



STEPPING OUT

Technical and legislative guidance on Disabled Access - from Movement Management.

Issue 8: May 2002

Editor's Welcome






Welcome to the latest issue of Stepping Out. Our eighth edition coincides (almost) with the start of the 2002 World cup and has a distinctly footballing flavour.

In our main article, we take a look at the legislation and issues surrounding the designing of sports stadia for spectators with disabilities. Not surprisingly, many of the country's older sports facilities do not come up to scratch when making provision for the less able. It is more worrying however, that the design of many new stadia only pays lip service to the issue of equality of access as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act. We are pleased to feature, on page four, the work of the National Association of Disabled Supporters (NADS), an organisation championing the rights of disabled football followers. Their recently published and freely available "Guide to Grounds for Disabled Supporters" makes very interesting reading.

The soccer theme is continued as we provide details of a recent installation of one of our popular Excel platform lifts at an interesting attraction, the National Football Museum in Preston.

Also, on page four, is our new "Did you know?" feature. In this edition, you will find details of Dobel, a unique sheet material, which we use in the fabrication of our platform lifts.

In this issue:

-  **The National Association of Disabled Supporters.**
-  **Outdoor lifts for all seasons.**
-  **New information column - Did you know?**
-  **Access is no problem at the National Football Museum.**
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Please note that this newsletter is produced for the benefit of all those people involved in improving access to public and private buildings. While its content is well researched, we can accept no liability for any errors or omissions. The views expressed are not necessarily those of Movement Management. For more information contact Shirley Minshall at Axis on 01572 724932.

KICKING SPORTS FACILITY INEQUALITY INTO TOUCH

One are the days when the image of disabled football fans was of a few wheelchairs crammed into one corner of the ground. The 1995 Disability Discrimination Act has changed this forever. It is unlawful to provide a service on different terms, on the grounds of disability. Sports venues are specifically covered. The legislation and issues surrounding disabled access in sports stadia are, in some cases, ambiguous.

Stadia design must meet the requirements of the English and Welsh Building Regulations. Approved Document M, covering disabled access, is, therefore, relevant. It relates to all new or refurbished non domestic buildings. Inevitably, there is uncertainty in its application to sports stadia. For example, it states that there should be one wheelchair space for every 100 seats in a newly constructed stadium or new section of an existing ground - 150 spaces in a 15,000 capacity stadium. There is the proviso that, in a large stadium, a smaller proportion may suffice. Although, what constitutes a large stadium is not stated.

Of equal relevance is the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds, commonly referred to as the Green Guide. Whilst, it is not statutory law, it is an essential source of reference. The guide makes specific recommendations on disabled spectator accommodation. It defines a large stadium as one with a seated capacity of 10,000

or more and uses a sliding scale to calculate the number of wheelchair spaces. For stadia with more than 40,000 seats, the recommendation is for a base figure of 210 wheelchair spaces, with two additional spaces for every extra 1,000 seats. It advises that spaces for semi ambulant and wheelchair spectators should be dispersed throughout every section of the stadium with space for helpers to sit alongside.

If wheelchair spectators are to be accommodated in raised viewing areas, as the Green Guide indicates, how do they gain access? Approved Document M states that passenger lift access should be provided if the usable area of an upper tier exceeds 280 square metres. Where the floor area is between 100 and 280 square metres and the storey contains a unique facility, such as an executive box or a viewing lounge, it would be reasonable to provide a stair

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Our platform lifts are ideal for sports facilities



TECHNICAL COMPANION PLATFORM LIFTS FOR ALL SEASONS

A need to know guide for businesses about disability discrimination legislation has been launched by the Employers' Forum. **What About Disability?** explains the new rules concerning disabled workers, which are introduced in October 2004. For a copy telephone: 08457 404 142
The Times
23rd April 2002

Disabled Sport: Great Britain's two-man Winter Para-lympic team of Stephen Napier and Russell Docker failed to break the duck as Britain finished consecutive winter games, in Salt Lake City without a medal.
The Daily Telegraph
18th March 2002

Melton's new police station has been praised for its easy access for the disabled. Melton Borough Access Group was involved in designing the £900,000 King Street station and has now given its seal of approval to the building.
The Leicester Mercury
23rd April 2002

A group of teenage theatre-lovers who have overcome disability to tread the boards and win rave reviews, have had their acting ability endorsed at the highest level. Students from Hull College's Access Centre Theatre Group won the All England Theatre Festival Drama Competition.
The Yorkshire Post
10th April 2002

Catering for the needs of the less able in the design of our sports stadia, undoubtedly, throws up a number of barriers to wheelchair access. Many of these could be overcome by the use of a specialist lift. As such, we are taking the opportunity to highlight the versatility of our Companion platform lifts.

Within our range, we can accommodate travel heights from a few centimetres up to three storeys. Whilst the majority of platform lifts are installed inside buildings, three of our units, Prima, Supreme and Excel are equally suitable for outdoor usage.

Small and compact, the Prima is designed for use where a small change in level, equivalent to two to three steps, inhibits wheelchair users. It has a mechanically and electrically interlocked upper landing gate and an automatic hinged platform ramp for lower level access. Installation is simple and the lift is battery powered, so limited use is possible in the event of power failure.

Both Supreme and Excel are suitable for travel between levels, with a maximum height of two metres. Like the Prima, the

Supreme can be easily retrofitted as neither requires a pit nor any additional support. The Supreme is completely enclosed within its integral shaft. Relevant sections are glazed in clear safety glass.

The Excel offers total flexibility. Raised and lowered by a scissor mechanism, accommodated in a shallow pit, there is no lifting machinery above the platform. This means that gates and handrails can be custom designed to suit the surroundings. Furthermore, the platform can be supplied in any size and with a choice of entry/exit configurations.

Each model carries the CE mark and fully complies with Part M of the UK building regulations. In public spaces, it may be desirable to control access to and use of the lift. We have developed a "designated user control" facility, which can be fitted to all models. This ensures that the lift cannot be operated without the presence of a designated key holder, such as a steward or attendant.

If you would like to read more about Prima, Supreme, Excel or the other models in our Companion lift range, visit our web site, www.moveman.co.uk

KICKING INEQUALITY INTO TOUCH

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lift. Specialist platform lifts, like our Companion Prestige and Supreme models, are viable alternatives.

The new National Stadium at Wembley, should it be built, will, undoubtedly, be regarded as a flagship facility. Unlike its predecessor, the design of the new stadium provides excellent facilities for the disabled. The planning application, details how the Green Guide's recommendations will be met. For example, 310 wheelchair spaces are included, the stipulated number for a 90,000 seat stadium. The spaces are dispersed throughout the ground, at various levels, enabling wheelchair spectators to sit with their own team supporters. A specialist access committee, including members of the National Association of Disabled Supporters (NADS), will be formed to ensure that the proposed facilities are acceptable.

It would appear, however, that many football clubs are not following the new Wembley's example. They appear reluc-

tant to sacrifice seats in prime locations and ignore the recommendations made in the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds. A Football Task Force report to the Government, in 1999, highlighted that several new stands had been built without any wheelchair spaces. As a result, the Government has directed that lottery funding will only be made available to schemes, where local disabled groups have been consulted.

In spite of this threat, many football clubs appear to put commercial gain before the provision of acceptable wheelchair accommodation. It is time, therefore, that specific statutory legislation is introduced. The Football Task Force report recommends that a sliding scale for the provision of wheelchair spaces, as contained within the "Green Guide", be adopted as a legal requirement under amended building regulations. Consultation with disabled supporters associations, such as NADS, must also be a part of the process.

APPLICATIONS

WE SCORE FIRST AT NEW NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM

Police officers are under investigation after a sharp-eyed reader snapped them parking in a disabled bay at Trafford Park's Asda store while they went on a shopping trip. The picture has upset disabled rights campaigners, who branded the officers behaviour as "very disappointing."
Manchester Evening News
24th April 2002

In the 22nd London Marathon, Britain scored a double success in the wheelchair races, with David Weir and Tanni Grey-Thompson winning the men's and women's events.
The Daily Telegraph
15th April 2002

It is estimated that disabled people spend £40 billion a year on goods and services and that over 2 million disabled people are in paid employment and a further 1 million would like to work, according to the company A.R.I.S.E. set up by John Perry, an experienced disability trainer, consultant and counsellor. A.R.I.S.E. helps to employ and retain the services of fully qualified disabled people.
Business and Finance Today
22nd April 2002

Disabled children and their carers will benefit from above inflation increases to their state benefits from this month. The disabled child premium has increased to £35.50 per week, a rise of £5 over the rate of inflation.
The Leicester Mercury
12th April 2002

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In the run up to the 2002 World cup finals, most English football fans will be hoping that Sven's boys will emulate the achievement of the 1966 squad and bring the cup home. As a consequence, the National Football Museum has seen a significant increase in the number of visitors. Officially opened in June of 2001, it is fully accessible to wheelchair users and families with push chairs. We were pleased to be awarded the contract to supply a disabled access platform lift.

Mark Bushell, Marketing Manager

at the National Football Museum, comments. "The Museum is designed with the best possible access for all visitors in mind. We needed a disabled access lift that was safe and reliable. Movement Management were able to satisfy both these criteria."

"A game of two halves" is how the new National Football Museum is being described. Based at Deepdale, the home of Preston North End Football Club, the museum's first half takes a look back through the history of the beautiful game.

One particular exhibit celebrates England winning the World cup in 1966. The actual cross bar, a source of considerable controversy surrounding England's third goal, is exhibited within the museum. The second half is a themed hands-on exhibition, with many interactive displays, examining different facts of the game.

Particular attention has been given to the needs of the less able throughout the Museum. For example, the exhibitions are multi-sensory, with sound throughout and opportunities for handling objects.

Access ramps have been incorporated to enable easy access for wheelchair users and families with push chairs between the Museum's three levels.

One of our Companion Excel platform lifts provides access to the Museum's upper level, a viewing area for the Preston North End stadium. It is an alternative to a short flight of steps and has a lift height of 1150mm.

Usually, we would supply the Excel as a complete self-contained unit, comprising lifting platform and the enclosure. On this occasion, however, the access gate, hand rails and support structure, were installed by the building contractor.

We simply supplied the lifting platform and operator controls. British Standard 6440, the code of practise covering powered lifting platforms for use by disabled persons, gives specific dimensions for the tolerances between the platform and the enclosure. We have considerable experience of these requirements and provided technical advice to ensure that the installation fully complied.

The Excel is one of our most popular products. The lift operates via a three phase 415v supply and is suitable for applications with a travel height of up to two metres. It can carry an optimum load of 400kg, so can easily accommodate a wheelchair passenger and attendant.

The Excel fully meets the requirements of all the relevant UK and European standards and design codes.

If you are interested in visiting the National Football Museum or would simply like to learn more about the attraction, visit the informative web site at: www.nationalfootballmuseum.com



The Excel platform lift at the new National Football Museum in use.

EE AYE ADDIO.... NADS IS ON THE UP!

The National Association of Disabled Supporters (NADS) was formed to further the interests of disabled people attending football matches; be they wheelchair users, blind or partially sighted, deaf or have restricted mobility. NADS' overall aim is to raise the standard of facilities available for the less able in football stadia.

Its 13 strong voluntary management committee hopes to encourage every club to have a disabled supporters club with whom it would have regular dialogue. This will give the clubs a valuable source of specialist information relating to access, views of the pitch, car parking, disabled toilets and catering facilities.

NADS has the official backing of the major football authorities because of the work it has already undertaken. The new "Guide to Grounds for Disabled Supporters" has been published and is available free of charge. It provides a real insight into the accessibility of the UK's 114

league and conference clubs and aims to improve the football experience for both home and visiting fans. Information for the guide was gathered through a comprehensive audit of facilities, completed by the disabled fans themselves.

The guide has highlighted the



An artist's impression of the new National Stadium at Wembley. If it gets built, NADS will be heavily involved in the provision of facilities for disabled supporters.

shortfalls of many clubs. Interestingly, of the twenty clubs currently in the Premier League, only five offer the disabled a football experience which can be considered equivalent to that enjoyed by able bodied fans. NADS believes, however, that the clubs seem to be keen to improve facilities and make the game of football accessible to all.

NADS work is supported by the Football Task Force. The task force believes that there should be consultation with disabled fans on plans for ground developments and that all grounds should be audited annually, by NADS, to monitor improvements.

Anyone wishing to learn more about NADS' excellent work should visit their web site at www.nads.org.uk. As well as detailing the relevant facilities at the various grounds, visitors can post information about their own experiences, at specific grounds, on the

site's bulletin board. There are links to individual club's disabled supporter associations as well as several other interested organisations' web sites.

Schools across the West Midlands are to share more than £17 million to help provide better facilities for pupils with disabilities. Schools Minister Catherine Aston said "The money, awarded under the Target Capital Fund, was aimed at rebuilding and modernising schools to make them fit for the 21st Century."

The Birmingham Evening Mail

15th April 2002

The Australian National University in the Australian Capital Territory has increased by 130% the number of students with a disability it is assisting.

The Canberra Times

24th April 2002

in the news

DID YOU KNOW ?

If all the shafts from the Prestige platform lifts sold in the last two years were joined together, the result would be a tunnel long enough to circumnavigate Leicester, our home city. Two years ago, we introduced a new version of the Prestige, which fully meets the requirements of Approved Document M.

The Prestige can be specified for travel heights up to three storeys and is supplied with an integral shaft as well as the platform lift itself. This means that the whole assembly is covered by the CE mark, a guarantee of conformity with all relevant European standards.

The shaft walls and door panels are fabricated from a unique material called Dobel. It is high strength sheet steel, onto which a polymer film is laminated. The material is used extensively in the shipbuilding industry.

The film lamination provides a very durable surface used for the facing of cabin walls and ceilings on luxury cruise ships, such as the Oriana.

We chose Dobel, for our shaft panelling, because it combines exceptional strength and durability with flexibility in terms of surface finish. The specific polymer used is also highly fire resistant and certified as such for internal applications. Dobel is available in a wide variety of solid colours and printed patterns, including decorative wood and textile finishes. This enables us to specify the finish so that the lift will blend in with its surroundings and be as unobtrusive as is possible.

If you would like to learn more about this excellent product and its application, there is a specific web site, log on to: www.dobel.com