

Playing for Success

Newsletter

RHA
Rex Hall Associates

May 2008 – Issue 4

Good Morning

On behalf of Rex Hall Associates and the DCSF I wish to thank you for a great conference. It had the energy I expect of PfS. I thought the platform speakers were good with some memorable moments. My team had some fantastic conversations and we all appreciated the trust given by so many in our vision.

It was great to talk to so many people with ideas and a positive approach for the future. I hope you had safe journeys home and for many are having a good week off.

Work now starts on the CLUBCARD and the yearbook for 2008. Please look out for the CLUBCARD stencil on the website and the accompanying notes for guidance for completion. These should be uploaded by 2 June.

The new PfS diary will be available soon.

Best wishes

Rex

Centre News

Gloucester PFS 'Centre Pals' scheme

Students from Didcot Girls School, Oxfordshire and Barnwood Park College, Gloucester joined forces recently through the Playing for Success 'Centre Pals' initiative. The pupils from the two schools took part in an ICT workshop at Oxford Learning United where they worked in partnership to complete a challenge. The scheme is part of an initiative developed by Playing for Success South West, an organisation that unites the twenty Playing for Success Centres across the region. The project involved students from each centre learning about the places and people from other parts of the south west, giving them the opportunity to make new friends and broaden their horizons.

Leader of Gloucester County Council in Playing for Success hot seat

The leader of Gloucester City Council, Councillor Paul James, visited the Playing for Success Centre at Gloucester Rugby to meet the students from Bishops' College who have been taking part in the scheme. The project, which aims to develop young people's numeracy, literacy and ICT skills, is part of a national scheme that inspires students to learn using the power of professional sport. During the session in the centre's new ICT suite students showed Councillor James how they had developed their interviewing skills and learnt how to podcast an interview with Gloucester Rugby legends Ross McMillan and Jack Forster. The students from Bishops' College even put Councillor James in the hot seat and asked him some questions about the work the City Council does to improve the lives and opportunities of children and young people in the city.

Note from Rex – Please let Tracey at the admin base know when a senior figure such as a councillor, education decision maker, MP etc. takes part in any centre activities.

Speeding Through the Decades

Following a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, King's Lynn Stars Speedway Study Centre has been working in partnership with the College of West Anglia, Kings Lynn Museum Service and Norfolk Arena (home of the world famous King's Lynn Stars Speedway team) on a speedway project which included producing an exhibition at the Lynn Museum.

The exhibition tells the story of speedway in King's Lynn since its arrival from Norwich in 1965. It features artwork, film and photographs as well as memorabilia donated by speedway fans throughout Norfolk. Students from the Foundation Studies Department at the college produced the artwork and all the students involved have severe or moderate learning difficulties.

Donations from speedway fans came forward as the result of appeals in the local newspaper and 'Speedway Star' magazine earlier this year.

The opening took place on Thursday 1 May and was attended by over 90 people including the students themselves, Councillor Kathy Mellish (the Mayor of King's Lynn), Councillor Rosalie Monbiot, senior managers from the Museum Service and from Children's Services, Buster Chapman (owner of Norfolk Arena and Promoter of King's Lynn Stars Speedway team), speedway riders John Oliver, Kozza Smith and Simon Lambert, and many of the people who kindly donated speedway memorabilia. The exhibition will run until 5 July - Lynn Museum is in Market Street, King's Lynn and is open Tuesday until Saturday from 10am until 5pm, telephone 01553 775001.

Further information about the project can be obtained from Anne Gardner, the project co-ordinator, at the Stars Speedway Study Centre on 01553 780974 or anne.gardner@norfolk.gov.uk

A study centre at Glasgow Rangers

Steve Smith as part of his new role with PfS to look at Innovation and developments visited Glasgow Rangers Study Centre. He wrote "it is an amazing centre. It looks as good, if not better than anything I've seen in PfS. The branding is breathtaking. Dominic Sharkey the CM has taken the PfS idea and been just about as innovative and developmental as it is possible to be. The array of projects he is delivering is awesome - everything from work with gangs to health and fitness - to anti-bigotry work to daytime PfS style projects. He employs 15 dancers who deliver over 100 sessions a week in Glasgow schools - and already has a 'Performing for Success' style of programme involving young people in enterprise which leads to putting together a performance from scratch - which includes research; marketing; choreography; rehearsal; promotion etc ... lots of key skills and team skills. We have a lot to learn from this centre." We will ask Dominic to run a workshop next year. His email address is DominicSharkey@rangers.co.uk. I have also added him to the mailing list.

Rex

Somerset CCC featured the work of its PfS centre in its recent programme for a match with the Worcestershire Royals.

Southampton has just opened two academies. Chris Meech would welcome feedback from centres that have worked with academies on PfS programmes especially with regard to charging issues as academies are not funded by LAs.

Portsmouth Double Club hosted a group of pupils from Indonesia during the FA cup final week. This included visits to the Guildhall, HMS Victory, Portsmouth FA's training ground, local schools, the naval dockyard and, on the last day, a trip to London to meet the Indonesian ambassador. There is a DVD of the visit and this is available from Clare at the Pompey centre.

The Castleford Training Den

The new Castleford Tigers Training Den is all but complete - it only needs some computer hardware and blinds. A pilot with Leeds Schools will be delivered next half-term to accompany the Wakefield pilot that took place in February and March. A pilot report will be submitted when both are completed. The business plan is in place and a new centre manager will be appointed soon. The club has been very supportive; this is echoed by the fact that their Chief Executive, Richard Wright attended the National Conference. The current contacts are Mark Winder at Wakefield Wildcats and Vicki Stanworth, the club's general manager, who is also a teacher. Castleford Tigers RLFC, The Jungle, Wheldon Road, Castleford, WF10 2SD.

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A mentor at Manchester United.

Manchester United Study Centre has a number of students on placement from Seikei University, Japan. A Japanese football fan magazine called World Soccer King carried an article about one student, Kizuka Takuma's work experience at the Manchester United Study Centre during the 2007 Autumn programme. Kizuka explains briefly the programme and the reasons why he was so happy to have that opportunity at the Manchester United Study Centre (being a big football fan, wanting to teach Japanese soccer to children etc.) He also explained his jobs at the Study Centre and talks about how he was loved by children and about experiences with them (receiving a card from them, being thanked by a pupil's parents). He finishes his article with thanks to the people involved and says he will make best use of this opportunity in the future. Currently another student is on placement. More details from Neil at the centre.

Staff Changes

Vacancy - Brainwaves Study Support Centre

Playing for Success Teacher (PfS)

Ref: 019/8235 Main Pay Scale

This is an exciting and innovative opportunity to help establish a new Study Support Centre as a part of the National Playing for Success Programme in conjunction with Plymouth City Council. Based at the newly created study support facility at Mount Batten Outdoor Centre, the post offers the opportunity to work with excellent IT facilities in a stimulating and challenging environment where young people aged 9 - 14 can learn imaginatively.

The Playing for Success teacher will be responsible for designing and delivering a teaching programme of out of school hours study support designed to raise

aspirations, motivation and achievement of pupils. The post is fixed-term contract for 3 years in line with DCSF grant funding.

Applications will be welcomed from qualified teachers, particularly those with experience of curriculum development in the areas of literacy, numeracy and ICT. Applicants should have experience in working with young people outside of the classroom and an enthusiasm for using sport, outdoor education and ICT as a stimulus for learning.

For an informal discussion, please contact Alison Lowman, Plymouth PfS Centre Manager on (01752) 563167 or 07836 675079 or to arrange a visit to the centre.

Closing date for applications: Friday 30 May 2008 - Interviews during w/c 17 June 2008.

For an application form and further details please contact (01752) 668000 or email jobs@plymouth.gov.uk or apply online at www.plymouth.gov.uk/counciljobs.

Working towards equal opportunities: applicants welcome from all sections of the community. All suitable disabled applicants for salaried posts are guaranteed an interview. smoke free policy. CVs are not accepted.

The new centre manager at AFC Barrow who will start on 2 June attended the conference, as did the new Margate manager who also starts soon. The London Marathon centre in Tower Hamlets appointed a centre manager the previous week. Beth Mason, who is the current centre manager at Porthpeon, has been appointed centre manager at Truro FC. Congratulations to Beth.

Can you please let me know of appointments with if possible a contact email address so we can send them the newsletters immediately.

Resource Update

I have seen a copy of the Grimsby Town FC publication "Driving the Motivation to Learn" document. It is a very impressive document showing what a centre can achieve. Copies and details from Oliver Cowling at the centre.

Rex

Reporting Process

Business plans have been received from the Wigan centres - Leigh Centurions, Wigan Athletic and Wigan Warriors and also Castleford Tigers.

Calendar – 2009

2008

4 June - There is an event at the DCSF to formally launch the RHA Playing for Success and Double Club new contracts. There will be a similar event in Darlington on 3 June.

4 July - Quality in Study Support meeting at West Bromwich Albion (currently five centres presenting at Emerged level)

4 July - The Crown Green Zone Bolton will be opened 10.30 to 12.30 by the Mayor of Bolton and the new Zone mascot Lofty the Lion.

11 July - Quality in Study Support meeting at Batley Bulldogs

17 October - Quality in Study Support meeting at Nottingham Forest

14 November - Quality in Study Support meeting at Bolton Wanderers

2009

8/9 January - The biennial centre managers' conference will be held at Durham CCC. Details from Tina Dransfield or Jeanette Wood

27 February - Quality in Study Support meeting at Norwich City

3 April - Quality in Study Support meeting at West Ham

1 May - Quality in Study Support meeting at WBA

Other Items

Daytime provision.

A number of local authorities will start to deliver 14-19 specialised diplomas in areas such as 'Creative and Media' from September 2008. An important element of the diplomas is the specialised units that are usually delivered through a work-based provider. It may be a little late in some cases because plans may have already been made, but a number of centres seem to be perfect for this role because of the venue, media facilities and the trained teachers/media staff. There may be some LAs who have failed to secure a work-based provider to support and I am sure that PfS could

step in at short notice and contribute. There is some reasonably significant funding on offer.

Rex