitions and major matches," said Daniel Gidney, CEO of Lancashire Cricket, which owns Emirates Old Trafford.

"The new stand and hotel extension will complete the redevelopment of Emirates Old Trafford."

READ MORE ONLINE



■ The stand will increase capacity at Old Trafford to 26,700



“

This project will complete the redevelopment of the Emirates Old Trafford

Daniel Gidney

SUSTAINABILITY

"World's greenest stadium", gets planning go-ahead

“

The venue will be built entirely out of sustainably sourced timber, will generate renewable energy on-site and will include the creation of a nature reserve

The planned new stadium for Forest Green Rovers FC, designed by Zaha Hadid Architects (ZHA) and dubbed the "greenest football venue in the world", has been given the go-ahead.

The stadium will form part of a £100m (\$131m, €118m), 100ac (40ha) sports and green technology business park development, owned by club chair Dale Vince's green energy group Ecotricity.

Designed to be carbon neutral or positive, it will be built entirely out of sustainably sourced timber, will generate renewable energy on-site and will include the creation of a nature reserve.



■ The venue will be the home of Forest Green Rovers

Permission for the development, near the town of Eastington, was rejected by Stroud District Council in June 2019 due to concerns about noise, traffic and the impact on the landscape.

A revised proposal submitted in August, with one grass pitch turned into a synthetic pitch to allow local sports clubs to use it, has now been approved.

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HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT

Five sports secure elite funding ahead of Tokyo 2020



Our aim in Tokyo is to deliver medals and more

Chelsea Warr

Five sports have secured additional funding towards their high-performance programmes ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Games.

UK Sport will invest up to £325,000 to support the GB women's basketball team – in the hope that the team will qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Team GB is set to travel to China in February for an Olympic qualification tournament, where it will face Spain, China and South Korea.

The other four sports to benefit from the latest funding round are archery, fencing, skateboarding and wheelchair



■ Archery is among the five sports to secure funding

fencing. The quartet is set to share a total investment of £279,243.

"The additional investments we are announcing today are all about further maximising Tokyo medal potential following some strong performances in 2019 across a number of our summer sports," said Chelsea Warr, the outgoing director of performance at UK Sport.

"Our aim in Tokyo is to deliver 'medals and more'; to continue to stay in the upper echelons of the medal table."

[READ MORE ONLINE](#)

RESEARCH

British Blind Sport to research children's physical development

British Blind Sport is launching a year-long research project, which will investigate the physical development rates of children with sight loss, compared to their sighted peers.

Working in partnership with the Thomas Pocklington Trust and the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), the research will explore whether any link exists between a child's sight levels and physical health levels, including measuring motor skills.

The study will also look to identify the key reasons that explain any quantifiable differences.



■ The research will explore links between a child's sight levels and physical health levels



The project's findings will provide much-needed evidence

Matt Reeves

One of the goals of the study will be to identify the possible impact that reduced physical health or motor skills rates may have on a child's individual mental wellbeing.

According to Matt Reeves, a faculty member at the School of Sport and Wellbeing at UCLan, the research will be vital to measuring the suspected developmental differences and understand why those differences occur.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to better understand how visual impairment and the development of motor competences potentially impact physical activity levels and the subsequent influence this has on wellbeing," Reeves said. "The project's findings will provide much-needed evidence to inform future interventions and ensure any inequalities can be reduced."

[READ MORE ONLINE](#)

A coalition for change

Andy Reed, Founder of Sports Think Tank and chair of SAPCA

"Sport changes people's lives" is a line that gets trotted out very often. While it is undoubtedly true, I feel that we sometimes fail to present the stories and data to back the statement up.

We need to be able to say what we mean – and to demonstrate how sport has changed lives. The thing is, the stories and data do exist, we just need to be much more consistent

Making the case

On that note, in January 2020 I was appointed chair of the Sport for Development Coalition. It is best described as a movement – not a membership organisation – which is supported and funded by Sport England, Comic Relief and the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.

The coalition has three simple aims. These are Advocacy (to showcase the sports and physical activity sector) Impact (to demonstrate the sector's impact and making the case for investment) and Investment (securing new funds for the sector).

In short, our role is to amplify the great work done in the sector, get the sector investment ready and then work with our partners to generate that investment.



We need to be able to clearly demonstrate and showcase the impact the sports and physical activity sector has

Andy Reed

Partnerships

In order for the Coalition to be a successful advocate for the huge contribution made by the sector, we need to have a collective voice. We need to be able to clearly demonstrate and showcase the impact the sector has. There are many things we can put in place, through the Coalition, to help us support the sector to achieve this.

I do, however, feel the expertise already lies in the Coalition's existing organisations and partners – so we probably don't need another large team and organisation with all the related costs.

Rather, we need to show the movement in action and collaborating. Sport for development exists in local communities precisely because it is, in many cases, local.

The organisational side is still not fully in place and we will, for now, be hosted by the Sport and Recreation Alliance – at least in the short term. Another demonstration of our commitment to partnership! ●



■ The Sport for Development Coalition (left) aims to act as an advocate for the power of sport

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25 MARCH 2020

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This seat comes with access to Premier Club

■ The tech, by the club's ticketing partner AXS, will enable fans to experience a 360-degree, 3D view of all of the Wasps' hospitality suites

Wasps become first premier ship club to offer 3D visualisation of hospitality suites



■ Giles Bayliss, AXS Europe

Premiership rugby team the Wasps will become the first team in the Rugby Premiership to offer a virtual 3D viewing platform for its premium hospitality experiences.

The new technology, provided by the club's ticketing partner AXS, will enable fans to experience a 360-degree, 3D view of all of the Wasps' hospitality suites before making their booking.

The 3D viewing platform, which launched at the end of 2019, is billed as an 'industry exclusive', and provides a fully immersive, 360-degree experience that includes

everything from scoreboards to player benches. It will allow supporters to immerse themselves in the Wasps' hospitality portfolio, including the Ricoh Arena's Pure Legends Lounge, the Heineken Lounge, Directors Lounge, Premier Club and The Boardroom.

James Wootton, head of commercial sales at Wasps, said: "This investment takes top flight rugby hospitality to the next level. Each of our lounges has a distinct offering. We want to show as many people as possible the first-class environments on offer and the online viewing tool does just that."

Giles Bayliss, business development director at AXS Europe, said: "We believe that by combining immersive views of the lounges along with seated views of the pitch, it will provide the perfect launch pad to attract even more supporters into the hospitality lounges."

"We are extremely proud to drive innovation to enhance and enrich the purchasing experience of Wasps fans via the 3D visualisation of the hospitality experiences."

SPORT-KIT KEYWORD

AXS

READ
MORE
ONLINE

Audience Systems introduces Premier Grandstand



■ The modular system allows flexible installations



The Premier Grandstand, developed by UK-based seating specialist Audience Systems, is a turnkey outdoor seating solution, designed for football clubs and sports grounds.

Available in both seating and standing options, the Premier Grandstand is a fully assembled, modular system that can be joined together to form large seating banks or standing areas.

The seated grandstands can accommodate 42, 50, 58 or 72 spectators, while the



■ The system is available in both seating and standing options

standing modules can hold 70, 85, 100 and 125 people. Both also offer accessible options for wheelchair users.

Compliant with FIFA, UEFA and the *Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds* (also known as the Green Guide) standards, the Premier Grandstand is made specifically for outdoor use, and features

a welded steel construction and galvanised seats.

It also offers a level of customisability with buyers able to choose from a number of seat and cladding colour options, as well as siding and shelter options.

SPORT-KIT KEYWORD
AUDIENCE SYSTEMS

Gerflor provides sports flooring for Axholme North Leisure Centre

Sports flooring specialist Gerflor has completed a major fit-out at the new Axholme North Leisure Centre in North Lincolnshire.

The purpose built centre is housed inside a converted secondary school and offers a four lane, 25m (82ft) swimming pool, a multi-use fitness studio,

a 16-station gym, as well as a 9v9 football pitch and netball and tennis courts.

A total of five of Gerflor's flooring solutions were installed throughout the centre by Paynters Contract Flooring, including the Taralay Impression Control flooring. Fitted in the customer facing



■ David Loud, Paynters Flooring Services

areas, Taralay is a high-performance option that combines slip resistance with a 'design-led' aesthetic.

Gerflor's Taraflex Comfort in Oak was fitted in the multi-use fitness studio, while Gerflor's Mipolam Cosmo homogenous flooring was installed in the fitness and storage areas.

Faye Colver, area sports facilities manager at Axholme North Leisure Centre, said: "The flooring specifications were based on durability, performance and lifespan.

"Gerflor's floorings do their job as our centre is steadily growing in capacity as more members take part in the leisure activities we can now offer."

David Loud, estimator at Paynters Contract Flooring, said: "Gerflor products were pre-specified to the client's requirements and Gerflor is a main supplier of these types of flooring – and we find their products particularly flexible and good to work with."

SPORT-KIT KEYWORD
GERFLOR



■ Gerflor provided five different flooring products for the centre





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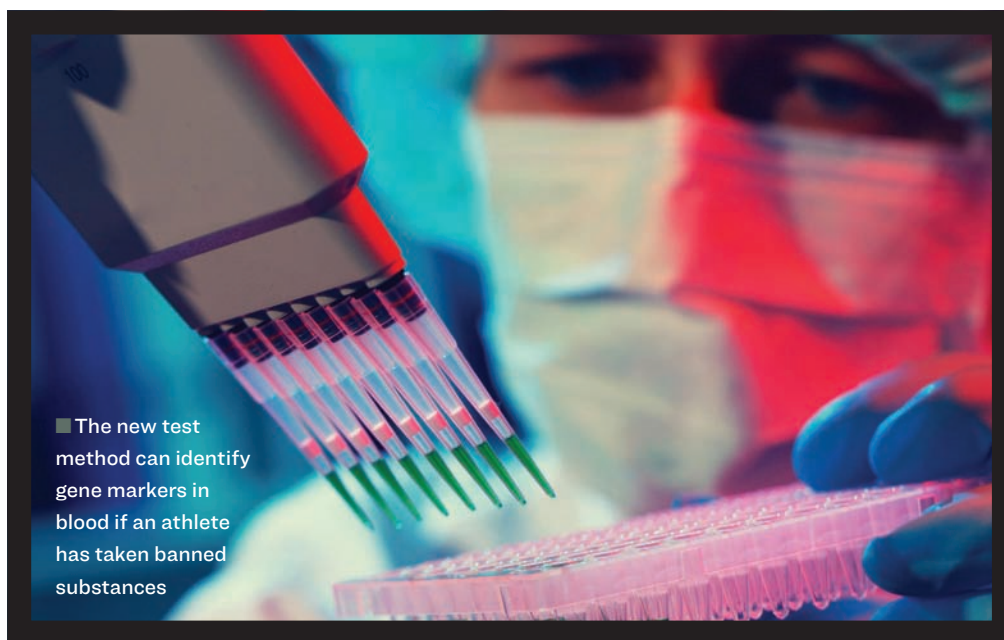
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IT'S ALL IN THE GENES

Tokyo 2020 could utilise 'groundbreaking' gene testing to catch doping cheats

A pioneering gene testing method could be ready to be used for the first time at an Olympic Games this year.

According to Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the genetic examinations would allow blood doping to be identified several months after banned performance-enhancing drugs – such as Erythropoietin (EPO) – were used by an athlete.

This means that while the technology is still awaiting full approval from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), it could be used retrospectively to assess all medal winners at Tokyo 2020.

The testing method has been developed at the University of Brighton by a team led by Yannis Pitsiladis,



The samples will be analysed by the new genetic sequencing method at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020

Thomas Bach, president, IOC

professor of sport and exercise science. Pitsiladis researched Ribonucleic acid (RNA) which, together with DNA and proteins, are essential for all forms of life, and discovered that drugs can leave a tell-tale signature in RNA.

The breakthrough test, he said, "can identify gene markers in blood if an athlete has taken banned substances".

"The WADA labs can, with near-perfect sensitivity, measure the presence of a drug while in the body," Pitsiladis said.

"Our research focuses on the fingerprint banned substances leave behind allowing a greater window of opportunity to catch the cheaters long after the drug has left the system – this is the beauty of this approach."

Speaking at the WADA's Fifth World Conference on Doping in Sport, Bach suggested that the International



■ Cyclist Lance Armstrong is among the high-profile athletes to have used EPO to enhance his performances

IMAGE: MOUT700/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

“ The new method of testing is one of four new main areas of a new, four-point US\$10m action plan on tackling doping ”

Testing Agency (ITA) will collect the appropriate samples to be analysed by the new genetic sequencing method as early as the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, regardless of whether this testing method is already fully validated or not.

“In the latter case, the IOC would analyse these samples after the full validation of this new testing method,” Bach added.

The new method of testing was one of four new main areas of a new, four-point US\$10m action plan on tackling doping.

Others were the storing of pre-Games testing samples for 10 years; more money being spent on further scientific research; and the strengthening of the investigative powers of WADA. ●



■ The testing method has been developed at the University of Brighton by a team led by Yann Pitsiladis



Local authorities spent £244m on leisure centres, swimming pools, running tracks and other sports sites in 2018, down from £565m in 2009

Huw Edwards, ukactive CEO



BUDGETING FOR SPORT

The government has confirmed its budget date for March – prompting ukactive to call for an end to the 'contradiction in value' of physical activity



■ NHS has revealed plans to offer thousand of patients 'prehabilitation'

The chancellor, Sajid Javid, has revealed that the government will present its budget on 11 March. Javid has hinted that the budget will include measures to ignite a 'decade of renewal' for Britain – and analysts predict that he will announce a string of major investment projects.

Among these could be a shake-up of the way the Treasury allocates investment in order to even up spending between the regions. Encouragingly for the leisure industry, spending measures will focus on health and the cost of living, while Javid's investment plans could see billions being earmarked for capital projects.

"With this budget we will unleash Britain's potential – opening a new chapter for our economy and ushering in a decade of renewal," Javid said.

Ukactive CEO Huw Edwards said the government should use the budget to

■ Javid has hinted that the budget will include measures to ignite a 'decade of renewal' for Britain



Sport and physical activity have too often been top of the cuts list given their non-statutory status

"back forcibly" the ambitions of the NHS to collaborate and partner with the physical activity sector.

Edwards said there remains an inconsistent approach to the sector within Whitehall. He highlighted two recent news items which, he said, were perfect examples of a "contradiction in value" regarding the role of the sport and physical activity sector – an issue which the government should look to end.

"The first, in *The Times*, reported that its own analysis of council accounts showed spending on council-run sports facilities had fallen by two thirds over the past decade," Edwards said.

"It revealed that local authorities spent £244m on leisure centres, swimming pools, running tracks and other sports sites in 2018, down from £565m in 2009 as they have struggled to cope with central government funding cuts.

"The second news we saw was NHS plans for newly diagnosed cancer patients to be offered gym sessions before they start treatment, in the hope of boosting the speed of their recovery. Thousands will be invited to sign up for a 'prehab' fitness programme following their diagnosis.

"The NHS rightly wants to make our members – both public and private – supporting people with long-term conditions to manage their health.

"But part of this provision – funded by councils across the country – has felt the bite of national austerity acutely, and authorities are shackled to the reality that sport and leisure has too often been top of the cuts list given its non-statutory status. An almost impossible situation for authorities to find a solution to.

"This contradiction in value, captured in these two stories, must be addressed urgently by our new Government." ●



■ Spending on council-run sports facilities had fallen by two thirds over the past decade

Setting the standards

Mark Oakley, chair of SAPCA's Technical Committee

SAPCA's Technical Committee held its first meeting of the year in January to identify, plan and prioritise the association's main areas of focus for the year ahead. At the centre of SAPCA's work is the Technical Programme, which includes the development of new standards and the creation of technical guidance for all those involved in the delivery of sports and play facility projects.

SAPCA's Technical Committee draws on the knowledge and experience across the industry and has a significant input through BSI (British Standards Institution) into the development of British/European Standards for sports surfaces and equipment.

Detailed work is currently taking place to finalise an update to the BS EN for indoor sports floors and to create a new standard for synthetic turf surfaces used indoors. Last year saw a new standard created for football goals and since then the industry has been working hard to redesign and test goals to demonstrate compliance with the new standard.

Over recent years there has been growing interest in the environmental aspects of sports and play facilities. Much of the focus has been on the use of recycled rubber and the impact of microplastics. SAPCA launched its *Quality Control Protocol for Sports Performance Infill* in 2019, which provides a robust framework of obligations which suppliers and installers need to follow to demonstrate compliance with current legislation and regulatory requirements. The industry is also working closely with other bodies to promote new design guidance to mitigate the loss of infill from sports pitches, and to encourage best practice in the effective maintenance of sports surfaces.



Over recent years there has been growing interest in the environmental aspects of sports and play facilities

A significant area of work within the Technical Programme is the ongoing development of new and updated SAPCA Codes of Practice for the industry. As well as setting out important standards for the design, construction and maintenance of various types of sports facility, the Codes of Practice provide valuable, impartial guidance for all those involved in sports and play projects, helping clients across the marketplace to make better choices and derive value for money for their investment.

Next to be published, by the end of February, will be the new *Code of Practice for the Design and Specification of Sub-bases for Synthetic Sports Areas*, to be followed by new guidance on the design of multi-use games areas. During 2020 working groups will be actively working on guidance for sports lighting and sports fencing, with updates to the Codes of Practice for synthetic pitches and athletics tracks.

Details of all the latest technical guidance is freely available on the SAPCA website, www.sapca.org.uk. ●



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

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

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

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

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

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Thank you for reading.

