

# Harlow to K2 and Beyond

A voluntary, national project to record the story of the UK community sports and leisure centre by the end of 2016

[www.sportsleisurelegacy.co.uk](http://www.sportsleisurelegacy.co.uk)

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## Can you help fill the gaps in the story?

Despite most of the research being completed and the writing of the story of the UK sports & leisure centre being well underway, the Project still needs support from its growing network of over 150 supporters. There are a number of different ways in which help is still needed. It may be a fact, a date, a one-liner about something that should be recorded, or a paragraph or two or more about a particular theme, centre or event. Overleaf there are details of some of the elements we are still seeking. Whether it takes 2 minutes or 30, please do see if you can add something more to the story, especially if you have been meaning to all along!



## More contributors from each of the 6 decades

Since the March newsletter we were pleased to gain more project supporters with something to add to the story. Derek Casey, former Sports Council CEO and leader of Glasgow's successful Commonwealth Games bid, has contributed from both his early Scottish days as well as those at the Sports Council. We have been able to purchase a copy of "A Question of Balance", a major sports centre study from Derek's time at the Scottish Sports Council. Also in touch have been Mike Halpin, Hon Sec & Committee of ARM from 1976 to 1983; Peter Johnson, who founded Circa Leisure; and John Knowles, also a former ARM Committee member.

In the March newsletter we highlighted the work and role of Denis Molyneux, our earliest sports centre pioneer contact. Marjorie, his wife, has found, and Denis has gifted us, his ground-breaking 1962 publication, "Government Support for Sport in Western European Countries". John Birch has told us that Denis Howell, as Minister for Sport within the Wilson Government, waved the publication in the House of Commons in 1964 when making the case for the first-ever UK government support for sport.



Surrey Sports Park



Denis Howell at Deeside Leisure Centre

### Research

Liam Goodley, now of Freedom Leisure, continues as a voluntary researcher for the Project. His help is proving invaluable.

Previous copies of the Project Newsletters can be found in the News section of the [website](#).

### EDITORIAL TEAM for

meetings: David Fisher, John Birch, Jack Wilkinson, Hywel Griffiths, John Thorpe, John Stride, and Gerry Carver plus by email: Mike Fulford, Mike Fitzjohn.

**AND ON THE NEXT PAGE — ALL WE NEED TO KNOW!**

Architects Choice Section supported by



Project welcomed by national organisations



## ALL WE NEED TO KNOW!

We have identified topics where we need more information, snippets or some text drafting for inclusion in one of the chapters, including -

- Information on centres over the decades in Wales and Northern Ireland
- The relationship between sport, participation and centres specifically – from 'Sport for All' '76 to the London Olympic Legacy and 2015/16 Government Strategy (including the role of centres in sports coaching, major competitions, and holiday activities for children).
- Examples from 60 years of Dual Use and Joint Provision Centres.
- Non-sporting events held in sports halls
- New centres recently opened, planned or recently refurbished.
- Changes to specific operational practices over the decades.
- Current demand for sports hall use, and the types of use today

**PLUS Photo Gallery and Gamechangers – see below**

## The Gamechangers Section

A section of the final website will list *Gamechangers*. These will be managers or directors who have made an important contribution to a particular centre and/or recreation management at any stage of the past 6 decades - this will be more than just holding a particular post. The Editorial Group, formed after the Project Seminar at K2 last July, has been sifting through nominations. If you would like to nominate someone, there is a *Gamechanger* form on the website, or simply email the editor with details and a 1-line justification.

## Can you Trust us?

We are seeking the facts and stories related to probably the biggest change in sports & leisure centres over the last 25 years – the outsourcing of centre management by local authorities. This is epitomised by the advent of private companies under CCT, and the development of leisure trusts, both those individual trusts spawned by councils from their own direct operations, and those developed by private companies. There will be those trusts that have remained solely focused on the facilities of a single council, those that have expanded to encompass some centres of other authorities, and those that are now part of quite large trusts, including trusts that emerged from private companies.

**NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS of CENTRE OPENINGS, EVENTS OR HAPPENINGS INVITED – scan & email or post – or send originals which can be returned.**

## Surrey Sports Park visit



The Editorial Group met again on May 9 and were welcomed to Surrey University's Sports Park in Guildford. The visit was arranged by David Gill. The Park is a major indoor and outdoor centre for students and the public. University sports centres figure prominently in the current decade of centres.



Sports Hall - Surrey Sports Park



Pool



Squash courts

## The Photo Gallery of Centres

We are seeking photos for the website story gallery – please email jpeg digital versions or send older prints of centres (indoors or outdoors, including any special events). We can copy and return prints if required.

### EDITORIAL CONTACT

sportslegacy@btinternet.com

11 Cove Road, Rustington,  
West Sussex BN16 2QW

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