

News in brief

Staccato reports from the cultural typeface

Edition number 49; dateline 6 April 2011

Yet more Insights for coaches

It has already been announced that The Leisure Review Coaching Insight set for Nottingham Trent University on 29 June will feature John Lyle, formerly of Leeds Metropolitan University, John Driscoll from Sportscoach UK and David Batch of Premier Sport debating whether coaching is a “profession, vocation or business opportunity”. Hard on the heels of this news comes the announcement that Warrington on 12 May will see John Mills of British Cycling and the UCI, David Haskins of Liverpool John Moores University and the RFU’s Ian Thompson come together to consider “innovations in coaching and coach education”. Both three-hour afternoon workshops will cost £15 thanks to the support of Sport Nottinghamshire, Sport Cheshire and GreaterSport and can be booked through The Leisure Review’s events page.



Insight in action: coaching guru Dave Haskins

GLL win big

GLL have won the Social Enterprise Mark Holder of the Year award and been presented with their prize at the UK final at The O2 in London. Peter Holbrook, CEO of the Social Enterprise Coalition, congratulated the company, which runs 90 leisure facilities within the M25, saying: “The Social Enterprise Coalition received a record number of responses to this year’s awards so to have come out on top is a truly remarkable achievement.”

Push-bike partnership probe partly published

UK Sport has announced the key findings of the review into the impact of British Cycling’s involvement with Sky on the governing body’s (NGB) World Class Performance Programme. The review, conducted by Deloitte, was initiated owing to misgivings about the partnership and particularly the joint role held by David Brailsford. While all partners claimed the report exonerated the NGB, the report did “highlight issues with the clarity of roles and responsibilities of key staff, of financial accounting and transparency between the two programmes, and the need for more effective communication between the various partners” and positive recommendations were made. The full report was withheld lest it prove to be of value to the GB team’s competitors.

Parkour to inspire London youngsters

People beyond the M25 may not be au fait with the London 2012 Inspire mark but the 1000th one has been awarded to a parkour-based project called Jump London which aims to “create 500 new coaches between now and the Games, creating more opportunities for people to participate in the sport”. Parkour UK chief executive Eugene Minogue and free-running Casino Royale actor Sébastien Foucan received

the award from LOCOG chief executive Paul Deighton at St Pancras station. Minogue told The Leisure Review: "Through Parkour we are looking to inspire young people to be active in a fun and exciting way, and being able to link to the London 2012 Games is an incredible opportunity to really enable us to deliver that message."

New marina for Manchester

Work has started to link the Rochdale and Ashton Canals with East Manchester's New Islington development. A forty-berth marina is planned to open in the summer. The work is going ahead following a £4.4 million investment from the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) who join the Homes and Communities Agencies, Manchester City Council and developers Urban Splash in the partnership to regenerate this part of the city.

Quarter of million is not chicken feed

The British Hen Welfare Trust has rescued its 250,000th battery hen but is urging its supporters to do more. The chicken charity works through a network of volunteers to re-home ex-battery birds rather than see them go from the poultry purgatory in which most supermarket eggs are produced straight to slaughter. Instead the hens are given a chance to experience a normal life, often in suburban back gardens. As well as rescuing hens the trust also lobbies for change in the law to improve the lot of the world's layers and charity founder Jane Howorth is urging supporters to keep political pressure on the European parliament where a long-awaited cage ban, due next year, is under threat because farmers in some countries have dragged their feet on implementing necessary changes.

All change at Harrow on the Hill

The Harrow Observer has reported that social enterprise GLL has taken over the management of three of Harrow Council's facilities previously under the care of Leisure Connections. The paper says that Leisure Connection, which had been looking after the centres since 1997, "had run into problems in the past at the leisure centre with customer complaints, spates of thefts from lockers and cars, police closures of Byron Hall and the discovery of unacceptable levels of ammonia in the pool". The interim deal might save Harrow Council £400,000 and will run for two years.

B-ball beggared by Sport England

The Sport England board has decided that England Basketball's plans "do not adequately address the challenge" of increasing participation in the sport and has cut funding to the governing body by £1.2 million, funding that was dependent on the sport's ability to produce a "robust strategy" for growing itself. The decision was made partly on the fact that the Active People survey has shown the number of adults playing basketball at least once a week declined from 186,000 at the start of this funding period (October 2008) to 154,100 at the latest update. Sport England's chief executive, Jennie Price, said: "England Basketball has not demonstrated the necessary focus on improving its plans for increasing participation, despite continued support and encouragement to do so. This was an important factor in our decision."

Olympic hockey gets the blues

For the first time at an Olympic Games the hockey competition will be contested on blue pitches and British suppliers will be disappointed to find they will be

manufactured by Melbourne-based Advanced Polymer Technology Australasia. The decision to move away from the standard green pitch will provide high levels of contrast with the white ball and lines for players, officials, spectators, photographers and broadcasters. The pitches at the London Games will also feature pink run-off areas, although this may well just be an aesthetic decision. The new surface will be made from something called Poligrass which the manufacturer's managing director, Dr Martin Schlegel, claims "is the paradigm for the future of the sport by combining vibrant new colour schemes, environmentally responsible technology and exacting playability characteristics demanded by elite hockey athletes".

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