



View from the Lakes Autumn 2007

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CSL at Milton Country Park

On Thursday 19th July Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust was appointed by South Cambridgeshire District Council to manage and operate Milton Country Park, which immediately abuts the South West corner of the CSL site.

During the intervening months since that decision work has been continuing behind the scenes to ensure that all of the necessary legal and financial due diligence processes are completed on time and to the satisfaction of all parties.

CSLT will receive Milton Country Park from SCDC on a long lease (99 years) and will be responsible for all day to day operational matters at the park.

This change is going to bring a number of exciting opportunities to CSLT as we evolve from being a development organisation to effectively delivering an operational facility.



Map showing the proximity of MCP to the CSL site

We are already working on plans to refurbish and extend the existing visitor centre and subject to the planning process we aim to have the facility operating to a new business model by the end of 2008.

At the time of writing a final transfer date is yet to be agreed, but it is expected to be between January and March 2008.

The trust looks forward to expanding the opportunities on offer to the community and building on the parks successes, and to welcoming both new and existing users into the Park in the Spring.



Milton Country Park, Photo by courtesy of Day Barr

Milton Country Park Background

Formerly farmland, both arable and pasture, MCP owes much of its present appearance to the extraction of sand and gravel for the building of roads and houses from 1930 to 1960. However, the first material taken from the site was clay, in much smaller quantities, by Roman potters about 1,800 years earlier!

When sand and gravel extraction ceased in 1960, the site became overgrown with thick Hawthorn and Willow scrub and entered a period of neglect and misuse that ended in 1990 when work started on the Country Park. The park opened to the public in 1993 and has been a popular local resource ever since.

With Cambridge set to continue expanding in the coming years, we are pleased to be in a position to ensure that Milton Country Park is kept as a green space for the continuing enjoyment of current and future generations.



Changes at the Trust

In August 2007 Michael Garroway moved to Leeds to take up a new post and a fantastic opportunity as head of a new department at Leeds Metropolitan University. Joining us in his place as Interim Manager is Mick Woolhouse.

Mick has spent a number of years working on the development of sport and leisure projects in the UK, including the National Sports Centres on behalf of Sport England.

As well as driving the process to secure the transfer of Milton Country Park, Mick also brings his experience to the development of the Sport Lakes project.

Project Update

Work is currently continuing to ensure that the reserved matters and planning conditions, that must be satisfied prior to development taking place, are finalised.

A key part of this work is the stage 2/3 Flood Risk Assessment that is required by the Environment Agency. This work will be executed shortly.

A section 106 Development Agreement sits alongside the planning process and this document is close to being finalised.

Our efforts to secure the necessary funding to build CSL continue and we have a number of meetings scheduled with potential donors. Our strategy is now focussed on three key strands; Economic and sporting development agencies, charitable and institutional giving, and private individual donors.

Job Advert

COMMUNITY ROWING COACHES

Cambridge Sport Lakes, in partnership with Living Sport and Rob Roy Boat Club, currently has funding for 6.5 hours per week junior coaching, starting Spring 08.

For more details please contact Aimée Mason on 01223 567360 or aimee.mason@cambridgesportlakes.org.uk

The position would suit post grad student, part time or self employed person.



A conversation with Tim Williams, Cambridge Triathlete and CSL Volunteer

How will the Lakes impact the future of your club?

'We adult cyclists and triathletes do most of our training and racing on the open road. We ride through the traffic and out of town for a few miles to where the roads are quieter and there are fewer junctions, parked cars and traffic lights. For most of us a typical ride will be over 20 miles long.

What do children of under 15 do though? Are their parents happy to let them ride through the traffic to train alone? They might be lucky: There might be an adult cyclist or coach who is prepared to ride with them. If there is a group they'll have to stick together, at the speed of the slowest, or hope that there are a lot of adults with a lot of time.

I can tell you that this scenario is no way to keep kids in cycling. It's enough to get them keen, to give them a sense of what cycling is all about, but then it's like reining them in and holding them back when they want to press on. Very few kids without cycling parents become cyclists.

The situation is very different, however, everywhere that a cycling circuit has been built. Kids who live near those have somewhere to ride fast and hard,



- somewhere that they don't need adult attention 100% of the time, somewhere that they are free to experience the thrill and the freedom that cycling gives them. Somewhere that they can race!

For triathletes of all ages the CSL will bring fabulous new opportunities as it will be the first purpose built triathlon venue. I'll get onto the racing in a minute but first think how difficult it is to practice for triathlon: You need to swim outdoors, then cycle hard and fast straight away. Where can you do that safely and securely?'

How will the Lakes impact your sport in the region?

'From the point of view of the wider triathlon and cycling communities there will be more races for all ages and abilities at an easy to reach venue (without a pre-dawn start). For would-be triathletes and cyclists there will be excellent new opportunities to have a go – something that there isn't round here at the moment.

The CSL will also be one of the few venues suitable for top quality elite racing so I certainly hope that we'll attract some of the world's best triathletes to come to Cambridge to race and train.'

What do you enjoy about being one of the Trusts key volunteers and friends?

'What do I enjoy as a volunteer and friend? Hmm. I know what I don't enjoy – all of the waiting! I'm looking forward to seeing it started and looking forward even more to seeing it finished. Then I'll really start enjoying myself.'



First annual schools Triathlon gets off on the right foot

The Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust Schools Junior Triathlon got off to a great start on the last Saturday in July when forty budding Triathletes from more than a dozen Cambridge schools converged on Impington Village College pool and sports field to take part.

During the past year CSL Community Triathlon Coaches Helen Eggar, Dawn Green and Don Hutchinson have been working in 13 local secondary and primary schools delivering weekly extra curricular Triathlon clubs.



Junior Triathlon Event Winners

For most of the children competing, the Schools Junior Triathlon was the culmination of a years training and their first competition.

Don Hutchinson said "The uptake in the school clubs this year has been phenomenal and the kids have really been looking forward to the competition. It's going to give them a great taste of what Triathlon is all about".

Aimée Mason, CSLT Programme Development Manager said "We hope that the Triathlon will become an annual event. The Schools Triathlon Programme is coming to the end of its second year now and is going from strength to strength. It is wonderful to see the Triathletes progressing and moving up into the Cambridge Triathlon Club".

CSLT would like to thank Mott MacDonald engineering Ltd for their generous sponsorship of this event. •



Juniors show their pulling power

On Saturday 15th of July fifty young rowers from across Cambridge gathered at Impington Village College to compete in the Cambridge Sport Lakes Junior Indoor Rowing Competition.

The competition was open to junior rowers, aged 11 to 18, from schools and rowing clubs from Cambridge and the surrounding area.



Impington Village College students compete in the Team Challenge

For students from Parkside Community College, Impington Village College and Bottisham Village College the event was the conclusion of two terms of training. Monica Relph, Community Rowing Coach for CSL has been running weekly after school sessions in the schools, offering the students the chance to take up the sport for which Cambridge is so well known. Monica said “the enthusiasm from the kids is impressive; they can’t wait to put into practice what they have learnt and to win some medals”.



The Team Challenge winners, Cantabrigian RC

Prizes were awarded to the winning athletes by Great Britain Junior Indoor Rowing Champion Harriet Bridges and representatives from the event sponsors Mott MacDonald, Engineering Ltd. and prize benefactors Ensors, Chartered Accountants •

Event Winners 2007

MJ12	TOOKE	James	City RC
WJ12	MORGAN	Rebecca	City RC
WJ13	ROTHER	Camilla	Parkside CC
MJ14	PERKINS	Sebastian	Cantabrigian RC
MJ15	PARKER	Max	Rob Roy BC
MJ16	ANDERSON	Hugh	Rob Roy BC
TEAM CHALLENGE			Cantabrigian RC

SAVE THE DATE - Easter 2008

TRIATHLON TASTER DAYS

Young Beginners

Tuesday 25th 10am – 3:30pm

Young Improvers

Wednesday 26th 10am – 3:30pm

ROWING for;

Young Beginners

Monday 24th – Thursday 27th March

2:00-3:30pm

Young Improvers

Monday 24th – Thursday 27th March

4:00-5:30pm

For more information please email aimee.mason@cambridgesportlakes.org.uk

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