

## RATIONALISATION AND REFURBISHMENT

DESPITE THE REDUCTION in grant funding available through the National Lottery for Community Capital Projects, local authorities, universities and schools are willing to consider building new facilities or refurbish old ones. But in some cases the costs have caused closure or rationalisation of existing facilities, and replacements may not match up to the expectations of clubs.

In January 2002 a House of Commons Select Committee examined the sport in its widest context. In its submission the ASA drew attention to the poor state of many of the country's pools and the need to spend £2bn over the next few years just to maintain the status quo. This factor weighs heavily when the ASA tries to reconcile the different views and expectations of those involved in new and refurbishment schemes. During the course of the year over 800 requests for assistance from swimming clubs, consultants, architects, local authorities and other organisations were received and acted upon by the ASA.

### Loughborough University 50m Pool

In July the new 50m pool at Loughborough University was used for the first time, by the Team England Swim Team as their holding camp before the Commonwealth Games. Built at a cost of £7m with a £6m grant from Sport England, the pool forms an important element of the English Institute of Sport network of facilities and adds to the 50m pools at Bath and Manchester.

### London and Crystal Palace

London still lags behind in the provision of 50m pools. Of particular concern is the impasse at Crystal Palace, though there may be a glimmer of hope on the horizon. Following the success of the Commonwealth Games a further report on Crystal Palace's future is being prepared. It is hoped progress on the refurbishment of

the existing facilities or the provision of new ones will become a matter of urgency for Government and Sport England policy.

### Planning for Pools

Steady progress was made in 2002 with the provision of 50m facilities. There is hope that by 2005 the number of 50m pools in England will have increased by at least a further five with other schemes in the pipeline.

- **Leeds** A replacement for the Leeds International Pool by a 50m pool with 10m diving facilities. Work is under way on the second stage of Lottery Funding bid.
- **Liverpool** Subject to the council's reassessment of its capital programme tenders, as part of the second stage lottery bid, to be sought in April 2003.
- **Newcastle** Resubmission of first stage lottery bid late 2002.
- **Sunderland** Second stage lottery bid under way.
- **Portsmouth** Preparing first stage lottery bid.
- **Hillingdon** Discussions with English Heritage re Listed Building status of site nearing conclusion and first stage lottery bid being prepared.

In **Birmingham** consideration is being given to a site at the Alexander Stadium. Consultants have been appointed in **Coventry** to undertake a feasibility study on the existing listed facility; refurbishment or replacement options are being considered. A feasibility study into the replacement of **Waltham Forest** pool by an eight-lane facility including diving will take place, and **Bristol** has a strategy for the rationalisation and modernisation of facilities to include a 50m pool and diving in the south of the City. **Cambridge University** is planning a 50m pool, a £100m Public Private Partnership scheme in **Crawley** for rationalisation of education and recreation services includes the provision of a 50m pool, and in **Luton** a PFI bid has been submitted for a 50m facility.

Steady progress was made in 2002 for the provision of new 50m pool facilities. The Loughborough University pool was used for the first time in July as a holding camp for the England swimming team prior to the Commonwealth Games. It's hoped that by 2005 England will have a further five 50m pools

