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sports facilities?

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Bradley Wiggins - a great Tour de France result for Britain

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Getting motivated

The 2012 Olympics are meant to be a catalyst for change, raising standards at elite level and inspiring couch potatoes everywhere to dust off their sports kit and get back out there to do some physical activity. However, as the three-year countdown begins, new data from Sport England's Active People survey shows participation rates remain largely flat, with some sports reporting a reduction in the numbers taking part and only table tennis showing any meaningful increase.

At elite level there are signs policymakers are getting ratty with any lack of progress. Sports minister Gerry Sutcliffe – normally a mild mannered man – had an uncharacteristic outburst over our Wimbledon performance, calling it “embarrassing” and saying he will reconsider the future funding of tennis unless more elite players emerge from the system: “Why don’t we have the production-line of players other countries do?” he asked the BBC. “We’re not succeeding at elite level and I want to know why.”

When it comes to mass participation, we must remember this is the first time sport has laid itself so open. In years gone by, funding was channelled into sport with no meaningful monitoring taking place, so no-one knew if it was working. Now, thanks to Active People, we can see exactly what’s happening.

At the moment, facilities are improving and more opportunities are available for people to take part in sport, but they lack the motivation to get involved. This is something which needs to be examined closely, as motivation is the key to success when it comes to changing people’s exercise habits. Providing great facilities and making a logical case for exercise has never been enough to really engage people.

Sport requires and teaches dogged determination and we must expect nothing less from our sports policymakers. If Active People shows current policy isn’t working as well as hoped, we need to keep working until it does

Targeted subsidies can work and last issue we reviewed the Active England initiative (SM Q2 09, p24) which succeeded in motivating people in a number of target groups to take up sport. Active England funded 241 projects, cost £95m, prompted further investment of £131m and led to 1.4m people taking part. The initiative was based on innovation, so sharing best practice can show effective ways forward.

There’s more work to be done to get the industry joined up – in this issue, for example, we debate the challenges some sports face getting access to facilities (page 24). Sport England is funding the governing bodies, local government is funding the facilities, but they have different agendas, so facility programming doesn’t always take the needs of sports clubs into account, which hampers progress.

There is good news, and we need to make sure we celebrate the successes as well as working to overcome the challenges. At elite level, our swimmers have done well at the World Championships, our cricketers have beaten the Aussies at Lord’s for the first time in 70-odd years and we’ve

had a high placement in the Tour de France in the form of Bradley Wiggins who appears on this month’s cover. Our sports people, so long denied the facilities and financial backing which allows them to train at world-class level, are blossoming with the support they’re getting and with 2012 as a goal.

The challenges remain to build on this success while working to find ways to increase mass participation and engage more people in exercise.

Sport requires and teaches dogged determination and we must expect nothing less from our sports policymakers. If Active People shows that current policy isn’t working as well as hoped, then we need to review and improve it and to keep on doing this until it does work

Liz Terry, editor lizterry@leisuremedia.com



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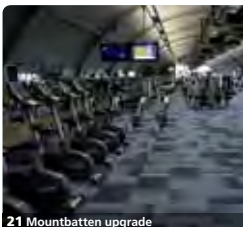
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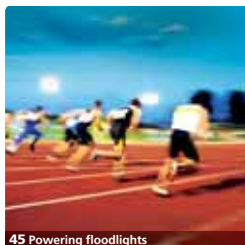
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SPORTS MANAGEMENT

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Adequate pitch care

I'm not surprised by the latest decision taken by Wembley Stadium to give responsibility for the pitch to senior FA management instead of a head groundsman. Both Premier Pitches and the STRI – who will continue in their supporting roles – are well known and respected organisations and will no doubt do a good job. The turf industry is worth an estimated £580m to the British economy and such companies contribute massively to solving issues to do with the management of sport surfaces.

However, the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) remains very concerned with the decision making process that ultimately led to Steve Welch and

Wembley parting company and how this reflects on the industry as a whole.

It seems to me, from the large number of enquiries that the IOG has had on this subject, that there are executives within Wembley who themselves perhaps have a case to answer when it comes to the management of the pitch.

The England Team deserves the best playing surface and the turf industry has the expertise to produce one. It'll be interesting though to see what happens going forwards with this new approach. The question arises as to who will be held to account should this approach fail?

Geoff Webb, CEO, The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG)



Who's the most qualified in pitch care?

2014 Legacy – a sporting chance for Scotland?

While many in the UK continue to debate what the London 2012 legacy will look like, in Scotland, the 2014 Commonwealth Games Interim Legacy Plan was recently published. Like the Olympics, one of the greatest challenges of the plan is to deliver an increase in sport and physical activity participation in order to realise a sustained improvement in the levels of health and wellbeing.

So how can we ensure the legacy in Scotland is more than just creating new planning partnerships, a list of aspirations and well-intentioned, but ultimately ineffective, short-lived programmes?

There are a number of positive actions the government is considering, such as improving community access to the schools' sport estate and re-designing PE. However, if we are to ensure tangible benefits which address Scotland's appalling health record and make an impact on people's lives, perhaps now is the time to consider a new approach.

A Sports Act, which enshrines the right to sport for all and sets out clear responsibilities for those charged with delivering sport, backed up by a regulatory framework, could be the answer. Finland introduced such an Act in 1999 and boasts the highest sports participation rate in Europe. The Council of Europe

Charter for Sport also provides an idea of what legislation could look like.

In Scotland, although sport is a statutory service, local authorities only have to demonstrate adequate provision in relation to facilities and activities. Surely it is now time to set the bar higher; after all, would we accept adequate provision for other important services? Despite councils being urged to plan for sport, only half of all local authorities have an up-to-date sports strategy in place.

Unless we try something different to afford sport greater protection and plan now for life after 2014, 'we will always get what we always got'. A Scottish Sports Act enacted by the Scottish government would be a fitting legacy and could help secure lasting social improvement long after the final race has been run.

Tim Dent, Director,
The Sport and Leisure Consultancy

“ Unless we try something different to afford sport greater protection and plan now for life after 2014, 'we will always get what we always got' ”



John Goodbody reports on

The promises of Olympic Legacy

Legacy, always a contentiously amorphous feature of the London Olympics, has once again been in the news. This certainly will not be the last time that politicians and sports officials have clashed over this imprecise concept, which is often interpreted in the self-serving interests of particular lobbies or individuals.

The latest flurry of controversy was sparked by Andy Hunt, the newly-appointed chief executive of the British Olympic Association, saying the promises of legacy from the Games might be unfulfilled.

He focused on two areas of concern: to what extent the facilities in the Olympic Park would be able to stage major competitions after the Games and whether the participation levels at grassroots would be as high as the government wants. Hunt said: "There are good individual initiatives but nothing has been drawn together. Time is running out to get this right." Hunt is worried that after 2012 the venues may not be used for sport and that the opportunities for elite competition will be restricted, because other interested parties, such as education, will get priority.

Although the aquatic complex, which provides London with its third and fourth 50m indoor pools, seems assured of being able to stage elite training and competition, the situation over the main stadium remains less certain. It has always been planned that the venue would be reduced from its Olympic capacity of 80,000 to 25,000 for annual athletics meetings, with the capability of going up to about 45,000 if Britain were to host the World or European Championships. However, Hunt has joined those who want it reduced to 50,000, although with football clubs, such as West Ham, reluctant to use a stadium surrounded by an athletics track, one cannot see such an arena being full very often.



“What we need is a sharing of ideas, so that if something works well in Plymouth, then Preston get to hear about it”

Hunt was equally critical, in an interview with the *Daily Telegraph*, on the legacy of participation, believing that there is a lack of clear policy and also questioning whether to get two million more people physically active was feasible, even if only one million will actually be doing a sport at least three times a week. He accepted that there were some good initiatives but added: "We need a policy that clearly sets out and underpins the agenda."

His views were buttressed by the recent quarterly figures from Sport England, when it was shown that of the 31 sports being assessed for regular participation, only table tennis recorded an increase.

Brigid Simmonds, who chairs the Central Council of Physical Recreation, wants the best ideas to be disseminated. She says: "What we really need is a sharing of the best ideas, so that if something works well in Plymouth, then Preston gets to know about it. We're not talking about schoolchildren or those involved in sport, we are talking about people who aren't doing any physical activity."

Certainly the situation in schools seems better. Olympics Minister Tessa Jowell claims that over the last seven years, the percentage of children playing two hours of sport a week has risen from 23 percent to more than 90 percent and a recent survey conducted by Loughborough University was generally positive, although it still pointed to areas of concern. One was to close the gap between secondary school girls and boys in both extra-curricular PE/sport activities and in inter-school competition. The other was to raise the mean number of girls and boys in primary schools participating in competitive and representative sport, which has remained broadly stable since 2005.

Despite initiatives such as free swimming, there are still obstacles to meeting the government and Sport England's participation target. To rectify this, the government is planning to convene a new team, overseen by a 'legacy czar', to ensure every avenue is explored. Critics will say that this should have been done three years ago and not with just three years to go before the Olympics open in London. ●

£36m sports centre for Huddersfield

Kirklees Council has unveiled its development plans for the construction of a new £36.2m sports centre in Huddersfield, which is to form part of the wider regeneration of the West Yorkshire town.

The new facility will be built on the Spring Grove car park in Springwood and is to be funded by the sale of the existing Huddersfield Sports Centre site in Southgate for the development of a Tesco supermarket.

Plans for the new leisure complex include a leisure water attraction incorporating a beach, wave machine, flume and sidewinder, while other facilities will include a 25m, eight-lane swimming pool, a teaching pool with moveable floor and a fitness suite.

Two sports halls and facilities for climbing, squash and martial arts will also form part of the proposals, as well as a café and a children's area, in a bid to promote health and wellbeing among the local communities. A planning application for both the new sports centre



Facilities at the centre will include two sports halls and a 25m swimming pool

and the Tesco supermarket are due to be submitted within the next few weeks, before a public consultation is held to enable local residents to comment on the plans.

If approved, work is set to start on the new sports centre in late 2010, while the new Tesco supermarket could be ready to open in 2014 to allow the regenera-

tion of the company's existing Viaduct Street site to get underway in 2016.

Mehboob Khan, Kirklees Council leader, said that while the council could refurbish the town's existing facilities in order to bring them up to standard, the length of time it would take and the costs involved made it more viable to pursue a new-build option.

ECB secures £37.8m for grassroots

The development of grassroots cricket is set to receive a £37.8m funding boost as part of a new four-year programme drawn up by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Sport England.

Projects that seek to increase participation and improve opportunities for women, girls and disabled players will be among those to benefit from Sport England grants, as well as schemes to create new pathways for excellence from the playground to Test cricket.

ECB chief executive David Collier said: "Sport England will also be bringing forward further lottery funding opportunities based on potential priority policy themes such as increasing participation by women and girls, improving school-club links and building sustainable community sports clubs.

"Cricket has a major contribution to make in this area and we will be working with Sport England to secure further



The funding will be used to develop cricket at all levels

funding for projects that not only increase participation in cricket but address wider policy objectives such as improving health and building social inclusion."

Funding as part of the Whole Sport Plan for 2009-13 will also be directed towards the Cricket Foundation's Chance to shine initiative, with more than 300,000 young people in schools across the country set to benefit.

Pool provision aspirations for Birmingham

Birmingham City Council is to pursue its plans for increasing swimming pool provision for local residents.

In December 2008, the cabinet agreed in principle to develop the Birmingham Aquatics and Leisure Complex in Ladywood and to replace – or refurbish – Sparkhill Pool, Harborne Pool and Stechford Cascades.

Councillors also decided that detailed proposals for each scheme would be re-evaluated by the full cabinet in September 2009, before planning applications are submitted.

An application to replace Harborne Pool and develop the Aquatics Centre and to will shortly go before the cabinet.

If approved, the venues are scheduled to be fully operational by December 2011 and February 2012 respectively.

Olympic Village plans unveiled

Detailed designs for the London 2012 Athletes' Village, which will be used to provide affordable housing for Londoners in legacy mode, have been unveiled by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

The plans include the construction of 11 residential blocks, which will offer a total of 17,000 beds for athletes during the Games, as well as open recreational space incorporating a jogging area and a Central Park area based on a British village green.

More than 2,800 homes will be made available to Londoners after the 2012 Games, with nearly 1,400 providing affordable housing following a £269m deal between the ODA and the Triathlon Homes joint venture.



The detailed designs include a legacy of 2,800 affordable homes

Residents will also be able to take advantage of more than 10 hectares (24.7 acres) of new parks and open space in legacy mode, while the new Chobham Academy education campus is to be established to cater for 1,800

students aged between three and 19 years old. Swiss landscape design firm Vogt Landschaftsarchitekten and urban designers Patel Taylor will develop the Olympic Village masterplan along with Fletcher Priest.

Swimming Teachers' Association launches Scottish arm

The Swimming Teachers' Association (STA) has expanded its operations north of the border with the launch of STA Scotland.

The association hopes that the introduction of an independent body will help to raise the profile of the STA and its activities in the region.

STA Scotland will operate its own Scottish Council, including a Scottish president – proposed and elected by the UK Trustees – as well as the existing STA Scottish regional organisers and STA Scottish Member Representatives.



STA Scotland will promote the association's courses in the region

Roger Millward, the STA's chief executive, said: "It is still very early days, but the response from Scottish members has been very positive. A dedicated Scottish division will ensure the interests of our Scottish members are represented and that STA procedures reflect the Scottish dimension. It is an exciting time for the STA's Scottish members and if this proves successful, the STA will be looking at other areas of the UK to see if similar projects can be set up."

The first council meeting is scheduled to take place in August 2009.

LEISURE CENTRE PLANNED FOR RUSHDEN, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A £13m leisure centre will be built at Manor Park in Rushden, Northamptonshire, to replace outdated facilities at the Splash Leisure Pool and the Pemberton Centre.

The scheme will comprise a six-lane, 25m swimming pool and a teaching pool; as well as a four-court sports hall; dance/exercise studios and a health and fitness suite.

The facility will be project managed by global consultants Mace – whose previous projects include the London Eye and the British Museum's Great Court – and will be designed by FaulknerBrowns Architects.

David Oliver, CEO of East Northamptonshire Council, said: "We've brought on board respected consultants to deliver this exciting scheme."

"This project represents the first stage of ambitious regeneration plans for Rushden and we look forward to sharing outline designs with residents in the autumn."

The council has stumped up £11m towards the development, with an additional £2m being secured from the government's Growth Fund by North Northants Development Company.



Yorkshire CCC set for new museum

Mather and Co, the Cheshire-based museum design consultants, have been appointed to create a new purpose-built museum dedicated to the history of Yorkshire County Cricket Club (YCCC).

The attraction, which will be housed in the East Stand at the Headingley Carnegie cricket ground in Leeds, West Yorkshire, is set to open in summer 2010 and will be the first museum of its kind at an English county cricket club outside London. The museum will include an audio-visual theatre and a range of interactive exhibits.



The centre is scheduled to open in 2011

£16m sports centre for Preston

A £16m sports centre planned for Preston city centre in Lancashire has received final approval.

The University of Central Lancashire's Marsh building on Marsh Lane is going to be demolished to make way for the three storey complex, which is due to open in January 2011.

The new centre will feature a sprung timber sports hall with more than 300 retractable bleacher seats and a viewing

gallery. A pre-school complete with sensory, nature and hard play areas will be able to accommodate up to 90 children aged 6-7-years-old.

There will also be multi-purpose spaces designed to host a variety of sport fixtures to private functions.

Paul Morris, director, said: "The sports centre will enhance the sporting provision we already offer for the students."

New tax laws to hit top Premier League clubs

Top English Premier League football teams could lose out when recruiting top talent next summer, thanks to a change in UK taxation.

From April 2010 onwards, the basic income tax band will rise from 40 per cent to 50 per cent for those earning more than £150,000 a year.

As a result, big-spending teams such as Chelsea, Manchester City and Manchester United may face wage increase demands of up to 70 per cent from existing players – and possible new signings – who want to offset the increase in the amount of tax they will be liable to pay.

According to financial research company Deloitte, the change in tax laws will make the Spanish La Liga more appealing for European players, due to the lower Spanish tax rate.

£24m National Cycling Centre planned

Proposals for a £24m indoor BMX centre in Manchester's Sportcity development have been announced.

The 110,000sq ft (10,220sq m) National Cycling Centre, designed by Ellis Williams Architects, will boast a 2,000-seat BMX arena as well as offices for the headquarters of the British Cycling Federation.

The centre will be surrounded by new public spaces – including outdoor free-style cycling areas – forming a velopark.

Eddie Smith, chief executive of New East Manchester, which is developing the scheme, said: "These facilities will offer elite athletes, schools and the wider community a unique opportunity to access a world-class track."

"Although this venue will be used by the British Olympic BMX team, it will also be an important community facility for our young people with the hope that one day, one of our own local



The National Cycling Centre will boast a dedicated BMX arena

youngsters will bring an Olympic medal home to east Manchester."

Work is expected to begin in January 2010 and be completed by March 2011.



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The designs include the addition of a 25m swimming pool

Billingham Forum to be revamped

Billingham Forum has closed to the public in order to allow construction work on a £15m refurbishment scheme to get underway at the leisure complex, which is expected to last for 18 months.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) and operator Tees Active are working in partnership on the revamp, which will include a six-lane, 25m swimming pool with a new training pool alongside

the existing learner pool. An extended gym providing 30 additional stations, a new dance studio, an upgraded ice rink facility and an enhanced reception area also form part of the scheme, as well as improvements to the indoor, two-lane bowls court the four-court sports hall and two squash courts.

Morgan Ashurst, the Warwickshire-based construction company has been appointed to deliver the scheme.



No change to Olympic Stadium plans

Olympic minister Tessa Jowell has maintained that the 80,000-capacity athletics stadium being built for the 2012 Games will later be down-sized to a 25,000-seat venue.

In response to London Mayor Boris Johnson's suggestion that the Stratford venue retain its full capacity in size to potentially host the 2018 World Cup, the Olympics minister said: "We don't need another football stadium – we've got Wembley. We made a commitment in the bid that the Olympic Stadium in legacy will be a 20- to 25,000-seat athletics stadium."

Scottish Judo to increase youth participation

SportsScotland has announced that it will be investing a total of £414,900 in the development of JudoScotland.

The money will target the key areas of youth participation and the funding will allow the appointment of more talent coaches to work with judo athletes aged 12-19 – the age when most begin to take part in organised competitions.

Jim Feenan, chair of JudoScotland, said: "The overall package of investment offered by sportsScotland will be warmly welcomed by judoka across Scotland.

"We believe that the support received has the potential to benefit all those participating within the sport and will enable us to encourage more young Scots to give judo a try."

Funding boost for Northern Irish sport

Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) has announced that it will be ploughing £6m into performance sport over the next two years.

The funding will be spread between 35 sports governing bodies as SNI aims to create a world-class system to develop elite athletes.

The associations to benefit from the funding include Cricket Ireland, The Irish Football Association and Ulster Rugby, with each sport having its own target.

Cricket Ireland aims to increase participation among youngsters by 5 per cent each year and has announced its targets of being ranked 8th in One Day International cricket. The Irish Football Association meanwhile will invest its share of the money into an Excellence Development Programme for the next four years. Ulster Rugby plans to increase participation by 10 per cent over the next four years.

SNI chief executive, Eamonn McCartan, said: "We believe that our partnership



Rugby is among the sports to benefit from the development funding

approach with the governing bodies of sports will bring us closer to establishing a world-class system for athlete development consisting of services, facilities and competition following the hosting of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London in 2012 and the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014."



The design of the new stand

Old Trafford project kicks off

Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC) has appointed construction company Morgan Ashurt to build the first phase of a £200m redevelopment of Old Trafford cricket ground.

The initial phase of the project, which has been designed by BDP Architects, includes the creation of a new £12m glass-fronted conference and events facility.

Called The Point, the £12m events suite will include a mezzanine bar area and will open in time for the 2010 season. The first phase of development at the ground will

also include the installation of 2,500 permanent spectator seats, new floodlights, a new outfield and new drainage systems.

The total combined cost of all the developments for the first phase is expected to reach £15m.

LCCC has been awarded a £2.65m grant by Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) for the scheme, which is part of a bid to win back Test match cricket after the venue lost out to Cardiff's SWALEC Stadium for the right to host an Ashes Test match this summer.

£55m sports centre for Cambridge

Officials at the University of Cambridge are planning to build a new £55m sports centre.

According to the *Cambridge Evening News*, the university said that it has drawn up plans for a new facility – including an Olympic-sized swimming pool – after the Cambridge University Students' Union launched a campaign for more sports facilities.

The newspaper quoted a university spokesperson as saying: "Although Cambridge students probably have access to more facilities than most, there is still clear demand for a proper indoor multi-sport facility."

"The university has full planning permission for a £55m sports centre on the West CamleC site, which would feature a 50m swimming pool."

INDUSTRY COMMENT

Put the customer first; an axiom for every successful business – and a prerequisite for those in sport delivering the London 2012 grassroots legacy.



Richard Lewis, chair Sport England

Sport has become more responsive to its customers (participants) but I believe two words hold the key to building on that progress: understanding and choice.

The power of choice has been demonstrated by the success of Sport Unlimited – Sport England's new programme to get more young people playing sport outside school. Launched last autumn, it offers 10-week courses in a wide range of sports, identified and selected by the youngsters themselves. The result is hundreds of courses already delivered in activities ranging from football and climbing to skiing and parkour; persuading young people that sport really has something for everyone.

To date, over 177,000 youngsters have completed a course, with early indications suggesting around a third of them have gone on to become regular participants. Over three years, our goal is to reach 900,000, inspiring a new generation of sports participants and making a major contribution to the government's commitment to offering young people five hours of quality sport each week.

Alongside choice comes understanding what motivates and matters to people playing sport. This is critical to our goal of building a world-leading community sport system. Sport England's new satisfaction survey provides national governing bodies with fresh insight into the priorities of people involved in their sport, helping them to unlock the DNA of sporting participation.

This greater level of understanding will help each sport to invest where it is most needed and be most effective. This type of customer-led approach, I believe, will help us succeed in becoming the first Olympic host nation to achieve a sustained legacy of increased participation.

BRISTOL CITY SUBMITS STADIUM PLANS

Bristol City Football Club (BCFC) has submitted detailed plans for the construction of a new £65m stadium at Ashton Vale, as well as outline proposals for a mixed-use scheme on surrounding land.

Plans for the new 30,000-seat venue have been drawn up following three sets of public consultations with local residents and stakeholders, and include the potential to add a further 12,000 seats as part of Bristol's bid to be a host city for the 2018 World Cup.

The stadium, which has been designed by Populous and will replace the club's current Ashton Gate home, will occupy a former landfill site adjacent to the Long Ashton park and ride facility, as well as a David Lloyd Fitness Centre.

BCFC chair Steve Lansdown said: "A new stadium would bring substantial benefits for both the club and the city as a whole, creating a world-class sports facility, strengthening the local economy and driving the ongoing regeneration of south Bristol."



DONCASTER HEADS SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

Neil Doncaster, the former chief executive of Norwich City Football Club (NCFC), has been appointed as the new chief executive of the Scottish Premier League (SPL).

The 39-year-old, who has also been a board member at both the Football Association (FA) and the Football League, announced that he would step down as NCFC chief executive in May 2010.

Commenting on his new appointment, SPL chair Lex Gold said: "Neil has had excellent experience in club football and that will stand him in good stead to lead the SPL team and deal with the complex issues and challenges that lie ahead."

Hunter is Delhi chef de mission

Craig Hunter, one of England's most experienced Olympic and Commonwealth Games sports team managers, has been chosen as Team England's Chef de Mission for Delhi 2010.

Hunter, who managed England's swimmers at their successful Commonwealth Games of 2002 and 2006, will also be able to draw on his experience of team management at



the Olympic Games with swimming.

The founding director of an international business consultancy, Hunter will have a role at the Games which includes representing England in sports, political and commercial settings.

He said: "Delhi 2010 is a significant moment for English sport as the nation's athletes move towards London 2012."



IAN MCKENZIE JOINS THE ASA

The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) has appointed Ian McKenzie as its new head of facilities, with a brief to rejuvenate the country's swimming pools.

McKenzie has 23 years' experience in working with capital programmes and as head of facilities development at sportscotland, has handled £300m worth of projects, including the national swimming centre at Tollcross Park Leisure Centre.

He is part of the team preparing for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and his role at the ASA will be to provide England with premier aquatic facilities.



SEAWARD BECOMES IOG PATRON

Eddie Seaward MBE has been appointed to the new role of patron at the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).

Known and respected throughout the grounds care industry, the All England Lawn Tennis Club head groundsman has been an IOG member for almost 50 years. Throughout this time, he has worked with members and the executive staff on many initiatives, including the recent merger of the IOG and the British and International Golf Groundkeepers Association (BIGGA).

He cites the impact of legislation and water conservation as major industry issues that need to be acted upon, as well

as ongoing concerns surrounding the profile of the profession, attracting new entrants, future skills gaps and encouraging and developing industry training and education.

Meanwhile, following the untimely death of IOG national chair Alex Millar, David Teasdale has been appointed interim national chair and Peter Hudson, interim vice chair.

Teasdale's allegiance to the IOG's objectives stems from his involvement in the sports industry for nearly 30 years and his role as independent chair of the IOG/BIGGA merger panel. He is also chair of Business in Sport and Leisure (BISL).

Hession and Page elected at SAPCA AGM

During SAPCA's 12th AGM in May, Tony Hession from Blakedown Sport and Play was elected as the association's new chair and Courtshall Services' Eric Page as the new vice-chair, for two-year terms of office.

Having served as vice-chair for the previous four years, Hession has led key working groups on the enhancement of SAPCA's regulatory role and the delivery of higher standards for synthetic turf pitches. Commenting on his new role, Hession said: "We must recognise the current difficulties facing the industry during the recession and provide the best support to our members."



Left to right: Tony Hession, retiring chair Tim Freeman and Eric Page at SAPCA's AGM

Ricoh arena event review

SAPCA's Sports Facility Construction event, held at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry, attracted more than 250 delegates. The seminar programme focused on the provision of sports facilities in the educational sector, with keynote presentations by Partnerships for Schools (PFS) and the Association for Physical Education (AfPE).

Mark Perkins, PE and sport advisor at PFS, provided a comprehensive progress report

on the Building Schools for the Future programme and highlighted the important work being undertaken to ensure the delivery of high-quality sports facilities in the second stage of the project. Steve Kibble of AfPE (pictured right) delivered a vision of spaces for PE and sport in a 21st century school.

SAPCA's next Sports Facility Construction event will take place at Twickenham Stadium in London on Tuesday 24 November.



Promoting the industry both home and abroad

As well as presenting its own events, SAPCA is also actively supporting several key exhibitions – both in the UK and in Europe – during the next few months. These events include IOG SALTEX at Windsor Racecourse; the Sports Show at LIW, in Birmingham's NEC; and FSB/IAKS Congress in Cologne, Germany, (see diary dates page at the back of this magazine).

In addition to its participation in each exhibition, SAPCA is also contributing to the events' educational programmes.

At IOG SALTEX, the association will lead a forum on the design, construction and maintenance of synthetic pitches. Within the National Sports Conference at the Sports Show it will host the session



The SAPCA pavilion at FSB 2007

on innovation in sports facility development and during the co-located IAKS Congress at FSB it will present details of its educational programme for the UK sports facility construction industry.

Details of all events are available at SAPCA's website www.sapca.org.uk

SAPCA in Pictures



As part of its support for ParalympicsGB, Team SAPCA is pictured above after completing this year's British 10K London Run

SAPCA CEO Chris Trickey (centre) presents golfing honours to Lee Gladwell and Alex Stead of Desso Sports Systems after this year's SAPCA Open





KAREN ROTHERY

Karen Maxwell talks to the chief executive of the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) after her first year in office and finds out how her previous business experience outside sport has helped to structure the organisation



When I walked into BUCS' headquarters, near London's Blackfriars Road, to meet up with Karen Rothery, the office was scattered with boxes of sports kit as she and her staff set about preparing for Team GBR's attendance at the 25th annual World University Games (WUG) in Belgrade, Serbia.

Rothery appeared to be in control of the workload schedule as she ushered me out of the chaos and into the relative quiet of her office, but it was obvious by the rapport she had with her team that she ran an open door policy and got stuck in with the rest of them when a deadline loomed.

At the time of the interview, Rothery and her team were not the wisest that Team GBR would return from Belgrade with seven well-deserved medals.

Training Ground

The World University Games is often the first opportunity for many athletes to experience a multi-sport, Olympic-atmosphere event and it's already proved to be an invaluable training ground. No less than 58 per cent of athletes representing Team GB at

last year's Beijing Olympic Games had come through the university system.

Involving around 7,000 athletes from 170 countries, competing in 15 sports, the annual event offers Team GBR's 190-strong squad of students, officials and staff an international event experience that would undoubtedly stand many of them in good stead for their participation at London 2012.

"Higher education (HE) is such an important proving ground for those who go on to represent the country in international sports events," Rothery explains. "And one of BUCS key objectives is to give budding athletes the most realistic experience possible."

According to Rothery, members of Team GBR were selected by BUCS in conjunction with the national sports governing bodies (NGBs) and shared accommodation with delegates from the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa during the Games. "We wave them off at the airport to make sure they're sent off properly, we make sure they take part in village life at the event and give them access to physiotherapists, doctors, team managers and video recording equipment to give them

a realistic experience in readiness for their competitive future," says Rothery. "We're a relatively small organisation with 23 employees – most of whom are based at our London office – so as you can imagine, this involves a huge amount of activity at headquarters – loads of staff come into the office at unsociable hours – it's a massive undertaking."

Business Acumen

Rothery joined the newly-formed BUCS organisation as chief executive a couple of months before it was officially launched in June 2008 and has spent the past year developing a vision for HE sport and raising BUCS' profile. She's the first to admit that it has not been without its challenges.

"The launch of BUCS brought together two former representative bodies – the British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) and University College Sport (UCS). Its objective: to offer a comprehensive, multi-sport competition structure and manage programme development, services and facilities for grassroots up to high-performance athletes," she explains. "However, it's been difficult establishing a new business



from scratch within a structure that's proven difficult to work around. Often with a new organisation you just have to take a view of 'let's try this and see how it works', and then make changes if you can and if you think you need to."

A relative newcomer to sport administration, Rothery wasn't afraid to admit that she knew nothing about HE sport when she was interviewed for the role. However, what she was able to bring to the organisation was 20-plus years of invaluable business experience.

"I had traveled the world, working in a variety of sales, marketing and product development roles within the clothing industry, until I decided to change tack and do a Masters in Sport and Leisure Management at Loughborough University," Rothery explains. "Being a student in my 40s was a shock to the system at first, but it actually turned out to be a very liberating experience. I worked hard, gained a distinction and won the

Sue Glyptis prize for my research project on the effect of sponsorship in sport."

Rothery's first role in sport after university was that of commercial director for England Netball, where she gained a good understanding of how sport was delivered at grassroots level and helped to raise the profile of the sport nationwide. "During my two and half years with the NGB, we managed to get netball broadcast on Sky Sports – and it's stayed in the limelight ever since," she says.

BUCS chair Ed Smith, whose background is with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, was impressed by Rothery's business background when she applied to join BUCS and together they operate the organisation like a commercial business, by bringing in financial controls and monthly management.

"BUCS is a membership organisation with a relatively small budget," she explains. "Our annual budget is £2.7m, which when you think that we deliver

The 24-sport annual BUCS Championships was held in Sheffield this year

50 sports across 150 institutions within the UK and 170 individual sport championships, is not very much for the delivery of such a huge programme.

"A good proportion of what we do is paid for in the form of membership affiliation and competition entry fees. The rest of the finance is secured through direct grants, sponsorship and commercial income, plus some NGB's pay us to help deliver their programmes," Rothery explains, adding that she and Smith are



“ **Employers are increasingly looking for university graduates with extended skills that show leadership quality and a 'can do' attitude** ”

- ➔ looking to extend commercial opportunities at BUCS sports events, such as selling kit to enhance the overall sport experience for spectators.

Raising the Profile

During her first year in office, Rothery says the organisation has been busy raising the profile of HE sport and developing relationships with key sporting bodies. "So that people in the broader sporting landscape and the general public recognise the huge role sport has to play in giving students the opportunity to participate and develop their personal skills," she explains.

"It's not just about a student signing up to play for the university football team, it's about having the opportunity for that person to train to be a referee, learn to coach or develop personal leadership skills so that they can take those skills back into the community once they've finished their education.

"Employers are increasingly looking for university graduates with extended skills that show leadership quality and a 'can do' attitude."

Rothery says an important part of BUCS' remit is to encourage sport provision that can extend into the community. "Universities don't exist in isolation, they are located in communities, so local people should also be able to access facilities on a regular basis," she explains. "We encourage the sharing of best practice and run a number of advisory groups that meet three or four times a year to encourage our stakeholders to share ideas. We also give advice on how to deliver sport at our workshops and training sessions at the BUCS annual conference, [at Keele University from 1-4 of September this year]."

Increasing Participation

Looking forward, a major objective for Rothery in the coming year is to increase sport participation within HE. BUCS has recently partnered with Sport England on a consultation regarding plans to further develop the partnership between education and grassroots sport to get 300,000 students playing and enjoying more sport by 2012/2013.

"It's difficult to properly gauge how many students get active on a regular basis," Rothery explains. "Sport England's Active People Survey is one benchmark but we've had some concerns about how accurately it reflects student participation – mainly because people are surveyed



Students already participate in sport at almost twice the level of the general population

“BUCS, together with Sport England, is looking to develop the link between education and grassroots sport to get 300,000 students playing more sport by 2012/2013”

via land line phones and many students only have access to mobile phones.”

However, Rothery explains that Sport England is undertaking a new piece of research to establish whether the student participation level suggested in Active People is accurate or not. "Students already participate at almost twice the level of the general population [21 per cent versus 36 per cent]" she says.

Asked how she intends to increase participation even further, Rothery says that as well as honouring students' requests for a wide variety of sport options, the plan is to capitalise on the social aspect of sport to encourage more students into regular activity. "Sport England has given us funding to build a social network on Facebook, which will be piloted during the next few months. This will target students who have expressed an interest in a particular activity or those in a certain demographic in order to create instant social networks. For example, the university might post a message on Facebook for students to meet outside the student union bar at 6pm on Thursday for a 3km run."

Future plans

Now the simpler, streamlined management structure is in place, Rothery says that customer service is also a natural step for her second year in office. "We're in the service industry so we need to recognise and deliver on our stakeholders' needs. We have nine delivery bodies in England, one in Scotland, one in Wales and one in Northern Ireland and the advisory group works with these bodies to make sure the new structure is adhered to in these regions.

"Sport England recently published a brand new Stakeholder Plan and it allows, for the first time, some investment for us to develop our capacity by employing more staff. Although I can't pre-judge the finding of the consultation linked to this plan, I expect it will focus around helping universities to assist students develop their sports through coaching and volunteering and deliver opportunities to train up staff. The plan also allows for us to bid for a themed funding round which could be up to £10m. This implies that HE sport is finally being recognised as an important link to increased participation in sport. ●

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- In early 2009 we completed work on two nine-court sports halls in HMYOI Feltham Young Offenders Prison
- Spring 2009 we successfully completed cleaning, partly-resurfacing and line painted an athletics track at Spennorth Pool and Sports Complex in North Yorkshire.



Half-way through cleaning the track at the Paralympics headquarters at Stoke Mandeville Stadium



A cleaned, resurfaced, surveyed and painted track at Kirkwell in the Orkney Islands

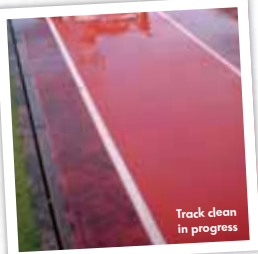


Sports hall completed in Canterbury July 2009



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Mountbatten LEISURE CENTRE

With the launch of a £20m extension to Mountbatten Leisure Centre, Portsmouth City Council has provided a sports facility which ticks all the boxes from grassroots to elite provision. Kath Hudson reports

Portsmouth City Council is making a statement with its upgraded Mountbatten Leisure Centre, both with the innovative architecture, the quality of facilities on offer and its ambition to cater for all sporting levels.

The centre is expected to have a significant locally, regionally and nationally and, with its inclusion in the catalogue of 2012 Olympic training camps, it is being talked about overseas too.

The jewel of the centre is the 50m swimming pool: the moveable floor and submersible boom means it can be configured as a 50m pool, or a 25m and 23m pool complex. The complex also has a separate 12.5m teaching pool.

The 50m pool can be configured as a 25m and 23m pool complex

The first floor has a wellbeing suite with a Helo sauna, steamroom and spa. A 150-station Precor gym sits in a 50m tube on the second floor; fully glazed down one side and with a glass eye at one end giving fantastic views over the city. Existing facilities at the centre have also been given a facelift: the sports hall has a new Granwood sprung floor and the former gym has been converted into a dance studio, while a brand new café overlooks the pool complex. Keeping with its 2012 status, the outdoor athletics track and velodrome have been resurfaced to elite standard.

A LONG TIME COMING

Portsmouth City Council's parks and recreation manager, Seamus Meyer, is delighted the plans for the centre have finally come to fruition: "The idea for the

redevelopment was mooted many years ago. We really wanted to provide a 50m swimming pool, as there wasn't a pool at this centre. A £5.5m grant from Sport England allowed the project to go ahead and it's providing fantastic sports facilities in the centre of the city, which will be accessible to everyone."

The company was appointed by the council in 2006, for the DBOM (design, build, operate and maintain) contract. Broadwater Leisure was created as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Parkwood Consultancy Services to look after the contract and comprises Kier Southern (building contractor), Parkwood Leisure (leisure operator) and Parkwood Consultancy Services (maintenance contractor).

One of the main reasons for the company's success in the tendering process was the innovative architectural plans, drawn up by David Lambert of local firm Saunders Architects.

The architecture reflects the location: a wave to signify Portsmouth's location on the coast and a tube symbolises the submarines which were once stored close by.

Parkwood Leisure's contract manager, Danny Churcher, said it's been an exciting project to be involved with: "Projects of this size don't come around too often in anyone's career. It's an innovative building, with an attractive design and to see it from the foundations to opening feels like an amazing achievement."





“ The opportunity this facility offers for grassroots runners, swimmers and cyclists to train alongside top athletes is exciting and inspiring ”



REACHING OUT

Securing the funding for a landmark centre, integrating an existing building with a super-modern extension and keeping the centre running smoothly through an 18-month construction period has been a tough challenge. However, the hard work is far from over, now the team has to make sure the centre meets the expectations of the council and Sport England, to cater for the whole spectrum of abilities and reach out to people in the area who don't take part in sport.

“We've been given various participation targets to meet, with the main emphasis on the 50+, youth and disabled markets,” says Churcher. “We undergo the national benchmarking survey on an annual basis and the objective is to get into the upper quartile for participation of those target groups.”

Partnerships and a strong focus on sports development are the tools Parkwood is using to achieve this. “We're working with partners around the city,” says Churcher. “We've linked in with the primary care trusts, GP and stroke referral programmes and linked up with the Community Improvement Partnership, which has an allocation of funding to target low income families. We are also linking in with the city council's sports development team, disability officer and disability forums.”

So far the results have been encouraging. Free swimming for the under-16s

and over-60s has encouraged these groups, with 10 times more swimmers than the numbers seen at Victoria Swimming Pool, an outdated city pool which has now closed down. The centre's membership has doubled since March with the new gym attracting much interest from the community. There has been such an uptake on the GP and stroke referrals that additional funding is being sought to cope with the demand.

The scheduling of the swimming pool is a great example of how the centre can cater for grassroots up to the elite. Swimming lessons are available for everyone from toddlers up and one of the UK's biggest clubs, the Portsmouth Northsea Swimming Club uses it daily. Olympic swimmer and former gold medalist at the World Championships, Katy Sexton, is a member and the club also has a number of swimmers pushing for the Olympic squad.

OLYMPIC PREPARATIONS

The opportunity this facility offers for grassroots runners, swimmers and cyclists to train alongside top athletes is inspiring and expected to be taken up a notch in the run up to the London 2012 Olympics. The Mountbatten Centre is in the catalogue of pre-Games training venues for swimming, cycling, athletics, badminton, table tennis and gymnastics, as the Gymnastics Centre of Excellence, which opened in February 2008, is also on the Mountbatten site.



Inset pic left to right: Mark Woolnough, Portsmouth City Council, Matthew Roberts, Parkwood, Hannah Bladen, Sports England regional director, Danny Churcher, Parkwood contract manager and Katy Sexton

Churcher says with 70 countries on the lookout for venues in the south east, a great deal of interest is anticipated. Columbia and Malawi are already interested in using it as a pre-Games training venue. Malawi is even considering bringing over some of its younger competitors two years early so they can be educated at Portsmouth University. Becoming an Olympic training venue is prestigious and good for PR, however, Churcher acknowledges this will also require a balancing act in terms of operation. It might be exciting for the public to rub shoulders with Olympic competitors, but the novelty might wear off if they don't get the chance to work out.

The Mountbatten Centre has aimed high and now has to meet those targets, but the ingredients are right, so hopefully it will be an example of how a centre really can involve everyone in the pleasures of sports participation, whatever their ability. ●

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Sports Management asks:

Can sports clubs get adequate access to sports facilities?

By Crispin Andrews

Five hours a week of sport for every child by 2012; a sports strategy demanding one million people do more sport by 2012/13; an increasing army of highly trained professionals and volunteers chomping at the bit to deliver activity and large amounts of finance being ploughed into upgrading existing and developing new sports facilities. There is however one fatal flaw, which makes the task of embedding sport into the daily routines of the British people extremely difficult.

Kenton Park in Harrow is a case in point. It offers several large playing fields, around which stand a good number of hard-court tennis courts, which are in a state of disrepair and of use to no one.

It's over a year since the Tennis Foundation launched its strategy to rejuvenate Parks Tennis – so how can this be? Harrow Borough Council's leisure department doesn't know. "We don't have any say in what goes on, that's up to the parks department," says sports development officer Clifton Jackson.

Rumours are afoot locally that the council is keen to sell the land to property developers. And why not? No one is using it!

This is just a snapshot of the problem facing those whose remit is to develop people and communities through sport, but the question remains: are local authorities and schools – through their lettings policies and facilities strategies – providing sports clubs, governing bodies and other deliverers of organised sport with the kind of support they need to deliver the quality

RICHARD YULE CEO ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION



In my opinion, local government and sport need to sit around a table at the highest level to thrash out a strategy that enables sport to flourish.

Structures and funding policies are not set up to facilitate the development of organised club sport on the scale needed.

The predominance of the 'pay as you play' model works against the efforts of governing bodies and community organisations who try to engage hard to reach groups.

Clubs need regular access to good quality facilities to provide people with the sort of activity they will give up their time for. If we are going to drive up participation levels, table tennis

can't continue to be satisfied with scout huts, community centres and village halls. Yet many local authorities still see their facilities simply as a way of raising revenue and hold computer fairs and dog shows as part of what for them, is simply a lettings exercise.

A badminton court can cost as much as £12-16 an hour and a young family cannot afford that, so their only option is to join a club – but if halls are booked out to those who can afford the costs, their options to take part are severely restricted.

What we need are new pricings and building models for community sports facilities that will support community organisations and national governing bodies in their delivery of the government's strategy for sport.

ADRIAN CHRISTY CEO BADMINTON ENGLAND



Lessons need to be learned from the best practice going on around the country. There are local authorities, leisure providers and schools which have managed to overcome the barriers that prevent sports and community organisations from making the best use of their facilities.

Unfortunately, bureaucracy in the form of health and safety requirements, child protection issues and insurance-driven requirements to have a member of staff on site, scares off many facility providers from allowing sports organisations to use their facilities as often as they could.

Look at how many schools are closed during the evenings. Nearly every school has badminton courts, but how can we use them if they're not available after 5pm? Rather than weighing up the cost analysis in terms of finance alone, schools need to

look at the benefits of having organised sporting activity for children, the local community and the school's reputation.

Where headteachers are enlightened as to the benefits of physical activity or a PE department, sports college or school sport partnership is responsible for lettings, things can work fantastically well. The letting of school facilities needs to be taken out of the hands of administrative or finance staff.

We need to think of ways of giving high-quality, accredited clubs more responsibility for running the facilities they use. This means training and funding to enable clubs to take responsibility for security and health and safety while on site.

A pilot scheme is underway involving the Youth Sport Trust, Badminton England and other sports hall sports: netball, volleyball, table tennis and basketball. The idea is to offer schools after school activity for their students in return for a use of the facility in the evenings which the group itself will manage.



Regular access to quality facilities encourages people to stick to their sport

of provision expected of them? Or are the financial pressures so great that local authorities and schools have no option but to seek only to gain maximum revenue from their assets – even if this undermines the capacity of sports providers to deliver the sort of activity that can impact positively on the lives of individuals and communities?

We talk to NGBs and facility providers to find out more about the situation and whether a solution to this problem could be found. ●

Crispin Andrews a freelance journalist



CRAIG MCATEER EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE CHIEF CULTURAL & LEISURE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE



I'd like to think we're getting away from a revenue-only based rationale for activity within leisure facilities around the country. While providers do have to think about the income a facility generates, they also have to think about the variety of differing physical activity needs of the people within their community. This also includes those people who may not want to do physical activity but for health reasons, might need to.

Often this is about using available space creatively. In Rochdale for instance, we have opened up a couple of lecture halls in a museum for weekly Pilates, aerobics and table tennis classes.

There's never going to be enough space within leisure centres to allow everyone to book when they want to, so we need to look to the private sector and to schools as they are upgraded through the Building Schools for the Future programme.

I don't think organised sport should be prioritised over recreational activity as there is room for both. It's all about getting a balanced programme based around targets and getting local cultural and sports strategies to evolve side by side rather than in isolation.

This business strategy takes a while to filter down – but if you get the strategy right then you have a chance of producing the sort of quality local provision that will keep people involved and happy.

ANDY KING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SERCO LEISURE



Sports organisations need to be fully aware of the bigger picture and overall objectives of councils and a local authority's remit to develop sport within the context of wider social outcomes.

Can the sport deliver on a council's corporate objectives? Will it deliver an increase in participation for residents or facilitate the development of sustainable programmes? Is there a clear pathway for talented individuals to progress locally and are partners wanting to invest to ensure value for money? Are there quality places to go and take part in the sport?

If a sport can answer in the positive to the above then we can offer free access for clubs to hold their meetings, display notice boards and advertise in our centres and leaflets. At club open evenings, we invite club officers to find out about

funding opportunities for club and volunteer development as we firmly believe that sport will only achieve its objectives through a strong and successful network of clubs supported by quality coaches and well-maintained facilities.

Adopting a 'come and use the facilities and tell us what you can pay' approach reduces hire fees for a club during its growth phase. A Triathlon club in Bolton has doubled in size and the junior athletics club has tripled in membership while using this approach.

It is not a simple 'revenue versus sport development' choice. We buy into the local authority or trust agenda and partner with sports who understand the need for sport to do more than simply develop sport for sports' sake.

This means more people taking part in sport, therefore more people using leisure centres which must be, by definition, a good-news story commercially.

GETTING READY FOR 2010



Since the 2010 FIFA World Cup was awarded to South Africa in 2004, the country has been busy preparing for the event and making the most of its expected marketing opportunity. Sarah Todd examines what's going on behind the scenes in readiness for kick-off next June and the potential legacy for the nation

On 11 June 2010 in Johannesburg, what is possibly the world's most-watched sporting event, the FIFA World Cup, will commence and the excitement within the country is palpable.

The FIFA draw of tournament participants on 4 December 2009 alone is expected to attract an anticipated television audience of more than four million – with only South Africa, as the host nation, guaranteed a place. There will be three million tickets available for the month-long, 64-match tournament and a multi-platform broadcast schedule is expected to hit an audience of more than one billion people.

It's estimated that the World Cup will contribute about R50bn (£3.8bn) to the South African economy from construction investment and a further R15.6bn (£1.2bn) could be generated through event-linked tourism. The Southern Africa Tourism Services

Association (SATSA) has also estimated that R20bn (£1.5bn) is being invested into hotel developments and resorts across the country in the run-up to the event. Promoters of South Africa believe it represents the single biggest marketing opportunity in the country's history.

Mark Williams, South African Tourism's regional director for the UK and the US says: "The tourism industry is gearing up for 2010 in a big, multi-million rand way. As one of the foremost drivers of the economy, the tourism industry has a responsibility to create jobs, to empower people and to impart skills.

"This event will directly benefit the people and the nation's broader economy. It has the capability to reduce crime and improve the standard of living for all by offering a wider tax base to create more resources for national investment in schools, roads and medical care as well as future foreign investment."



Ten stadiums are being constructed or upgraded to host the tournament

Host Cities

Nine cities – stretching from the birthplace of Nelson Mandela via the Zulu Kingdom to the gateway to the Kruger National Park – will host the games. These include: Nelson Mandela Bay in the Eastern Cape province; Bloemfontein in Free State; Johannesburg and Tishwane/Pretoria in Gauteng; Durban in KwaZulu Natal; Polokwane in Limpopo; Nelspruit in Mpumalanga; Rustenburg in the North West Province and Cape Town in the Western Cape.

Transportation between the host cities has been made easier with major improvements to South Africa's transportation networks, which has impressed FIFA consultant and general secretary of the German Football Association, Horst R Schmidt: "The investment in transportation is enormous. It is not only able to satisfy the needs for the FIFA World Cup 2010 but the country's long-term requirements as well. Outstanding examples are the Gautrain and the airport upgrades in the cities. They, and a lot of other facilities, represent an overall improvement for the population's mobility and will be in use long after the final whistle blows."



"This is the first tournament of this kind to take place on African soil and represents quite a challenge for everyone"

Aside from the host cities, the World Cup will be promoted as an African event and any overspill in terms of accommodation can be absorbed into the regions surrounding South Africa, such as Swaziland, Mazoto and even the island of Mauritius.

Stadiums and venues

A total of 10 stadiums are being constructed or upgraded in time for the event and, according to the CEO of the FIFA 2010 Local Organising Committee, Dr Danny Jordan, all the stadiums, hotels and airports are going to be ready on time. "We've exceeded every project timeline and are on schedule," he says.

Schmidt agrees: "For South Africa, everything has been much harder to realise than in previous host countries. This is the first tournament of its kind to take place on African soil and represents a challenge for everyone. The world's opinion was at first governed by doubt with regard to the necessary infrastructure and security needed to host the event. Yet South Africa has been able to present an outstanding stadium infrastructure with six new stadia and four considerable upgrades," he says.

The opportunity to test some of the venues came with the hosting of the FIFA Confederations Cup in June, when

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- the country proved itself capable of staging a major competition.

Soccer City in Johannesburg is the flagship stadium for the World Cup. Home to the South African Football Association, the stadium will seat 94,700 people once an upgrade is complete. It hosted the first mass rally for Nelson Mandela after his release in 1990 and was also the venue for the 1996 CAF Africa Cup of Nations finals. The opening games and final match of the World Cup will be played there.

Johannesburg city centre is also home to Ellis Park stadium. Opened in 1982, this venue played host to the recent FIFA Confederations Cup thanks to an extensive facelift which increased its seating capacity to 62,000.

Another Confederations Cup host was the Loftus Versveld in the heart of Tshwane/Pretoria, which offers a seating capacity of 50,000 and is located on a site that was first used for sport in 1903.

Then there's Green Point in Cape Town, which boasts a backdrop of mountains and ocean. With an all-

weather retractable dome, the stadium can host up to 70,000 people. The Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban will also have a top capacity of 70,000 and will host six first-round World Cup matches, one second-round and one semi-final match.

In Bloemfontein/Mangaung, the Free State Stadium will have a capacity of 48,000 people. The Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium on the shores of the North End Lake will be able to accommodate up to 50,000 supporters, while Mbombela stadium on the outskirts of Nelspruit in the Mpumalanga Province will have a seating capacity of up to 46,000.

The Peter Mokaba stadium in Polokwane, named in honour of the anti-apartheid activist, is being built 5km from the city centre and will have a capacity of 45,000. Located in the Limpopo Province, which has the largest number of registered football players in South Africa, it will be situated in a brand new sports complex.

Finally, the Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Rustenburg is located close to Sun City and can seat 42,000 people.

Durban's 70,000-seat Moses Mabhida Stadium takes its design inspiration from the South African flag

be R161 (£12.30) – a price similar to that which local South Africans would normally pay to watch their national football team.

FIFA and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) believe it is imperative that this major football event will be accessible to as many of South Africa's people as possible and a number of initiatives have been devised to ensure that this will be the case.

One such scheme is the 2010 FIFA World Cup Ticket Fund whereby FIFA, the LOC and the six FIFA partners (Adidas, Coca-Cola, Emirates, Hyundai, Sony and Visa) will distribute 120,000 complimentary tickets to South Africans who are contributing towards the success of the World Cup, but who can't afford to be part of the event. Some of these beneficiaries will include stadium construction workers.

A series of FIFA Fan Fests is another initiative. Using the model developed during the 2006 World Cup in Germany, people without tickets for the games will be able to watch the tournament free of charge in Fan Zones or Public Viewing Areas (PVAs).

An estimated 21 million fans watched games in these dedicated areas in Germany. Senior Superintendent Vish Naidoo of the South African Police Service believes there could be more than 20 times the number of people turning up to the fan zones than going to the stadiums.



Tickets

As global interest in the tournament grows, more than 1.6 million ticket applications have already been received from a total of 203 countries during the first stage of applications, which ended in March this year.

The average price of a World Cup ticket will

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Many fans will watch the tournament at Fan Zones around the country

➔ Security

In terms of security and crime prevention, Naidoo says South Africa has taken advice from other World Cup host nations, such as Japan, Korea, Germany and China, on best practice security and safety measures for big crowd events. R1.35bn (£1bn) has been invested in the procurement of equipment and a total of 52,000 security staff will be deployed before, during and after the tournament.

While not ruling out the possibility of hooliganism, Naidoo said that there will be strict controls in place in terms of ticketing, as well as high-level international security procedures and this, combined with South Africa being a long-haul destination for the majority of participating countries, should greatly reduce the incidence.

Socio-economic legacy

On the ground, the atmosphere is incredibly positive, with the South African people having very high expectations for the event. As Schmidt explains: "The socio-economic impact of the tournament is being academically evaluated and first results show that there will be a positive in image improvement for South Africa. The population is identifying with its role of host and the feel-good factor is creating an amazingly positive attitude towards 2010."

FIFA's mission statement is to 'develop the game, touch the world and build a better future'. To this end, a number of projects have been launched to ensure a lasting positive legacy for the country.

An example of FIFA's legacy programme is the 'Win in Africa with Africa' initiative, which includes the



construction of an international-standard artificial turf pitch in every African country before the tournament in 2010.

Other departments of the initiative include support in developing national leagues and the training of individuals to take charge of various African associations in the future.

As a key part of 'Win in Africa with Africa' football will also be used to reach out to those most at risk of getting the 'big three' of African communicable and non-communicable diseases – namely, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

FIFA's Medical Assessment and Research Centre has developed an '11 for Health' programme to improve community health in Africa. Preventative health

“The event has had vital intangible effects in the form of fostering social cohesion and political focus on key socio-economic logistic needs”

education will be delivered to African children and young people in a football environment. This is intended to improve their knowledge, attitude and behaviour towards all diseases.

2010 and beyond

Speaking about the direct contribution of the FIFA World Cup to South Africa's economy, economist Dr Iraj Abedian believes the true value of next year's event lies in both the short-term and longer-term impacts. "Well over US\$5bn (£608m) of investment in the World Cup-related infrastructure has provided short-term jobs and a much-needed boost to the domestic economy.

However, just as importantly, the event has had some vital intangible effects in the form of fostering social cohesion and political focus on some of the key socio-economic logistical needs, ranging from sport stadiums to the police's crime-fighting infrastructure," says Abedian.

When asked about the potential for a white elephant legacy, Dr Abedian remains optimistic: "There is the multiplier effect of one event in South Africa having a lasting and positive legacy, but this also depends on the channels of impact. The white elephant legacy can be combated by the post-event investment opportunities that will be available. We have already witnessed a huge boost to South Africa's economy, simply by being the host country."

As FIFA Secretary General Jérôme Valcke maintains: "We hope that the FIFA World Cup, with all its challenges for the hosting nation, will act as a catalyst in helping it to fully grasp the true extent of its capabilities. One of the most important legacies is the 2010 FIFA World Cup will leave the stadiums that will be used by the South African public beyond 2010 and, in particular, the upgraded infrastructure from transportation to IT and communication which will stimulate economic growth in the country."

The underlying message running through much of the media and communications in South Africa is 'It's our time to shine'. This is a sentiment Dr Jordan, CEO of the FIFA World Cup Organising Committee, wholeheartedly supports: "Next year gives us an unprecedented opportunity to nation-build, to brand our country and to leave a lasting legacy. The World Cup means so much more than just 90 minutes of football." ●

Sarah Todd is a Leisure Media journalist



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The range of design options and surface choice for multi-use games areas (MUGAs) can be confusing. SAPCA's Colin Young highlights the main considerations to ensure the right choice for a particular project

CHOOSING

the right sports surface

It's impossible to provide a surface that will meet the preferred requirements for every sport. So when choosing a surface for multi-sport use it's likely some form of compromise will be needed.

A multi-use games area or MUGA is the generic term for a playing area that's used for a range of sports. Due to land availability and financial considerations, in most instances, it's not feasible to build a bespoke surface for each sport; so choosing the right one is essential.

Shock absorbency

There are hundreds of surfaces on the market and choosing the best one can be difficult. The interactions between the player, the ball and the surface all need to be considered.

One of the most important issues is the need for shock absorbency and here there can be conflicting requirements between sports. On the one hand there are benefits for participants in protection from injury, but too much cushioning can be detrimental to the performance of certain sports, such as tennis, cricket, basketball and netball. Governing bodies can provide guidance on standards for their specific sport.

Sport England and SAPCA have produced a detailed document outlining the



suitability of different surface types for the most commonly played sports in the UK. This document is under review, but the current version can be downloaded free of charge from the SAPCA website, at www.sapca.org.uk

The four main types of surface

Open Textured Porous Macadam

Porous macadam comes in many different specifications and can be colour-coated to improve aesthetics and the playing environment. It allows water to drain through it and as a result, can be used in adverse weather conditions.

The exact specification of the macadam will be dictated by the sport for which it's designed. Sports that commonly use porous macadam are tennis, netball and basketball, but other sports can also be played on the surface.

Polymeric surfaces

These surfaces have a degree of inherent shock absorption and are normally

laid over a porous macadam base. Polymeric surfaces are available in a variety of colours and specifications to suit users' requirements. They're commonly used for netball, tennis, basketball and athletics training but can be used for other sports.

Synthetic Turf

There are many types of synthetic turf with a range of properties. Variables include the polymer used, the cross-sectional area of the fibre, the method of turf construction, turf length, density and infill materials used, which can be sand and/or rubber.

Due to the range of options, many sports can be played on synthetic turf, however certain types are more suited to specific sports. For example, football and rugby are suited to 3G synthetic turf with its long fibre length – normally in the region of 50-70mm, while hockey is suited to turf with a shorter fibre length – normally 10-30mm and filled with sand. At elite level these surfaces aren't filled with any material but have water applied to the surface.

Some systems, termed 'hybrid', meet the requirements for football and hockey, these have fibres typically 30-50mm in

“ It's important to consider the type of sports that will be played on the surface; prioritise these sports and choose the most appropriate surface accordingly ”

A man in a dark jacket is shown in profile, looking down at a tablet device. He is standing on a green artificial surface, likely a sports field, with a cloudy sky in the background. The image is framed by a green border.

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The logo for Technical Surfaces features a stylized green and white graphic of a curved surface, possibly representing a football pitch or a technical surface, next to the company name.

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- length and have rubber infill. England Hockey is currently reviewing the use of this surface, so its latest advice needs to be sought before you purchase a rubber infilled surface for hockey use.

Natural Turf

Natural sports turf is a complex blend of speciality seed designed to provide optimal playing characteristics, with sophisticated drainage. Natural turf is commonly used for football, rugby and cricket but can be used for other sports.

How to choose the right surface

The first and most important thing to consider is the sport or sports that will be played, to prioritise them and to choose the most appropriate surface.

Frequency of use also needs to be considered. For example, natural turf pitches can sustain between five and 15 hours use per week, depending on their design and weather conditions. Synthetic surfaces can theoretically be used 24/7 minus the time needed for routine maintenance. It isn't uncommon for synthetic surfaces to be used for 70-80 hours per week.

The life expectancy of the surface is an important consideration. Longevity is related to intensity of use and, therefore, needs to be factored into the estimated life expectancy. This should also be considered in relation to the capital cost and sinking fund provision and replacement costs when looking at life-cycle cost.

Natural turf is alive, and if used and maintained correctly will perform long into the future. Synthetic surfaces don't have regenerative ability and will need to be replaced once they've degraded. A synthetic surface will last between seven and 20 years, depending on the frequency of use and how well it's maintained.

Performance requirements need to be considered and national governing bodies often stipulate playing characteristics



CONSTRUCTION OF A SPORTS SURFACE

1. Project Brief	This phase reviews the project brief and considers factors such as location, sports usage, funding, procurement and project management
2. Project Feasibility	This phase includes the development of a business plan, planning application and, if required, funding application. A consultant is often appointed
3. Site Investigation	Prior to the design phase a detailed site investigation is normally required. This includes topographical, geotechnical, electrical and drainage surveys
4. Design Specification	This phase includes the production of full design specifications and technical drawings
5. Tender Process	In this section a review of the tender submissions is undertaken. This includes tender evaluation, short-listing and eventual contractor selection
6. Construction Period	The construction is carried out. If required, independent quality control is undertaken to assess build quality and design specification conformity
7. Project Completion	This section includes the handover of the project. If required, performance testing can be undertaken to ensure compliance. Additionally, a maintenance regime should be provided by the installer and/or system supplier
8. Aftercare	This phase includes the ongoing maintenance programme and warranty period. Performance tests are undertaken to monitor surface behaviour

for their particular sport. These standards are often related to a certain standard of play – county, national or international – and are more stringent for higher skill levels. If the surface is for more than one sport, the priority sport should take precedent but it's often possible to meet the requirement for more than one sport (ie football and rugby).

Another consideration is ongoing maintenance. Some surfaces need more than others, in particular natural turf, but the importance of maintaining synthetic surfaces should not be overlooked.

Without regular routine maintenance the life expectancy of a surface can be severely comprised. In the worst instance a new surface may be irreversibly damaged within a few years, resulting in significant expense.

How much will my new surface cost?

Get prices and tenders from several contractors to compare. While the lowest quote may be the most appealing, you need to consider if it offers the best value.

If, for example, you get four prices and three of them are similar and one significantly lower, ask yourself why it's so low. Are the tenders similar? Are they providing like-for-like prices? Is the construction specification the same? Have they misinterpreted what you want? Take time to ensure all aspects of your specification have been taken into account. For further information contact Dr Colin Young of SAPCA at colin@sapca.org.uk. Technical publications and codes of practice are available to download from the SAPCA website, www.sapca.org.uk

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THE LANCIA GROUP



Higher ground

Michael Heal and Karen Maxwell discuss the reasons why groundsmen deserve a higher profile and greater influence in the running of a professional sport facility

Interest in all forms of sport has never been greater and the insatiable media attention it now attracts is no longer confined to the back pages. Yet analyse all that media attention and you will find little mention, let alone credit, attributed to the groundsmen that make many of these events possible. Unless, of course, something goes wrong.

We can all recall the furore earlier in the year when England's Test Match in Antigua at the new Sir Viv Richards Stadium was abandoned minutes after the start because the opening bowlers were sinking into the sand as they ran up to bowl. More recently, the state of the pitch at Wembley has led to a barrage of criticism from all quarters and yet the only public casualty seems to have been the head groundsman Steve Welch. This example is typical of the pecking order at most professional clubs. Groundsmen are often the last to be informed of initiatives, taken by the executives, which will impact on the sustained quality of the match and training pitches – for which they bear responsibility.

At ground level

The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) has been fighting for years to improve the status afforded to all groundsmen, but their requirements are often overlooked by executives when it comes to apportioning budget. Some groundsmen are expected to regularly produce pitches for high-profile televised matches and maintain the training pitches, on salaries considerably less than the national average and with only the most basic forms of equipment.

In Wembley's case, the traditional approach of employing a head groundsman to manage the pitch has now been ditched in favour of senior Football Association (FA) management overseeing pitch maintenance by junior groundsmen and assisted by hired turf contractors, Premier Pitches and grass consultants, the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI).

The FA believes that this 'specialist task force' model is more suited to a multi-purpose venue with disposable pitches rather than having a single groundsman controlling operations.

Geoff Webb, chief executive of the IOG, says: "The fact is that groundsmanship in this day and age is a multi-dimensional job. Those working in the glare of the media spotlight in sports stadia are vulnerable to the whim of the executives above them.

"My questions are: How well do the executives understand what goes into the preparation of a surface? What training have they had? When does a sports stadia become an entertainment complex rather than an arena to play sport in? Does the need to balance the books come at the expense of the playing surface? What is the understanding of the budgets required and the resources required to produce the best possible playing surface?"

Workforce

Even commercial organisations would struggle to stage sports matches without a nucleus of unpaid volunteers. This is ▶

The Ashes, held at the SWALEC Stadium – home of Glamorgan Cricket Club

“Groundsmanship is a multi-dimensional job. Those working in the glare of the media spotlight in sports stadia are vulnerable to the whim of the executives above them.”

► certainly the case in a number of premiership rugby clubs and in the divisions outside the Premiership in football. The IOG figures estimate that the sports turf industry has 20,000 in employment and a further 20,000 who work in a volunteer capacity.

Their loyalty to their club and the work they put in, especially to combat the effects of adverse weather conditions prior to matches, should not be used to undermine the principle that groundsmen should be adequately rewarded for the role they perform, be provided with the equipment to do their job and their input sought on all matters affecting the playing surface.

Tools for the job

Jonathan Smith, a former groundsman at international venues for cricket, rugby and football, whose company JMS Cricket now supplies ground care equipment and materials to amateur and professional clubs, says: "The common complaint I hear from groundsmen responsible for pitches at professional clubs is when executives do not seek, or listen to their advice. This can have serious consequences on the state of the playing surfaces and the recovery time required to get it back into shape. All too often this leads to an 'after



Protecting the pitch for cricket, rugby league and rugby union at Leeds Carnegie Stadium

A common complaint from groundsmen is when executives do not seek, or listen to their advice which can have serious consequences on the state of playing surfaces

the horse has bolted' situation rather than a pro-active approach."

However, Smith adds that there are notable exceptions, such as the Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger, who made the playing surface at The Emirates Stadium a priority when the new facility was being built and made sure the funds were available for under pitch heating.

Other forward thinking organisations include those at the Leeds Carnegie Stadium where head groundsman Jason Booth is expected to produce top class playing surfaces for both the rugby league and rugby union teams.

"The last thing I need is a real downpour in early autumn because matches played on waterlogged pitches simply destroy the top surface and there's no chance of any real improvement through grass growth during the winter months," says Booth.

"With this in mind, I asked the club to invest in a pitch protector – to enable

me to control the amount of moisture in the pitch throughout the year. It keeps out the heavy downpours and protects against frost, the pitch is better and we've been able to stage two extra events already."

Losing revenue from postponed matches should be a motivating factor driving chief executives to listen to their groundsmen. Producing a wicket conducive to good cricket for an Ashes Test Match, given the vagaries of the UK's climate at an untried Test Match venue was the task of Keith Exton, the new head groundsman at the SWALEC Stadium (formerly Sophia Gardens) in Cardiff.

Both the immediate and long term consequences made investment in ground drainage and adequate covers for the pitch itself, the square and the outfield, plus the ancillary equipment needed to deploy it, a priority.

The club was well aware of the importance of the opening Ashes Test Match and although Exton was not given an open cheque book, he says that he has been given all the support he felt was required to make the event a success.

This investment in groundstaff support and the right tools for the job will repay itself many times over if SWALEC Stadium is awarded more high profile cricket matches in the coming years. ●

Michael Heal is a freelance journalist



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- Public Sector Sports Ground of the Year

Grass roots

- Grass Roots Sports Ground of the Year
- Volunteer Sports Grounds Management Team of the Year
- Volunteer Sports Groundsman of the Year

ylOG

- Most Promising Sports Turf Student of the Year
- Young Groundsman of the Year

General categories

- Environmental Project of the Year
- Employer of the Year
- Innovation in Grounds Maintenance
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Public sector outdoor facility of the Year

The IOG's Sports Turf Conference which will be held on the same day, also at the Emirates. The 1 day programme will combine papers from the industry's leading lights with views and comments from players and associated sporting figures.

Full details of the awards, including criteria, application forms and sponsorship opportunities, are available online at www.iog.org.

The Institute of Groundsmanship

28 Stratford Office, Village Walker Avenue, Wolverton Mill East, Milton Keynes, MK12 5TW

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IOG SALTEX

HELD AT WINDSOR RACECOURSE FROM 8-10 SEPTEMBER, IOG SALTEX IS THE UK EVENT FOR THE SPORTS FACILITIES, LANDSCAPING, ESTATE MANAGEMENT AND AMENITIES SECTORS

With more than 450 suppliers displaying everything from machinery to waste management and from playground equipment to safety equipment, IOG SALTEX is the highlight of the grounds manager's event calendar.

Groundstaff can meet with their peers, compare notes and collect the latest information from exhibitors and the free seminars on what's happening in the sports, amenity and landscaping industry. Last year's 13,500 visitors were testament to the event's popularity.

Some of the topics that will be discussed in this year's seminar programme will include research results from Cranfield University on artificial surfaces, a closer look at play inspection, the implications of the National Play Strategy, an update on changes to the playground equipment and surfaces standard and the Football Association's future strategy.

JOINING FORCES

New this year, four of Europe's largest organisers of open space management exhibitions have joined forces in a strategic partnership to share best practice and further improve the experiences of the 63,000 or so visitors and 1,000 exhibitors who attend their shows each year.

EDGE (Expo Demo Green Europe) has been jointly created by Fedagrim of Belgium (organiser of Demo Gröen/Demo Vert), the Institute of Groundsmanship of the UK (organiser of IOG SALTEX), SALC of The Netherlands (organiser of Demo-Dagen) and Salonvert of France (organiser of Salonvert). Their collective objective is to maintain the high standards of the individual events, establish a pan-European partnership to develop an increased profile for exhibitors across all four shows and share best practice of event planning and management.

In addition, EDGE will also establish a Best Innovation Award for products and equipment displayed across the four shows; encourage, co-ordinate and promote exhibitor presence at each event and consider the organisation of a pan-European education event that will address issues common across the industry.

WHAT'S ON OFFER

IOG SALTEX will respond to the increasing popularity of synthetic playing surfaces by adding an outline synthetic pitch maintenance programme to its daily Sports Turf Skills Village demonstrations.

According to organiser Ian Lacy, the IOG's head of professional services, the enhanced programme is a natural response to the uptake of synthetic surfaces – which includes the FIFA dictate that each of its 208 member states shall have at least one such pitch. "The rise in popularity of such surfaces places



A selection of play equipment providers will exhibit at the show

ever-more pressure on the grounds professionals who have to maintain them," he says. "It's appropriate that the practical demonstrations in the Sports Turf Skills Village continue to complement all the modern equipment, technologies and tools being displayed throughout the showground."

The daily Sports Turf Skills Village programme will feature:

- Performance Quality Standard/Assessment of surface
- Setting out/markings out
- Pre-start/Post operative checks to machinery
- Setting height of cut
- Mowing
- Aeration
- Scarifying
- Fertiliser application (including calibration of equipment)
- Top dressing (including calibration of equipment)
- Synthetic pitch maintenance.

The demonstrations will feature equipment and products supplied by exhibitors and are supported by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) pitch advisors and IOG training instructors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.IOG.COM

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SPORT INNOVATION



THE SPORT SHOW AT LIW, HELD BETWEEN 22-24 SEPTEMBER AT BIRMINGHAM'S NEC WILL OFFER LIVE DEMOS, EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Innovation in Community Sport is the central theme at this year's Sport Show event at LIW, which fits well with Sport England's recent challenge to the national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) and sports organisations to come up with ideas on how to get the nation more active in the run up to the 2012 Olympic Games.

Sport England and a wide selection of NGBs will represent at the show, so we take a look at some of the innovative ideas already in place within the sports sector.

Sport England's second Active People Survey, released earlier this year, found that 6.8 million adults have taken part in sport, at least three times a week, during the past 12 months. Although this highlighted an increase of more than half a million participants compared with the first Active People Survey taken in 2007, it also showed a need to attract a larger proportion of the country's sedentary population towards sustained activity.

With a view to developing more inclusive and accessible game formats to attract this wider audience, Sport England has ring-fenced £5m of National Lottery Funding each year, for the next three years, to fund innovation and has invited NGBs to look at how they too might tweak their traditional game format to encourage more interest and participation.

A SMALL CHANGE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Twenty20 Cricket is a great example of how a change in game format can invigorate a sport. Limiting the number of overs to 20 per team, introducing colourful team kits and encouraging

a wider base of spectators have all contributed to the game's increased accessibility and captured interest from many people outside the traditional cricketing fan base.

With an ageing population, NGBs also need to address the needs of the older sports person, particularly at community level where the social aspect of sport could be an important reason for staying. Rugby league may be perceived as a very physical sport, but the recently introduced Masters Rugby League has been retaining older players by lessening the chance of injury. Different coloured shorts are worn based on the age of the player and these colours represent different tackling rules, which allows for a safer game.

COMMUNITY INNOVATION

Volleyball England is already extending the grassroots participation in the game. A range of schemes, including Let's Play Volleyball, aim to encourage the under-16s to play and extend their skills in officiating and coaching. Then there's the national festivals including VolleyFest and BeachFest Volleyball that encourage people of all ages and abilities into the game.

Lisa Wainwright, CEO of Volleyball England, says: "Our mass participation programmes are encouraging young people to play but we also want to sustain this involvement past the age of 16, so the nation-wide Volleyfest and BeachFest Volleyball events help develop talent and game skills in different formats of play in a fun atmosphere."

Mini Volley has also evolved for those who have mastered the basics and are ready to move onto the 'three versus three' format, while the next stage – Super Mini Volley – increases the level of expertise and continually challenges players in order to sustain their enthusiasm.

Attracting schoolchildren into athletics and keeping them interested in the sport is key for UK Athletics, which has a number of initiatives in place with a fun element. The Aviva UKA Academy has been set up to give children of all abilities the chance to take part. Six schemes make up the Academy with new indoor/outdoor competitions and award structures. The programme includes teacher training tools, inter-school matches, disability sport recruitment and after school and summer holiday groups. One of these schemes is Aviva Parallel Success, which aims to identify disabled athlete talent.

"Since athletics has dropped from the school curriculum we have relied heavily on the support of our sponsor Aviva to drive athletics in schools by providing children with the opportunity to take part in the most popular Olympic sport and develop their talent," says Niels de Vos, chief executive of UK Athletics.



Let's Play Volleyball aims to extend the skills of the under 16s

“
TWENTY20 CRICKET IS A GREAT EXAMPLE
OF HOW A CHANGE IN GAME FORMAT CAN
INVIGORATE A SPORT
”



The Aviva UKA Academy is a scheme that allows every school child to participate in athletic events and identifies talented youngsters

Rock-It Ball – launched to tackle the growing obesity crisis – is steadily growing in popularity. Including and adapting elements from dodgeball and lacrosse among other sports, Rock-It Ball is fast-paced – with all players having to be involved in the game. Five balls are thrown around the court and either hit a person rendering them ‘out’ or are caught in the double-ended lacrosse-type racquet and thrown again. If hit with the ball, the referee automatically lets the player play on, keeping everyone moving. The game has no breaks in play, no balls out of bounds and no time-outs.

Rock-It-Ball is an innovative sport in every sense as ability, gender, age and disability don’t matter. Participation is growing and coaches around the country are being trained to deliver the sport in schools and leisure centres. It has even travelled world-wide with two World Cup tournaments having been held involving teams from India, Pakistan and Hungary.

“Rock-It-Ball’s popularity has shown unparalleled growth in its two-year history, says Craig Buttery, commissioner for the International Rock-It-Ball Federation. “We are currently developing the game for wheelchair users and the partially sighted and are constantly looking for ways to be more innovative and get more people involved,”



The Sport Show, within Leisure Industry Week (LIW) will be held at Birmingham’s NEC. It will feature keynotes from the UK’s leading figures in sports policy and programmes including: Sue Tibbells – CEO of the Women’s Sport and Fitness Foundation, Kerry McDonald – Street Games, Linda Plowright – CEO of Sports Leaders UK, Graham Farrant – CEO of PMP Consulting, Peter Kay and Kelly Simmons – The Football Association, Pat Duffy – CEO of Sports Coach UK and Margaret Talbot – CEO of the Association of Physical Education. (Speakers subject to change)

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FSB and AQUANALE



THE BI-ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOW FOR AMENITY AREAS, SPORTS AND POOL FACILITIES TAKES PLACE IN COLOGNE, GERMANY FROM 28-31 OCTOBER

Entering its fourth decade, the bi-annual International Trade Fair for Amenity Areas, Sports and Pool Facilities (FSB) has evolved into a unique, international platform for the sports and leisure sector, with 55 per cent of its amenity area, sport and pool facility exhibitors and 60 per cent of its visitors attending from overseas.

Sponsored by the International Association of Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS) and encompassing the aquanale event, this year's show will take place across 50,000sq m of the Cologne Exhibition Centre.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The IAKS Congress, which includes the presentation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)/IAKS Award and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC)/IAKS Distinction for sports and leisure facilities, will take centre stage during the show's comprehensive congress and forum programme.

Over the past 40 years, more than 700 experts have given lectures on themes covering the planning, construction, modernisation and management of sport and leisure facilities at the IAKS Congress and 'sustainability' will be an important issue at this year's event. A hotly debated subject in year years, sustainability has been aimed at a balanced ecological, economic and social approach to development. This is becoming more significant through the intensified climate protection debate and new requirements have arisen for the construction and operation of sport and leisure infrastructure.

Crossing over to the wellness and swimming pool industry, 'sustainability' will also be a hotly debated subject at the third Cologne Swimming Pool and Wellness Forum – an event supported by the Federal Association of Swimming Pools and



Artificial turf is one of the major growth industries in sports

Wellness and the Federal Association for Sauna Construction and Steam Baths. Other topical swimming pool issues for discussion will include safety, technology and energy efficiency.

Offering something for anybody connected to the leisure industry, other conference highlights will include the City in Transformation show, the Design for Everyone Congress, the presentation of the German Playground Award 2009 and the International Student Competition organised by the European Waterpark Association (EWA). The Synthetic Turf Forum, created by companies in co-operation with the European Synthetic Turf Organisation (ESTO), is a new addition to this year's event.

FACT FINDING

The ESTO Synthetic Turf Forum will highlight issues on the planning, construction and maintenance of synthetic turf and visitors will be able to witness what FSB organisers describe as the 'largest turf exhibition in the world' when the whole of Cologne Exhibition Centre's Hall 11.3 will be a sea of green. Information given by exhibitors and during the forum will address topics on the production techniques, quality standards, market potential, construction and operation costs, as well as the FIFA quality concept and the benefits of synthetic turf for women's, girls and youth football.

Focusing on a different leisure sector, this year's international student competition for students in the faculties of architecture and interior design will be themed 'Spa Worlds'. Organised by the European Waterpark Association (EWA), entrants have been asked to design visions of pool and swimming pleasure of the future, based on the pool and bathing cultures of the past. Inspiration for this topic includes domes from the Ottoman empire and Japanese Onsen pool-cleansing rituals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.FSB-COLOGNE.COM



Visitors can discuss production techniques, quality standards, operation costs and maintenance with artificial surfaces exhibitors



POWER SUPPLIES

for sports lighting

PH: THE INSTITUTE OF SPORTS

Developers of floodlit sports facilities accept that planning approval is critical and that a new project can't be built without it, but few are aware of the need to assess the power supply. Tony Hill talks about the issues involved, and suggests an early project review to enable an accurate budget to be calculated

In the early stages of a feasibility study for new facilities, adequate provision of power and the identification of associated costs are essential in order to establish a budget. Similarly, on existing sites, an evaluation of the supply is necessary to assess whether the load created by new sports lighting can be accommodated or whether an upgrade will be required.

New installations

It's important to know which elements of the total development require a power supply. Some may include:

- New buildings – clubhouse or pavilion
- Groundstaff storage buildings
- Irrigation
- Sports floodlighting
- Media and TV requirements
- Power for special events
- Safety lighting and tannoy

Existing installations

While the checklist for existing facilities will be similar, the matter is complicated by the need to clearly evaluate the spare capacity of the existing supply.

This evaluation needs to take into account existing loads on the system in addition to the floodlighting. The predicted future load can then be included in the calculations and the total power requirement can be compared to the actual capacity available.

How to assess the power load required

You can seek initial assistance from either a local NICEIC registered contractor or an Electrical Services Consulting Engineer. Often, due to local knowledge and contacts, an experienced contractor or consultant can minimise the difficulties that can arise by inexperienced

developers not addressing all the factors on a particular site.

The aim is to identify the total power load for the project. To do this a spreadsheet of loads needs to be created, as this will help verify the impact of load variations (the diversity factor) under various site operating conditions at times when the floodlighting will be in operation.

A contingency then needs to be added to the values calculated – typically 20 per cent. The sum of these two items shows the total power [Kva] required.

The units are Kilo volt amperes [Kva]. Most readers will be more familiar with the term Kilowatts [Kw], from the domestic environment, however this doesn't take into account the efficiency of the devices being operated. Domestically, due to product electrical efficiency, this isn't critical, but with large projects, this must be taken into account. ▶

“The evaluation needs to take into account any existing loads that may be operating at the same time as the floodlighting. The predicted future load can then be calculated”



PETER CHASTOCK.COM

It's important to know which elements of the development require a power supply

► Floodlighting isn't 100 per cent efficient, when using the most popular high-pressure discharge lamps (ie metal halide or sodium). Depending on the make, the combined fitting and lamp assembly (the luminaire), will have a power factor associated with it. The supply authorities expect the equipment which is connected to operate as close to unity as possible and most of the quality fittings available will have a power factor of 0.9.

Given this source data and the predicted load from the lighting designer – already expressed in Kva – the total load can be established in the terms needed for an approach to the electricity company – the utility responsible for the network and supply cables into buildings or intake enclosures.

What else will the electricity company require?

The company will need a location plan to show the position of the existing or proposed new supply point on-site. This can be created from a digital picture of

the site. You will need to identify the most cost-effective location for the new supply. This will either be in a building on-site (ie a clubhouse) or if this is a long way from the source of supply it can be positioned in an intake enclosure on the site boundary.

The aim is to minimise the work and therefore the cost of the new supply works by the statutory utility as, being in a monopoly position, these costs are outside the developer's control.

How to proceed?

Place three sets of instructions with

- The electricity company
 - The electricity supplier
 - The contractor for attendance works
- Monitor site works and attendance for the installation and connection through to the energisation of the supply.

Tony Hill is principal at mechanical and electrical consulting engineers Ayrlect Associates. He has been in practice for the past 28 years

CALCULATING COSTS

- 1 At the feasibility project stage, contact the electricity company with an enquiry letter, stating:
 - The name and telephone number of a key contact person
 - The site address, including the postcode
 - The type of supply – single or three phase (usually above 20Kva will always require a three-phase supply)
 - The capacity required (Kva)
 - State that the enquiry is for a permanent supply
 - The nature of the load – ie clubhouse and floodlighting
 - Enclose the location plan
 - Request a budget quote and proposed cable route diagram
- 2 When a formal quotation is required: Complete the electricity company forms, which will repeat the content above and send the design fee if applicable – only the formal version can be accepted to instruct the company to proceed.
- 3 Review either form of the electricity company quote. There will be items excluded for you to have carried out in advance of the works on-site by the company and strict standards to achieve. These exclusions and extra works described in the quote will and do apply to your project and they must be clearly understood and priced.
- 4 Contact an electricity supplier regarding the type of metering and the costs of installation. The supplier is the firm from which you buy your electricity and to which you will pay the bill. Your supplier will offer a tariff agreement which identifies standing charges, maximum demand and the unit cost of energy use. These are long-term revenue costs and need to be included in operating budgets.
- 5 From items 3 and 4 – identify costs for any attendance works
- 6 Create a Scope of Works document – the employer's requirements for the attendance works.
- 7 Get a quotation for the attendance works which are needed
- 8 Collate items 3, 4 and 7 to identify the full cost of the new supply.
- 9 Include the value established in item 8 in the overall project cost plan.



DESIGN INTEGRITY SERVICE

Featured project: Cadbury Heath FC, Bristol

Details and Specification:

- 2KW full cut off floodlights.
- 16 metre mid-hinged columns, flanged.
- Lux level average 218.
- Installed and commissioned March 2009.

From initial design through to the final installation CU Phosco Lighting worked with club officials to ensure the integrity of the initial project vision. Meetings were held with the club to discuss the neighbouring area, product choices, lighting levels and projected commencement and completion dates. Throughout the process Cadbury Heath representatives were able to discuss the project with their dedicated Project Manager. The project was completed on time and more importantly within budget.



Preparing the columns for floodlight installation

TESTIMONIAL

I have been associated with Cadbury Heath F.C. as supporter, Secretary, Chairman and President for 35 Years. All we had when I first joined was an open field with a roped off playing area, no electricity, water, or drains, and we had to shoo the cows off before we could kick off. During all the intervening years of helping with slow development my eventual dream was for floodlights. To me it was like putting water in a swimming pool. We loved the northern accents of the installation team who were jovial, pleasant and cooperative. The work was carried out quickly and efficiently with minimum disruption to our clubs activities. The finished installation gives the impression of elegance and being extremely fit for purpose. All who have seen the lights in operation have commented on how well lit the pitch is whilst giving minimal light spillage. Our club stature has been greatly enhanced in the minds of our peers in the football world.

Thank you CU Phosco Terry Mitchell - Club President



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NEW POWER SUPPLY CASE STUDY

Davenants School

Davenants School in Essex needed a power supply for six new tennis courts and a clubhouse, we look at how they dealt with the application

After an enquiry to lay in a new power supply for six tennis courts and a clubhouse at Davenants School in Essex, a formal quotation was obtained from an electricity company.

This comprised 11 pages of text, plus an A3 drawing of the new cable route and two guidance sheets – the latter regarding the trenching standards to be applied to the new installation.

A new three-phase supply, rated at 70 Kva was required, so a service cable had to be run from the connection point,

authorities in England and Wales are likely to introduce shortly. The electricity company couldn't quantify it, as the costs were not within its control, but advised that they couldn't be absorbed. To this basic price, the club also needed to add the works by a local contractor.

While the text of the electricity company quote ran to many pages, it was only on the attached drawing that the scale and content of alterations to the existing intake equipment were identified. These alterations needed to be done by a local NICEIC registered con-

on the front, measures approximately 600mm x 600mm x 200mm deep.

If there was insufficient space in the club premises, then an external enclosure would be needed located close to the facility and the cost for this would need to be established.

Other matters addressed to complete the cost estimates for the new supply

1. Attention was drawn to the quote's need for two agreements to be in place, before connection could be made.

The Supply Agreement was made with the supplier of electricity to the site. As the new supply was a maximum demand type it would attract availability and demand charges, as well as unit charges for the power used by the facility.

As also stated by the electricity company, there was a need to discuss and establish these costs with the supplier, prior to accepting the quotation – to ensure that the running costs were fully understood by the school.

The Connection Agreement had to be made with the electricity company on their form of contract, included in duplicate with the quotation. This commits the club to taking the 70 Kva service for a minimum period of five years.

2. Certification of the installation

The electricity company quote also contained a safety note that called for the need to employ a qualified contractor and electrician to issue a certificate, once the alteration works necessary to accommodate the new cut-out and metering equipment was completed. Also, the certificate has to confirm that the existing electrical installation within the school site complies with BS 7671 as amended before proceeding. ●



“The electricity company quote contained a safety note that called for the use of qualified contractors and electricians”

shown on the drawing, into the clubhouse. As per the company's document, this would be in trenches and cable ducts installed by a local contractor and strictly to their requirements.

The quote was £1,278.00 plus VAT, however on checking the small print, this excluded potential new charges for a street works permit that local

tractor and it's our experience that these costs are approximately equal to 50 per cent of the electricity company quote (approximately £650 plus VAT).

In this instance the club considered that the cable trenching work could be done in-house to minimise the overall cost. However, this approach wasn't recommended because of the need for strict compliance with the electricity company's specification.

The drawing showed that the new cable would be terminated in a 400 amp 'cut-out' and would be current transformer-metered.

To give some scale for the space required for the cut-out (see left), the measurements were approximately 500mm wide x 500mm high x 250mm deep and the CT box, with the meter

The picture on the left illustrates the cut out / CT meter set up, in an IP55-rated steel enclosure.



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Photograph courtesy of Tim Hatterson

Barclaycard Stadium, Nottingham, UK

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As the 2009 Modern Pentathlon World Championships comes to London, we talk to Pentathlon GB about encouraging youngsters into the sport



MODERN PENTATHLON

In today's competitive society concerns are sometimes expressed about young people being forced to specialise in one sport from an early age to achieve success. However, modern pentathlon is different, as it consists of five diverse sports that require very different skills and abilities.

British pentathletes have performed well in recent years, with performances that include winning a total of four medals from the last three Olympic Games – including Heather Fell's silver medal at Beijing 2008. The Brits will be battling it out for honours again when the 2009 World Championships take place at Crystal Palace in London from 13-17 August. For further information go to www.pentathlongb.org/mpwc/

History

It's claimed that the choice of the five diverse and unrelated sports that make

up the modern pentathlon came out of a romantic legend about a Napoleonic cavalry officer who is sent to deliver an urgent dispatch. Given an unfamiliar horse, he rode across challenging terrain under enemy fire shooting a number of his pursuers. His ammunition expended, he was then confronted by a soldier with his sword drawn. He won the duel and remounted his horse only to reach a river which his steed could not cross. The gallant hero swam the river and then ran the rest of the way to deliver his message successfully.

The sport, however, is essentially based on an older classical philosophy expressed by Aristotle and others eulogising the attributes of 'the most perfect sportsmen – because in their bodies strength and speed are combined in beautiful harmony' as they are capable of turning their skill and expertise to any situation that might

arise. This philosophy is still true today, which is why the tasks facing modern pentathletes in different events can vary considerably. The run might be uphill or downhill, on the track or cross-country, or a mixture of everything, with bouts of shooting in between.

Sport Development

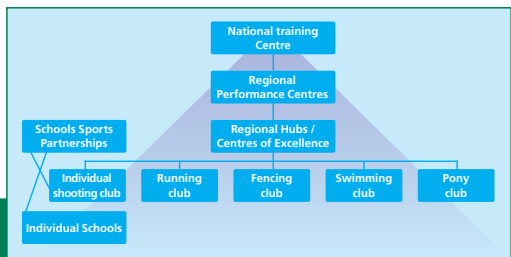
The five sports that make up the modern pentathlon are fencing, swimming, show jumping and a combined run and shoot. To keep Britain's tradition of modern pentathlon success going, Pentathlon GB is keen to encourage more youngsters to get involved in the sport, identify future talent and nurture it from basic skills and fitness all the way up to the Olympic medal winners' podium.

Entry into modern pentathlon can be through many different routes. Traditionally the Pony Club, which runs its own tetrathlon competition (no fencing) with regional and national championships, has provided a significant number of our Olympic medal-winning international athletes – Steph Cooke, Kate

“ The Schools Biathlon Championship, with regional qualifying events, is used to recruit athletes into the sport ”



Far left: Katy Livingston won bronze at the 2008 World Championships. Above: Heather Fell winning gold at the Millfield World Cup



Allenby and Georgina Harland to name a few, while swimming clubs have been the other main source of talent.

It doesn't really matter where modern pentathletes originate however. Four years ago, Pentathlon GB introduced a Schools Biathlon Championship, with regional qualifying events, as a recruitment vehicle into the sport. The success of this competition has encouraged the national governing body to extend it to include lower tiers of competition so that by the time the athletes have qualified for regional and national events they are more than capable of being competitive when they transfer to open Pentathlon GB regional events.

Working through School Sports Partnerships (SSPs) and their local authority, schools with access to swimming facilities and somewhere to run are being encouraged to organise low-key biathlon events (comprising as little as a one length swim and a 1,000m run) and to take part in organised SSP events in some of the country's larger towns and cities.

This model is already successfully operating in some parts of the country, especially Yorkshire and Humberside. Children interested in the sport are then invited to taster sessions and/or short courses in fencing and/or shooting before being handed on to clubs.

Pentathlon GB's High Performance Centre is based at the University of Bath. This is where senior athletes are developed under the watchful eye of the performance team which comprises coaches, sports scientists, sports physicians and physiotherapists, strength and conditioning experts, lifestyle counsellors and sports psychologists. There is also access to a 50m pool, shooting range and fencing salle.

The World Class Pathway Programme underpins this structure. Young athletes (normally between the age of 14 and 16 years old), who are identified as talented and having the potential to be future international modern pentathletes, are selected for specialist training camps at the academy based at Hartpury College in Gloucestershire.

Beyond this stage are 'development athletes' (normally aged 16 to 18 years) who also attend regular sessions at Hartpury and additionally receive financial assistance with training costs. At approximately 18 years of age, a significant number of these athletes go on to become a part of the Podium Programme at the High Performance Centre – where several of them are supported financially as full-time athletes. Running in parallel and, in some instances, in unison with this is the TASS (Talented Athlete Sports Scholarship) programme for athletes in full-time education but with the potential to become podium athletes. They receive funding and support while pursuing full-time studies.

Regional Performance Centres

One noticeable gap in the structure was the lack of support for the athlete at regional level on a more day-to-day basis as well as a stepping stone approach into the Pathway programme. To bridge this gap, a model has evolved comprising four regional performance centres

➔ (based loosely on the south east, south west, north east and north west regions of England with feeder clusters serving local schools and clubs.

The first of these centres to open serves the north west of England (from Gretna down to Crewe, and from West Kirby across to Colne) and is based at Bolton School.

According to Pentathlon GB's north west regional co-ordinator, Dr Richard Cox, Bolton School was chosen because of its central location to serve the whole of the north west area. "The locally-based Horwich Modern Pentathlon Club also has a tradition of producing talented young athletes and a willingness to support the venture in Bolton," he explains. "The school has a very positive and supportive attitude and when the PE staff saw this opportunity, they rallied together and galvanised all relevant staff into action to make it happen with the minimum of fuss and in the quickest time feasible."

According to Cox, outside a few large urban conurbations, it's unlikely that clubs will be able to cater for three, four or five of the sports locally. But where they do, children will be encouraged to join and clubs to be receptive to the children's interests and aspirations.

"Some problems do arise however when training within competitive swimming squads, for example," says Cox.

"As these may not be willing to make an exception for pentathletes, who are expected to train like other swimmers of similar ability. If the squad trains 10 sessions a week, then the pentathletes need to do the same and if a Pentathlon GB event clashes with a swimming event, they are expected to forgo the Pentathlon GB event."



Above and below: Sam Weale fencing and winning the Bath International 2009

“National coaches at the regional performance centres share coaching knowledge to help develop workforce skills”

Cox adds however, that junior clubs are invariably more flexible, athlete focused and therefore supportive of the modern pentathlete who needs/wants to swim maybe only twice a week.

The regional centres will provide for those aspiring athletes residing in areas without a fencing club, for example, to come to the centre for fencing training on a weekly basis, or if beyond comfortable distance, on occasional training weekends. Here they will be able to receive quality training provided by one of the national coaches who is a specialist modern pentathlon coach and will provide an agreed level of service.

The North West region is also fortunate in having a Sport England Club and Coach award and some of this funding will be used to subsidise travel for groups attending the centre on a regular basis. For example, Blackburn Centurions Swimming Club and Blackburn Harriers, both of which actively encourage their members to do multi-sport events, will attend the centre at Bolton School for regular shooting and fencing coaching.

Specialist coaches will hopefully inspire and recognise potential new talent and develop children through exposure to

other established athletes training at the centre. When these children are ready to join the elite groups they will already be known by other coaches and athletes and be familiar with the surroundings and the logistics of getting there.

In towns and cities where clubs do cater for all five sports, the performance centre will help bring those interested in the sport together, both to promote a sense of identity and belonging to the modern pentathlon fraternity, to organise events and to offer more focused training in preparation for the Pentathlon GB regional and national events.

"It's intended that the national coach at the centre will invite local coaches to share intelligence, information and ideas and outreach into local clubs to help with workforce development," says Cox.

As well as Pentathlon events, Pentathlon GB also organises national biathlons, triathlons and tetraathlons and it's up to the individual to do as few or as many disciplines as they wish – although the full pentathlon does demand competence in riding before an entry can be accepted. Some athletes actually never get to that standard but enjoy the sport on a more recreational basis. ●



Bite-free floats from Hippo Leisure

Hippo Leisure has created a new range of three throw-in pool floats with a difference.

A thin, durable plastic coating has been applied to the traditional foam pool floats, shaped like a submarine, speedboat and tugboat, to make them almost impossible to bite. An anti-bacterial additive was added to the float's skin to prevent allergic reactions and dangers caused from bacterial build-up sometimes associated with foam floats.

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A synthetic pitch is a significant investment, but Charterhouse Turf Machinery has produced a kit that enables essential maintenance to be carried out for under £10,000. The three-part basic synthetic machinery kit carries out regular, crucial maintenance to not only make the surface look good, but also to remove potentially harmful debris and revitalise the playing surface – bringing it back to optimum performance.

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Pitches produced with top efficiency

Pitches at busy training grounds take a lot of wear and tear, so British Seed Houses says an effective pitch renovation regime is essential to maintain the quality of the turf.

A prime example is the ground at Sale RFC's Carrington Road, which was first developed into three pitches from farmland seven years ago.

After a meeting with British Seed Houses' area manager Paul Moreton, head groundsman David Lomax trialled the company's A20 mix. Lomax reported that the ryegrass mixture rooted well, and he was sufficiently impressed to choose it for his reseeded pro-



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gramme in 2008. According to Lomax, the range of technical advice and level of support offered by British Seed Houses' Moreton was invaluable.



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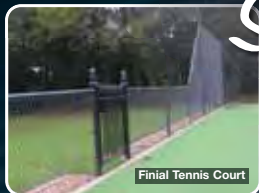
Record RSS unveils outdoor fitness range

Equipment manufacturer Record RSS recently launched its Outdoor Fitness Range. Designed to be permanently installed outdoors and to be free of charge, the range is aimed at encouraging fitness and healthy living in today's busy environment. It consists of 10 individual stations which provide exercises for individual muscle groups. With a range located in a park, a college, or even by a jogging track, it will be easy for people to stop on their way home from work to exercise.

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Win Tennis provides coaching for players of all ages. Above, David Cameron and Andrew Castle at the launch

Winning at Westway

Karen Maxwell visits the recently launched Win Tennis Academy at West London's Westway Sports Centre to find out how local children are being given the chance to learn the game and climb the ladder to sporting success

Located under the White City roundabout in West London, just a few hundred metres from the site of London's 1908 Olympic Stadium, Westway Sports Centre is an absolute hive of activity.

A multitude of children's voices bounce off the walls of the many outdoor sports courts that surround the

leisure complex – girls playing netball, boys chasing and kicking a football and a group of teenagers laughing with their athletics coach as they rest between races. Once inside, I marvel at the competence of a group of harness-clad youngsters as they navigate their way carefully across some of the 300 routes on a huge climbing wall as I head towards the indoor tennis courts.

I'm here to witness the expansion of Westway's partnership with Win Tennis Academy and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to develop tennis opportunities within the local community and offer local school children in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea the chance to play tennis and be coached in a focused environment.

Win Tennis ambassador, former British Number 1 and GMTV presenter Andrew

Castle, together with Mark Cox MBE, former World Number 14 and Win Tennis head of coach education, are already on court. They're surrounded by junior players from the community and local schools as well as from the Mini Tennis, Performance and Academy programmes, and are putting some of the six-year-olds through their paces – many of whom already possess a powerful backhand to die for – while tennis VIPs wait on the sidelines for Conservative leader David Cameron to join them on court.

A more than decent tennis player himself, Cameron has come to support the venture and the ethos of easily accessible community sport in a quality environment. He takes the time to chat to a couple of the children before embarking on a doubles match with Andrew Castle against two very competent teenagers. "This is a fantastically important scheme," he says. "Getting kids to play sport in school is key to



Westway has both indoor and outdoor tennis courts



encouraging them into regular activity. Tennis has not always been available in some schools, so a programme such as this that attracts kids from schools across London to play tennis in a terrific centre is a really good scheme. It's good for the spread of tennis and for finding the elite players of the future."

Sporting legacy

Set up in 1971 to develop, for community benefit, the 23 acres of land left derelict after the construction of the Westway flyover, the Westway Development Trust (WDT) runs two sports and fitness facilities on a not-for-profit basis. It also operates 25 subsidised premises for voluntary organisations, landscaped gardens and meeting and music venues as part of the same project.

Westway Sports Centre features one of England's largest climbing centres, 12 tennis courts, (eight indoor acrylic courts and four outdoor clay courts), six football pitches, four handball or 'Eton Fives' courts, a basketball court, a netball court, a 20-station gym and a swimming centre. With a focus on access for those most in need, its mission statement is to operate 'subsidised programmes, aimed at offering local young people access to quality sports provision and providing

Win Tennis provides excellent coaching for players of all ages. Right: David Cameron discusses the community tennis initiative

coaching, which allow them to pursue their sporting interests as far as their ability and enthusiasm will take them'.

The Win Tennis programme certainly fits this brief from a tennis angle. According to Win Tennis chief executive and director Mike Walker, the organisation has been working closely with Westway to develop its community and school programme for the past year or so. "We've been helping Westway achieve sport in the community objectives by putting the system in place to introduce more kids to tennis and then into a structured programme. We've got some really high quality coaches working with the children, it's a fantastic set up and some of the kids are really beginning to progress," he says.

A win, win situation

The Win Tennis Academy at Westway is one of the organisation's two UK International High Performance Centres (IHPCs) – the other is based at the Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre in Buckinghamshire. Having signed a three-year partnership with the WDT to



enhance the 'performance and development' of tennis programmes at the Westway Centre, Win Tennis manages an outsourced coaching and development programme for the centre and is responsible for the management and development of tennis staff, including coaches and support staff.

LTA funding has helped bring the centre's tennis courts to High Performance Centre (HPC) standard and the organisation wholeheartedly supports the Westway/Win Tennis link up.

LTA player director Steve Martens says: "What's happening here links perfectly with what the LTA is trying to achieve across the UK. We have a double goal: We want to see more people playing tennis at a high level but more importantly, we want to see tennis taken to the masses. To do this we must make sure that the people playing have a good experience and that the right channels are in place for future growth. We support the fact that Win Tennis was chosen to operate its tennis programme. In a community environment, the sport is only as strong as the coaches' ability to work with the people. Win Tennis is one of our strongest partners because it is well organised, has a good management structure, quality coaches and a strong programme."

As one of 19 LTA HPCs in the country, Westway hosts two LTA-sanctioned

"The LTA wants to see more people playing tennis at a high level, but more importantly, we want to see tennis taken to the masses and for people to have a good experience"

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Westway Sports Centre also runs Eton Fives, climbing and football initiatives

tournaments (Grade 3) each year for Under 10s and Under 18s; both of which attract competitors from across the home counties.

Westway CEO Mark Devlin says the trust partnered with Win Tennis because the centre had previously only concentrated on talent at the top of the pyramid. "We realised that if we didn't have the right foundations for kids of all abilities to start from we'd find fewer players coming through to the top of the sport," he says.

According to Devlin, Westway already runs community initiatives for other sports, such as football and climbing, at the centre and has signed a partnership with the Eton Fives Association, which is a sport normally only available in select public and grammar schools. "We are also a well-known centre for climbing and host the British Youth Climbing Competition, which attracts about 250 climbers," Devlin explains.

"It's a constant balancing act trying to get the business mix right for these sporting initiatives," Devlin says. "Our community activity is subsidised, so we don't charge the market rates. In fact some charges are absorbed by the trust – as we plough any profits back into the centre. So we juggle what we have to ensure that the community gets the best possible sporting opportunities."

Structured approach

The Win Tennis programme's entry level sessions at Westway are pay and play and focus on players who are just starting out in the game and are in need of basic co-ordination, ball skills and a general feel and understanding of the sport.

The next step is the club programme, which works on all levels and ages from four- through to 16-year-olds.



“It's a constant balancing act trying to get the business mix right for Westway's sports initiatives. We juggle what we have to ensure the community gets the best opportunities”

These sessions are by invitation through schools and/or pay and play sessions or via an assessment. They involve a more competitive structure where there is a tennis-related, tactical theme and technical teaching point at every session.

The performance programme follows the same structure as the club programme, with the players expected to perform more difficult drills. According to Mike Walker, players on Win Tennis' performance programme play in LTA and Middlesex tournaments and may compete on a weekly basis. "All priority players throughout the programme are given individual goals and schedules. These players are seen by the academy's strength and conditioning coach and are given specific exercises and programmes," he explains.

Once a player makes the decision to take their game to a European and international level, they become involved in the academy programme. This is for full-time players who train twice a day and are also educated on site. There's

a specific daily programme in place for players, which involves heavy training sessions early in the week and moves towards match play later in the week.

There's also the option of accessing the academy on a part-time basis. This is for players who are still in full-time school but are keen to progress their tennis to a serious level. All academy players have individual programmes incorporating tennis-specifics, tournament schedules and general life skills, as well as individual strength and conditioning programmes.

"We have some of the best Mini Red, Orange, Green and performance players in Middlesex as well as players with ATP, International and European rankings in our academy," Walker explains.

"The Win Tennis team is extremely passionate about what they do and always give 100 per cent to any player that they work with. We follow a simple tennis philosophy at Westway and believe that tennis should be accessible to all players at all ages and all playing levels." ●

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Ray O'Neill looks at how MMC can deliver a sports facility on time and on budget

Modern Methods of Construction

With our economy struggling to find the bottom of the current recession, increasing strain on the government's ability to meet its funding commitments and banks reluctant to provide lending facilities, many organisations involved in sport, leisure and education are now having to face up to the reality that their plans for future development and expansion are under pressure.

It's not surprising therefore, that more and more organisations are turning to Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) to help them deliver sports facilities at a reduced cost that can meet with their clients' expectations without the need for compromise. In fact, in some cases these provide benefits that traditional construction can't deliver.

Building Systems

In simple terms, Tradition Build (TB) describes a system where raw materials and labour are delivered to the client site and, using conventional methods, buildings are constructed over a period of time. The idea of MMC is to shift the majority of the construction from the site to off-site manufacturing (usually in a purpose-built factory environment). Fully finished units or major elements are then delivered to the client site for final assembly and finishing. The benefits of MMC are quicker build time, improved quality, reduced costs and a substantial reduction in the number of projects that go over budget and are delivered late.

Surprisingly (or alarmingly perhaps) construction is one of the few industries to continue to rely on 'built by hand' to deliver its product. It's difficult to find an industry today where the product is mass produced, price sensitive and requires a high-quality finish, which has not embraced the benefits of moving to a production line. However, construction still largely uses methods first developed

in the 15th century. We used to build big castles back then, by stacking block upon block. We still do that today – we just build smaller castles.

Future Build

Increasingly construction firms and end users are turning to MMC to build more for less. Currently, MMC accounts for £6bn and 8 per cent of the total UK construction market. It's a small but important element of the future construction industry and critically, is growing at 20 per cent annually.

Laing O'Rourke is a key member of the delivery partners for the London 2012 Olympic Park and principal contractor for Terminal Five Heathrow and Terminal Three Dubai. Currently on a major drive to build a more efficient business, the company is increasing the amount of off-site manufacturing from 10 per cent today to at least 70 per cent by 2012 – using MMC.

Freespan Structures is working with a number of organisations to design facilities which will be built using MMC. The company can now design a high-specification sports hall designed to Sport England guidelines, which includes a main playing hall, fitness suite, dance studio, changing and shower facilities, offices and stores for less than £900,000 and built within 14 weeks. ●

Ray O'Neill is operational director at Freespan Structures

MMC Facts and Figures

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors recently reported that:

- Only 63 per cent of traditional build projects complete on time
- Approximately 53 per cent exceed the agreed contract sum
- Traditional build projects waste 27 per cent of bought materials
- Thirteen per cent of materials delivered never get used and go straight to waste
- Off-site construction shows an increase in site safety of 46 per cent
- Up to 67 per cent less energy is used to produce a manufactured building, compared with an equivalent traditional build
- There are 70 per cent fewer vehicle movements with off-site construction and therefore less environmental pollution

For Case studies see page 62 >>>



CASE STUDY – Rubb

Working closely with McGurk Chartered Architects, Rubb Buildings recently delivered an MMC sports building to Erins Own Lavey GAC in Gulladuff, Northern Ireland. Partly funded by Sport Northern Ireland, the building had to deliver the best

environment for Gaelic football, hurling and Camogie competitions.

The backbone of the 35m span x 60m long BVE, high volume, inner walled-building is a well engineered structural framing system. Post production, the hot dip galvanizing of all



welded components provides corrosion protection with the truss frame construction – creating the platform for the clear span and high volume walls.

The use of white semi translucent roof fabric provides a light, bright airy atmosphere to the building.

CASE STUDY – Collinson



Collinson supplied a quality 1,600sq m MMC structure to accommodate a two-court netball hall at Soar Valley College after Leicester Netball League, together with Sport England, approached the college, which was undergoing a multi-million pound Building Schools for the Future project.

Works included foundations, sub-bases and external paths, temporary bridge/roadways, SUDs drainage and a Best-Hall building. The structure came complete with doors, plant and store room, ventilation system, gutters, security cladding, column protection padding, a netball specified lighting system, external lighting scoreboard, electrical controls and netting.



CASE STUDY – Freespan

There has been a well publicised and significant shortfall in prison capacity over recent years with an average capacity of 80,500 and a prison population of 81,700. The government has used early release measures and Project Safeguard (temporary use of police cells) to artificially hold the prison population below 80,500 in the short-term. However, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) needed an innovative, radical and cost effective solution to resolve capacity problems. By utilising MMC and rapid-build technologies the MoJ now has the capacity to deliver a fully specified prison in a fraction of the time required by traditional construction.

The availability of high-quality excellent sports facilities is essential to the successful running of a prison. A well-designed and specified sports hall can be used as a management tool to reward positive behaviour by inmates.

Over recent years Freespan has been involved with the planning and building of sports halls designed to Sport



England regulations in three prisons. The first high-performance sports hall for the HMP's Rapid Build Custodial Facilities programme was delivered at HMP Rochester. It was built in less than eight weeks and with cost savings of 22 per cent over traditional build costs. Additionally, the facility is the most energy efficient sports facility on the prison estate, delivering substantial reductions in annual operating costs.





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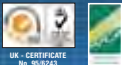
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Step by Step FLOORING

Pete Hayman looks at how Sport England's planning advice can help sports clubs better understand the process of applying for planning permission when upgrading their sports' provision

Small sports clubs can find it difficult to get planning permission for improving their facilities – from getting floodlighting for tennis courts to changing the surface of a football pitch. Consequently Sport England drew up its recently launched *Making a Planning Application* publication – with the assistance of the Planning Officers Society and a number of sports national governing bodies (NGBs).

Clubs will usually require planning permission for a range of sport-related schemes, including new-build, extended or refurbished sports halls and the provision of playing pitches, courts and multi-use games areas. Fundamental to the process is ensuring that proposals are carefully drawn up to ensure the best chance of success.

Planning Process

The Sport England guide examines the different types of planning applications available and also offers advice on the additional supporting information and technical studies which may be required to accompany the application. Clubs are recommended to seek advice on whether such studies would be required to avoid the additional

expense and potential delays which could impede the planning process.

In conjunction with the application, the guide explains how site and location plans and a land ownership certificate are required, while also outlining the amount payable in planning fees. Once submitted, the document explains all the potential outcomes of the application and the organisation's rights should consent be refused.

If an application is successful, the guide also provides advice on how to implement planning permission to take account of any conditions that may be attached, as well as any building regulations that may need to be adhered to. More importantly, the guide tallies with other initiatives designed by Sport England and the government to help clubs and facilities increase participation and improve the quality of sporting facilities across the country.

Engaging Participation

Richard Darby, managing director of Reflex Sport – one of the UK's leading suppliers of engineered timber sports floor systems – believes that the Building Schools for the Future scheme is already demonstrating how the wider overhaul

of primary and secondary schools is having a positive effect on sports provision in the UK, in addition to the recent introduction of the new European Standard EN14904 outlining flooring specification.

"A large portion of sports floors are installed in schools and leisure centres, which not only accommodate a wide range of school sports and activities, but also host external events to create extra revenue," Darby says. "School halls are ➤

Floors need to cope with a variety of sporting and non-sporting activities



“ Sport England's guide to planning applications included input by the Planning Officers Society and a number of NGBs ”



“The floor is designed to enable participants to move more freely and to reduce the risk of injury; both in the short-term and over a sustained period of time”

➤ regularly hired out for a variety of clubs and classes and, as a result, floors need to be able to cope with a multitude of sporting and non-sporting activities.”

Despite the introduction of the new European Standard, there are still other factors that may need to be addressed in planning sports facilities, in terms of flooring solutions. Multi-use facilities will need to be adaptable to cope with different demands, although the guidance of Sport England and NGBs do offer further technical advice.

Sports Flooring

For multi-use, flooring manufacturer Mondo has recently equipped St Joseph's College in Ipswich, Suffolk, with a new Altro Mondoflex rubber surface as part of a wider overhaul of the college's indoor sports hall. However, Mondo regional sales manager Craig Jack said that in order to install

the combined sprung floor system a number of factors had to be considered.

“The Altro Mondoflex sprung system was installed as part of a complete refurbishment of the sports hall at St Joseph's College,” Jack explains. “As is often the case, timescales and budgets were tight and we had to find a product that met all of the requirements for safety, durability and aesthetics, while minimising the time the hall was out of use.”

According to Jack, the floor adheres to both Sport England's Design Guidance Notes and the European Standard; factors that form part of the facility guidance notes which must be included in a planning application. The facility guidance notes are outlined by Sport England and state that facilities need to adhere to the latest technical specification, something that could contribute towards a successful planning application.

However, while a club will normally be directed – via Sport England – to an NGB for guidance relating to flooring solutions, sometimes the NGB needs to adjudicate on the specification for its own facilities. This was the case with the wooden surface at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. In order to meet the required criteria the flooring is being replaced with a Gerflor combined system, which will incorporate a point elastic floor on top of a sprung undercarriage.

The floor is designed to enable participants to move more freely and to reduce the risk of injury; both in the short-term and over a sustained period of time. Badminton England performance director, Ian Moss, believes that the installation will provide a boost for elite competitors preparing for competitions in the lead up to London 2012.



Mondo's Altro Mondoflex flooring installation at St Joseph's College

“The installation of the Gerflor surface improves the quality of our training environment,” said Moss. “It mimics the types of floors used in international competition and will also help reduce impact injuries and foot traction problems compared with a wooden floor.”

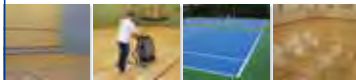
However, National Badminton Centre manager Mark Burbridge points out that it is not solely about elite performers, with a number of clubs based at the facility set to benefit. He explained: “We have 17 clubs that are based here and more than 150 individual members. It will give all these players the opportunity to play on the same type of surface that international competitions are played on and greatly benefit the many young players that regularly play here.”

It's just as important to provide the right flooring solution as it is the level of coaching available, or the standard of equipment, to ensure that participants are given every chance to benefit from sports in the UK. Achieving Sport England's target of one million people participating in more sport by 2013 will be determined by whether people feel comfortable and enthused by the facilities on offer.

For many projects, knowing what flooring solution to provide – whether it is for one particular sport or for a range of sports, could also contribute towards the chances of obtaining planning permission. As Sport England's planning guide highlights, schemes that adhere to the relevant technical and facility guidance are just as crucial as other planning requirements. ●

Pete Hayman is a Leisure Media journalist





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Karen Maxwell reviews some of the play industry trends and products highlighted at the recent Play Fair event at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire

FAIR PLAY



Two days of glorious sunshine accompanied PlayFair 2009, the play, sport and leisure activity event that took place at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire in June this year.

The first national trade show dedicated to play was launched by the Association of Play Industries (API) last year. However, this year promised to be bigger and better – and it delivered, with more exhibitors and a 35 per cent increase in visitors to the event.

Showcasing the latest from the outdoor play equipment and service market, more than 740 visitors witnessed the latest on offer from 39 manufacturers and service providers. The majority of visitors were from local authorities keen to seek advice and learn how best to spend their budgets. A high percentage of landscape architects and playground designers from the private sector also attended.

With exhibitor space up by 40 per cent compared with last year, new exhibitors included Wicksteed Playscapes, Hussion, Record RSS, Notts Sport, SMP, Jupiter Play and HAGS Play. While Sutcliffe Play, Kompan, Lappset, Proludic, Huck Nets, Playdale, Park Leisure and UAC were just some of the exhibitors that returned for this year's event.

The central PlayFair Playscape was designed with nature in mind by outdoor play companies Proludic, Kompan, Eibe and Sutcliffe Play. This demonstrated a mix of landscaping, natural play as well as fixed equipment for children's play design ideas that could easily fit into a public park environment. Groups of local schoolchildren were also invited

into the show to give buyers an opportunity to see the equipment in use.

Addressing the issues for play

Play England director Adrian Voce took the opportunity to introduce the organisation's recently appointed assistant director, Dave Taylor, to the industry during one of the show's scheduled seminars. Together they brought a packed audience up to date with issues surrounding the Department of Children, Schools and Families' (DCSF) £235m, 10-year Play Strategy.

According to Voce, the government's support and funding of the strategy and its subsequent publication of the *Design for Play* guide has encouraged local au-

“ We'd like to see play provision that offers elements of landscaping and natural beauty that expands a child's imagination ”

thorities and play suppliers to think differently about the concept of play.

“Historically, play provision has been pretty much bog standard, but thanks to the government's support, the tide is now beginning to turn towards more exciting play opportunities,” says Voce.

“We'd like to see play provision that offers elements of landscaping and natural beauty that expands a child's imagination rather than settle with something that they'll get bored with after half an hour,” he explains. “Providers need to think about allowing children

to use the wider landscape rather than a fenced-in park corner. This solution may require additional maintenance but we are currently working on a guide on National Play Maintenance, which should give advice on possible issues when it's released later this year.”

Voce also welcomed the fact that the Association of Play Industries (API) had hosted a debate on the best way to use space for play provision, as discussed in Noel Farrer's seminar on ‘raising the quality of play space through design’. A member of the Landscape Institute, Farrer suggested designing a project with children's needs at heart that would evolve into a provision that encouraged the child to stay longer.

Another seminar discussion was ‘design by inclusion’ by the charity KIDS, in which Alex Mills discussed the legal requirement for accessible and inclusive play provision within the guidelines set in the Play Strategy. She also highlighted the importance of consulting with disabled children and young people in the process and discussed the six inclusive design principles: diversity and difference; ease of use; freedom of choice and access to mainstream activities; quality; legibility of child-friendly signs; predictability and of course, safety.

“The whole event highlighted the importance of creativity, which hopefully encouraged local authorities to look at bespoke play provision that offers landscaped design and play opportunities that catch a child's imagination,” says Voce.

Play Fair product reviews start on page 70 > >



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PARK LEISURE – Wild things

With natural play a key buzzword within the play industry, Park Leisure took the opportunity to introduce its Wild Things range of sculpted natural play equipment and seven pieces of outdoor fitness equipment.

The mini ski machine, mini cross trainer and mini bike were launched to encourage cardiovascular play for the under 12s. Also on show was a new range of BS EN 1176-compliant outdoor gym equipment from The Great Outdoor Gym Company. This included the brand new recumbent bike and a hand bike, which complements pieces from the original range – all of which meet the design standards of the Inclusive Fitness Initiative. A bespoke adventurous, natural climbing rock feature was also on show as an alternative to manufactured play towers.



LAPPSET – Mobile Playground

Lappset has become the first playground equipment supplier to integrate mobile games into its products by showcasing its potential to attract a wide age-group of children.

The company's interactive SmartUs concept, launched in 2006, is built on information technology that identifies users on the basis of a gamer card with RFID identification technology. SmartUs users also have their own online community.

The Lappset Mobile Playground concept promoted alongside SmartUs, is



based on passive 2D bar code gamer tags which can be attached to the playground equipment. The mobile games run on Lappset Mobile Playground (LMP) software, which users can download to their mobile phones. The software enables passive gamer tags to be read remotely within the playground.

The first SmartUs games will include sports, memory, mathematics and quizzes. The mobile application can also be used to develop fitness and exercise route services that appeal to adults.

NOTTS PLAY - Green Dragon Play

Green Dragon Play, developed by surfacing supplier Notts Sport, featured ground forms and surface markings that inspire youngsters to spread their wings and take pleasure in imaginative play. By using the ground as the focus, changes in the surface form, elevation and markings challenge children to move through and explore the space in a variety of ways. This allows for a child's own interpretation of the area and to enjoy a range of sensory experiences, including balance, touch, shape and movement.

A pilot Green Dragon Play system for Brocks Hill Primary School in Oadby, Leicester, features a VHAF Nottsward synthetic turf carpet with colourful inset patterns and trails, a traditional hopscotch game and an alphabet lake for children to play spelling games. Seating and quiet areas are also provided.



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PLAYDALE – Jungle Climber

Play equipment provider Playdale took the opportunity to showcase the Amazon from its new Jungle Climber range at the show, which promotes unstructured play and looks great in a natural play environment.

Also on display was the i-play structure. This encourages users to move between stations, causing them to stretch, bend and twist through voice command and each correct action scores points which are shown on a digital display box.

The stand also promoted the new City Adventure Trail range, along with the Birds Nest Swing and Loudspeakers. The theme of the stand was natural play so mounds, boulders, tree trunks and planting were used to showcase the successful combination of play equipment and landscaping.



PROLUDIC – The MUSA

Showcasing the MUSA – or multi-use sports area – concept, which included sports and social fitness with ball and wheel activities for all ages, the central message from Proludic at the show was how to engage teenage girls in regular activity.

"The Vitality range of equipment has been designed to create group systems that encourage the social aspect of fitness," Proludic marketing manager Steve Bailey explains. "It has a strong

architectural style, which allow the equipment to blend aesthetically into natural settings, while engaging a wider demographic, due to the range of different activities on offer."

Some of the Proludic activities on show included equipment that simulated extreme sports, such as windsurfing, rock climbing and sailboarding. This equipment was complemented by strategically-placed social areas where older children can meet up with friends.



SMP – Nexus DNA Climbing Poles

New structures that encourage adventurous play and landscape ideas to inspire young minds were unveiled by SMP Playgrounds at the show. The SMP design team were thrilled to see young visitors enthusiastically exploring and playing co-operatively with each other while they tested new equipment and made their personal selections for their own community playground wish-lists.

SMP's Nexus DNA climbing poles proved an instant hit with competitors to get to the top first quickly starting among the older children. The younger children were drawn in to the play mound and loved exploring differing ways of using the tunnel, slide and scramble net together.



JUPITER PLAY – Musical Wall



As new members of the API, independent, designed company Jupiter Play and Leisure showcased its range of play equipment from German company FHS Holztechnik during its first appearance at the show.

Although new to England, the company has a 10-year history of play provision in Scotland. Working closely with local authority clients and landscape architects, its focus is to create places for children and their carers by selecting landscape features and equipment that matches the surrounding environment and community demographic.

The hammock swing, stepping post and musical wall displayed at the show were made from Robinia wood, which has symmetrical, twisted and warped properties and does need to be treated for use in a natural play setting. The musical wall with stainless steel tubes, is ideally suited to fully inclusive play.



Prospec's sailing ahead

Designed by ADP Architects, Portland Marina's washrooms and changing rooms are now ready and waiting to host the sailing events for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Supplied and installed by Prospec, the 42 unframed Cabrillant 600 glass cubicles feature special components and attachments designed to work with toughened glass or solid surfacing panels. The white Corian vanity units complement the design.

sport-kit.net keyword
prospec



Fitlockers kits out Sonning Golf Club

The new owner of Sonning Golf Club in Reading, Berkshire chose Fitlockers to renovate the changing room facilities during a recent clubhouse refurbishment.

A solid oak locker system has been installed into the male changing rooms in golf bag, suit and holdall sizes.

The layout is designed to cater for corporate and society days; it's uncluttered, has plenty of hanging space and features a shoe cleaning area.

sport-kit.net keyword
fitlockers

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Rada showers score at Aston Villa FC

An upgrade of the home dressing rooms during a facility extension programme at Aston Villa FC's Villa Park stadium has seen the creation of a new wet room area featuring 11 Rada Sense digitally-controlled showers.

Chosen because of good experience of the no-touch flow and temperature control units in the club's Bodmore Heath training ground in Kingsbury, Warwickshire, the intelligent water supply is supported by chrome-plated controls and flexible head shower fittings. If not used for 24 hours, Rada Sense



sport-kit.net keyword
rada

automatically clears stagnant water from the pipe work, thermostatic digital mixing valve and fittings – preventing harmful bacteria from developing in the system.



sport-kit.net keyword
tbs fabrications

Howzat for TBS at Bolton club

TBS Fabrications' Evolution and Spectra ranges were the choice for the washroom and changing room facilities at Westhoughton Cricket Club's new clubhouse in Bolton.

The Evolution range of WC cubicles, with wood veneer laminates and powder-coated elliptical pilasters, were the choice for the male and female toilet areas. Spectra cubicles and Eclipse bench seating were installed in the home and away changing rooms for cricket and rugby teams.

All change for LSA at Wembley

When LSA Projects fitted out the players' changing rooms at Wembley Stadium with Geschwender products, the company was involved from initial brief, through the concept and design process, to supply and installation.

Working together with Populous (formerly HOK Sport) on the design, the final result is a changing environment that incorporates elements of spas and luxury hotels. The four rooms have a total of 112 changing stations, each with concealed lighting, overhead hinged lockers and post-formed bench seating.

LSA's recent partnership with Metra products now allows for access control and electronic locking to offer a complete leisure solution.



sport-kit.net keyword
lsa projects



CQL golf upgrades

Craftsman Quality Lockers (CQL) was chosen to refurbish the changing areas of St Mellion International Resort's Aero Leisure Club during a recent refurbishment.

The new design now allows members to hang up their clothes and store shoes and belongings separately. There are plenty of vanity units and mirrors and the new lighting highlights the beige colour scheme and light oak lockers.

Meanwhile, CQL's changing room installation at the new TwentyTen championship golf course at Celtic Manor Resort offers mirror image facilities for the US and European teams for next year's Ryder Cup.

sport-kit.net keyword
craftsman quality lockers



Skirmett kits out Oxford University

Skirmett Washrooms recently supplied a bespoke locker system solution for a prestigious new-build project at Oxford University.

Nightingale Associates architectural company chose Skirmett's IXOS P Z Locker System. With space considerations in mind the Z configuration combines a durable and robust product with plug-in construction. The Mace Group provided construction that ensured the installation of 500 lockers was completed in 10 days.



sport-kit.net keyword
skirmett



sport-kit.net keyword
relcross

Modern facilities earn pupils' respect

Since Relcross supplied stylish Hadrian steel toilet cubicles and Sentry stainless steel fountains into the Grange Technology College in Bradford, the pupils have shown much more respect for their washroom facilities.

The toilets' reinforced pilaster tops, continuous steel hinges and a honeycomb core for flex-proof strength are difficult to damage and the two fountains provide the equivalent of six washbasins with the potential to save up to 50 litres of water per minute.

Safe Space spa

When Alliance Leisure extended the leisure facilities at Haslington Centre in Bury last year, Safe Space Lockers was chosen to provide the changing room facilities. Reflecting an up-market spa environment, the 120 timber-based lockers have a walnut veneer and the cubicles and shower doors are made of glass.

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Arena and Convention Centre, Liverpool

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14-15 OCTOBER 2009

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The Int'l Centre, Telford

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www.youthsporttrust.org

15 OCTOBER 2009

IOG Sports Turf Conference

Emirates Stadium, Finsbury Park

This event will combine papers from the industry's leading lights and award the best people in the industry.

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28-30 OCTOBER 2009

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24 NOVEMBER 2009

BISL Annual Conference

Lord's Cricket Ground, London

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