

Harlow to K2 and Beyond

A voluntary project to record the story of the UK community indoor sports centre - a phenomenon of the late 20th and early 21st centuries

ISSUE 6 - A CHRISTMAS 2016 UPDATE for all our supporters & interests

www.sportsleisurelegacy.co.uk

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The new **Ely Leisure Centre** is to be located on an existing sports site. Designed by S+P for East Cambridgeshire District Council, it will be one of the UK's newest centres when it opens in 2018. **H2K2&B** will include a case study on the centre in the 'final story' website.

Launch ► promotion ► support ► research ► SCRIPTING

From inception of the Project, it has taken three years to reach the point where there is now only one Project priority - to meet the target of 'writing-up' the planned 12 chapters for the website by Easter 2017! Help is still needed however - the scripting of a paragraph or two (or more) from your experience would be welcome on a variety of topics or themes identified, and listed below. **Please just put pen to paper - or checkout with us if you need a bit more information.**

THEMES TOPICS & INFORMATION

Have you something to add? Email sportslegacy@btinternet.com

THEMES AND TOPICS

- The role and changing influence of indoor sports centres on: -
 - *The development of individual sports*
 - *Sports participation overall*
- The sports centre sports hall; changes over the last 60 yrs - provision/size/uses
- Refurbish or replace - the current dilemmas and decisions
- Current contractual management scene, the takeovers of trusts by other trusts and will any go into administration in the future?

INFORMATION (names/dates/any details)

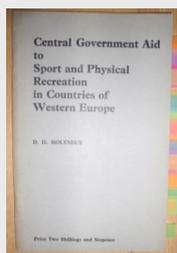
- School/university sports halls that had public use in the 1960s
- Major sporting events hosted by a centre in any decade
- New joint provision schemes since 2000
- Public opening dates of any centres from 1972-1982
- Royal or celebrity official openings + *amusing centre tales or anecdotes!*

108 YEARS CAN BE FOXING

The first two chapters, already drafted, deal primarily with the early sports centres that came about in the 1960s and early 1970s. Before that the 20th century had been largely dominated by two World Wars. Apart from 19th century swimming pools and indoor roller skating rinks in the 1930s, indoor sports facilities were extremely rare in the early 1960s. Some exceptions could be found, for example, on military camps. The Fox Gymnasium at the Aldershot Camp, for example, was built in 1860. Yet the Fox Gym was used by Aldershot Warriors in the European Club Basketball Championships versus Real Madrid in the late 1968/9 season!

'Harlow to K2 and Beyond' will span six decades of centres

The story, in 12 Chapters, will span six decades. It starts from the earliest days of the 1950s. By 1962, Denis Molyneux had produced a research paper on the lack of UK government funding for sport. Denis Howell MP, later to be Minister for Sport, waved the report in the House of Commons during a speech in favour of the 1960 Wolfenden Report. The story will come right up to 2017 with the plethora of current new centres (see Ely) and a possible £80M replacement for the Spectrum Centre in Guildford!



The Editorial team is meeting again on Dec 12th: David Fisher, John Birch, Jack Wilkinson, Hywel Griffiths, John Thorpe, John Stride, and Gerry Carver plus by email: Mike Fulford, Mike Fitzjohn, Malcolm Tungatt. Researcher - Liam Goodley.

THE EDITORIAL TEAM WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY 2017

2016 issues of the newsletter are in the News Section of the website www.sportsleisurelegacy.co.uk

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