

# **If I was going there....**

**An idiosyncratic view of the state of  
play in British sport**

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The Leisure Review

**the leisure review**

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

Sport, leisure and culture

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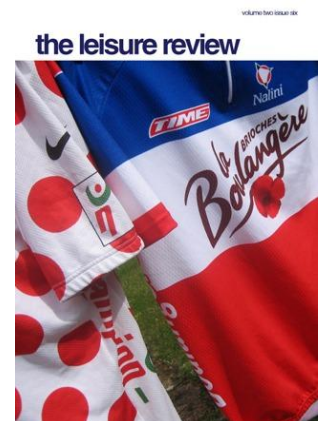
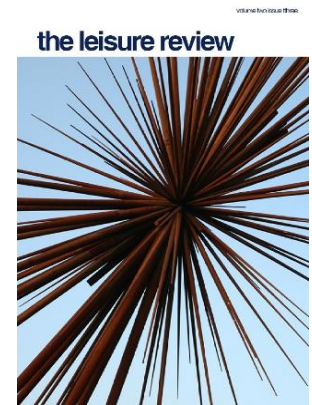
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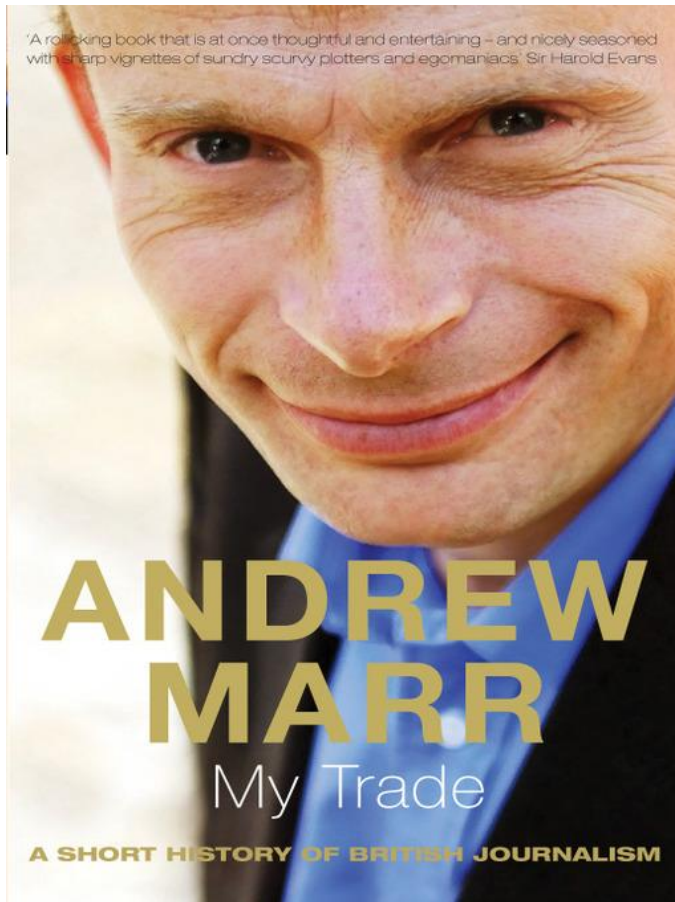
Mix of features, interviews, opinion pieces, regular columns

Contributors from UK, New Zealand, Australia and Denmark???

Brand values: independence, integrity, intelligence

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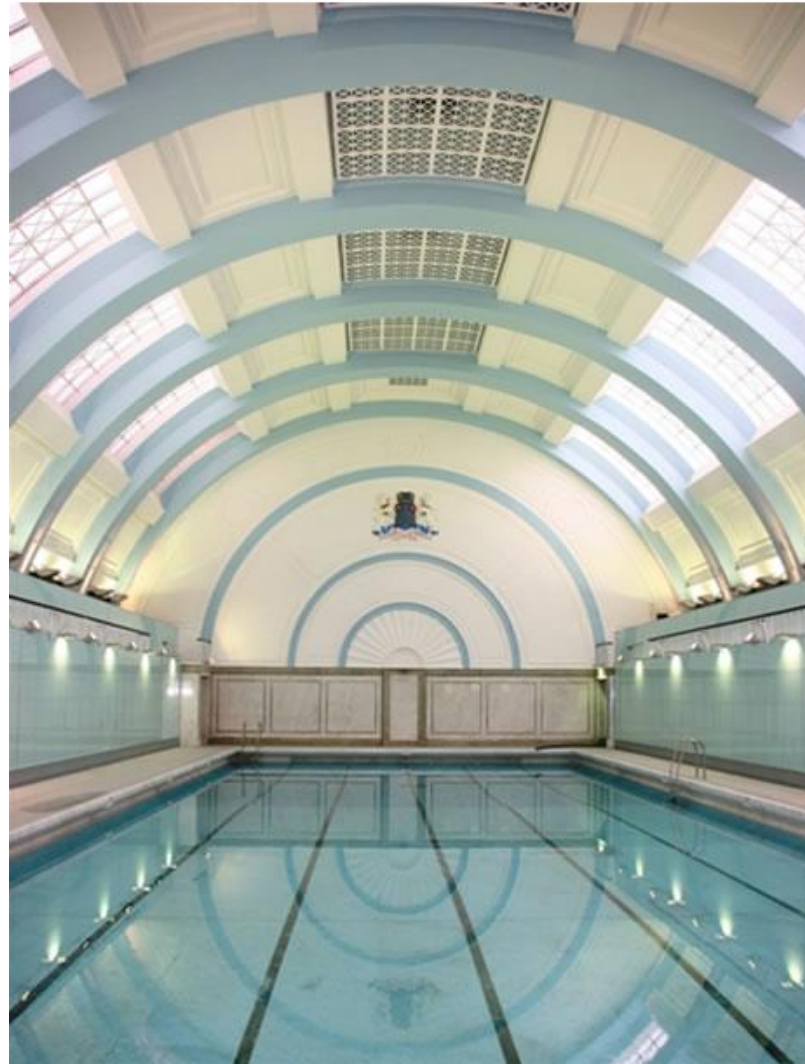


“The role of a local newspaper is to hold up a mirror to the community it serves”

We only know what people tell us.

volume four issue nine

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# The Dis-United Kingdom

- Four countries
- Different parliaments
- Different sport systems

In the SNP manifesto:

“Sport is in the contents page, first jumps out on page seven and then has its own detailed spread on page 32 of 44.”





# Big Government

versus

# Big Society

It means mass volunteering, devolution of power, the removal of bureaucratic obstacles, and end to targets and it often seems the measurement of outputs.”

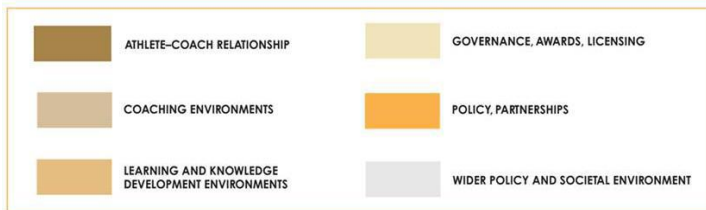
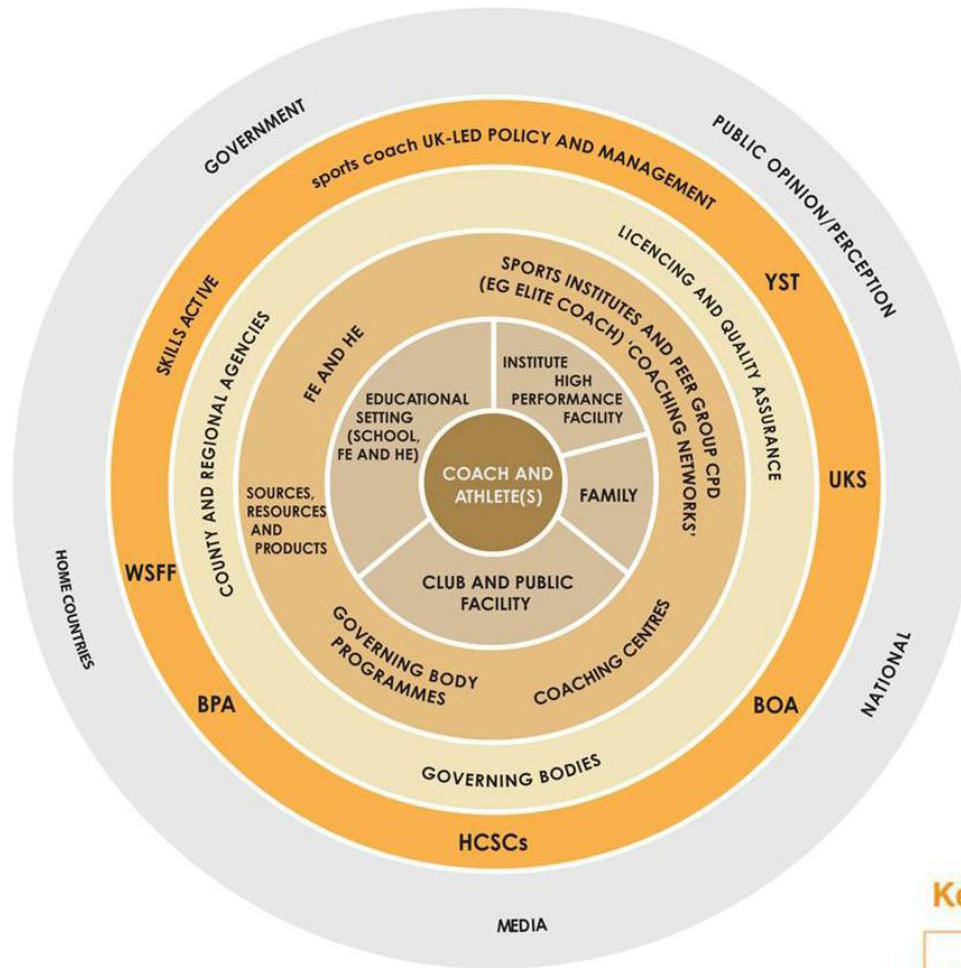


# Indicators of government thinking (?)

- Announcement that School Sports Partnerships will be axed
- Museums, Libraries and Archives Council axed
- 10% of library funding cut
- £1 million of development funding cut from Rugby Football Union grant
- 30% of sports coach UK workforce cut



# THE UK COACHING FRAMEWORK



## Key:

- BOA:** British Olympic Association
- BPA:** British Paralympic Association
- HCSCs:** Home Country Sports Councils
- UKS:** UK Sport
- WSFF:** Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation
- YST:** Youth Sport Trust

June 2010

“My experience of sport has been of a raging blazerati. People in sport act as if they have tenure. Even when they disappear from one organisation they appear in another. The status quo allows the bigots and the incompetent to maintain power.”



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February 2010

“Additional worries included a sports development sector that was **fragmented** and yet still somehow dominated by a very small number of **self-interested parties**, a tendency towards senior leisure managers becoming increasingly **risk-averse** in the context of additional financial pressures and a significant number of people within the sector still unable to comprehend the **non-silo context** in which they need to be working.”



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June 2010

“Sport does what we make it do and I don’t think we look carefully enough at what we make it do.”

“Those involved in sport must find a way to challenge the idea that just by doing sport you’re a doing a good thing,”



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January 2011

## Wilmott Dixon think-tank

Strengthen, widen and improve the sector

Act swiftly and positively

Co-location and rationalisation of fully signed up partners

New and/or refurbished facilities are more cost-effective to run

Take a more commercial approach to facilities

Ensure they make money rather than trying to provide for all

The private sector will invest if it is allowed to make money.

Let commercial decisions take precedence in the facility mix.

If you are looking to do something radical, go for it!

Quality facilities will strengthen the sector's relationship with the community if they are community-driven not guideline-driven.

Facility space needs to be more flexible in its use and design.

Facility management: does every part of the facility have to be open all day every day? Why not reduce costs by reducing opening times?

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## **Flying High School Sport Partnership**

Parkour, rocketball, tchoukball.

Lunchtime football tricks sessions – just change your shoes

Advertised on Facebook and You Tube not noticeboards

Designed by kids, delivered by adults



## **Water Babies**

The overall number of franchise systems in the UK is 842 and there has been an 86% increase in the number of female franchisees. The average (mean) turnover for a franchised business is £353,000 and 89% of franchisees reported profitability





## **Sam Jones at The Leisure Review symposium**

Culture shouldn't just be about keeping theatres or museums going. It's about what they do, what they provide and the role they provide in the public realm. Rather than seeing culture as a luxurious cost, what is the cost of losing cultural opportunities?



## **Sam Jones at The Leisure Review symposium**

Sport shouldn't just be about keeping sports halls or swimming pools going. It's about what they do, what they provide and the role they provide in the public realm. Rather than seeing sport as a luxurious cost, what is the cost of losing sporting opportunities?

# Thank you

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