



Performance Sport in the East Midlands

Strategic Context

- Outcome 2 of a 'Change 4 Sport' – Sport England's Regional Plan for Sport 2004 to 2008, is to ensure that **'The East Midlands is the most successful sporting region in England'**
- The Strategic Aims attached to delivering this outcome are:
 - To make sure that every athlete in the East Midlands has a clear, supported pathway to sporting success
 - To develop an environment with the best resources, that will attract elite athletes, players, coaches and performance support staff to the East Midlands
 - To support the regional delivery of National Governing Bodies' Whole-Sport and One-Stop plans

Facilities

- In April 2004, the East Midlands Development Agency (emda), published a 'Directory of International Sporting Facilities and Events in the East Midlands'
(<http://www.emda.org.uk/documents/executivesummarymappingsve.doc>)
- The study identified 12 facilities in the East Midlands that either already have a pedigree of staging major International events, or have the potential to do so within the next 3 to 5 years. These are (in no particular order):
 - **National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire**
 - **Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, Nottingham**
 - **Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire**
 - **The Soaring Centre, Husband's Bosworth, Leicestershire**
 - **National Ice Centre, Nottingham**
 - **Silverstone Circuit, Northamptonshire**
 - **Donington Park Circuit, Leicestershire**
 - **Rockingham Circuit, Corby, Northamptonshire**
 - **Welford Road Rugby Ground, Leicester**
 - **The Franklins Rugby Ground, Northampton**
 - **Nottingham Squash Rackets Club, Nottingham**
 - **City of Nottingham Tennis Centre, Nottingham**
- Beneath the International level facilities, are a further 21 facilities capable of staging National level competitions in their various sports.

- Additionally, the English Institute of Sport (EIS) network in the East Midlands boasts probably the widest array of training and support facilities of any region of England, based on the £38 million, 18-sport hub at Loughborough University, and additionally encompassing the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont; the National Ice Centre in Nottingham; Rutland Water and Nottingham Squash Rackets Club.
- The EIS in the East Midlands leads on Canoeing; Triathlon; Ice Hockey and Speed Skating, and also leads on the Potential and Start programmes in Rowing.
- The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) also opened their National Cricket Academy site at Loughborough University in 2003. The Academy has already received international acclaim as the most advanced cricket centre in the world.

Governing Bodies of Sport

- 22 Governing Bodies of Sport have chosen to base their Headquarters in the East Midlands:
 - Amateur Swimming Association (Loughborough)
 - British Canoe Union (Nottingham)
 - British Gliding Association (Leicester)
 - British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association Ltd (Leicester)
 - British Judo Association (Loughborough)
 - British Model Flying Association (Leicester)
 - British Kendo Association (Daventry)
 - British Orienteering Federation (Matlock)
 - British Parachute Association (Leicester)
 - British Triathlon Association Ltd (Loughborough)
 - British Wheel of Yoga (Sleaford)
 - British Wrestling Association (Chesterfield)
 - English Boccia Association (Nottingham)
 - English Curling Association (Newark)
 - English Ice Hockey Association Ltd (Nottingham)
 - English Indoor Bowling Association (Melton Mowbray)
 - English Volleyball Association (Loughborough)
 - English Women's Indoor Bowling Association (Northampton)
 - Ice Hockey UK (Nottingham)
 - National Federation of Anglers (Derby)
 - National Ice Skating Association of UK Ltd (Nottingham)
 - Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom (Leicester)

Performance Directors & National Coaches

- As of June 2004, the following Performance Directors and National Coaches are based in the East Midlands:
 - Bill Sweetenham (Swimming Performance Director)
 - Tim Reddish (Disability Swimming Performance Director)
 - Graeme Maw (Triathlon Performance Director)
 - John Anderson (Canoeing Performance Director)
 - Gary Hall (Taekwondo Performance Director)
 - Sue Wolstenholme (Disability Tennis Performance Director)
 - Peter Shakespeare (Rowing Performance Development Manager)
 - Stuart Horsepool (Speed Skating National Coach)
 - Hugh Morris (Cricket Performance Director)
 - Rod Marsh (Cricket National Academy Director)
 - Derek Allison (Orienteering Performance Director)
 - Penny Briscoe (British Paralympic Association Performance Director)
 - Margaret Caldwell (Netball Performance Director)
 - Mike Hamilton (Hockey Performance Director)
 - John Wood (Water Skiing Performance Director)
 - Donna Charlton O'Malley (Disability Powerlifting Performance Director)

Elite Athletes/Players

- The East Midlands, through the Leicester Tigers (7 players), and the Northampton Saints (4 players) provided 11 of the 30 strong England Rugby Union World Cup winning squad, including Captain, Martin Johnson.
- Leicester Tigers were winners of the Heineken European Cup in 2000/1 and 2001/2 and Northampton Saints won the same trophy in 1999/2000.
- There is currently a total of 248 athletes/players based in the East Midlands, who are part of the World Class Programmes for their respective sports:

World Class Performance	World Class Potential	World Class Start	Other (HC/Package)
112	93	14	29

- However, these figures do not include those athletes traveling to the East Midlands for specific advice from a member of the East Midlands EIS team (e.g. swimmers), or support provided at National Governing Body training camps.
- Examples of outstanding individual athletes from the East Midlands include Paula Radcliffe (Athletics - World Marathon Record Holder); James Gibson (Swimming – 50m World Breaststroke Champion); Helen McArthur (Sailing – Round the world yachtswoman), and Jayant

Sport England in the East Midlands

29 June 2004

Mistry (Wheelchair Tennis – current world ranked No.10 in the singles, and No.7 in doubles).

- 25% (9 of 36) of the British Swimming Team, and 36% (4 of 11) of the British Badminton squad for the 2004 Athens Olympics, are based within the East Midlands.

Sports Medicine and Sports Science

- Nottingham University's MSc/Diploma in Sports & Exercise Medicine is, according to Professor Clyde Williams of Loughborough University (External Examiner for the MSc Course 1998 – 2001), *"The market leader in Sports Medicine, and it has the potential to become the 'flagship' for Sports Medicine in the UK."* University medical staff provide a Sports Medicine service to athletes at the English Institute of Sport facility at Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre.
- Loughborough University has long been recognised, both nationally and internationally, for its high level teaching and research in the sport and exercise sciences, as evidenced by the latest results in the External Subject Review of its Degree programmes (23 out of a maximum possible 24 points) and Research Assessment Exercise (5 star rating). Being the hub site of the English Institute of Sport network in the East Midlands
- Nottingham Trent University is also quickly developing a strong reputation in the sports science sector. In May 2004, the Minister of Sport opened a new £250,000 Environmental Chamber research and training facility at the University's Clifton Campus, one of a very small number of such facilities available in the country. The chamber can simulate some of the most inhospitable places in the world, with a temperature range of between -20°C and 40°C , and humidity levels of up to 95%. It can also manipulate oxygen levels to reproduce altitudes of up to 15,000 feet/4,600 metres – nearly 3.5 times higher than Ben Nevis. The British Men's Olympic Hockey Squad is already booked in to use the chamber, prior to going to the Athens Olympics in August, and many other enquiries to use the facility have already been received from the elite sports sector.

Events

- The East Midlands has an impressive track record of hosting International and National sporting events. Examples of this are:
 - Burghley Horse Trials (since 1961) – one of only two 4-Star rated International 3-Day Events in Britain (Badminton is the other), and part of the Grand Slam Series (Badminton & Kentucky are the other two).
 - FIA Formula 1 Grand Prix at Silverstone (since 1987) – in 2002, a study estimated that the event generated £34.6 million, with £24.8 million spent on site and a further £5.4 million spent elsewhere in the Region.

Sport England in the East Midlands

29 June 2004

- FIM British Motorcycle Grand Prix (since 1987) – race day attendances increased by more than 250% between 2000 and 2003 (72,000), and overall attendances for the 3 day event increased by almost 275% over the same period.
- Nottingham Tennis Open (since 1994) – one of the most prestigious Men's grass court events on the ATP European Tour. This Tournament attracts 32 of the top men's players in the world, and in 2004 will have a total prize fund of \$380,000. The 2003 event, won by Greg Rusedski, broke all previous box office records. Spectator capacity on the Centre Court is being increased for the 2004 event.
- 50 Test Matches have been played at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground since 1899, and also 25 1-Day Internationals since 1974, including World Cup games in 1975; 1979; 1983 and 1999.
- Nottingham Forest's City Ground staged 3 games in Euro 96, and also the Semi-Final of the Heineken Rugby Union European Cup in 2002. Derby County's Pride Park Stadium and Leicester City's Walker's Stadium have both staged full International football games over the past 2 years.
- Leicester Tigers' Welford Road ground was the venue for Rugby World Cup games in both 1991 and 1999.
- Highfields Hockey Centre in Nottingham, a Sub-Regional Centre in the English Institute of Sport network, plays host to an International Tri-Nations Tournament on 9th, 10th and 11th June 2004, when Great Britain's Men compete against Australia and Pakistan as part of the build up to the 2004 Athens Olympics.