



HeadsUp Forum

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'The Great Sport Debate... Is Britain keeping up with the pace?'

(September 18th – October 6th 2006)

An online platform providing young people with a secure and structured space to discuss their perspectives on sport

Sport is one of the most popular British pastimes, giving people the chance to exercise regularly and to participate in a huge array of disciplines from football to the long jump. Sport is also credited with creating happy communities as well as healthier and longer lives, yet the majority of the population are not regularly active - leading to concerns about obesity.

Does sport provides an escape route from studying? Is sport given sufficient prominence in schools? Are too many barriers placed in the way of young people trying to play sport?

During this Forum timely statistics on obesity were released which the Government highlighted as a high priority by appointing a new Fitness Minister to tackle it.

Given the subject matter for this Forum, covering big questions in the sporting field, it was unsurprising that the debate was much-anticipated by a range of interested parties, key decision-makers, young people, teachers and parliamentarians.

Young people in this HeadsUp debate demonstrated their knowledge of a wide range of sports-related issues being deliberated. They pushed their own opinions and tried to see all sides of the argument. This debate gained sporting expertise from an excellent range of well qualified MPs, taking part online.

From a parliamentary perspective, this was a tricky period to run a debate – since MPs were attending party conferences for days during the course of the debate. However, the debate benefited from the involvement of a Minister from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (we greatly appreciate the help of Emma Heywood at the DCMS in managing the ministerial responses). Overall, the following MPs took part in the debate:

- **Richard Caborn MP** - Minister for Sport.
- **Hugh Robertson MP** - Shadow Minister for Sport and the Olympics.
- **Don Foster MP** - Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.
- **Lord Clement-Jones*** - Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Culture, Media and Sport.
- **Derek Wyatt MP*** - Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Olympic and Paralympic Group
- **Alan Keen MP*** - Member of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee.

* These decision-makers provided a statement of support before the debate began and will be asked to respond to this report.

Well in advance of this Sport debate, a whole host of sportspeople were invited to take part including: Lord Coe, Chair of London 2012, Dame Kelly Holmes, Paula Radcliffe, Sir Steve Redgrave, Amir Khan and Steve Cram. However, despite the best efforts of the HeadsUp team, these sportsmen and women could not participate due to their busy schedules.

For over a year the HeadsUp team have offered short, one-to-one online training sessions to all participating decision-makers. This training has paid dividends as all HeadsUp participants are reaping the benefits of the continued involvement of expert decision-makers in all our Forums. These sessions help familiarise them with the key features of HeadsUp.org.uk and encourage their participation in the debates once they can see for themselves how simple and straightforward the website is to use.

Senior Ministers and MPs from all political parties continue to see HeadsUp as a must. This development was highlighted after the HeadsUp team invited all the Ministers from the DCMS to participate. Tessa Jowell MP initially accepted but was replaced by Richard Caborn MP due to diary commitments.

HeadsUp held a timely Forum to establish young people's perceptions on four sporting themes, among others - Sport in School, Community Sport, Sexist Sport and British Sport.

Before this debate began, the HeadsUp team decided as there was a multitude of possible areas for discussion under the broad sporting umbrella, that it would benefit from being divided into four more manageable sections; on whether young people think they have sufficient exercise at school, on the standard of sports facilities in local communities, on whether some sports were sexist and if they thought there was a problem with the British mentality towards sport.

22% of comments were posted in the Forum out of school hours in the Great Sport Debate. This is a particularly welcome development as it underlines how keen young people are to use this resource, so much so that they will give up some of their precious spare time to keep on top of the debate as it develops. Students could visit the Forum as often as they liked during the three weeks that the Great Sport Debate ran. Young people were given the opportunity to find out more about the issues but also to discuss their sporting opinions and respond to the thoughts from their peers.

The main HeadsUp objective is not only to enable peer-to-peer deliberation on hot political issues, policies or events but also to provide students with a means of informing themselves about the topic. In keeping with the youth participation agenda, a summary report outlining key findings and quotes is disseminated to interested parties, particularly parliamentarians and government, enabling young people's voices to be heard by key decision-makers.

This sport Forum, like all previous HeadsUp debates, was supported by structured, student-centred background notes that included an explanation of the key areas surrounding the current sporting legalisation, an overview of the key issues around sport, a comprehensive glossary and summaries of arguments for and against specific sporting issues, such as the cost of Wembley and the London 2012 Olympics. These and other relevant facts and figures were presented in a student-centred tone, with a deliberate effort to keep jargon to a minimum.

Students aged between 11 and 17 from secondary schools right across the UK took part in this sport debate. Recent HeadsUp debates on gritty issues have led to a core group of students participating regularly in the Forums. Even more impressive is that HeadsUp still manages to attract new schools, teachers, and young people to register to take part in the debates. The participants made multiple visits over the three-week duration of the debate and there were 282 posts in total.

This summary report gives an account of the debate that took place and includes key posts from students. Conclusions from the debate are to be found at the end of the report. Special care has been taken to ensure that the report is non-partisan and representative of the views expressed by the participants.

Summarising every HeadsUp debate is a particularly tricky, yet fascinating, process. In particular, the difficult task of accurately capturing the deliberations without taking participant's opinions out of context. We address this issue to some extent by attaching all the transcripts from the debate at the end of the longer version of the summary report, so those interested readers can follow the debate as it actually unfolded.

We would all like to convey our thanks and appreciation to the parliamentarians who gave up their time to participate in this debate. We would also like to extend an invitation to interested parties, particularly parliamentarians and government, and interested NGOs, academics and journalists to respond to the findings.

Responses and requests for further information should be directed to:

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'The Great Sport Debate...Is Britain keeping up with the pace?'

Forum Summary

Do you get enough exercise or PE at school?

Moderators asked HeadsUp participants to assess their first hand experiences of sport in school – was it adequate and did it provide them with sufficient choice? Perhaps unsurprisingly, this particular discussion space proved to be the most popular in the whole Forum.

After considering the question in hand, one participant decided that not only did they have an appropriate amount of sports lessons but also they had access to a high level of sporting choice:

"I think I had about the right amount of sports lessons at school. We had 2 lessons (one hour lessons) a week for the first 2 years and then one lesson for the other 3 years. We did a range of sports with no choice in the first three years. I thought this basic model and organisation was okay."

However, elsewhere in this Great Sport debate the outlook is best described as mixed. Participants used the Forum to report instances where they do feel that they get sufficient sport in school, but this was followed by a note of caution. One young person told their peers that you only get access to a good amount of sport if you are picked in a sport squad, whilst another pointed to homework as a hurdle or barrier standing in the way of sporting participation:

"I think you only get enough sport in school if you are chosen to be in sports squads, or if you take part in extra sports clubs. If you are not eager about taking part in sports you are not encouraged to try and generally the sports staff pay more attention to those who are able at sport."

"even though there is a lot of sport and activities available at my school, unfortunately we do get a lot of homework and therefore, have 'no time' for sport or activities that will help us with our fitness."

Continuing on the issue of the perceived barriers placed in the way of young people taking part in sport, a large group of participants voiced their concern at the PE kit which they have to wear. Students reported that they were required to wear a variety of sports kits, which all have cost implications, and were also uncomfortable. One proactive student even recommended that a PE kit shop should be opened in their school, to make it easier to purchase the clothing:

"I think people are discouraged from PE by the kit we have to wear! I don't know about other schools, but our PE kits (White polo shirt and black shorts) is uncomfortable and not at all flattering. I'm not a vain person, but I don't like looking like a prat during PE - which I do!"

"I think we should have a P.E kit shop at school because sometimes it is hard to find shops that sell P.E kit and you might be able to get some."

During the Forum, the weather took a particular turn for the worse and so the moderators posed a timely question asking if they felt safe playing sport in wet or icy conditions. Participants understandably voiced collective concern for their safety, as argued by this user:

“I think sport should not be performed on a wet day like today”

Deliberations certainly did not end there. The situation was clear according to a group of young people, who highlighted the importance of being active but felt that more sporting choices in schools was paramount:

“I think being active is very important, but at school there isn't enough range of things to do. I understand that equipment is expensive, but they could give us more choice than just football and netball surely? The best at my school is trampolining, but so many people want to do it, you don't get very much time on the trampoline at all! also, I think people are discouraged from PE by the kit we have to wear!”

“I think that there should be a variety of different sports in school, which aim to provide for everyones interests and abilities. I also think that there should be more sports that are less competitive for those who find sport hard.”

The focus of the debate turned specifically to solutions in this discussion thread. Participants analysed the amount of sport played in their school and systematically offered some solutions to the issues in hand. Clearly, some believed that the answers to these problems can be found by looking at the rosy picture regarding school sport in Australia and the USA:

“I have a friend who lives in Melbourne and she was describing the sports she does at school. They train most mornings and evenings and they do a lot of intense fitness sessions so they all do a really good amount of exercise.”

“Sport in schools, doesn't get much media attention. In the USA school sport is in the papers, there's national leagues, big tournaments and cups to be won. Surely we could do the same seeing as our country is much smaller?”

A fitness suite inside someone's school came in for praise for simply being available. However, they did recommend that it should be made even easier to use in free periods or after school for those people who want to use it:

“We have a fitness suite which can not be used if you are below lower 6 (year 12) in your frees which doesn't encourage sport and enthusiasm at all. I think at least if you are in year 10 you should be able to use it in your frees and after school til 5pm.”

Mindsets need to change, some participants astutely noted. One student detailed how people who do exercise undo that good work by eating poorly, whilst another made a plea for school sport to be made more fun. However, the end goal for a third young person was to get Parliament running in a comic relief style event for charity:

“A lot of people do exercise during the week, but eat unhealthily at the same time, so their bodies have to work harder.”

“i think sport should be emphasised as more fun and something you choose to do and not something you are forced to do!”

“I think that there should be a government Comic Relief type thing where all the people of parliament do a huge run (9 miles) and raise money”

What better way to sign off the comments posted in this discussion thread by mentioning the praise heaped on HeadsUp participants by the Sports Minister, Richard Caborn MP. He

enthused about the quality and encouraging comments from young people who took part in the Great Sport Debate.

He was also quick to appreciate that despite the government's work in this area over the last few years, there is still plenty of room for improvement. He admits that comments about unsatisfactory PE kits are useful and highlighted that one of the areas Kelly Holmes, the National School Sport Champion, is looking at are factors effecting sports participation:

"I'm really pleased to see so many positive posts about school sport. We've done a lot of work over the last four years to make sure that a range of sports are offered to young people during school - and that there are links with clubs after school so those people who want to do more, can. Reading these posts, it's clear there's more to be done, and we will continue to look at the issues around school sport. In fact, Kelly Holmes is our National School Sport Champion and is talking to young people up and down the country about school sport and their views on it. One of the things she's looking at are the factors that effect participation in sport - and certainly the comments posted here about being unhappy with your school PE kit are really useful. This is obviously something that concerns a lot of people, and if that is the case, it's something I think we need to look at. We want to make sure young women - and men - feel as comfortable as possible while they're playing sport."



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Forum Summary

Are there enough places to play sport in your area and does it help build community spirit?

In this discussion space, focus naturally turned to the sporting options available to young people outside of school in their communities. Furthermore, they were asked whether playing sport in their local area helped build or boost community spirit.

A host of passionate and active young people helped kick off the debate, and collectively advertised their love of a massive range of sporting disciplines, highlighting the flexibility of the pastime. These HeadsUp commentators were typical and participated in some intriguing sports themselves:

"Well sports are my favourite thing. I do karate for 3 hours non stop on Sunday and play football everyday at school. I believe there are many opportunities for people to be fit. However it is hard to get into football clubs and it's hard to get into the Olympics."

"I like going Dirtsurfing down the local mudbowl and down out road (dirtsurfing is a extreme sport that looks like a skateboard+a bike mixed up but there are no handle bars or a seat) i find that really fun"

"In Dunmow there are lots of places to do sport and there is even a roller hockey team for boys and girls however inexperienced you are"

For all these positive experiences of local sport, there was at best a mixed outlook elsewhere. Some young people complained about the availability of sport close to their homes, whilst another noted the age limit imposed by a local gym, making it harder for them to exercise:

"I live really out of the way so if you want to go anywhere you have to drive. I used to go to a horseriding club but it was a twenty minute drive away which was a pain because my mum didn't like driving me. I know there's a tennis club nearby but it's for serious players!"

"in my community there are no places to play sport, there are the local teams but these are more aimed at boys, girls don't seem to have anything where i live!"

"I live in barnet and there is not enough sports their. the gym has an age limit and their is not many sports their for girls."

At this juncture of deliberations, Richard Caborn MP stressed his concern after reading that some HeadsUp participants had limited access to sport outside school. He pointed young people in the direction of Sport England and Active Places which listed sporting facilities/clubs in their local area:

"I'm concerned to read from some of you that you don't have access to the sports you want in your area because we are working hard to make sure sport is available to everyone. In each region of the country there is a Sport England office - and website - which will give you information on local sporting opportunities. In addition, check out

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www.activeplaces.com - where you can search for facilities near you. The fact is, we believe sport is a vital part of every community. Be it local football teams, aerobics classes or swimming clubs, community sport has a really important role in improving your quality of life. That is why we are investing so much money into local programmes and facilities that give people a chance to participate in a wide range of sports."

Picking up directly on Richard Caborn's notion that community sport helps improve quality of life, these participants agreed that playing sport with people who live near you is good for the community:

"There is a big park in bishops stortford so you get to play games with people you don't know, so it's good for the community."

"There is always someone to play football wiv were I live and completely random people challenge people for matches and we live near to towns wiv swimming pools and stuff theres always something to do"

"Where I live there is a lot of places such as parks and open grass areas where you could go where there are football posts and basketball posts etc."

However from another person's perspective, more sport would not lead to a boost or increase in community spirit:

"In my area there is a big sports complex (Canons) which had a wide variety of sports equipment and classes. however I don't think that more sport would encourage community spirit"

Developing the focus of the debate further, several young people astutely identified that with improved advertising in their region, sports participation must increase. One HeadsUp user commented that if sports were better advertised that they would go along, whilst another pointed out that many smaller sports clubs are forced to close because a limited number of people hear about them:

"If there are places to do sport in the area then I wouldn't know because they're not advertised or anything. If there was sport activities going on in St. Albans I don't see why some friends and I wouldn't go along!"

"there is enough sport in the area, however, a lot of the small clubs end up closing down because no one hears about them."

The Australian model is one which Hugh Robertson MP believes we should be copying in this country, which channels funding to individual sports for them to allocate locally:

"In Britain, there is too much emphasis on driving up participation in sport by central government initiatives. A far better approach is to copy the Australian model by giving the money direct to the individual sports who can then invest it in good schemes run locally."

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Forum Summary

Are certain sports still too sexist?

Controversial though this main question was, we wanted to get to the bottom of this issue, by asking the young people themselves whether some sports were still regarded as sexist. Had they been interested in playing a sport traditionally associated with the opposite sex and come across barriers to their participation?

Hugh Robertson MP used the Great Sport Debate to make a plea to participants to get involved in sport, whilst also underlining that women's sports are some of the fastest growing disciplines around:

"Some of the fastest growing sports in this country are the girls sections of sports like cricket and football - and with 2012 approaching there are lots of opportunities to get involved in a whole range of sports. Get involved! I meet many people who have 'given it a go' and it has transformed their lives!"

Participating young people were not afraid to dive in and have their say on the questions posed in this discussion topic. The first school of thought argued that sports are still largely sexist to varying degrees and they noted a worrying rise in cases of bullying for young people who take part in sports associated with the opposite sex:

"I think sports are sexist to quite a huge extent, although I can understand why. In contact sports, I know I wouldn't want to face the boys in Rugby. I'm not as strong as them, and wouldn't feel comfortable playing with them. However, I can't understand why not as many girls take part in sports like Rugby, and why Boys don't do more dance. Why can't girls play Rugby against each other? Why are boys ridiculed if they dance, even though it requires strength and rhythm?"

"i luv football, and im a girl... I play it all the time and I wish there was a club nearby, the only girls football club is 4 the st albans girls football team, and i'm not that good!!! I know boys that do girly sports and boys that aren't sporty and they get bullied. i think that's awful."

Continuing on the theme of sexist sport, this participant detailed their first-hand experience of this occurring in schools. Constructively, they even suggest that event organisers should suggest places where young people can participate in sports outside school:

"sexist sport is mean and makes people feel left out if you can't play sport the person organising the event should at least say where you could do it somewhere else. Often people laugh if someone or a team lose against a girls team."

For another participant, the issues which need addressing are the stereotyping of certain sports as well as the sporting options available in schools:

"netball is the principal sport which is stereo typed as a girl's sport. It's a fun game but I LOVE football and basketball which are only played once in the whole of your time at the school!"

Clearly there were some young people who believed that sexism in sport was no longer an issue. In the present climate, boys play some traditional 'girl' games and vice versa for the girls. However, the majority agreed that the scheduling of women playing sport on TV at unsocial times perpetuates the problem:

"I think sport isn't sexist of girls play 'boy' games and boys play 'girl' games!! it is not a problem"

"It's getting better in schools now, I mean girls play football and rugby all the time, but on tv it's still mega sexism. All the women's matches are played on sky, or at eleven at night and there's hardly any publicity about them unless it's something like Wimbledon."

"I don't like the way it's more common to see men's sport on TV"

Calling on an inner strength of character, one young person posted a 'call to arms' for their HeadsUp peers asking them to ignore the sexist remarks and keep playing sports they enjoy and feel passionately about:

"It's your choice what you play, you shouldn't let sexist remarks stop you from playing the sport if your that passionate about it! go go go"

The Sports Minister, Richard Caborn MP, was clear that one of the key areas which needs addressing is that lots of young women stop participating in sport once they have left school. He identifies part of the solution, already in motion, which showcases young sportswomen as role models for girls across the country in the run up to the 2012 games:

"Far too many young women switch off sport when they leave school - or even while they are in education - and we have got to crack this problem if we are to make any real impact in dealing with inactivity and obesity. Now we need new stars to come through and inspire girls to want to take part in sport - people like Becky Lyne, who won a medal in the European athletics championships, and winter Olympic medallist Shelley Rudman can help with this. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games can be really important in this too. But we need a bigger profile for women's sport and more coverage on TV...I hope that imbalance between men's and women's sport can change in the next few years."

Moving the discussion on, the HeadsUp moderators drew participants' attention to a story detailing that three out of four major tennis tournaments ('grandslams') had recently decided to award equal pay to both female and male players. The one tournament still refusing to pay equally to men and women is Wimbledon and we threw this topic open to all HeadsUp users to have their say:

"I know it sounds sexist, but I think I agree that women and men are not equal in the tennis tournament, otherwise they wouldn't have separate tournaments at all."

Analysing the reasons behind this continuing Wimbledon stand, one participant noted the widely held notion of physiological differences between the sexes - preventing women having the same fitness levels as men. However, they were quick to question this theory and quoted their own experiences as examples of instances where women competed and trained for the same time as men:

"They think that men and women cannot compete together because of fitness, strength and stamina levels are different (men have higher levels). Which really is not true. for example I play football and I follow both womens and mens, women play the same amount of time and still have to attend training sessions the same as men and even compete in the same named competitions but get the fraction of payment that men get!"

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Forum Summary

Are you worried by the British mentality towards sport and is it important to your identity or to Britain's position in the world?

Some critics of British sport point to the perceived difference in sporting achievement between Britain and other nations, such as Australia. In an attempt to get to the bottom of the reasons behind this difference, we asked participants if they felt this was a psychological or mental edge which other countries possess and Britain is lacking. Furthermore, did they think that this mentality would affect Britain's position in the world?

This question was intentionally provocative to get a reaction from the participants and they were certainly not afraid to offer one. Overall, they were perhaps understandably patriotic and rejected criticism of British Sport. This young person was typical of the kind of sentiment on the forum and was critical of those who were anti-British sport, calling for a more positive collective outlook:

"I think Sport in England has a completely bad look on it. When it is the Olympics everyone thinks that England is going to be rubbish. This may be true but I think that people should take a more positive look on the matter. When it's the Olympics in London, we're all going to think it's going to be rubbish and we're going to be rubbish. We shouldn't though."

In slight contrast to this comment, another HeadsUp participant was quick to stress that from their perspective taking part in sport is more important than winning all the time. They even go as far to say they don't care if England wins. Interestingly they also pick up on a theory, shared by the majority of their peers, that people love watching sport but should be encouraged to take part in sport:

"I don't actually care if England wins anything because it's not winning it's the taking part. But I think not enough people do sport because they just watch loads of TV if you don't want to do sport try and you may enjoy it"

Building on this comment, another young person seemed to capture the collective mood of the discussion, by criticising the ease with which sport is available to people via a whole host of new technologies, which discourages them from participating in sport for themselves:

"As sport is brought to you in the home via TV, radio and on your mobile, there seems no incentive for people to get out there and join a club."

Another participant strongly believed that the wide range of sport on TV was an inspiration to young people, as they can dream of following their sporting stars into the limelight:

"I think British sport is a good thing for us as there's always something that someone like to watch on T.V. so people get together to watch together and loads of boys go and play football and buy shirts with football stars on. It makes people dream of what they could be. I'm proud of being British even though we hardly ever win stuff we go out with a bang."

The next area to come under scrutiny was over the top support directed at British sportspeople. For this HeadsUp participant, the support was a good thing but could have a tendency to go too far. They also threw their support behind the notion that too much televised sport acts as a barrier to more people getting involved, which could have a knock on effect on the obesity rate:

"I think its nice the way Britain supports it self but its a bit over the top sometimes...but people should be encouraged to actually get out there and be in sports teams, not slob in front of the Olympics or football with popcorn or beer; isn't this how Britain's obesity level has got out of control...too many people are content to watch sport on the TV rather than rouse themselves to get out and join a local sports team."

"I think as a country, we pull together when need be - take this years world cup, everyone was displaying their support for England. It is just a few individuals who criticise England and lack the support."

The HeadsUp moderators focused the debate further by asking young people what they thought of celebrations/support for national sports teams. Specifically the flag bearing or waving which went hand in hand with an England victory in the recent World Cup or Ashes series. Did they think flags hanging from cars and houses was over the top, or justified support for a team?:

"I have no problem with people waving flags out of the window. It just adds fun to the whole thing and makes the actual athletes competing feel like they're doing something worthwhile."

However, one young person intimated that this flag bearing was something unique to team sports like football, rugby and cricket – rather than the upcoming 2012 London Olympics:

"i don't think people will be putting flags on their cars for the Olympics"

Still on the topic of the Olympics, the moderators noted the £2 billion predicted costs of staging the Games, to be met by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) using money raised from the private sector through sponsorship, official suppliers and ticket sales and from a grant from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). This clarification clearly helped this participant who didn't mind the costs involved, as long as they didn't have to pay:

"I was worried about the cost of the Olympics, I thought it wasn't fair as all of us were paying for it through our taxes but only people nearby will really benefit, but if it's not our money being spent then I have no problem at all!"

Reasons for our lack of sporting success came under close examination from the participants, as they sought the answer the million dollar question. In particular, several young people identified contrasting constructive solutions to the problems – namely improving the collective attitude to sport, increased 'fun' advertising, and making it easier for young sportspeople to be given a chance to make the grade:

"i think that peoples general attitude to sport is bad because theres not enough money to go round for them to train so some pertential champions arent able to play in the olympics or big events."

"I think that there should be more advert for sport centres so people can go there and get a chance to have fun at sport."

"I think Britain should work harder so we could have more Olympic champions. I think it's annoying that some people are really good at sport but are too young to get in."

Finally, Don Foster MP hopped online in order to offer his support to the young people taking part and was interested to read concerns they had about staying home and watching sport. He quoted some interesting food related statistics and told them that during the World Cup England fans consumed an extra 218 billion calories:

"It's interesting to hear you talk about people who stay at home and watch sport, as opposed to going out and taking part. During the World Cup, England fans consumed an extra 218 billion calories. That's 31 million kilograms in weight! We drank enough alcohol to fill 49 Olympic Swimming Pools, and ate enough pizza to cover 320 football pitches! So do you think that the more successful we are in international sports, the more likely you would be to head out and emulate your heroes? Or do you think you'd just stay in and watch more sport on telly?"



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Conclusions

- * Not enough sport, not enough choice...**
- * Room for improvement in community sports facilities**
- * Sexism in sport still exists, exacerbated in the media**
- * No problems with British sporting mentality**

This Forum started at a frenetic pace and debate between all HeadsUp participants was impressive. Given the Forum's timing, this outcome was particularly pleasing, as it fell at the beginning of a new academic year. Those participants who did have their say during the Forum ranged from young people aged 11-18 to a range of relevant decision-makers in the UK Parliament.

Young people made four main conclusions in this Great Sport Debate...

When students were asked whether they did enough exercise or PE at school participants generally felt that there was not sufficient choice or time available for sport. Students were all very much aware of the benefits of keeping active but the majority were concerned about uncomfortable PE Kits as barriers to them enjoying sport. The Minister for Sport, Richard Caborn MP, was also quick to acknowledge that despite the government's work in this area over the last few years, there is still plenty of room for improvement.

When analysing sports facilities in their communities, young people thought more could be done to improve standards, cost and availability across the country. Participants were full of praise for good sports facilities in some areas but could not understand why these sporting opportunities were not available elsewhere. We should be looking at the Australian model for solutions, according to Hugh Robertson MP, which channels funding to individual sports for them to allocate locally.

In answer to the controversial question asking whether sport was sexist, the majority believed that some sports were, and more worryingly this was made worse by the media. Astute participants were critical of TV programmers for televising women playing sport at unsociable times or failing that, not at all. Too many female students turn off sport when they leave school, which was identified as real cause for concern by Richard Caborn MP.

There is nothing wrong with the British sporting mentality according to participants. They argued that support of sporting teams is usually passionate and gives the sportspeople involved a boost. After much consultation amongst themselves, the majority noted that the waving of flags after sporting victories was also justified and they did not feel that we were inferior to other nations, such as Australia, in our mental approach to sport.

The range of enthusiastic and relevant parliamentarians taking part online during all three weeks, gave the debate added momentum and a stamp of parliamentary approval from the young people's collective viewpoint. The interaction between young people and decision-makers from all parties (in particular Ministers) was a significant moment as it was more than likely one of their first ever interactions with a parliamentarian. It is also a significant step for HeadsUp, that so many relevant parliamentarians were active in the Great Sport Debate Forum space. We are extremely grateful to all the decision-makers who dedicated their time to respond to young people's opinions in this Great Sport Debate.

'The Great Sport Debate...Is Britain keeping up with the pace?', was another highly topical issue for a HeadsUp Forum and therefore one that was welcomed by young people who participated, other NGOs and MPs from across the political spectrum. It provided a secure, structured but non-sanitised platform for young people to voice their perspectives on the Great Sport debate.

HeadsUp tackles complex political problems but is not designed to make set recommendations. Like adults, young people have a range of perspectives on political events, issues and policies, and often favour different solutions. This resource was established not to give the 'definitive line'; rather it is about providing a space for people to share their views, challenge those of others and, in turn, be challenged.

School Sport :: Forum Topic Transcript

06/09/2006 15:44:00

justice

Welcome to the Great Sport Debate

Active young people are healthy young people and sport certainly helps them make the transition from simply watching it to playing it – allaying fears about increasing numbers of obese children. Now, you will get the opportunity to make your voice heard in this HeadsUp Forum.

A range of parliamentarians want to hear your views on all aspects of the Great Sport Debate – see Who's listening? (http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s122_1). As much as possible, try to BackUp your opinions with facts, where you will find loads of info on all aspects of sport

Do you get enough exercise or PE classes at school?

Why not tell everyone else how your school ranks in terms of sporting achievement and facilities amongst other schools you know of - perhaps your friends go to them?

18/09/2006 11:06:00

Tomo

School PE

my pe teachers always treated the really good footballers or rugby players better than they do the rest of the students. the sporty ones got special treatment - is this the same at your school?

18/09/2006 16:56:00

littles

Re: Tomo

I totally agree with you - I'm not hugely sporty, but the kids who are good at sport are favoured above the rest. How do they expect us to learn when they don't pay us any attention??

18/09/2006 17:01:00

littles

Not enough Choice

I think being active is very important, but at school there isn't enough range of things to do. I understand that equipment ect is expensive, but they could give us more choice than just football and netball surely? The ybest at my school is trampolining, but so many people want to do it, you don't get very much time on the trampoline at all! also, I think people are discouraged from PE by the kit we have to wear! I don't know about other schools, but our PE kits (White polo shirt and black shorts) is uncomfortable and not at all flattering. I'm not a vain person, but I don't like looking like a prat during PE - which I do!!

19/09/2006 11:17:00

biged

Derek Wyatt MP on sport

What is your take on what Derek Wyatt had to say in his statement of support? (http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s122_1)

He believes that sport provides an escape route from studying...but do you agree? Or is not as simple as that?

"Maybe because I was never told I was clever or academic or intellectual I found my relief in sport whilst at school. It was unbelievably challenging as I worked my way up from being school long jump champion to be rated No.1 in the UK and then for good measure I had a final England trial at rugby before later being capped at senior level. Training in the winter running on badly lit roads and struggling on Sunday mornings to make it to my local club four miles away on a bike or by bus, but it was worth every minute. "

19/09/2006 12:09:00

BODDY_Sarah

yes

i think we get enough sport at my school, it gives a good range of activities too but at other schools they dont get as much or the range. there are lots of oppurtunities for a very wide range of clubs at my school but alot of people dont seem to make the most of it, i think sport should be emphasised as more fun and something you choose to do and not something you are forced to do!

19/09/2006 12:09:00

VIJH_Sonika

i think

my school does try to give us a variety of sports but lots of people don't take up the oppotunities, maybe make some sports less serious, and more enjoyable to do.

19/09/2006 12:11:00

HARTE_Fiona

I think

i think that although my school has a wide wide variety of sports, if they made them more flattering more people would get involved!

19/09/2006 12:11:00

KILLEN_Abigail

school sport
the pe kit is awful! Gym kit and airtex for gym... lovely!

19/09/2006 12:12:00

REID_Caroline

Freeze!
I agree. We have a lot of opportunities thrown at us, but we don't take advantage of them. However, I am waiting for a quiet moment to freeze our pool and do some ice skating, which is one thing we don't have. Also, rollerblading. sigh

19/09/2006 12:15:00

KHATRI_Henna

school homework!
even though there is a lot of sport and activities available at my school, unfortunately we do get a lot of homework and therefore, have 'no time' for sport or activities that will help us with our fitness. However, doing sport at my school or even out of school gives me the opportunity to make new friends and to get to know more people, thus meaning that sport is good for your health, as well as your social skills! :o)

19/09/2006 12:15:00

HART_Sophie

i don't mind
doing sport at school but i can't be bothered to walk to the field- use a coach i say!

19/09/2006 12:15:00

ARNOLD_Amy

we don't get the chance to go swimming
if we are in lacrosse squad we can't go swimming in our new sports complex it is very unfair

19/09/2006 12:15:00

MISTRY_Sheena

i think
i think that our school gives us a variety of sports but i think that the sports kit should be changed!!

19/09/2006 12:17:00

NUTTING_Fiona

A choice of sport
I think that at school you should be able to choose what sport you do. e.g. if you are good at swimming you should be able to do that. Also they should introduce some more unusual sports either as clubs or even better in actual lessons such as rollerblading!

19/09/2006 12:17:00

ZAREMBA_Laura

sport at school
we don't do much sport. we have horrible yellow shirts that we have to wear and i don't like them.

19/09/2006 12:18:00

BODDY_Sarah

hmm in disagreement
i think that it is very cool that if you are in lacrosse squad you don't have to go swimming!!! No manky swimming costumes, rubbery swimming hats and yuck!

19/09/2006 12:19:00

ROBERTS_EmmaV

i think
that people good at sport make the most of it. but maybe people who are not so good are embarrassed to try their best. i enjoy sport and there are lots of things to do. a new sport complex has just been used with a swimming pool and a gym so maybe people will be happy to use that as it is more of an all-round sport rather than a team one.

19/09/2006 12:20:00

ROSE_Alexandra

sports kit
i don't mind the sports kit at my school...but i resent wearing skirts. i think we should be able to wear shorts (shorts longer than the track shorts) instead of the skirts.

19/09/2006 12:21:00

HARTE_Fiona

Gym Knickers!

For dance at my school we have to wear an airtex and gym knickers that are really unflattering, I feel like an idiot when i have to dance about in them! They also make a lot of people feel insecure.

19/09/2006 12:21:00

KILLEN_Abigail

school sport

For gym + dance at school we have to wear airtex and gym knickers, they are NOT flattering and dont exactly give you the confidence to get up and show your routine!

19/09/2006 12:22:00

BODDY_Sarah

important

wait a sec, people in lacrosse do have to go swimming :(also i think it is disgraceful we are forced to do gym and prance around like a fool in front of our whole year...i bet the pe teachers just laugh at us in the name of "competetion" hahaha...no some people do actually enjoy it...shocking i know!!

19/09/2006 12:24:00

gruff

Sports kit

Does the sports kit you have to wear at school have an impact on your performance and enjoyment of that sporting activity?

19/09/2006 12:24:00

ELLIS_Rebecca

meee

i think that the sports kit should be nicer

19/09/2006 12:25:00

HART_Sophie

??

whats up with having to have 2 pairs of trainers, for indoor and outdoor?? just more stuff to lose!!

19/09/2006 12:25:00

MYERSCOUGH_Clare

Yeah, what she said.

At our school, I'd probably enjoy sports more if you didn't conciously feel like you were being watched and that you looked stupid in the stuff that you wore. If we could wear Tracksuit bottoms for all the stuff, then I might feel better about it.

19/09/2006 12:27:00

KILLEN_Abigail

I agree

I agree with every1 about swimming i just want to die when i have to wear my swimming costume in front of everyone. I also think we should have longer games lessons because at the moment you only do a good amount of sport if u

19/09/2006 12:37:00

WALKER_Joanna

Gym stuff

The gym clothes r hideous and disgusting. U r supposed 2 do 30 mins a day of sport but we do none. NAVY KNICKERS r gross, they r so small and ugly, and they cost like loads!!!!!!!

19/09/2006 12:38:00

COWPER_Francesca

shnoo

I dont really care bout the sports kit, tho it is manky...But i think that the teachers are really unfair, im complateley c**p at sport and they are all soooooo mean2 me. I cant help it. It is my least fave lesson!!!! AHHHHHH !!!!

19/09/2006 12:38:00

BROWN_Meigan

Summer and Winter Term

Why do we do so much sport outside in the winter!? It's so cold no one enjoys it, if you come out of the swimming pool in the middle of november and then hav to go to all youre lesson with soaking wet hair u feel horrible!

19/09/2006 12:43:00

McCONNELL_Eleanor

conscious

I get so looks conscious in pe and games lessons, no, especially pe. I am not exactly an amazing dancer and it doesn't help that I have to wear evil shorts that ride up if you take one step forwards. I don't take all the opportunities we have here.. it's way too intimidating when you have people who are amazing at everything

19/09/2006 12:45:00

OLIVER_Myfanwy

Time of lessons

Does any one else think that the 1/2 hour of PE is compleatly dumb ? We only end up with 20 minutes of badminton and we don't do anything fun or worthwhile in it. Also the Games lessons are only round 20 minutes tgo so theres no point of walking up to the field!!

19/09/2006 12:46:00

ADLER_Deborah

NO

I dont think we have enough....only 35 mins of PE. It's completely pointless by the time we've changed and the teacher has told us what to do or had a moan about hair, earrings and having the right kit there is no time to do anything

19/09/2006 12:48:00

KNIGHT_Celia

I can't remember what section i'm

35 mins is a bit stupid to have a pe lesson but 2 x a week is fine by me!

19/09/2006 12:48:00

TOLTON_LouiseAmelia

school pe kit

yeah, and because the school decides which sports we do, we never get to do the ones we actually like. for instance i HATE netball, but have been being forced to do it since i was in year 5. we should be given all the options we get ing year 11 when we're younger.

19/09/2006 12:49:00

BURTON_Judith

lessons

I think that the lessons are really to short to do much but occasionally I view this as an advantage as I can feel really uncomfortable in some lessons so I can't wait till the end

19/09/2006 12:49:00

DESBOROUGH_Jennifer

errrm...

i dont think we should get anymore exercise

the people who want to exercise more go to clubs in order to, and those of us who dont...DONT but the games lessons are enough for me!!

19/09/2006 12:50:00

COWPER_Francesca

i agree

i ahve 12 agree with eleanor, sprt is sooo humiliating. AS IS PSE AND BMI, i dont want peeps 2 look at me anmd say god shes sooo fat or shes so unfit. Im trying 2 lose wieght but in the mean time im still tubby. WHY is sport so huiliating. There hould be sports for those who r less able!!!

19/09/2006 12:51:00

GRIFFITH_Bethan

Skl sport

we don't get anywhere near enough sport. u r supposed 2 get half an hour per day!!! also, the skl sports kit is awful!!!!!!!

19/09/2006 12:51:00

GOULDING_Heloise

Self-confidence going down

yeah, i agree with Myserscough_clare. at our school it doesn't matter what build you are you wear the same things, but we do get enough time, just not enough of what we want, so we could get so much time of stuff you don't like, feel selfconscious doing *cough*swimming*cough* it makes it hard to enjoy the time you're given. We do get enough sport, because some people can't physically take more sport, for example someone who has problems with their knees, or ankles, it gets hard, but other people who much prefer sports, think we need more, We really don't. It makes you feel bad when you have to say, no we get enough, because people think that you're pathetic, but really they're asking too much. We need less of stuff we don't want and more of what we do.

19/09/2006 12:51:00

HODGES_Pru

sport

i do agree that 1/2 an hour of sport is a waste of time, we could use our time a lot more productively eg. getting homework done because we dont have any other time, or just have a lot longer pe lessons! also whats all this about "rollerblading" its not a sport, sorry to break it to you!!! xxx

19/09/2006 12:54:00

ADAT_Shakira

Too short!!!!

OMG the pe lesson is a complete waste of time as we only get like 20minutes to do anything...wots the point in doing that!

19/09/2006 12:56:00

LOUD_Emily

WE WANT CHOICE!!

If the school force us to do sport that we don't want to do, then it's going to put us off doing exercise. If they gave us a choice of sport then we could find one we enjoy and then maybe we would have a more positive attitude to sport!

19/09/2006 12:56:00

MARCUS_Rebecca

Choices

Yeah, I don't think the school has enough choices for us to do. Until Year 11, we don't get any choice at all, because everything is on a rota decided by the PE staff, so the people who hate lacrosse, for instance, still have to play it for four years before they can give it up. I think we should have some input into what we are allowed to do in games lessons, because then we'll enjoy it more. The PE kit doesn't help either. If we had something slightly more flattering than navy knickers and airtex, we might prefer games.

19/09/2006 12:57:00

TOLTON_LouiseAmelia

...

i spose that's true, but still, it's the schools responsiblity to keep us healthy if you think about it. And if they did sports that we all actually liked or gave us a choice, then it would be fun.

19/09/2006 12:57:00

GRIFFITH_Bethan

kit

the kit is ssssssssoooooo mega disgusting!!!!!!!!!!!!!! the new sports jumper is the best though!!!!

19/09/2006 12:57:00

TOMLINSON_Sophie

pointless

to have a 35 minute lesson including getting changed twice, u only have about 20 mins of sport which is a really pointless n we should get more. also no-one wants to do extra sport cause they feel really self-concious in their p-e knickers.

19/09/2006 12:58:00

LOUD_Emily

Teams

I think that the team and squads system is quite unfair. If you don't get into a team in the first year then you don't get good enough to get into it the following years!! Unfair!

19/09/2006 18:23:00

freefallingfoil

sports

I think that there are plenty of sports in our school, theres football tabletenis hockey and loads more i have P.E 3 times a week and i find it really fun. i also go to a roller hockey club which is once a week i find it great fun and the sport is open to boys & girls, i love swimming and i have a trampoline. i think sports are gr8!!!

19/09/2006 18:50:00

littles

re: Gruff + Everyone

At my school it is different. we get to choose sports we do from Year 9, although the kit isn't nice atall...in answer to gruff, Yes, it does stop the enjoyment of sports, because you can't let yourself go, because you don't feel comfortable

19/09/2006 20:48:00

COWPER_Francesca

I AGREe

i agree wih u!!!! not that i've got any better, but for those who have its harsh.

20/09/2006 06:52:00

Levitica

Sport Lessons

I think I had about the right amount of sports lessons at school. We had 2 lessons (one hour lessons) a week for the first 2 years and then one lesson for the other 3 years. We did a range of sports with no choice in the first three years. I thought this basic model and organisation was okay. I don't think PE teachers really do much to make people like their lesson. In our first ever PE lesson they told us that everyone would have to go in the shower naked most lessons. I was very scared of this, but it never happened. There was also an incident where we were doing the 800 metre run. I was really slow on my second lap as I couldn't breathe. They made me and some others repeat the lap. I fainted. Not very responsible... As for kit, we were also told to bring a ridiculous amount of things, but in practice we never needed them and most of us never had most of them. I think they should be more accurate with their lists of what people will need, in year 7 some parents spent a lot on redundant PE kits. I pity anyone who followed the school's instructions and bought a mouthguard never to do rugby in all of secondary school.

Do you have extra curricular sport at your school? We do, but it's just teams and stuff, it's only for people who are good at sport. I used to be on the netball team. Later on in school I would never have joined a sports group even if you didn't have to be good to join. I wouldn't have wanted to go on my own and my friends wouldn't have wanted to do sport. Anyone else the same?

20/09/2006 15:31:00

bluebell

school sport

At my school we have quite alot of sports and we also have things like tabletennis and sport or pe three times a week. it is quite good. we have quite a small school so we don't have to complicated stuff and we get alot of attention because we have only 5 to a class. ON THE WHOLE SPORT IS GRAET AT MY SCHOOL

20/09/2006 15:34:00

danzo

too much of it

i think i get to much sport and always end up stretching a muscle or 2 on the front of my legs

20/09/2006 15:37:00

danzo

i like sport

sport rules although u can get too much eg evry day of scholl i preffere to do my own sport out of school where i can choose what sport i do

20/09/2006 17:38:00

Levitica

Bluebell

"we have quite a small school so we don't have to complicated stuff and we get alot of attention because we have only 5 to a class."

I think that would be really bad for PE, how does that work? I like playing team games like netball in PE, but you can't really play it with five people. There seems to be a lot of variety in the amount of hours of sport schools offer.

20/09/2006 19:30:00

freefallingfoil

sport

me and my friends love sport evry time we do sport at school we run down the field so if the lesson doesn't have stuff thats very energetic at least ur getting some exersise running down there all together my friends and i get loads of exersise.

20/09/2006 19:41:00

freefallingfoil

winter sport

some people may think winters cold but i thin your just being moany if u think thats cold try -26 degrees in the alps snowboarding... still think thats hard...

20/09/2006 19:44:00

freefallingfoil

RE winter term sport

its not cold i think its better in the winer caz when u get really hot u realyse that ur not hot ur at at comftable body temp

20/09/2006 19:48:00

freefallingfoil

RE a choise of sport

if u really wanna do somthin exsiting then there r rollerhockey clubs out of school so u can go there i recomend 1 in dunnmow called the dunnmow skater hockey club

20/09/2006 19:51:00

freefallingfoil

swimming

ithink that if u wanna grow ur hair and u dont wanna be laughed at by ur friends caz u have to where a hat then u should be aloud to have choices abut whether u where a hat not u have to where a hat

20/09/2006 19:54:00

freefallingfoil

RE freeze

hey caroline if u wanna do roller hockey then u can do that out of school but just exspect a few bumps i highly recomend the dummow skater hockey club u get to play and every year u get to go tothe carneval wich is gr8 fun as u have to kit up in full gear

21/09/2006 15:16:00

RichardCabornMP

I'm listening...

I'm really pleased to see so many positive posts about school sport. We've done a lot of work over the last four years to make sure that a range of sports are offered to young people during school - and that there are links with clubs after school so those people who want to do more, can. Reading these posts, it's clear there's more to be done, and we will continue to look at the issues around school sport.

In fact, Kelly Holmes is our National School Sport Champion and is talking to young people up and down the country about school sport and their views on it. One of the things she's looking at are the factors that effect participation in sport - and certainly the comments posted here about being unhappy with your school PE kit are really usefual. This is obviously something that concerns a lot of people, and if that is the case, it's something I think we need to look at. We want to make sure young women - and men - feel as comfortable as possible while they're playing sport.

21/09/2006 16:56:00

littles

re: Levetica

I have to agree with you on the ridiculous amounts of PE kit. We have so much to bring.... but whats the point!?!

It seems that your concerns about extra curricular sports is replicated at my school at least. I used to play on the hockey and netball team, and even a bit of football when there was a club for girls on.

However now, the sport club I do is dance, and that was because I was invited a one of the best dancers in the school. This in turn boosted my self esteem, and meant that I would do it. But frankly, I wouldn't do much else, because none of my friends would (peer influence) and I don't have the confidence to try out.

22/09/2006 13:32:00

danzo

sparty

sport is fun but i get to much in school i preffere to organise my own spoet rather than run around a field for 2hours

22/09/2006 13:33:00

stormy

we get enough sport

We have plenty of sport, we have swimming on momday, P.E on Tuesday and Wednesday, and games on Friday. The only problem is we don't get to do sports we want to do. We want to do football and rugby.

22/09/2006 13:38:00

aragorn111

P.E kit

I think we should have a P.E kit shop at school because sometimes it is hard to find shops that sell P.E kit and you might be able to get some.

22/09/2006 13:38:00

danzo

kit

i think theres too much worry about kit and i think we should be allowed to wear our own cloths and not pe kit that i feel like an idiot to wear

22/09/2006 13:40:00

freefallingfoil

parliament MP

i think that there should be a government Comic Relief type thing where all the people of parliament do a huge run (9 miles) and raise money

22/09/2006 13:41:00

aragorn111

lazybones!

I think our teacher should do some exercise instead of sitting down while we run round the field for two ours for exercise when we've already ran there!

22/09/2006 13:43:00

danzo

re arargon

i think its a good idea not to have a kit shop because that makes it too easy to get your kit because most kits have a little weedy logo witch lookks pathetic!!!!

22/09/2006 13:44:00

stormy

age groups

I think we should be split into age groups because older people are always hogging and we never get to do anything.

22/09/2006 13:45:00

olivera

school sport

i think that some school don't have a nuff sport and you don't get to choose what you want to do. i think you should have about 4 or 5 diffrent types of sport. At the momont we are doing hokey and we have to do that and i don't like it that much and we have to by are own stuff and we will only do it for a term and when we finish the sport i have nothing to do with it because i don't do hokey.

22/09/2006 13:47:00

danzo

aragorn 111

i think u should get a life and think straight and relize that pe kits are rubbish

22/09/2006 13:50:00

Abit

school sport

At are school we do sport 3 times a week and we do swimming as well, we certainly do enough although we might not do as many different things as other schools.Although we don't do loads of different things we still have fun and get fit.

22/09/2006 13:53:00

danzo

aragorn 111

my teacher likes to tell us how she goes running evry morning but she will never actually run with us i think she should prove herself

22/09/2006 13:55:00

danzo

im trying to add good posts

i think we have a good teacher that just needs to get invulved rather than play on her phone

22/09/2006 14:01:00

skatingforlife

do u like school sport

i like school sport but the pe kit is ridiculous they keep changing it and costs loads i think they should stick with 1 kit and i think that stormy has made a good point about roller hockey because I go there with hin and freefallingfoil see comunity sports.

22/09/2006 14:02:00

danzo

sport

i think sport should not be performed on a wet day like today

22/09/2006 14:03:00

olivera

are pe teacher

KHAN_Hiba

erm....

i think we should have more fun in skool nd longer break times nd b allowed 2 go out 2 town in lunch ...o ye...sport is an issue 2!

26/09/2006 12:18:00

FENDT_Hannah

e.x.e.r.c.i.s.e

a lot pf people do exercise during the week, but eat unhealthily at the same time, so their bodies have to work harder. the fitness suite is a good idea though, but it should be open to everyone and we should have more pe lessons, because of you are not in a squad, you only get 1hour10mins + 35 mins of school exercise a week!! :]

26/09/2006 12:19:00

EWEN_Sylvia

jogging

if there is not enough sport in school go jogging in the evening or at the weekend. I go three times a week to get exercise. ballet is also good.

26/09/2006 12:19:00

TALJAARD_Lili

school sports

i think that sometimes people at school, who find physical activities harder than others or don't enjoy them as much, often feel that they are less able than others and are less appreciated. i think that there should be a variety of different sports in school, which aim to provide for everyones interests and abilities. i also think that there should be more sports that are less competitive for those who find sport hard.

26/09/2006 12:20:00

BATAVIA_Tanisha

sportastic :]

i think we need more sport because some people in our school need to become more fit, and if there isnt enough fitness at school then more people will suffer from illnesses!

26/09/2006 12:20:00

LOCKETT_Anna

games lessons

i think we dont do enough sport so i go running swimming and cycling. we hardly have any time in our games lessons to actually do sport because most of the time we do more warming up than the actual sport!!

26/09/2006 12:21:00

BATAVIA_Tanisha

more about SPORT

i think we should be able to choose which sports we do and which we dont, that way people will do more sport of their choice!

26/09/2006 12:21:00

HEWETT_Lauren

sport in schools

i dont think that day schools do enough sport or have a wide enough range. i think more people would become more active if thay had a wider range of sports to use.

26/09/2006 12:22:00

BERNARD_Lara

don't you

just love my avator?

this is a bit like amyspace bullitin

26/09/2006 12:22:00

WINKLER_Corinne

sport

me and jenni think sports at school are good, we should be able to use the fitness suite in our free periods :) :)

26/09/2006 12:22:00

KILBEY_Isabelle

i very much agree

more sport yeah! because its important to keep fit obviously and we also wana do better in matches i reckon. our games lesson is about an hour and a bit, and the time it takes going back and from the field, its pretty pointless.

ALSO, the people in lacrosse squad lose out because all the others get to do stuff like swimming and hockey which are mildly enjoyable, whereas we have to take up our games lesson ASWELL AS an hour after doing lacrosse. if we had an extended games lesson then maybe we'd have the opportunity to do both please! THANKS FOR READING

26/09/2006 12:22:00

LEWIS_Natasha

Sports...

there isn't enough choice in sports and we are told what ones to do!!! also the kit is awful!!!!

26/09/2006 12:23:00

KEWLEY_Fiona

sports at school

we don't do enough sports at school.

26/09/2006 12:23:00

PATON_Laurie

more more more

i agree that we need a greater variety in sport when we go to the field because mostly we either play netball or lacrosse but the new sports complex is really really goooooo! Also i think that lacrosse squad should be given more chances to do other sports instead of playing lacrosse most of the time even though it is a amazingggggggg too!

26/09/2006 12:23:00

STOCKTON_Louisa

hm

we need more sport.

26/09/2006 12:23:00

PEACOCK_Claire

sports at school

i think we do a lot of sport at school and a lot of clubs

26/09/2006 12:23:00

SHERIDANTOOMBS_S

skl

yeah we don't get enough

26/09/2006 12:23:00

BRACKLEY_Jade

Sport at School

We do a fair amount of sport at school and there is a variety.

st albans high school for girls

26/09/2006 12:23:00

TANT_Emilie

sport

well we only get 1hr and 45 mins of sport a week in lessons. and you can only do more if you're in a squad - stupid...

also we have a fitness suite so why can't we use it in our frees if we are in year 10 or after school til

5? encourage sport - i think it would.

26/09/2006 12:38:00

DAY_Gabrielle

Sports in School

I think we get enough sport in school but i think there should be a wider variety of sport clubs available.

26/09/2006 12:38:00

GALLOP_Laura

Sports in school

I don't think there is enough sport in school. We have very little lessons but i think there should be a bigger variety of sports so more people enjoy it as they can do what they want

26/09/2006 12:39:00

WEISFELD_Natasha

sports in school

Do you get enough sports in school ?

I think you only get enough sport in school if you are chosen to be in sports squads, or if you take part in extra sports clubs. If you are not eager about taking part in sports you are not encouraged to try and generally the sports staff pay more attention to those who are able at sport.

26/09/2006 12:39:00

SMITHSQUIRE_Lauren

sports in school

i think enough sport is available but you have to get involved in it if you want to do it. i don't think there is enough sport available to everyone though. Our PE lessons are very short.

26/09/2006 12:39:00

CAMISA_Elena

sports in school

I dont think we get enough sports in school because we only have less than an hour once we have chenged and walked to the near by feild. I know it is hard to arrnage as there isnt enough time however i stil feel i we could all benifit from more sports at school.

26/09/2006 12:39:00

MEEKS_Sophie

sports in school

i think that you only get enough sports in school if your chosen to be on teams and alot of it uo to you if you want to do it. Some people probable wouldnt choose to do extra sports so i think you should have to do more sports at school rather then like 2 hours a week which isnt alot when you have to get changed

26/09/2006 12:39:00

INMAN_Sally

Sports in School

I think there are alot of opportunities to take part in sports in school but it needs dedication. Because i'm in a squad, i get alot of exercrise in one sport but i feel i'm missing out on other sports.

26/09/2006 12:39:00

HOWES_Victoria

sports in school

i think that we get some options but i feel that we could have more options because there are those who are good at sport and those who arent as strong and it is those who dont want to try for sports as they feel they wont be as good as the others but we all cant be good at all sports its just a matter of finding the right one for you. and trying to find many that you actually want to do.

26/09/2006 12:39:00

REITH_Chloe

sport in school

do you get enough sport/exercise in school?

it depends, if you are good at sport and get into teams e.g. lacrosse squard, netball squad etc. then you do get quite a bit of sport at school, if you are not in a team then you only get one and a half hours sport at school i do not think that this is enough! xxx

26/09/2006 12:39:00

PATEL_Shreena

sports in school

i feel that there are many different sports at school, but they are in clubs and squads. There are not enough actual lessons per week that are compulsory for you to participate in

st albans high school for girls

1 0

Subject:

Rank: Key?:

26/09/2006 12:40:00

GREGSON_Daisy

sports in school

i think that my school has a wide variety of different sports and i think it is up to each individual how many sports he/her do. But my school, in my opinion, does enough sports and i feel that we do have enough sports and that most pupils do enough sport a week. But in some cases some individuals do not do enough sport and therefore should make sure that they do the required amount of exercrise everyday.

26/09/2006 12:40:00

WHITHAM_Francesca

Sports in school

I do not think we get enough sport opportunities at school. We only seem to do an hour and a half of sport a week. I think we should be able to take part in sports at least 3 to 4 times a week. We have had a new sports complex built but we don't seem to be having any time to use it, maybe they should offer dance classes to host in the fitness studio and more swimming lessons in the pool. If I didn't do sport out of school i would definetly feel unfit.

26/09/2006 12:40:00

chilli

Have you guys got any answers...

Community Sport - Are there enough places to play sport in your local area and does it help build community spirit?
Sexist Sport - Are certain sports still too sexist?
British Sport - Are you worried by the British mentality towards sport and is it important to your identity or to Britain's position in the world?
Or any other points of view on sport...

26/09/2006 12:41:00

KELMAN_Nina

Sports in school

I don't think we get enough sport in school. We have a 35 minute pe lesson and an hour 15 mins games lesson. However, if one wants to exercise more, they can obviously do so out of school, For the different abilities of people, i do think that the sport we do at school is of a good amount, as everyone can manage it.

26/09/2006 12:41:00

ROBINSON_Charlotte

Sports in school

No, i don't think that we have enough sport in school. Some people do not do any other other sport outside school and so PE and games is their only form of exercise. We only get an hour and ten minutes for games a week and an thirty- five minutes for PE which is not very much considering the amount of time it takes people to get changed! I think it would be good if we had a longer games lesson as we have to walk up to the sports field so we don't get much time and i think we should have longer PE lessons which should be an hour and ten minutes long which is how long we had last year.

26/09/2006 12:42:00

MATON_Charlotte

sports in school

i do not think that we get enough sports in school. i also do not think that we get enough variety of sports in our school. i feel that we should have a wider choice of activites that we can take part in. this way not only would we be more healthy but children would also enjoy sports more. this may even result in them taking up extra sporting activites outside of school. in our school we have alot of facilities but we do not get enough of a chance to use them. i think that this should be changed so that we can go and use them in our frees and after school => i wrote alot lol anywayz i fink we shud have more exercise it would be way better! =>

26/09/2006 12:42:00

KEANE_Marigold

sports in school

Only if you're good at sport and can make the teams - even then, there isn't that much. We only get a 1/2 hour PE lesson per week (20 minutes of this is taken getting changed and setting up or taking down equipment) and a 1 hour and 45 minutes sports lesson (but since our sports field is 15 minutes walk away from the school building, 1/2 an hour of the lesson is wasted and that is not including changing.etc) There should definety be a set time in which sports are down, at school, maybe two and half hours aweek or more...? The clubs are quite good but most of the timing is organised badly; lacrosse squad clashes with swimming squad. There should be more clubs and more, longer games lessons.

26/09/2006 12:42:00

SCOTT_Sophie

School Sport

No, i don't think at sahs we do enough different sports. Obviously you should be able to chose whether you do the required amount of sport or more but i do think every would benefit from a wider range of activities available. Lacrosse and netball are definitely the main sports at our school and unfortunately if you are these squads you don't get a chance to try other things. If squad practises were arranged before school, lunchtimes and after school during lessons we could learn and practise other sports. I have a friend who lives in Melbourne and she was describing the sports she does at school. They train most mornings and evenings and they do a lot of intense fitness sessions so they all do a really good amount of exercise.

26/09/2006 12:44:00

BOYCE_Elizabeth

Sports in school

No, i don't think that we have enough sport in school, because apart from one games lesson and one short pe lesson most people do no other sport. if u are good at a sport you can be part of a team but that's still not enough sport anyway. we should have more games lessons throughout the week, dedicated to individual sports and everyone should be encouraged to more sports they like.

26/09/2006 12:49:00

WILKEY_Temi

Sport in school

For the people who enjoy sport and do it for extra curricular activities they probably get enough sport. But for the people less enthusiastic i don't think there's enough. i think the best way to sort that out is make sure that there's a sport for everyone. For instance i go to a girl's school and the team sports aren't as varied as they could be.

There is netball, tennis, swimming and lacrosse teams but no football or basketball. and those are the two sports that i REAAALLLY like. if the choices are more varied i think there's more of a chance of people getting the right amount of exercise. or even in games lessons. If there is a choice of what to do, people will want to put effort into the sports they like therefore they will exercise better. :D thanx 4 reading!

26/09/2006 12:56:00

REITH_Chloe

SPORT in SCHOOL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

WHY HELLO DER! school sports are kl i like lacrosse but sometimes we have to do a lot of running for no reason round goal posts at the other end of the field. and then we have to do it again and again and again - that is not good ! it is pointless also jumping over lacrosse sticks is silly - one time a week is not going to improve anything !

26/09/2006 18:18:00

Levitica

PE

Mixing girls with boys for PE would mean everyone had a greater choice of sports, but I wouldn't feel happy with the boys. Does anyone else like games more than other PE? I think it's a lot more fun, but we only did one jour of games a week until year ten, and then in ten and eleven we didn't do any games.

27/09/2006 12:13:00

TALJAARD_Lili

:] sporttsss

sports are cool:)

x

28/09/2006 16:58:00

justice

Why not tell us what you really think of HeadsUp?

We've put together an evaluation survey for you guys to fill in - to help us work out what we are doing right, what we are doing wrong and where we could be doing better on HeadsUp. If you could spare a few minutes why not complete the HeadsUp Evaluation Survey (<http://www.headsup.org.uk/survey>)?

28/09/2006 20:09:00

bassett

Competitive Sport

Sport in schools, doesn't get much media attention. In the USA school sport is in the papers, there's national leagues, big tournaments and cups to be won. Surely we could do the same seeing as our country is much smaller?

05/10/2006 13:46:00

biged

Any final pleas to decision makers?

Or perhaps you have a final point or question you would like to make - make sure you do.

06/10/2006 14:05:00

gruff

What's the one most positive thing about sport?

Is it keeping fit/active? Or taking part in competitive sports? Or competing in sports just like your sporting heroes?

Let us know...

06/10/2006 17:00:00

justice

The Forum Sleeps Tonight...

This has been a fascinating Forum with loads of brilliant sporting posts.

It was a unique debate because it was a dedicated place for young people to get in on all the sporting debate and to do their own analysis. I hope you're all proud of what you achieved... I would be.

From here, we will be writing up the summary report and getting this shipped out to media, politicians and you.

Responses will be got and posted on HeadsUp.

The next Forum is going to be interesting! It's all about the constitution...including an analysis of big issues affecting you, like Democracy and Justice. Do not miss it. See you then...

Community Sport :: Forum Topic Transcript

06/09/2006 15:54:00

justice

Welcome to the Great Sport Debate

Active young people are healthy young people and sport certainly helps them make the transition from simply watching it to playing it – allaying fears about increasing numbers of obese children. Now, you will get the opportunity to make your voice heard in this HeadsUp Forum. A range of parliamentarians want to hear your views on all aspects of the Great Sport Debate - see Who's listening? (http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s122_1)

As much as possible, try to BackUp your opinions with facts, where you will find loads of info on all aspects of sport. **Are there enough places to play sport in your local area and does it help build community spirit? Try to give examples to help other HeadsUp participants understand your point of view...**

18/09/2006 11:03:00

Tomo

sport near me.

i've played football in my local area for a few years now. i think that this sporting action is good for the area as lots of people come to watch us play...

18/09/2006 17:07:00

littles

Sport nearby

There are lots of oppurtunites near me to get involved in sport, but they require skill and time, of which I have neither! Frankly, I'm not very good at sport - only dance - and I am a very busy person. don't have the time to dedicate to sport, but I love walking and keeping active. Maybe if there was more choice I would take part in sport. For example, I am just starting my Silver Duke of Edingburgh award, since I really enjoyed my Bronze, but there are no oppurtunites to do any extra walking - I walk my dog regulary in the forest anyway, but it's very different to an expedition.

19/09/2006 11:32:00

chilli

Don Foster MP on sport

Have you read Don Foster's statement of support (http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s122_1)?

He believes that sport offers a great opportunity for you to get involved in your local community. He also argues, as other participants have mentioned, that there should be more sporting choices in schools...

"The involvement of young people in grassroot sport is vital. It keeps the nation healthy and it has a social role to play; encouraging teamwork, helping to develop leadership skills and increasing social interaction. But, with 70% of young people dropping out of sport when they leave school, we need to know what action would encourage more to stay involved and what the barriers are that currently prevent it. I think we should have a wider range of sports on offer in our schools and even better links between schools and sports clubs. With obesity levels rocketing, something certainly needs to be done."

19/09/2006 12:10:00

BODDY_Sarah

no

in my community there are no places to play sport, there are the local teams but these are more aimed at boys, girls dont seem to have anything where i live!

19/09/2006 12:14:00

KILLEN_Abigail

community sport

Where i live there is loads of sport but most of it is aimed at boys and with all the homework we get from school there is rarely anytime for after school sport.

19/09/2006 12:14:00

VIJH_Sonika

I

in my community there is very little in the way of sport. if you want to join any clubs you would have to drive there which could be quite inconvieniant.

19/09/2006 12:17:00

HARTE_Fiona

No fun!

There doesn't seem to be any fun sporting clubs in my area. They all seem to be serious teams and there is no where for me and my friends to get fit but have fun at the same time!

19/09/2006 12:20:00

MISTRY_Sheena

i think

i don't think that there is enough local sports activities for me to participate in. i think that they should have more sports activities for our community to go to.

19/09/2006 12:25:00

NUTTING_Fiona

it depends

There is a lot of sport in my local area, I'm a member of my local water polo club and I used to be a member of a tennis club. I know there is also a cricket and lots of football clubs nearby. However I think there must be loads of other clubs. But you never hear about half the others. So there is enough sport in the area, however, a lot of the small clubs end up closing down because no one hears about them. I only heard about the water club because my mum was talking to a friend. It wasn't advertised at all.

19/09/2006 12:41:00

GOULDING_Heloise

Yeah right

in my community there is little or no sports to do! And most places don't encourage younger people, most places are 18+ clubs, which means swimming and alike is simply just there for older people or you have to go to a public pool, which means people aren't very serious about it.

19/09/2006 12:46:00

RAINE_Elizabeth

No community sports places

Where i live there there are no places for anyone to play sport - there are especially no places for girls to do any sport At junior schools there are boys football teams but hardly anything for girls

19/09/2006 12:50:00

McCONNELL_Eleanor

don't think so

I live really out of the way so if you want to go anywhere you have to drive. I used to go to a horseriding club but it was a twenty minute drive away which was a pain because my mum didn't like driving me. I know there's a tennis club nearby but it's for serious players! I'm not a serious sport person! There's not much anywhere if you just want to have some fun.

19/09/2006 12:52:00

BURTON_Judith

sport

where I live there only seems to be forms of dance and martial arts I wish there was other stuff that I can do casually as I'm not competitive

19/09/2006 12:56:00

RODGERS_Hannah

Distance to do sports

When I went to my swimming clubs on Saturdays I really enjoyed it as it was really nice and the teacher liked me. but it took 40 mins to get there and 40 mins to get back to my house. there was a club near by but I was too old for it. it was absolutely ridiculous and there was nowhere nearby that I knew about.

19/09/2006 12:57:00

HODGES_Pru

mmm

well I believe the only way forward is to make people join in! only joking, but it's a possibility! if you are too keen you look a bit stupid which can be a little annoying!!!! xxx

19/09/2006 18:36:00

freefallingfoil

Local sport

I like going Dirtsurfing down the local mudbowl and down out road (dirtsuring is a extreme sport that looks like a skateboard+a bike mixed up but there are no handle bars or a seat) I find that really fun and plus I've just changed school so me and my old friends meet down at the field and I powerkite (a massive kite E.G 4.5m that pulls u off the ground and pulls you along) with my dirtsurfer and catch up with my friends.

20/09/2006 06:57:00

Levitica

Sport in my areas

I know there are boy's football teams, but you have to be really good to be on them at my age (17). There's also a running club thing, but you have to be really really good to be in that. I don't know what else there is, apart from things at gyms which cost a lot of money. The problem was, even if there were sessions for netball or something (I

like netball) I think I probably wouldn't go. Other people there would be in groups and I think people can be easily excluded in a sport situation, I always was when I was young, and none of my friends would want to play netball. I kind of think I'll get more involved in sport when I'm older, maybe start up dancing. I don't think there's much opportunity for someone 14-20 to take up a new sport.

20/09/2006 06:59:00

Levitica

Reply

"well i believe the only way forward is to make people join in! only joking, but its a possibility! if you are too keen you look a bit stupid which can be a little annoying!!!! xxx"

Yes, I agree with you. The social strangeness of teenagers means many of us are afraid of joining in with sport, but if it was more like we were made to we'd be happy to take part.

20/09/2006 15:19:00

skatingforlife

sport in my area

in my area there are lots of oppotunittes for doing sport including, rollerhockey, football, swimming, hockey and of course there is some net ball for the girls. But i think there should be more oppotunites for the girls to play sports because alot of the sports are quite sexist, so overall i think all sports should be open to both genders.

22/09/2006 13:47:00

poshwolf4

sport

there is allways someone to play football wiv were i live and completely random people challenge people for matches and we live near to towns wiv swimming pools and stuff theres always something to do

22/09/2006 13:49:00

aragorn111

good community

There is a big park in bishops stortford so you get to play games with people you don't know, so it's good for the community.

22/09/2006 14:00:00

stormy

comuity

comuity is good

22/09/2006 14:03:00

Abit

Community sport

in Dunmow there are lots of places to do sport and there is even a roller hockey team for boys and girls however inexperienced you are there is a sports centre were you can do all kinds of sport and most of them are available for all ages so i thik there are certainly enough places to do sport in Dunmow.

22/09/2006 14:07:00

stormy

football

in fooyt you should not fowl poeple if you are playig foty you should have a refery put it in the law

24/09/2006 19:56:00

st10

sport around me

well sports are my favourite thing. i do karate for 3 hours n on stop on sunday and play football everyday at school. i believe there are many oppertunitiesfor people to be fit. however it is hard to get into football clubs and its hard to get into the olympics. i do not believe there are no chances for hard working students.

25/09/2006 12:19:00

biged

Government increases funding

The Home Office has contributed an additional £1.5million to fill gaps in the provision of summer activities for young people in England. The money will be allocated to regional government offices to distribute, and is to "provide highquality activities in gap areas over the summer period, and, where possible, to focus on building community cohesion and supporting the respect agenda".

Do you think this money is a step in the right direction? Does it go far enough?

25/09/2006 17:14:00

DonFosterMP

Tell us more...

It has been very interesting to read your thoughts on sport within your local communities. Some of your comments have been particularly eye-opening; it seems a lot of you have found there aren't many 'fun' clubs in your area and that you must play to a very high standard to be given an opportunity. We share that concern. Would you like to see more non-competitive clubs in your local areas then? Places where you can practice and have fun without worrying that you are not as good as other people? Would you like more facilities with training opportunities but no competitive matches?

I was also interested to read that many of you believe that there aren't enough places for girls to play in their local communities, or even at school. It is apparent that a lot of you view sports as quite sexist too. Do you think then, that girls should be encouraged to play the same sports as boys, or do you want to see more female focused sport made available? If there are any specific sports you would like to see in your area, let us know. I'm looking forward to reading more of your thoughts.

26/09/2006 12:41:00

SMITHSQUIRE_Lauren

sport in the area

yeh i do lots of sport out of school theres swimming pools, tennis courts etc near

26/09/2006 12:42:00

HOWES_Victoria

Community sport

Where i live there is alot of places such as parks and open grass areas where you could go where there are football posts and basketball posts etc.

26/09/2006 12:42:00

DAY_Gabrielle

sport

in my area there is a big sports complex (Canons) which had a wide variety of sports equipment and classes. however i don't think that more sport would encourage community spirit

26/09/2006 12:46:00

WHITHAM_Francesca

Community sports

I think there are definitely plenty of community sports available in Hertfordshire. I don't think there is a problem!

26/09/2006 12:49:00

SCOTT_Sophie

community sport

if there are places to do sport in the area then i wouldn't know because they're not advertised or anything. If there was sport activities going on in St. Albans i don't see why some friends and I wouldn't go along! i'd like to do more exercise.

26/09/2006 12:50:00

MATON_Charlotte

where i live

i live in barnet and there is not enough sports there. the gym has an age limit and there is not many sports there for girls. there are some, but the variety is very limited

26/09/2006 12:50:00

REITH_Chloe

is there enough sport in your local

i live in harpenden ... they have a few sports and a leisure center (woweeeeee) there is also a skate ramp and lots of people like to go there and they like to ride their skate boards and blades and bikes around on the ramps! >-----
--< (that was a ramp) hehehehe lol. but you can also horseride a lot in harpenden - well that is what my mum said.

26/09/2006 18:20:00

Levitica

Sports Groups

"Would you like to see more non-competitive clubs in your local areas then? Places where you can practice and have fun without worrying that you are not as good as other people? Would you like more facilities with training opportunities but no competitive matches?"

I would definitely like non-competitive clubs with no matches. Although I'm personally not interested in it, I think there needs to be more football for older girls, as lots of people still like football.

28/09/2006 10:26:00

chilli

Over 1000 clubs benefit

Sport England announced earlier this month that more than 1,000 projects – over three times as many anticipated at the start of the scheme – have benefited from the Community Club Development Programme (CCDP). CCDP

is a collaboration between Sport England, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

Following its success, the programme has been extended for a further two years with an additional £40 million of funding and now includes three new sports: boxing, golf and squash. Richard Caborn, Minister for Sport, said: "The Community Club Development Programme has been a true success and demonstrates the pivotal role that good quality sports provision has for the community. Not only is it vital for the support and development of young talent beyond the school grounds, it is also key to getting people active and tackling obesity. From pitch improvements to new clubhouses, the extension of the Community Clubs Development Programme shows our absolute commitment to programmes and facilities giving local communities a wide range of sporting options so everybody has the chance to get involved in sport." The programme assists NGBs to identify capital projects for investment. They then work in partnership with Sport England to ensure the projects are delivered. The aim is to increase participation in sport via club membership for all and to assist in creating a sustainable and financially viable sports club infrastructure in England. Projects ranging from new indoor pitch provision, restoration of clubhouses, creation of new playing fields, and the installation of floodlights, to the modernisation of cycling tracks and new synthetic pitches, have been supported. Awards of between £5,000 and £950,000 were provided over the successful 2003-6 period.

What is your reaction to this information - does it go far enough? Should it be applauded? Is there room for improvement?

28/09/2006 17:08:00

justice

Why not tell us what you really think of HeadsUp?

We've put together an evaluation survey for you guys to fill in - to help us work out what we are doing right, what we are doing wrong and where we could be doing better on HeadsUp. If you could spare a few minutes why not complete the HeadsUp Evaluation Survey (<http://www.headsup.org.uk/survey/>)?

28/09/2006 20:14:00

bassett

How to make it better

Let's not apportion blame, lets unite and try to make it better for everyone. I think, if we and U the MPs brought up a national sports league and divisions more people would play, the nation would be healthier, our future elite sportsmen and women would be even better and everyone would be happier as sport keeps teenagers off the streets. What are we waiting for MPs do it, do it now!

04/10/2006 14:12:00

chilli

Grassroots sport faces funding crisis

There was a relevant and topical article published today by Hugh Robertson, Shadow Spokesman for Sport where he talks about grassroots sport and mass participation before 2012. What is your reaction to this piece?

"Grassroots sport is in crisis and, unsurprisingly, obesity rates, particularly among the young, are spiralling. Up and down the country, local authority sports facilities are closing and amateur sports clubs are reporting a desperate lack of cash... So what needs to be done? The answer is very simple. Firstly, we need to return the National Lottery to its four original pillars which, using the figures provided by the House of Commons Library, would release £800m (25 per cent of £3.2bn) to sport over a similar period. A sum of this size would transform grassroots sport where relatively small sums of money often have a huge impact in terms of upgrading or expanding existing facilities. It is something we are committed to do, as a Party, if we win the next General Election.

Secondly, we need to act on the recommendations successive studies such as the Carter Report and the Moynihan/Hoey cross-party Independent Sports Review. Broadly speaking, all advocate the introduction of a single body responsible for all sports funding and grants. This would simplify the lives of countless club officials across the country bewildered by the complexity of existing structures and intimidated by the sheer quantity of paperwork currently involved.

Thirdly, we need to copy the example of the Australians and recognise that increases in participation are most likely to come through schemes administered by the national governing bodies of the sports and run locally rather than by schemes run by central government. A good example of how this can work here is the England and Wales Cricket Board's Chance to Shine initiative which has already reached an extra 33,600 schoolchildren in its first six weeks of operation.

Sue Campbell, the chair of UK Sport, recently said to me that all sport could be categorised as elite, school or mass participation. With the extra money in the budget, elite sport is set fair and now only has to deliver. Through the work of the sport national governing bodies and organisations such as the Youth Sports Trust, school sport is stirring again as the recent UK School Games have shown. We finally seem to have killed off the anti-competitive sport agenda that did so much damage to a whole generation of schoolchildren.

However, mass participation sport remains the missing piece of the jigsaw. Unless we take urgent action to correct this, we will not only fail to deliver one of the bid team's key commitments to the International Olympic Committee but also miss one of the most crucial opportunities that hosting the 2012 Olympics should bring to this country."

04/10/2006 17:43:00

RichardCabornMP

Local facilities

I'm concerned to read from some of you that you don't have access to the sports you want in your area because we are working hard to make sure sport is available to everyone. In each region of the country there is a Sport

England office - and website - which will give you information on local sporting opportunities. In addition, check out www.activeplaces.com - where you can search for facilities near you. The fact is, we believe sport is a vital part of every community. Be it local football teams, aerobics classes or swimming clubs, community sport has a really important role in improving your quality of life. That is why we are investing so much money into local programmes and facilities that give people a chance to participate in a wide range of sports.

05/10/2006 13:46:00

biged

Any final pleas to decision makers?

Or perhaps you have a final point or question you would like to make?

05/10/2006 16:56:00

HughRobertsonMP

Community Sport

In Britain, there is too much emphasis on driving up participation in sport by central government initiatives. A far better approach is to copy the Australian model by giving the money direct to the individual sports who can then invest it in good schemes run locally.

06/10/2006 14:02:00

bluebell

community sport

i think we have in our community not alot of sport things there needs to be more in bishops stortford. there also needs to be cheaper and more easier to access.

06/10/2006 14:04:00

aragorn111

good community

I think parks are very good for the community because people meet other people they don't know is really good.

06/10/2006 14:05:00

freefallingfoil

roller hockey

i have made loads of friends at my roller hockey club i go once a week on saturdays its gr8 fun!!!

06/10/2006 14:06:00

danzo

sport should be evry where

there should be sport facility of a large range in evry town and city and evry large village so people can almost always walk to there local sport centre

06/10/2006 14:07:00

gruff

What's the one most positive thing about sport?

Is it keeping fit/active? Or taking part in competitive sports? Or competing in sports just like your sporting heroes?

06/10/2006 14:08:00

poshwolf4

sport

i think there should be more big learsure centres with things like ice-rinks in. The more leasure centres there are the less in demarnd the lessons will be and that will make it cheeper.

06/10/2006 14:13:00

freefallingfoil

tennis

i want to go to a tennis club but i need find a cort

06/10/2006 14:13:00

danzo

trashing is bad

i find my local park is trashed with litter and theres these portacabins which are covered in spray paint so i think the goverment should have people come down after schools finish and stay till about 8 but then again most people vandilise under the cover of the dark so the goverment could close parks after about 7 or 8

06/10/2006 17:00:00

justice

The Forum Sleeps Tonight...

This has been a fascinating Forum with loads of brilliant sporting posts. It was a unique debate because it was a dedicated place for young people to get in on all the sporting debate and to do their own analysis. I hope you're

all proud of what you achieved... I would be. From here, we will be writing up the summary report and getting this shipped out to media, politicians and you. Responses will be got and posted on HeadsUp. The next Forum is going to be interesting! It's all about the constitution...including an analysis of big issues affecting you, like Democracy and Justice. Do not miss it. See you then...

Sexist Sport? :: Forum Topic Transcript

06/09/2006 15:59:00

justice

Welcome to the Great Sport Debate

Active young people are healthy young people and sport certainly helps them make the transition from simply watching it to playing it – allaying fears about increasing numbers of obese children. Now, you will get the opportunity to make your voice heard in this HeadsUp Forum. A range of parliamentarians want to hear your views on all aspects of the Great Sport Debate - see Who's listening? (http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s122_1)

As much as possible, try to BackUp your opinions with facts, where you will find loads of info on all aspects of sport. **Are certain sports still too sexist? – e.g. the rise in numbers of girls who play football, cricket, rugby. Despite your interest in a particular sport, have you found your path blocked in terms of your participation because of your sex?**

18/09/2006 17:11:00

littles

Sexist Sports

I think sports are sexist to quite a huge extent, although I can understand why. In contact sports, I know I wouldn't want to face the boys in Rugby. I'm not as strong as them, and wouldn't feel comfortable playing with them. However, I can't understand why not as many girls take part in sports like Rugby, and why Boys don't do more dance. Why can't girls play Rugby against each other? Why are boys ridiculed if they dance, even though it requires strength and rhythm?

18/09/2006 18:19:00

Abit

sexist sport

I think that sport is getting less sexist and if a girl or boy is not allowed to play there is often a reason.

19/09/2006 12:12:00

BODDY_Sarah

yes

there seem to be far more sport for boys than for girls, eg football and cricket...girls dont seem to have an opportunity to get into sport, i think a new sport should be invented, which would be like football but different, where it could be played very casually for fun in the garden with ur friends or more competitively too. it is expected that teenage boys play football and teenage girls go shopping

19/09/2006 12:31:00

chilli

Your perspective...

Do any of you or your friends play sports which are traditionally associated with the other sex? Perhaps you are a girl who plays rugby or a boy who likes dancing? Tell us about it...

19/09/2006 12:45:00

COWPER_Francesca

sports 4 girls

i luv football, and im a girl... I play it all the time adn i wish there was a club nearby, the only girls football club inno ios 4 the st albans girl football team, and im not that good!!! I know boys that do girly sports and boys that arnt soprty and they get bullied. i think thats awful. SEXISM SUX

19/09/2006 12:49:00

CARMICHAEL_Victoria

Cricket

I think that Cricket is a sexist sport because it is only associated with men. There is no clubs based around Cricket for women. I think there should be more clubs to do with cricket around.

19/09/2006 12:51:00

TOMLINSON_Sophie

Sexist sports

i think loads of sexist sports, they r way more sports that boys can get into than girls, n if girls show an interest they just get laughed at. but i think the girls that get into 'boys' sports hould be really proud - go them!

19/09/2006 12:53:00

TOLTON_LouiseAmelia

ageism too

i agree totally. it's not really sexism, but also lots of sports are really ageist too. i scuba dive, and just cause i'm a 'little girl' (in one of my instructors words) they all think i'm gonna be really bad at it, and not safty concious. As soon as they've been diving with me, but it really bugs me that i get mocked and babyed until they've actually seen me dive.

19/09/2006 12:53:00

McCONNELL_Eleanor

oh god yea

It's getting better in schools now, I mean girls play football and rugby all the time, but on tv it's still mega sexism. All the women's matches are played on sky, or at eleven at night and there's hardly any publicity about them unless it's something like Wimbledon. But stuff like women's football clubs are really really obscure, you never hear anything about them.

19/09/2006 12:57:00

RAINE_Elizabeth

sexist sport

There are barely any games gilrs "play" theres so much for boys to do and nothing for girls

19/09/2006 12:57:00

GOULDING_Heloise

hell yes!

most boys laugh at you cause you say you do fencing! it's a girls sport too! I think that people should take women sports more seriously, i mean who cares what happens in the mens football it's everywhere! but you never hear about woman's football results, it's just ignored, but some of those women are 10 times better than some of the england team, and I'm not being biased, i honestly believe that people should give women a lot more recognition, i mean it's a fact that women are better at swimming, i mean if a woman went up against a man swimming the channel and both competetors where of same fitness, and strength etc. the woman would win! We all know that, yet there is little effort made to promote females to actually go out there and JOIN the SAME sports as men, our society is still INCREDIBLY sexist, we just don't think it is.

19/09/2006 18:30:00

freefallingfoil

sexist sport

Now days sport isnt toooooo sexist and if the sport is eg. only for boys then there will be a girls team to and if you cant get into a tem there are loads of sports that will accept your sex/gender.

19/09/2006 18:57:00

littles

RE: Chilli

In reply to Chilli, I have one girl mate who plays Rugby, and I now some guys that dance at my school. The girl doesn't get the mick taken as much as the boys (probably because, as the captain of two rugby teams, they are scared of her) who get the worse stick. It's not bullying so much as teasing, but I imagine that it's not very nice. I guess it's not even seen as a 'cool' dance style, since they do traditional dance and street dance.

19/09/2006 20:33:00

poshwolf4

sport

i think its good when girls and boys play in teems together but its also nice to have some where where you know there will be just boys or just girls and there are goups that acomodate for people who want only there only to be there sex.

20/09/2006 07:03:00

Levitica

What?

"Active young people are healthy young people and sport certainly helps them make the transition from simply watching it to playing it" What?

20/09/2006 07:10:00

Levitica

Sexism in Sport

I think this is improving. There are lots of teams and clubs now now for young girls to play football.

Although in secondary school we played all girls' sports apart from football - we never did rugby or cricket, but there was never demand for rugby or cricket. Football was added in when some girls asked. The only time I've badly encountered sexism was when my year 6 teacher assumed I was bad at "quick cricket" (I was very serious about quick cricket). I still was allowed on the team though, she just didn't let me play as much as anyone else. I was the best as well. I've encountered sexism much more in areas like maths than I have in sport, but sexism in sport is well established. At least it is based on something though, the average man is stronger than the average woman, unlike sexism in maths.

20/09/2006 14:41:00

biged

Sports clubs, facilities near you...

Picking up on some of your earlier comments about the perceived lack of sports clubs, facilities in your local area you might want to check out the following sites...

Sport England www.sportengland.org- works hard to make England more active, encouraging people to get involved with sport and physical activity. They also have a list of "over 15,000 locations to play sport, get fit and have fun"

Women's Sports Foundation - www.wsf.org.uk - the UK's leading organisation dedicated to improving and promoting opportunities for women and girls in sport and physical activity.

20/09/2006 17:42:00

Levitica

Website...

"Sport England - works hard to make England more active, encouraging people to get involved with sport and physical activity. They also have a list of "over 15,000 locations to play sport, get fit and have fun"

I did a search from my postcode and got my secondary school. It told me they have fields, swimming pool, sports hall, but I know that none of these are open to the public...

21/09/2006 12:01:00

chilli

Equality in Sport

Have a look at the Women in Football case study in the Backup.
http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s124_6

The important points are:

* A recent report from the Committee for Culture, Media and Sport demanded that the Football Association change its rules so mixed teams are allowed beyond the age of 11.

* The report also says the FA should take a lead in removing cultural and practical barriers which undermine the women's game. The MPs argue that the rule acts as an artificial barrier to girls' potential development - and a possible deterrent to more females taking up the sport.

* Women's football soared in popularity after the box office success of the film Bend it Like Beckham, overtaking netball as the biggest female participation sport. It has 130,000 registered players and expanded from 80 teams affiliated to the FA in 1993 to more than 8,000 last season.

* The MPs say: "We recommend that the absolute prohibition on mixed football over the age of 11 should be removed and that an informed assessment by team managers and coaches of individuals' capacity to play in mixed teams should govern selection policy."

* In response the FA said that it was consulting children across the country in conjunction with the children's commissioner and would release its conclusions in September. It fears facing legal liability over injuries, because boys and girls develop at different physiological rates, and says there could also be a funding issue over providing separate changing facilities.

What is your reaction to this information - which points do you agree with and why?

21/09/2006 15:20:00

RichardCabornMP

We need more positive role models

I'm glad to see some posts about the issue of women and girls playing sport and to assure everyone who raised this subject that Tessa Jowell and I take this very seriously. Far too many young women switch off sport when they leave school - or even while they are in education - and we have got to crack this problem if we are to make any real impact in dealing with inactivity and obesity.

Part of this certainly is about creating positive role models for young women - which is why Kelly Holmes is so important. But now we need new stars to come through and inspire girls to want to take part in sport - people like Becky Lyne, who won a medal in the European athletics championships, and winter Olympic medallist Shelley Rudman can help with this. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games can be really important in this too. But we need a bigger profile for women's sport and more coverage on TV. I rang Jo Yapp, the captain of the England women's rugby team, last weekend to wish them luck in the world cup final against New Zealand. Sadly they didn't win and the event got precious little media attention. I hope that imbalance between men's and women's sport can change in the next few years.

22/09/2006 13:52:00

poshwolf4

sport

sport is getting less sexist but more and more places are having age limits and things because of health and safety. and some people just can't stand playing with younger people.

26/09/2006 12:42:00

GALLOP_Laura

Sexist sport

i think that sport is too sexist because on the tv they always show men playing sports like football so girls never do it because they think only boys should do it. They should show more women playing sports. Also in schools girls do different sports to boys.

26/09/2006 12:43:00

INMAN_Sally

Is sport still sexist?

The school i go to do football and basket ball. We don't do rugby but there are plenty of other sports that i don't feel the need to do it. There are a lot of clubs you can join after school and i'm sure there's a rugby club if i was interested (?) There aren't many boys who play lacross in the U.K though...?

26/09/2006 12:45:00

GREGSON_Daisy

blah blah blah

i think that some sports are, yes, definitely too sexist and i feel that this should be resolved.....somehow.

26/09/2006 12:46:00

WEISFELD_Natasha

school sport

sexist sport

i don't think there are many sports which are sexist however there are a few such as rugby but there are some which only women take part in such as synchronised swimming .. i think sport is quite fair in this area .

26/09/2006 12:47:00

DAY_Gabrielle

sexist sports

i don't think that sport is as sexist as it used to be but football for girls and things like that aren't ever on tv or as well known as mens football

26/09/2006 12:49:00

WHITHAM_Francesca

sexist sports

I think sport isn't sexist [plenty of girls play 'boy' games and boys play 'girl' games !! it is not a problem

26/09/2006 12:50:00

SMITHSQUIRE_Lauren

...

i think no sport is sexist anyone can do anything but i don't like the way it's more common to see men's sport on tv

26/09/2006 12:50:00

CAMISA_Elena

personalllllyyyy

its your choice what you play, you shouldn't let sexist remarks stop you from playing the sport if you're that passionate about it! go go gooo

26/09/2006 12:51:00

MATON_Charlotte

sexist

i don't think sports are sexist some sports girls are better at and some sports boys are better at

26/09/2006 12:52:00

SCOTT_Sophie

sexist sports

whatever people say there are still lots of sports that are stereotypically associated with boy/girls. Our school PE department should get us into other sports so sports become more fun for everyone :)

26/09/2006 12:52:00

HOWES_Victoria

sexist sports?

we can all do the same as others just because we are different sexes doesn't mean we can't do things as well as others. football lacross basketball girls are just as good as the boys :):)

26/09/2006 12:53:00

WILKEY_Temi

Sexist sport

YES! especially in girls schools. netball is the principal sport which is stereo typed as a girl's sport. it's a fun game but i LOVE football and basketball which are only played once in the whole of your time at the school!

27/09/2006 15:32:00

gruff

Wimbledon defiant over equal pay

Sports Fans,

Did you hear on the news recently that Wimbledon has chosen to remain the only tennis Grand Slam not to offer its men's and women's champions equal prize money?

The men's winner will earn £655,000 compared to the £625,000 first prize for the women. Last month, French Open (a big tennis tournament) organisers announced that for the first time they would reward their champions equally. The other two big tennis tournaments - the Australian and US Opens - have been long-time supporters of equal prize money. The 2005 women's champion Venus Williams was disappointed that organisers did not announce equal prize money for this year's event and did not rule out the possibility of players taking further action. She said:

"We want to be treated equally as the men. This is not just about women's tennis but about women all over the world. At Wimbledon we would like to have equal prize money to prove that we are equal on all fronts. We will keep lobbying on the matter. We don't want to deprive fans from seeing women's tennis but we are willing to be extremely proactive in our stance." But chairman of the Wimbledon Tennis Club, Tim Phillips, defended the decision not to award equal pay. He said:

"This issue is one of a judgment on fairness. "We believe that what we do at the moment is actually fair to the men as well as to the women."

Which side of the fence do you sit on - who is in the right in your opinion?

27/09/2006 17:24:00

Levitica

Equal Tennis Pay

I know it sounds sexist, but I think I agree that women and men are not equal in the tennis tournament, otherwise they wouldn't have seperate tournaments at all.

27/09/2006 21:19:00

swarby

sexist sport

they think that men and women cannot competetogether because of fitness, strength and stanmia levels are different (men have higher levels). which really is not true. for example i play football and i follow both womens and mens, women play the same amount of time and still have to attend training sessions the same as men and even compete in the same named competitions but get the fraction of payment that men get!

28/09/2006 17:08:00

justice

Why not tell us what you really think of HeadsUp?

We've put together an evaluation survey for you guys to fill in - to help us work out what we are doing right, what we are doing wrong and where we could be doing better on HeadsUp.

If you could spare a few minutes why not complete the HeadsUp Evaluation Survey (<http://www.headsup.org.uk/survey>)

05/10/2006 13:47:00

biged

Any final pleas to decision maker

Or perhaps you have a final point or question you would like to make

05/10/2006 17:00:00

HughRobertsonMP

Sexist Sport

Some of the fastest growing sports in this country are the girls sections of sports like cricket and football - and with 2012 approaching there are lots of opportunities to get involved in a whole range of sports. Get involved! I meet many people who have 'given it a go' and it has transformed their lives!

06/10/2006 13:59:00

aragorn111

no sexist

I think some sports are too sexist because some girls want to play cricket, rugby or football but they can't. I think it would be good to make more clubs less sexist.

Rank: Key?:

06/10/2006 13:59:00

stormy

girls own will
i think girls should be able to play any sport they like on there onw will but guv should worn them that they mite get hurt even if they wanted to play rubby or cricket

06/10/2006 14:00:00

aragorn111

unfair

I still think it would be fair to separate male and female because it might be unfair.

06/10/2006 14:01:00

danzo

no more sexist

sport should not be sexist because we are now agest in the work house (which means u cant send a card with some l's age on at work and u cant get long service awards)and i think people being equal should come first

06/10/2006 14:08:00

Abit

sexist sport is mean

sexist sport is mean and makes people feel left out if you can't play sport the person organising the event should at least say where you could do it somewhere else.Often people laugh if someone or a team lose against a girls team. In riding lots of people laugh at a boy because he is one of the only boys who ride he is really very helpful and helps lots in lessons.

06/10/2006 14:08:00

gruff

What's the one most positive thing about sport?

Is it keeping fit/active? Or taking part in competitive sports? Or competing in sports just like your sporting heroes?

06/10/2006 17:00:00

justice

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See you then...

British Sport :: Forum Topic Transcript

06/09/2006 16:00:00

justice

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As much as possible, try to BackUp your opinions with facts, where you will find loads of info on all aspects of sport. **Are you worried by the British mentality towards sport and is it important to your identity or to Britain's position in the world? Some commentators have compared the sporting mentality of Australia and Britain and we are sometimes criticised for lacking that mental toughness and desire to win. Do you agree with this argument and if so what can be done to address the problem?**

18/09/2006 17:15:00

littles

Patroism

I think as a country, we pull together when need be - take this years world cup, everyone was displaying their support for England. It is just a few individuals who critise England and lack the support. We have done very well recently, what with our success in Rugby and the Ashes. People were dishearten be our world cup performance, but we got to the semi's and beat a lot of teams there, which for a country as small as were are, is quite impressive.

19/09/2006 11:46:00

biged

Richard Caborn MP, Sports Minister

Richard Caborn MP, the Sports Minister has had his say on the Great Sport Debate, in his statement of support www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s122_1...

He outlines that the government has worked hard to ensure you complete a minimum of two hours of school sport per week. Is this sufficient in your opinion? Have you any other reaction to other parts of his statement?

"school sport is of the utmost importance to the government, and why we've worked tirelessly to ensure as many children as possible do at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport a week. There's strong evidence that the plans we created in 2002 – the first ever comprehensive strategy for national school sport – are working well. With record investment in sport, more state-of-the-art facilities are now accessible and affordable. And, coaching and clubs have a much stronger infrastructure, which means that professionally run sport is much easier to find in your area. Over the last five years, we have created a structure for sport in this country to help build sport and physical activity back into people's lives – young and old. Still, recent figures estimate that one million children may be obese by 2010, which shows there is still work to be done. I am keen to hear your views on how we can encourage more young people to get into sport and healthy living at a time when, thanks to the 2012 Olympics, sport has never been higher on the public agenda."

19/09/2006 12:16:00

BODDY_Sarah

kind of

i think in some sporting events eg the world cup or the ashes last year....everyone got involved but no i dont think people will be putting flags on their cars for the olympics

19/09/2006 12:19:00

biged

People celebrating sporting success

Do you think that people should put up flags on their cars and houses before and after sporting events like the 2012 olympics? Or do you think it's over the top, patriotism gone crazy? Try and explain your answer...

19/09/2006 12:52:00

CARMICHAEL_Victoria

Soprt in England

I think Sport in England has a completely bad look on it. When it is the Olympics everyone thinks that England is going to be rubbish. This may be true but I think that people should take a more positive look on the matter. When it's the Olympics in London, we're all going to think it's going to be rubbish and we're going to be rubbish. We shouldn't though.

19/09/2006 12:56:00

McCONNELL_Eleanor

.....

I have no problem with people waving flags out of the window, I mean yeah! We want england to win and all the other countries are manic when they support their athletes so why shouldn't we be? It just adds fun to the whole thing and makes the actual athletes competing feel like they're doing something worthwhile.

19/09/2006 19:00:00

littles

A little Class Is needed.

the flags are great. Maybe a little cheesy though... I mean, when did Britain get that pratriotic? Shock of my life...Still, some flag is better than no flag...

20/09/2006 17:50:00

Levitica

Supporting English Teams

I really can't say I support english teams any more than other teams. Neither me or anyone I'm friends with is on the England team for something and I don't prefer English people I don't know to foreign people I don't know. I'd much rather see a real outsider where there are very few sport facilities, for example some of the small African countries, win the world cup than England. I found all of the flags going up around the world cup really funny. A few people did it to support England and then everyone else did it because a few people did it. It was a very sucessful meme (if that's how you use the word meme...) There were some houses near me each with three different flags in the exact same arrangement, they looked really silly.

21/09/2006 16:48:00

stormy

rollerhockey

rollerhockey is a good sport when u can learn to blade and get hockey skills rollerhockey is not very much like hockey the differences are u skate not run, the keeper has padding and also the player have padding. I think that more people should play rollerhockey.

22/09/2006 13:44:00

poshwolf4

sport

i think british sport is a good thing for us as theres allways something that someone like to watch on T.V. so people get to gether to watch to gether and loads of boy go and play football and buy shirts with footie starz on. It makes people dream of what they could be. Im proud of being british even though we hardly ever win stuff we go out with a bang. I'm not worried about britain mentality to sport because there are loads of fitness clubs and people trying to help people stay thin and fit

22/09/2006 13:44:00

gruff

2012 Olympics - positive or negative?

Are you worried about the cost of the 2012 Olympics in London? Or do you think that the boost to sport in this country will be well worth the money? In addition, countries who host Olympic games tend to perform better with the boost of home support for their athletes/competitors...

The cost of the 2012 Olympics

The costs of staging the Games are estimated at £2 billion and will be met by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) out of money raised from the private sector through sponsorship, official suppliers and ticket sales and from a grant from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

22/09/2006 13:47:00

freefallingfoil

re rollerhockey

Rollerhockey is gr8 fun i go 1s a week and so does my friend, stormy i think u should go along to the dunmow skater hockey club its gr8 fun

22/09/2006 14:03:00

bluebell

british sport

british sport is quite good we have alot of places to go and do sport but we are getting better with fitness but if we keep it going it would be good. there are alot of fat peopple in england and quite a few of them are in a gym or are doing exercis to help them become better and we are doing more about obesity. sport in britan is good with all the allimpics and training gyms that help fat people alover the british county.

22/09/2006 14:07:00

danzo

british sport

wet typical british sport is wet and should not be performed in this type of weather

22/09/2006 14:13:00

Abit

world sprt

I don't actually care if England wins anything because its not winning its the taking part. But I think not enough people do sport because they just watch loads of TV if you don't want to do sport try and you may enjoy it

22/09/2006 20:34:00

Levitica

Cost of the Olympics

"The costs of staging the Games are estimated at £2 billion and will be met by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) out of money raised from the private sector through sponsorship, official suppliers and ticket sales and from a grant from the International Olympic Committee (IOC)."

I was worried about the cost of the Olympics, I thought it wasn't fair as all of us were paying for it through our taxes but only people nearby will really benefit, but if it's not our money being spent then I have no problem at all!

26/09/2006 12:47:00

WHITHAM_Francesca

British sports

I think british people need to be more focused on sport it is really important ! but its the own individuals choice.

26/09/2006 12:49:00

HOWES_Victoria

BRritish sport

we arent all very aware of the amount of sport we need to do but there are soooo many sports available but we just dont no about them. so many of them would be perfect for those not good at others we jst need to be more aware of whats around us :)

26/09/2006 12:51:00

DAY_Gabrielle

sport
i don't agree with this. it isn't important to people's identity

26/09/2006 12:51:00

CAMISA_Elena

thoughts
more focus on sportttttt

26/09/2006 12:53:00

INMAN_Sally

British Sport
I think there are alot of people who do regular sport. howeverrrrrrr... I think we need to watch out for what we're eating! and excercising is very important too. Everyone should put the effort in to keeping fit and healthy :)

26/09/2006 12:53:00

KEANE_Marigold

supporting sport
I think its nice the way Britain supports it self but its a bit over the top sumtimes...but ppl shld b encouraged to actually get out there and be in sports teams, not slob in front of the olympics or football with popcorn or beer; isn't this how britain's obesity level has got out of control...too many ppl are content to watch sport on the tv rather than rouse themselves to get out and join a local sports team.

27/09/2006 12:50:00

biged

Transport improvements
Interestingly, a member of the public recently posed the following question to the London Mayor, Ken Livingstone:
Q - "This summer there was no air conditioning on most London trains, and journeys were delayed due to the rails overheating. With this type of infrastructure will visitors from Europe not feel as if they are in a third world country?"
Ken Livingstone responded as follows:
A - "No. A whole range of improvements are well underway across the transport system. The new trains to be rolled out on the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines will come with air-cooling, the first new trains are due to arrive in 2009. A major Victoria Line upgrade is now underway.
On top of this work, London Underground has a dedicated project team looking at other ways of cooling the Tube. A trial is already underway at Victoria station using an environmentally friendly cooling system based around the use of groundwater. If successful this could be rolled out across the network.
Also, let's not forget that London has Europe's most modern bus fleet and electronic 'smartcard' technology in Oyster."
Do you share the Mayor's optimism about transport in and around London for the 2012 Olympics or are you worried about this big issue?

28/09/2006 13:50:00

masterzen

Did you know?
London 2012 today launched On Your Marks!, www.london2012.com/onyourmarks, a new online education resource for 7-14 year olds. Aiming to help children develop their knowledge and enthusiasm for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, 'On Your Marks' is the first step in the Education Programme that will develop ahead of 2012 - featuring news articles, fact sheets and an image bank for teachers and pupils to download and use across the school curriculum. Topics include the history of the Games, health and fitness and plans for 2012.
The 2012 Education Programme will develop into a comprehensive resource of projects and initiatives to engage children across the UK and around the world. Sebastian Coe, Chair of the London 2012 Organising Committee said: "I am determined that young people should feel inspired by the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. They can and will engage young people right across the curriculum through sport, culture and education. We're really keen that the Games capture the imagination of young people all over the country and this can begin to happen now with the launch of this resource today."

28/09/2006 17:09:00

justice

Why not tell us what you really think about HeadsUp?
We've put together an evaluation survey for you guys to fill in - to help us work out what we are doing right, what we are doing wrong and where we could be doing better on HeadsUp. If you could spare a few minutes why not complete the HeadsUp Evaluation Survey www.headsup.org.uk/survey?

02/10/2006 09:19:00

swarby

supporting sport
as sport is brought to you in the home via tv, radio and on your mobile, there seems no insentive for people to get out there and join a club.

03/10/2006 17:28:00

DonFosterMP

Sport and food

It's interesting to hear you talk about people who stay at home and watch sport, as opposed to going out and taking part. During the World Cup, England fans consumed an extra 218 billion calories. That's 31 million kilograms in weight! We drank enough alcohol to fill 49 Olympic Swimming Pools, and ate enough pizza to cover 320 football pitches! So do you think that the more successful we are in international sports, the more likely you would be to head out and emulate your heroes? Or do you think you'd just stay in and watch more sport on telly?

04/10/2006 15:06:00

gruff

Sport on the BBC...

Did you know that the BBC makes an annual commitment to cover a certain number of hours of sports programmes? This year this figure stands at 260 hours of sports programmes.

05/10/2006 13:47:00

biged

Any final pleas to decision makers?

Or perhaps you have a final point or question you would like to make - make sure you do...

06/10/2006 13:55:00

danzo

i am bothered sport rulesssssss

im bothered about british sport cause i think because i am old enough to enter if i wanted to in 20/12 olympicsand it would be nice to help my country win.

06/10/2006 13:55:00

skatingforlife

attitude to sport

i think that peoples general attitude to sport is bad because theres not enough money to go round for them to train so some pertential champians arent able to play in the olympics or big events.

06/10/2006 13:56:00

aragorn111

more funding

I think britian should have more funding and more leisure centres. I think Britian doesn't have a good attitude towards sport because they think it takes up most of their time. Also they might have to travel for ages to get to the training centre they wanted to go to.

06/10/2006 14:06:00

stormy

not enough sport in britain

i think tha there should be sport in littel villages and towns to incarage any boddy. if you did that britain mite win the ilipixs.

06/10/2006 14:07:00

aragorn111

champions

I think britain should work harder so we could have more olympic chamions. I think it's annoying that some people are really good at sport but are too young to get in.

06/10/2006 14:08:00

aragorn111

more clubs

I think there should be more clubs and things so more people have a chance to play sport.

06/10/2006 14:08:00

gruff

What's the one most positive thing about sport?

Is it keeping fit/active? Or taking part in competitive sports? Or competing in sports just like your sporting heroes?

06/10/2006 14:09:00

freefallingfoil

Brithish sport

i think that if people want to see britain win gold this 2012 olympics the they shuold put them self forward and start training NOW!!

06/10/2006 14:10:00

aragorn111

more people

I think that more people should be given a chance at school to have a go at sport so we can pick out people who we think would be good in the olympics.

06/10/2006 14:12:00

aragorn111

more advert

I think that there should be more advert for sport centres so people can go there and get a chance to have fun at sport.

06/10/2006 14:13:00

poshwolf4

sport in brittian

i think less people are seriously considering the thought of being really good at sport and some people just can't afford it . i think the olipics will be a good thing as people should be sponsoring younger people so they can do the things there good at. If there isn't people sonsering other nobodies ever going to get anywere and brittish sport will go even firther down hill because there is nobody to compete.

06/10/2006 14:13:00

aragorn111

to gruff

To gruff- I think people should be more inspired by sport because it makes them fit, they get to compete in competitions and they have alot of fun.

06/10/2006 17:00:00

justice

The Forum Sleeps Tonight...

This has been a fascinating Forum with loads of brilliant sporting posts. It was a unique debate because it was a dedicated place for young people to get in on all the sporting debate and to do their own analysis. I hope you're all proud of what you achieved... I would be. From here, we will be writing up the summary report and getting this shipped out to media, politicians and you. Responses will be got and posted on HeadsUp. The next Forum is going to be interesting! It's all about the constitution...including an analysis of big issues affecting you, like Democracy and Justice. Do not miss it.

See you then...
