

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

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www.sportsleisurelegacy.co.uk

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international sports and leisure architects

SPACE & PLACE
ARCHITECTURE FOR HUMAN BEINGS



Image Warren Gunn

The Hive creates a buzz

One of the newest sports & leisure centres is in the cathedral town of Ely. Opened in May 2018, designed by sponsors Space & Place, built by Pellikaan, and operated by GLL, The Hive has been provided by East Cambridgeshire District Council. The Hive Leisure Centre is a brand-new modern leisure centre located in Ely Leisure Village, East Cambridgeshire. Facilities include an eight-lane 25m swimming pool, a teaching pool with moveable floor, a large top-of-the-range 140-station gym fully-equipped with the latest Technogym fitness kit, two fitness class studios, a four-court sports hall and an outdoor 3G artificial grass pitch.

CHAPTER FIVE IS LIVE!

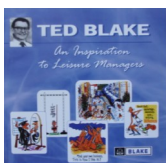
Chapter 5, the latest addition to the 'Harlow to K2 and Beyond' story, is now live on the Project website – together with chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4 + Legacy Legends & Gamechangers

SPACE&PLACE confirms on-going Project sponsorship

The main Legacy Project sponsor, SPACE&PLACE, have reaffirmed their support through 2019. S&P CEO Keith Ashton met with Gerry Carver in December to discuss arrangements for the year. Currently S&P are working on over 20 sports and leisure centres in the UK. Keith said of the Legacy Project that "the progress to date from Gerry and the team has been fantastic and continues to offer a real insight into the history of the sector. We are delighted to continue our support of this important historical project".

Do you operate, manage or own a sports & leisure centre? See page 3

HELP FUND ARM NEWS DIGITAL



We are selling the last 20 copies of the Ted Blake Book as part of fundraising in order to digitalise all 37 of the editions of ARM News from 1970-1983 (400+ pages). See P.2 for details.

Ted Blake – 'An Inspiration to Leisure Managers'
ISBN 1 873903 97 9 see page .2

THE EDITORIAL ADVISORY GROUP last met on November 28th at Worthing Leisure Centre (courtesy of South Downs Leisure). As well as considering Project matters, the Group toured the Centre, which was built in 1974 and has been extremely well refurbished over a period of time. The success of the Project owes much to the Group's time and contributions over the last 3½ years. GROUP: David Fisher, John Birch, Jack Wilkinson, Hywel Griffiths, John Thorpe, John Stride, Gerry Carver, Mike Fulford, Mike Fitzjohn and Malcolm Tungatt.

Community Leisure UK - Project support continues



Cate Atwater is now the CEO of Community Leisure UK, in succession to Brian Leonard. The organisation has rebranded from SPORTA. It represents a membership of over 110 sports & leisure trusts across the UK, providing 3,700 services and facilities with 67,000 staff and a combined turnover £1.8bn.

www.communityleisureuk.org

Twitter @CommLeisureUK

CLOA, and its manager Heidi Bellamy also continue to support the Project. **Trusts and the Project - see page 3**

Previous 11 issues of the newsletter are in the News Section of the website www.sportsleisurelegacy.co.uk

Architects Choice Section supported by:



Supported by:



Project welcomed by national organisations:



Sports & Leisure Centre History & Heritage



Bill Slater



The Project has been able to benefit from contact with some of the earliest sports centre managers and administrators. However, the passage of time that has elapsed between the first centre, Harlow, opening in 1964, and today has meant that we have lost some key supporters and players on the scene since our launch event at K2 Crawley in 2015. **Peter Barson** (1937-2017) and **Geoff Bott** (1927-2017) were early pioneers in their careers and great supporters of the Project, as recorded on the website.

The death of **Bill Slater CBE** (1927-2018) just before Christmas was another benchmark in the sports history we are recording. Bill originally studied PE at Carnegie, played for Blackpool, losing in the 1951 Cup Final (as the last amateur to play in a FA Cup Final), and, as a semi-professional, went on to captain Wolverhampton Wanderers in their FA Cup Final victory over Blackburn Rovers in 1960. An England international, he had played in the 1958 World Cup in Sweden. Bill also received his BSc degree in 1960 – the same year in which he was named Footballer of the Year! Alongside and then following his first life as a footballer (also as a cricketer with Warwickshire's second XI) there was a parallel career as a physical education teacher, then director of physical education at universities, first Liverpool, then at Birmingham while he was turning out for Wolves in 1960.

Bill was a Member of The Sports Council and went on to become director of national services at the Council. In 1989, he was appointed President of the British Gymnastics Association. He later joined the National Olympic Committee, after his daughter Barbara represented Great Britain at the 1976 Montreal Olympics as a gymnast. Barbara Slater is now Head of Sport at the BBC. A summary of numerous tributes would be to say Bill was a great sportsman and a perfect gentleman.

HELP SAVE A SPORTS CENTRE MANAGEMENT ARCHIVE



As a voluntary project, we are selling the last 20 copies of 'Ted Blake - An Inspiration to Leisure Managers' [ISBN 1 873903 97 9] to fund the digitalisation of all 37 editions of ARM News, which we hold. ARM News was the journal of the Association of Recreation Managers from 1970-1983 until ILAM (one of CIMSPA's predecessors) was formed. It was the first-ever publication for sports centre managers and directors. ARM News is a 'treasure trove' archive and makes fascinating reading, with numerous centres and managers featured. It is an incredible record of those early days with a total of over 400 pages.

We have found a specialist company that will complete the whole task for just £400. The digital set would then be linked onto the website. We are selling the last 20 copies to fund this technical digitalisation. 'Ted Blake - An Inspiration to Leisure Managers' was published in 2003 (see the website for Ted Blake profile). It is a 124-page gem - a compendium of management and marketing presented in a clear, and above all, interesting and entertaining way. These last 20 copies are now available. Cost per issue - £19 + £2 p&p. To order email sportslegacy@btinternet.com or request to: Gerry Carver, 11 Cove Road, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 2QW.



INTREPID ADVISOR IN ARGENTINA

From amongst the intrepid travellers on the Editorial Advisory Group, John Thorpe had his eye out for facilities when visiting Argentina recently. Apart from spotting accidents waiting to happen on rugby pitches, he said, his eagle eye spotted Ushuaia's first sports centre (pictured).



The 'sports centre section' of the Sports Council archive up to 2000 has been on loan to us until this year from its home at the University of Central Lancashire.

We are grateful to UCLan, its Head Librarian, Paul Mahoney, and Sport England for this loan. It has been an invaluable source of information, especially as sports centres were a dominant feature of the early life of the Council.

Our network of supporters (including past managers and directors) grows and works!

The first congratulations for Chapter 5 came from Margaret Torkildsen, a keen follower of the story. In addition to others mentioned elsewhere, since the last newsletter we had further contact from Mike Halpin and Griff Jones. Bernard Warden has put us in touch with Peter Waddell from Poole's early centre. A small number of current managers and directors have previously contributed (SEE PAGE 3). NOTE - we have written contributions listed from over 60 people. Many have been used in the research, some added as hyperlinks. Some others are set to be used appropriately in coming chapters.

DO YOU RUN, MANAGE OR OWN A UK SPORTS & LEISURE CENTRE?

With the pending completion of Chapter 6 we will largely reach 1999 with the sports centre story. We would like you to be party to recording the past two decades of UK sports & leisure centres [1999-2019] – and the present scene, which is as important to the story as the past. We have set out below various topics/themes that seem relevant to the last 20 years - ways in which you personally or your organisation can contribute. There may be other issues you want to raise. We do hope that you will welcome the opportunity to record the experiences of your centre(s) or organisation, or personal experience.

PROGRESS – PARTICIPATION – PEOPLE – PROJECTIONS

- From the original multi-gym equipment to the modern fitness scene – the role and approach of public centres.
- The changing face, size and use of public sports halls – and the impact of all modern school sports halls.
- The swimming pool scene in centres, how it has changed and as it is today.
- The role of academia today (there are more than 290 UK degrees with the word sport in the title).
- The recruitment picture for sports centres - from managers to recreation assistants.
- The role of sports coaching and national governing bodies in the use of centres today.
- Are leisure pools now passé?
- Is indoor 'green' bowls provision disappearing?
- Current demand for sports hall use, and the types of use today
- Are modern swimming pools and sports halls better on separate sites?

WIDER ISSUES INCLUDE:

- The shift of emphasis from facility provision and 'Sport for All' initiatives (1970s & 1980s) to sports development (c. 1990s) to the journey from CCT to Trusts; and on to health and well-being today.
- The importance of a wider service role for expensive new sports and leisure centre buildings and the new priorities for activities – and is the 'traditional' indoor sport on the wane?
- Is the capital and revenue funding of centres changing?
- How has centre management changed in the last 10 years?
- Where are centres going in the next 10 years? Will local authorities still own them in 20 years' time?
- PLANNED PHOTO GALLERY: Information on and jpeg photograph (internal and external) of new centres since 2000 are also invited (copyright free or use agreed).

This is not an exclusive list - there are other topics you may think worth covering from the last 20 years and the present.

'ARCHITECTS CHOICE' (sponsored by BAQUS)

We have invited architects that have designed centres in the recent past to provide external jpegs and short information for a special section to Chapter 9. Any architect interested should contact us.

Gallery of newer centres



Clickimin Leisure Centre Shetland 1985



Carlisle Sands Centre 1980s



Budmouth Community Sports Centre 2003



Blaydon Leisure Primary Care Centre 2010



Bert Williams Leisure Centre, Bilston 2011



Moss Side Leisure Centre Refurbished 2018