

Aspire Sports & Cultural Trust

2010 Review



Aspire awarded the Social Enterprise Mark

Aspire Sports and Cultural Trust were awarded the Social Enterprise Mark in August, only the second Social Enterprise to be awarded the Mark in Gloucestershire.



The Mark sets out to identify businesses which are leading the revolution for a better way of doing business. It aims to demonstrate to customers an organisation that is committed to social and environmental objectives and is trading for people and planet.

Aspire strives to provide people of all ages and abilities access to high quality, affordable and sustainable recreational and cultural facilities. Being awarded the Social Enterprise Mark recognises the achievements we have made to date in meeting our goals while at the same time employing an ethos of environmental and social care.

Capital monies of approximately £250,000 have been allocated for energy sustainability projects, that will save energy and reduce the carbon footprint significantly. The first of the four projects being undertaken is the installation of automatic pool covers at GL1 leisure Centre.

This is just one of a number of operational systems we are employing to ensure we limit our impact on the environment and we are proud to display the Mark as a symbol of commitment.

Aspire turned two years old in September

In the first 24 months of Aspire managing GL1 Leisure Centre & Oxstalls Tennis Centre the sites had served:

578,000 Pool Users at GL1 Leisure Centre
415,000 Sports Users at GL1 Leisure Centre
215,000 Horizons Health & Fitness Visits
260,000 Oxstalls Tennis Centre Visits
In the 2010, 10,800 Free Swimming Cards were issued, which enabled 54% of local 5-16 year olds to enjoy free swimming for a year
Aspire's comprehensive database of members and casual users rose to in excess of 22,000.

In total...1.5million visits over 24months

Quest success

We received an outstanding Quest result achieving 70 to 80% in two years, which would normally take at least four years to achieve. This would place us in the top 30 Leisure Centres in the Country.

This demonstrates the quality of service we provide for our customers as viewed by an external adjudicator. The result should not be a surprise as the organisers of the National Synchro and the Student Fencing at Oxstalls, both contacted Aspire to thank us for the quality and dedication of our facility teams.

Aspire Events round-up

A Spring bursting with events

Over the spring bank holiday weekend Oxstalls once again hosted the National Wheelchair Tennis Championships.

Not to be outdone, GL1 hosted a weekend of Women's Artistic Gymnastics - The British Espoir Championships. We were able to provide a high quality venue to the hirers exacting specifications and received thanks for a job well done.

We also managed to squeeze in three days of swimming championships plus a dance competition!

A Summer of sport and success for Gloucester

A host of Aspire assisted sporting activities filled the regional calendar this Summer.

Oxstalls Tennis Centre hosted Gloucester's high energy Volleyball Festival in August; seeing national and regional league teams, social teams, junior teams and three six-a-side teams come together for three days of competition, entertainment and camping.

Gloucester's mini Wimbledon saw 300 children from 25 Gloucester primary schools competing in 7 family tennis festivals. The festivals were supported by the club coaches from Oxstalls & Riverside and the Gloucester School Sports Partnership and proved a great success.

Oxstalls Tennis Centre also entered 15 mini and Junior teams into the AEGON team tennis competition held throughout April, May and June. Oxstalls completed 382 matches with 65 players representing the centre and out of the 15 teams an impressive 9 teams won their respective leagues.

Hosting well run high quality events helps the Aspire brand image immensely, and is something that we continue to take pride in.

Mystery Shopping

At the end of July our facilities GL1, Oxstalls and Horizons underwent a mystery shopping exercise. The experience was a good one with staff being reported as bright, breezy, friendly and full of information. Overall the facilities were seen as good.

All managers then worked with their teams during August and September to discuss the detail of the reports and agreed the good practice and improvement required.

A year by the poolside

New £30,000 accessible facilities a great success

An advanced suite of fully accessible facilities for disabled people at GL1 Leisure Centre was opened in May and has proved highly popular and is now in regular use.

The poolside facilities marked a real investment in disabled access as the centre also launched a new programme that aimed to raise the profile and abilities of young disabled swimmers.

The suite of equipment allows greater access to the swimming pools through new changing facilities and a poolside hoist. The main feature is a customized electronic ceiling lift that enables users to be transferred in a comfortable and dignified way and also eliminates manual lifting.

Bridging the Gap programme

GL1 leisure centre launched its 'Bridging the Gap' programme in May, a new initiative that aims to support and develop young talented disabled athletes.

The programme consists of 8-10 week 1-hour specialist swimming lessons which will allow disabled swimmers from the ages of 7-14 years old to develop their swimming skills and reach County level. The scheme will also develop the skills of centre swimming coaches and grow links with school and city swimming clubs.

High levels of swimming lessons

After successfully changing our swimming development programme to a rolling 50 week programme, over 600 children continued their swimming lessons with us over the summer holidays.



Aspire scoops 'Coaching Environment of the Year' award

Aspire received the ASA South West Regional 2010 Workforce Award in the category 'Coaching Environment of the Year'. The award recognised an organisation that had created a quality environment for the support and development of swimming teachers and coaches, showing innovation and transfer of knowledge through an effective system.



Kidz Camps Summer Success

The Aspire Kidz Camps proved really popular over the summer with participants numbers averaging between 30-40 a day. Customer comments from evaluations had also shown that the camps have been warmly welcomed by parents. Out of 60 evaluations we had an overall satisfaction standing of either satisfied or very satisfied of 100%!!! Since opening up the age range to the 5-8 age range, numbers have started to increase.

NPLQ Success

The Institute of Qualified Lifeguards awarded GL1 97%, on its National Pool Lifeguard Qualification, the external assessor looked in to all NPLQ courses run in the last year, Lifeguard training records, Lifeguard Training and all external assessments. This is a big jump from 76% last year. The external assessor said "If all records were kept as well as yours my job would be very easy."

Lifeguard Competition

We sent two teams to the Inaugural Gloucestershire Lifesaving Competition at Gloucestershire Girls College in early December.

Over all we came 1st and 2nd in the competition beating several other centers and lifesaving clubs in the Gloucestershire area.

Horizons Health & Fitness

Aspire invested in state of the art fitness equipment for Horizons

Horizons Health & Fitness was given a face-lift and brand new kit as part of Aspire's investment commitment to the residents of Gloucester.

The gym is now one of the best equipped facilities in Gloucester and, more importantly, in line with the trust's charitable objectives; it offers pay and play options and non contract options to enable people who want to keep fit and be active in Gloucester to enjoy high quality fitness at an affordable price.

Horizons changing rooms

To give everyone more room to shower and change the changing rooms on the first floor have been knocked through to make one large male changing room. The second floor have also been knocked through, again to make one large female changing room. It is a great improvement at busy times to have more room to move and is a lighter more airy space.

Charitable activity

Charity partnership with Gloucestershire Young Carers

Aspire created a charity partnership with Gloucestershire Young Carers a charity that was established in 1993 to give young carers in the county a voice and a network of support.

Young carers are children and young people who have a caring responsibility for a family member with a disability, physical or mental ill health or who is affected by substance misuse.

The charity aims to create a network of support for young carers across the county and to work with young carers to ensure that service providers understand their needs and respond appropriately.

To kick off the local charity partnership Steve Elway (Chief Executive) raised £500 in sponsorship for Gloucestershire Young Carers by undertaking the 'Great Mile Swim'. Steve completed the challenge in under 50 minutes.

Gala Dinner for Children in Need

On Saturday 6th November Aspire Sports & Cultural Trust teamed up with local promoter Groovy Events for Gloucestershire's 'event of the year'. A spectacular gala dinner-dance headlined by The Drifters, supported by Paulo Pinto, Duke, Craig White & DKS, provided an evening of wonderful entertainment.

This was the first time GL1 had hosted a catering based event on this scale and to rise to the challenge, the centre transformed for the evening with a red carpet entrance, complementary bubbly, vodka and canapés, lounge singer and a beautiful candle-lit 3-course meal served in a specially dressed Glevum Hall complete with dance floor.

The 600 guest, 3 course gala dinner, many from local businesses, were entertained by Gloucester DJ John Mustoe and Bert Bouchier who hosted the event.

Proceeds from the event were donated to Children In Need, plus local charities.

A year to remember for Oxstalls Tennis Centre

Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre was presented by the Gloucestershire Lawn Tennis Association with the Club of the Year award for 2010, at their annual general meeting in December. The centre collected the award for the first time and highlights the successful year that the centre had achieved during 2010.

The centre who were recently shortlisted for the Junior Club of the Year award at the Gloucestershire Sports Media awards have had their most successful year since opening and are now celebrating their 10th anniversary this year, 2011.

Oxstalls Tennis Centre will look to improve in the year ahead with more adult teams representing the centre, a number of junior teams representing the centre in regional competitions, continuing to deliver the schools programme to thirty seven primary schools in Gloucester and offer the best chance for individuals and teams to achieve their own personal goals in tennis and sport.



Mile swim

An impressive 102 people joined the GL1 Christmas swim and swam 64 lengths (1 mile) for to raise monies for the Young Carers charity. The next swim is in April - the Swimathon for Marie Curie, come and join us!

Staff going that extra mile (and some!)

Many staff members take part in our Charity events and some go the extra mile to raise funds for charity. Our Operations Manager Sally likes to set herself a challenge each year. Last year was climbing the 3 peaks and swimming the Open Great Mile Swim in the Thames, London. This year she is climbing Kilimanjaro in Africa.

Carnival

Aspire attended the annual Carnival handing out promotional literature.

Oxstalls Players met Wimbledon Stars

In June eleven children from Oxstalls met some of the stars who competed at Wimbledon in a specially arranged trip. The children and coaches toured the grounds, looked at the trophies, walked onto Centre Court and met number 2 seed Rafael Nadal, Jelena Jankovic (No4 seed) and Jamie Murray.



Oxstalls Adult Tennis Teams

Oxstalls Tennis Centre entered 5 men's teams and 2 ladies teams into the Gloucestershire Summer League – the Men's B team won their division and the Men's A & Men's D & Ladies A & Ladies B teams all got promoted in their respective division.

Oxstalls Club Championships

The Oxstalls Club Championships were held over the weekend of 11th & 12th September with 86 players competing in events from Under 8's through to Men's and Ladies doubles. The weekend finished with a Fun Adult and child mini tennis competition and BBQ followed by presentation evening. Oxstalls Coach of the Year was Jason Poole.

3rd Junior Open tennis tournament

During October Half Term the Tennis Centre held their 3rd Junior Open tennis tournament with over 270 children competing from all over the country. There were a number of local winners from the county and two players who train at the centre won their age groups.