

Clickimin Centre

Shetland's new recreation centre



Olympic golden girl is special guest at opening ceremony

Shetland's new £3 million sports and leisure centre at Clickimin, Lerwick, opens officially tomorrow. It is the culmination of 15 years discussion and planning and offers Shetlanders sport and recreational facilities on a par with anywhere else in the north of Scotland.

Tomorrow's celebration will begin at 1.30 pm when the Lord Lieutenant of Shetland Magnus Shearer, special guest Miss Tessa Sanderson, MBE — the Olympic javelin gold medalist — and other invited guests will tour the building. At 2.30 pm the centre will be opened to the public and for the next hour staff will be on duty to show people round the building.

At 3.30 the public and invited guests will assemble in the main hall for the official opening ceremony performed by Mr Shearer. Miss Sanderson will unveil a commemorative plaque. Afterwards, the public will be free to wander around the building until 5 pm. Lerwick Brass Band and Lerwick Pipe Band will play during the afternoon.

The day of celebration will be rounded off with an invitation only buffet/dance in the centre. The building will be open at 9.30 on Sunday morning for normal business.

Bright future for sport at £3m leisure complex

The long bleak nights of winter should now be altogether a brighter time for sport-loving Shetlanders. For the new £3 million centre at Clickimin offers the opportunity to take part in just about any sport anyone would wish to play.

But it is more than just a first class sports centre. Manager Mr Andy Mayers described it as a place for Shetlanders to meet, socialise and play. The architects called it a multi-recreational centre. With concert seating for 1200, a function room for dances and dinners, a cafe, a bar plus some of the best sporting equipment available, it meets these exacting descriptions with ease.

Viewed from the outside the building gives a false impression of its size. It looks a nice compact structure, well designed and modern, but not especially big. Cross the threshold, however, and one is in another world. There is space that logically, one feels, should not be there. How did all these rooms and that cavern of a main hall fit in? Good planning, and some of the best architects in the business, is the unashamedly secular answer.

These architects are the Newcastle-based firm, Faulkner-

Brown, Hendy, Watkinson and Stonor. They designed the building to merge with its environment and offer maximum resistance to Shetland weather. In that they succeeded admirably. But the building is a sports

A Shetland Times supplement written by Houston Brown. All photographs by Dennis Coutts.

and leisure centre and to do that job well must have plenty of space inside. Again they have been very successful.

Main hall

The main hall is 119 feet by 36 feet with 29 feet headroom — big enough for any indoor sport. It can easily be sub-divided to accommodate six badminton courts, two five-a-side football pitches, or whatever is needed. The wooden floor is marked off for badminton, hockey, basketball, netball, volleyball, tennis and football. There are safety nets for cricket, archery and golf, and harnesses are provided for two trampolines.

The hall will be used for concerts and major tournaments and can seat 1200. Tiered seating

for 400 can be pulled out from the walls with 800 stacked chairs making up the numbers. The lighting system can be varied to suit almost any occasion and the roof lining is perforated to help acoustics.

Catering

The function room — which can cater for up to 200 — bar, cafe and kitchen are the domain of assistant manageress Miss Jasmine Tulloch. Both the cafe and bar, incidentally, are not far from the sporting action with views of the main hall and one of the outdoor football pitches.

The function room will not only be used for social occasions.

With a full-length mirror along one wall it is ideal for dance and it is planned to hold aerobics, keep fit and martial arts classes there too. During the day part of the room will be used as a crèche so that parents can leave their children in capable hands while they enjoy their sport. In a store room nearby is an ingenious fold-away stage which can be quickly erected.

Round the other side of the main hall are the shooting gallery and fitness room. Assistant manager Mr Peter Moncrieff has special responsibility for helping groups and individuals make as much use of the building as they can. He said he was not sure at first what to put in a long, narrow room at the back of the building. But with the help of a large quantity of six mm thick steel he found the answer. The room is now a fully steel-lined shooting gallery. To use it you will have to join Lerwick Rifle Club. Peter plans to put a bowling alley in the room as well. But don't worry — both sports will not be allowed at the same time!

The fitness room is for the real blood, sweat and tears brigade. A multi-gym big enough for 10

(Continued on page 2)

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Twelve years of planning but
centre built in 18 months

After 12 years of discussion and planning the Clickimin Centre was built in 18 months. Main contractors, the Glasgow-based Whatling (Building) Ltd. started work on 6th May 1983 and by mid-November last year they were finished. Sub-contractors were left to add the final touches.

The only firm present through the whole construction phase was the consultant engineers, Jamieson Roberts Associates, who looked after on-site supervision. Mr Glyn Roberts said that despite conditions met on site — the former town dump — the contractor made excellent progress. Whatlings built the foundations while a local firm, Frank L. Johnson, was sub-contracted for the earth works.

Architects Faulkner-Brown, Hendy, Warkinson and Stonor, designed the building to get the roof up quickly so that work could progress under shelter as soon as possible. That was only

one of many innovative design features which have brought much praise for the architects from everyone involved in the project.

The foundations were completed in two months and on 14th August work started on the building's steel frame. Local builders Garthspool Engineering and scaffolders, Ardyne Services, were involved at this stage. The frame was up inside a month and work started on the roof. It is a highly insulated, double-skinned aluminium structure of Swedish design erected by Swedish firm Korrugal — who sent over three roofers — and Design & Construction Ltd. of Warrington. The roof was up by the end of September.

The external walls were built of locally-produced concrete blocks and with them in place the contractor had a weather tight enclosure to work on. The

internal walls are constructed from shot-blasted concrete blocks with a finished face. The face of these blocks are the inside walls of the building and, as such, the block work had to be of the highest standard. To cut maintenance costs on plaster and paint these walls are not covered so it was vital that the finished block work looked good. Getting that right was probably the biggest problem for the contractor.

High initial cost but low maintenance is the principle on which the building is designed. Heating is from an oil-fired system and insulation is of a very high standard. Even heat that would have been lost through the extractor fans is recovered by heat exchangers.

The main contract was finished by mid-November last year and on Wednesday, 5th December, Whatlings handed

over the keys to centre manager, Mr Andy Mayers. During the last few months the finishing touches have been added to the building and equipment moved in.

Other local firms involved in the project were Nicolson & Hunter, Bixter, who did the plumbing; Proctor Flooring, Lerwick, who supplied and laid all the made-to-order carpeting; and Philips & Duguid, Scalloway, who lined the shooting gallery with 6 mm steel.

The athletics track, football pitch and long jump pit being built beside the centre is a separate £320,000 contract. Frank L. Johnson started work in July last year and hope to be finished by mid-May. The project was designed by landscape architects William Gillespie and Partners of Glasgow. A feature of the track is a rubber-based polymeric surface which allows water to seep through.

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Bikes to test strong limbs

(Continued from page 1)

people to work in at the same time and two training bikes will test even the strongest limbs. But the equipment can be set to suit every level of fitness and a qualified instructor will be on duty at all times to help people work out a sensible training schedule. The room will be open to people over 16.

Casual users

Peter wants to make sure the centre does not become dominated by organised groups so 50 per cent of facilities will be available at all times for casual users. He hopes too to encourage minority sports and people who don't take much exercise to come

along and join in. Centre staff will put up and take down all the equipment.

Research has shown that sports centres tend to be used most by males aged 18 to 30, Peter said. He wants the rest of us to make sure that does not happen at Clickimin.

In keeping with the centre's role as flagship of the whole Clickimin leisure complex there are nine changing rooms for people taking part in outdoor pursuits. They are right beside the soon to be completed all-weather athletics track, football pitch and long jump pit. With other football pitches, a hockey pitch and horse riding area at the other side of the centre the facilities will be second to none.

Alongside the outdoor changing rooms are changing rooms for centre users and another room which is presently designated as a changing room but may be turned into a sauna. Other rooms are used to store the multiplicity of top-class sports equipment available to centre users with one room, by the foyer, available to clubs as a meeting room.

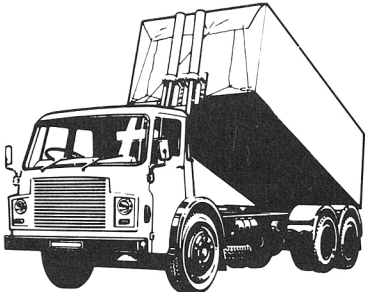
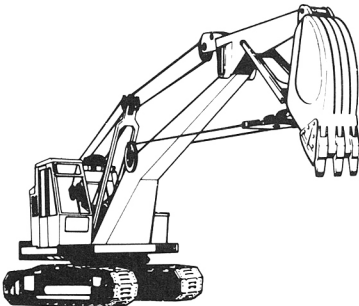
The Clickimin Centre will be open from 9.30 am to 10.30 pm, 365 days a year. The facilities are the best and the variety of sports available is very wide. The people of Shetland at last have the opportunity to develop their sporting skills to the highest standards without leaving the islands.

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Rags to riches at town dump

"Yet, note the beauty of the myriads of gulls attracted by the rubbish . . ." wrote architects Moira and Moira of the dump at Clickimin in an early report.

They were waxing lyrically on what was a pretty disgusting sight but, ironically, were not wrong to see there could be some value in the town dump. For, as SIC director of leisure and recreation Mr John Nicolson explained,

the history of Clickimin contains a rag to riches story that even a soap opera script writer would have struggled to imagine.

Since work started on the Clickimin complex the Scottish Development Department has given grant aid in excess of £400,000. That money was granted under the SDD's rehabilitation of derelict sites programme . . . and Clickimin qualified because it had been the town dump.

A vision of a complete recreational complex

The opening of the new centre is the latest, most spectacular, example of a far-sighted Lerwick Town Council plan to create a sports and leisure complex along the Clickimin shoreline.

Twenty-five years ago the council proposed in a town plan to level the Clickimin dump and turn it into playing pitches. They wanted to build a hard path along the shore for walkers and those sailing model yachts. Nor Loch was to be filled in and turned into playing pitches. "A sports pavilion with perhaps an

indoor swimming pool will be sited on the rising ground below the link road between North and South Lochside . . ."

During 1974 architects Moira and Moira took these proposals on board, modified and expanded them, and came up with a blueprint for a sports and leisure complex that has become the model worked on today.

In Moira and Moira's "Clickimin Recreational Park" report of January 1975 the centre was to be sited at the very north of the complex. Playing pitches and

athletics facilities were to be on reclaimed Nor Loch. An information centre and adventure playground would have stood roughly where the new centre has been built. And the playing pitches at the south of the complex would have a camp site and open space. Other facilities included in their plan were a 650 metre dry ski slope, a model boating and skating pond, a hard path round the north of the loch and facilities for model yachting on the loch.

For a number of reasons the complex does not look like what Moira and Moira envisaged but many of the facilities they suggested have been built and more may yet be added.

At the south end of Clickimin a horse riding area has been constructed, senior and juvenile football pitches and a hockey pitch built. Immediately to the north of the new centre an all-weather athletics track and football pitch are being built. The track will be ready by the summer, the pitch probably next year. Development to the north of the centre will continue in the future.

Just how fast Clickimin expands will depend on the resources available and the

public demand but SIC director of leisure and recreation, Mr John Nicolson, said more facilities will be built. "An all-weather practise pitch and rugby park are still to come." These will be built north of the athletics track with work starting in the financial year 1986/87 at the earliest.

Mr Nicolson thinks there may still be room for a ski slope, if not the 650-yarder suggested by Moira and Moira. "It would be pretty long term but a slope of perhaps 100 yards has not been ruled out." The lack of access to real ski-ing facilities is the key here. If an artificial surface is found to be a sufficient facility in itself, with the knowledge that access to real snow slopes would be limited, an artificial slope of perhaps 100 yards might be a worthwhile facility, he argued.

Another hurdle to be overcome before a ski slope could be built is land acquisition. The slope, paths on the north shore of the loch and a camp site would all be sited on the Staney Hill to the north and west of Clickimin. That land is still in private ownership and "more impetus" on land acquisition will be a necessary next step in the further development of the complex, Mr Nicolson said.

The man at the helm of an exciting new venture

THE MAN AT THE HELM of Shetland's newest and most exciting leisure facility is 37-year-old Andy Mayers. A former physical education teacher, he has worked in leisure and recreation for seven years and before coming north was deputy manager of Madeley Court leisure centre in Telford New Town, a huge complex with a staff of 65.

Mr Mayers comes from Scunthorpe and an early claim to sporting fame was two games in goal for Scunthorpe United reserves when in his early-20s — sometime, he added, before the arrival of Scunthorpe's most famous reserve, England cricketer Ian Botham. He is a keen squash player, swimmer and footballer and holds a British Trampolining Federation coaching badge.

Like many before him Andy was first tempted to apply for a job in the islands after a holiday. He visited Shetland a few years ago and much enjoyed his stay. So, when he saw the Clickimin job advertised and saw who had designed the centre — he holds the contract architects in high regard — he decided to apply.

He has been in Lerwick for several months now supervising the installation of equipment and choosing his staff. Already nine full-time and six part-time workers have been appointed with two more full-timers and 10 part-time still to be chosen.

His wife Veronica joined him last week and they have been busy moving into a new home. That, and the excitement of getting the centre ready to open, have kept him a very busy man.

Andy is full of enthusiasm for Clickimin and sees it as an immense challenge. "It's a fantastic opportunity for me to develop a superb facility like this in a fascinating community." Clickimin being the first sports and leisure centre in the islands makes it specially exciting, he added.

"It's not only the best sports venue in the islands but one of the best in the north of Scotland. It will allow people to improve their sporting standards. And it is the perfect venue for local, inter-island and even international competitions." He hopes to organise a representative international basketball match between Scotland and Norway at Clickimin in the near future.

"I am very conscious of the need for a facility that can be used casually by people outwith sporting organisations," he said. So space will always be available for people who call in at short notice for a game of badminton or whatever.



But Clickimin's potential goes well beyond the boundaries of sport, for example, TV wrestler Big Daddy and pop group Showaddy Waddy are both appearing at the centre in the near future. Andy is keen to make full use of all the facilities. "I see it as a marriage between sport and the social and entertainment facilities in that both can go on under the same roof. The way it has been designed, with seating for 1200, gives me the opportunity to bring major concerts to the islands. It's a place for Shetlanders to meet, socialise and play."

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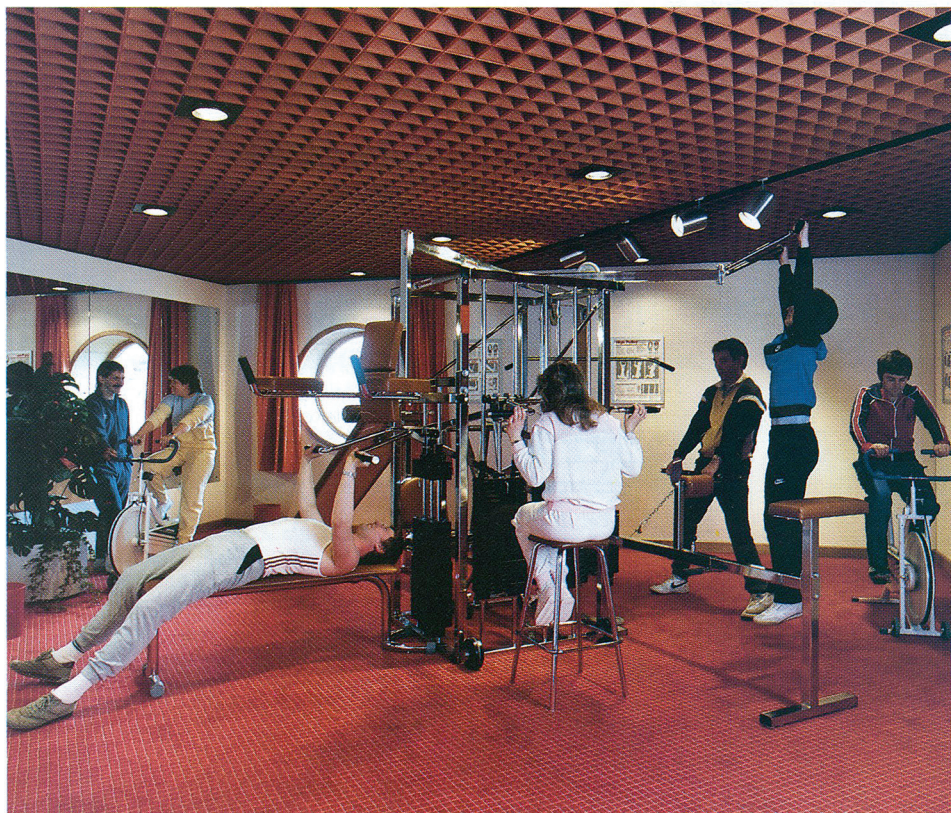
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In 1971 when a party from Shetland Council of Social Service returned from Faroe raving about the standard of sports facilities in those islands they had started the long, sometimes troubled, history of Lerwick's new £3 million sports and leisure centre. Clickimin was built in under two years but the dream stretches back well over a decade.

In the summer of 1971 a party from SCSS and representatives of local sports groups visited Torshavn to investigate the kind of sports centre in the town. What they saw impressed them greatly. In the discussions that followed that visit local sports groups were united: Shetland must have a similar centre in Lerwick. Lerwick Town Council agreed in principle and allocated a site at Clickimin.

During 1972 the SCSS consolidated their early impressions of what was needed at Clickimin and at the end of that year produced the first comprehensive report on the scheme. The SCSS design bears a striking resemblance to the finished article in all but one area — the cost. They estimated the centre would cost £135,000 to build at 1972 prices.

The SCSS report concluded: "There has existed for some time a strong case for such a building in Lerwick. The present need for recreational facilities in the community is strong enough — the inevitable build-up of population in the future makes it urgent."

The good work of the SCSS continued through the following years. A working party was formed and early in 1974 they again stressed to the local authorities the need for a centre and their anxiety that nothing appeared to be happening. A survey they had taken showed this concern extended to the whole community. And at a public meeting attended by 34 voluntary clubs enthusiastic approval was given for a Clickimin centre.

The debate at this time was being carried out in a climate of considerable cut-backs in public expenditure. The local authorities made numerous representations to central government for extra money but their pleas fell on deaf ears. A feeling that all the efforts of the SCSS may have been to no avail creeps into records of their meetings.

But, in the summer of 1974, the campaign for a centre was given new impetus. It became apparent that some 1200 workers would arrive during the next year to begin the construction of the Sullom Voe oil terminal. Lerwick's sport and recreational facilities, already inadequate for locals and tourists, would be placed under unbearable strain from this new influx of people.

The SCSS vision of building, not only a sports centre, but a multi-recreational facility in the town was spurred, it would appear, not only because that was what was desirable but fears the lack of these facilities could lead to trouble in the town. A report stated: "If problems were to be avoided when a large proportion of the workforce came to town at the weekends, as they undoubtedly will, these facilities must be provided to avoid considerable disturbance." They proposed housing under one roof a sports hall, dance hall, self-service restaurant, lounge bar and public bar.

At a meeting of Lerwick Town Council in September 1974 the SCSS working party outlined the objectives for the centre. They were:

- to provide an indoor sports and recreational centre for the adult population in Shetland
- to cater for the influx of adults from oil and oil-related industries

- to cater for the Shetland tourist trade
- to be complementary to plans for a Clickimin recreational park by offering toilet, changing and refreshment facilities

The town council accepted these objectives and asked SCSS to examine the financing of the project. Subsequently, SCSS contacted a number of developers who were asked to submit plans and costings.

In May 1975 the old town and county councils were replaced by Shetland Islands Council. The building of the centre was switched to their agenda, as was the vexed question of how to pay for it. And now a new consideration was added to the equation — Anderson High School games hall.

The council decided to give the provision of sports and recreational facilities at the

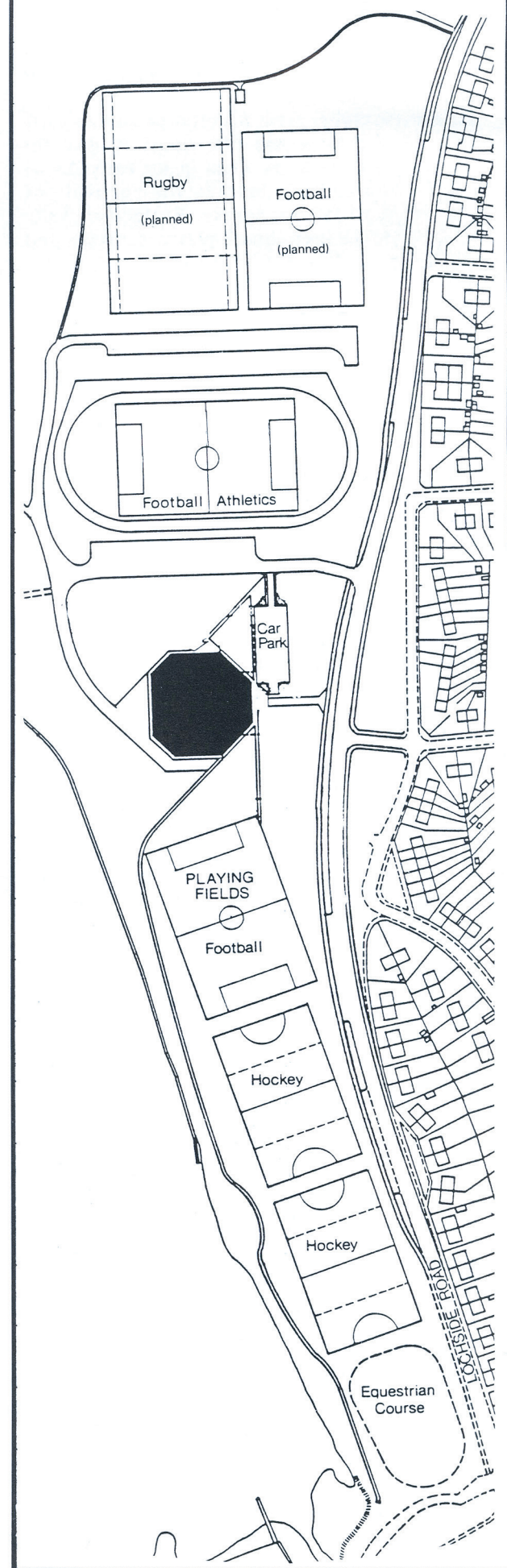
school priority over any other such project elsewhere. To have done otherwise would have been to risk the government cutting its spending on the high school. It had become apparent that a sports centre at Clickimin would have to be a commercial concern as the government would not allow it to be funded from the rates.

Bearing this in mind the council held a series of meetings in 1976 with developers who had previously submitted plans for a centre to the SCSS. Only one scheme, costing over £10 million and including a luxury hotel was considered commercially viable. However, that scheme was later rejected.

The centre stayed on council agendas through the late seventies until at a meeting of the leisure and recreation committee in May 1979, for the first time, a

(Continued on opposite page)

The complex



the Clickimin shoreline



The main games hall can cater for 19 different indoor sports.

(Continued from opposite page)

price was put on the project — an outline sum of £3.5 million.

Interestingly, ever since the idea was first mooted no councillor had spoken out against the centre. But now, when the sums were at last coming together, the first murmurings of discontent began to be heard.

At a meeting of the council in June 1979 Mrs Joan MacLeod moved that the leisure and recreation committee further investigate the financing of the centre. This was done and the committee recommended the centre be built without endangering other possible projects with a ceiling cost of £3 million. This decision was later ratified by the council and a working party appointed.

Town versus country

Plans for the centre proceeded with little sign of discontent in the council chambers during 1980 and 1981 until in October of that year the bubble burst. What has become known as the town versus country argument had

begun in earnest.

In October the leisure and recreation committee held a special meeting devoted to Clickimin. They considered a joint report from the director of leisure and recreation, Mr John Nicolson, and the then finance director, Mr Chris Ennis. The report recommended the creation of a Clickimin Recreational Trust which would build and run the centre and that the SIC Reserve Fund should make a contribution of £1 million to the trust towards the total cost of £3 million.

Lerwick councillor, Mr Edward Thomason, moved the scheme should proceed. He was seconded by Mr Peter Watts. But Dunrossness North councillor, Mr Willie Tait, seconded by Walls and Sandness councillor, Captain Gordon Walterson, moved an amendment that the scheme should be scrapped. Seven voted with the motion, two against and three abstained. So the recommendation to proceed went to the full council.

The council met that same

day, 1st October 1981. Again an amendment not to go ahead with the scheme was proposed. Mrs John MacLeod asked for a roll-call vote. Thirteen Lerwick and rural councillors voted for the scheme. Of the seven who voted against, all represented rural areas. Then a further amendment was moved to reject the Clickimin plans and instead develop existing facilities at Firth Camp. The same 13 voted for Clickimin and this time only four supported the amendment. Another move was made to block the scheme the following February when the application for planning permission was only granted after an 11-4 vote.

Opposition to Clickimin was not restricted to the council chambers. In the early months of 1982 Walls and Sandness Community Council circulated a petition against the centre. At a meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils in March it was announced the petition had been signed by over 3000 people. Delegates expressed concern that Clickimin would be too costly and council investment in the rest of Shetland would suffer. It was decided to ask the SIC to hold a referendum to see if the project should go ahead. That request was subsequently turned down and with it the public argument against Clickimin lost momentum. In March the SIC gave the first million pounds to the Clickimin trust.

The reasons for the town versus country argument, and why it boiled to the surface when it did, are probably threefold. Firstly, there was genuine concern that spending so much on Clickimin may mean there would be nothing left to invest in other parts of Shetland and the islands economy. Secondly, some people felt enough had already been invested in local halls, making a sports centre on the scale of

(Continued on page six)

A trust created by the SIC to spend on sport and recreation

The sports and leisure centre is the property of Clickimin Recreational Trust, a body created by the SIC to allow it to get round government spending restrictions.

During the early 1980s the council gave the trust £3 million from the reserve fund to build the centre. In November last year a further £1.5 million was given to the trust. That money was invested and the interest gained will meet the running costs of the building.

When the idea of a centre was in its infancy there was concern its running costs would be a drain on Shetland ratepayers but, as trust chairman Mr John Nicolson explains, that is not the case. "If, as was originally envisaged, the centre had been built by the council's property and development company SLAP and then rented back to the council rent, rates and running costs would have been £700,000 a year. But now with reserve fund money invested by us the estimated running cost of £140,000 a year will be met from interest. It will not cost the ratepayer a penny."

Mr Nicolson sits on the trust by virtue of his job as

SIC director of leisure and recreation. Most of the other seven trustees are there for the same reason. They are the SIC directors of social work and education; chairman of the development leisure and recreation committee and education committee; convener of the SIC, Mr A. I. Tulloch; Bells Brae school physical education teacher, Mrs Doreen Gray; and deputy director of leisure and recreation, Mr Rob Anderson.

Trust accountability to the council is guaranteed by a series of conditions attached to the reserve fund grants. If any of these conditions are broken the trust would have to repay the money. Most interesting of these conditions are that no membership scheme be operated at the centre, special arrangements must be made for the elderly, disabled and unemployed, and positive discrimination be shown to rural areas in respect of bookings.

Trust money is invested in the stock market to gain the maximum return. But one rule has been imposed on the company employed to handle trust dealing in the market. No money must be invested directly in South Africa.

The trust meets regularly to monitor how the centre is progressing and consider other leisure and recreation projects but the day-to-day running of the centre is in the hands of the manager, Mr Andy Mayers, and his staff.

The building of the centre is only part of a wider recreational remit given to the trust by the council in its efforts to get round government spending restrictions. The trust's aim is "to provide, or assist in the provision of, facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the condition of life for the inhabitants of the Shetland Islands . . ."

Apart from the money for Clickimin the trust has, to date, received £85,000 from the reserve fund for recreation projects. Fifty thousand of that is being spent on a detailed costings and outline design for a swimming pool adjacent to Mid Yell Junior High School and a pool and playing park at Baltasound Junior High. A similar report for a swimming pool at Brae will cost £25,000 and £10,000 is being spent on a preliminary report on a campsite at Burrarfirth, Unst.



The conference room is available for hire to clubs and organisations for meetings and lectures.

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Controversy in council

(Continued from page five)
Clickimin unnecessary. Thirdly, the whole debate took place in the run up to SIC election in May. That could explain the desire for roll call votes in the Town Hall.

Before the arguments on the rights and wrongs of having the centre had broken out the

mechanics of financing it had started. It was obvious the Government would neither give the council consent to spend £3 million on a capital project nor allow it to pay for its running costs from the rates. One alternative considered was for the SIC's property and development company SLAP to

build the centre and rent it back to the council. However, the rent, rates and running costs would have set the council back £700,000 each year and anyway the government introduced legislation which blocked that avenue.

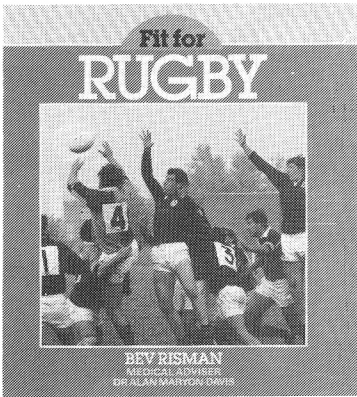
The SIC's answer was to set up the Clickimin Recreational Trust.

With the £1 million given by the council from the reserve fund in March 1982 and a subsequent £2 million transferred the following year the trust was ready to start building. In March 1983 a tender from Glasgow-based builders Whatlings (Building) Ltd. was accepted and on 6th May work started on site.

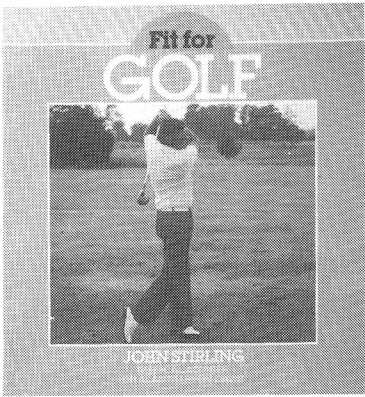


The luxurious bar will seat up to 40 people in comfort.

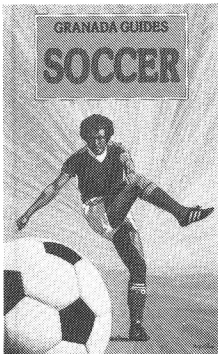
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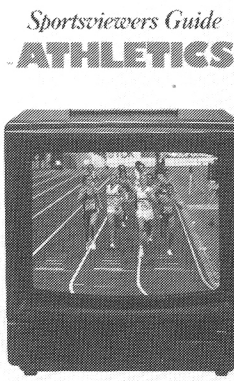
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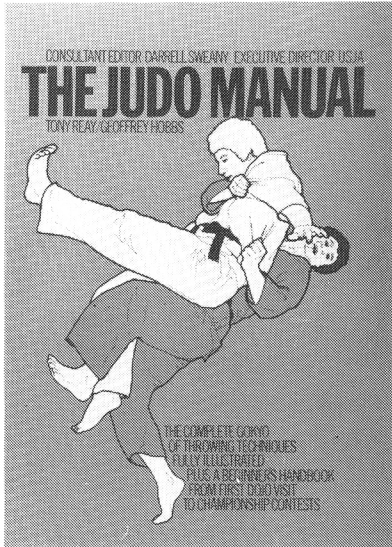
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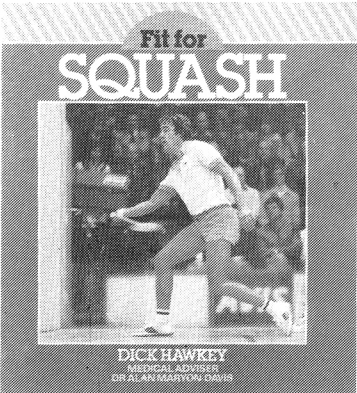
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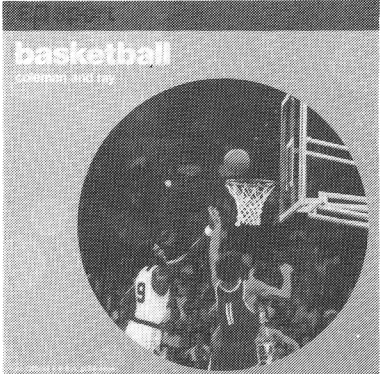
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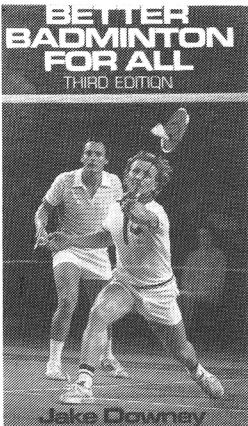
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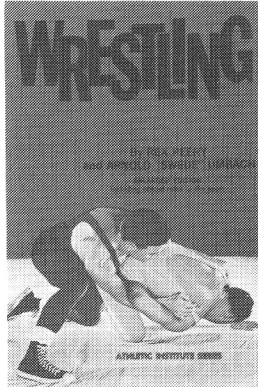
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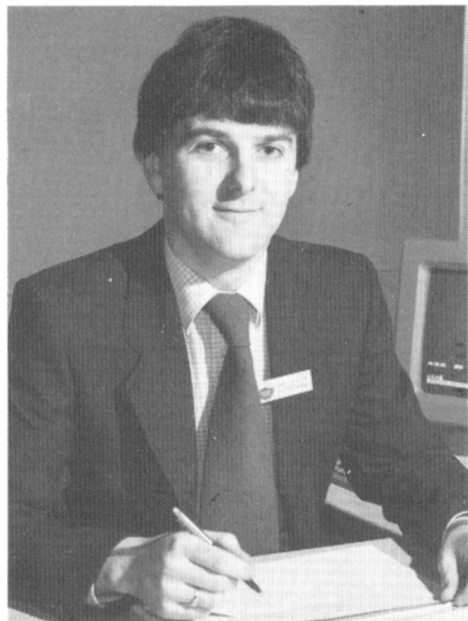
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Assistant manager with responsibility for the administration of the centre is 24-year-old Lerwick man Mr James Johnston.

Mr Johnston worked in the office of the SIC's construction department before taking up his new post. He is a part-time youth leader and helps manage Lerwick Thistle's junior and juvenile football sides as well as being a keen footballer himself.

Mr Johnston's responsibilities include the production and maintenance of statistical records of revenue and centre usage, stock control and booking systems. The post offers him, he said: "The opportunity to become part of the team managing what is potentially the most important social and recreational facility in Shetland."

A look at the people who run the show

Mr Peter Moncrieff left the physical education teaching staff at Anderson High School to become assistant manager programming at the centre.



He is concerned with making sure a wide range of people make maximum use of the sports facilities available at Clickimin. A 27-year-old Lerwick man with a Bachelor of Education degree in physical education and human movement he is well qualified for that task. He also has a diploma in industrial administration (marketing).

He is interested in a wide range of sports, particularly football, and said of his new job: "During my time in Glasgow I worked in sports centres and found they offered more scope than school, at the same time retaining contact with people and involvement with sport. As a Shetlander I have waited years for the opening of the centre and count myself lucky to be involved at the start."

In charge of the catering and bar facilities at Clickimin is 31-year-old Miss Jasmine Tulloch from Lerwick. Fifteen years in the hotel trade stood her in good stead for the job as assistant manageress.

She will organise the daily bar and co-ordinate functions and other special events in the centre. She "relishes the opportunity to be part of this new venture".



Centre users will soon get to know the women pictured below. For receptionist Jayne Halcrow (left) and part-time receptionists Catherine Hall (middle right) and Jackie Kynes (right) will be taking bookings, hiring out equipment and giving out information to visitors. Maureen Gardener (middle left) will be right behind them in the main office dealing with secretarial duties.

Jayne (24), from Cunningsburgh, joined the Clickimin staff from the local assessor's office. Her leisure interests include music, keeping fit, playing pool and badminton.

"Being part of a completely new venture in Shetland," is what attracted 25-year-old Maureen to her job. From Bressay, she worked previously for the SIC and as manageress of Maryfield

House Hotel. Her interest in sport includes badminton, tennis and hill-walking.

Catherine is originally from Leister-shire but has lived in Shetland for eight years. She has a secretarial diploma and worked for Sullom Quarries Ltd. before moving to the centre. Twenty-five-year-old Catherine said she preferred watching sport to taking part, but she is in a ladies darts team.

Jackie (31), a married woman with a young son, said "It is nice to have a centre big enough for the whole family to enjoy a night out." When not looking after her son she includes gardening and walking among her hobbies. She worked as a telephonist in Lerwick, her home town, before joining the centre staff.



The men on the shop floor are Neil Watt, Robbie Leask and Colin Nicolson. They are the track suit brigade who will put up and take down equipment, offer instruction on sports and generally help people make as much use of the facilities as they can.

Mr Watt (middle) a 19-year-old Lerwegian is senior recreational assistant. He has a diploma in physical education and community studies from Telford College, is a trained volleyball, fencing and basketball coach and a badminton instructor. "I have always been interested in sport and wanted to make my hobbies my career," he said.

Twenty-one-year-old Robbie Leask (left), a recreational assistant, worked at

Lerwick power station before taking up his new post. The job should meet his desire to "work in a sporting environment and meet members of the public with the same common sporting interests". Mr Leask, from Lerwick, plays football and cricket and enjoys running.

Apart from helping with sports Mr Colin Nicolson (right) from Scalloway looks after the boilers, ventilation system and other fittings inside and outside the building. A 21-year-old trained marine engineer with a City and Guilds in marine craft fitting he applied for the post because of "the varied duties the job includes". His interest in sport includes squash, swimming, football, judo and badminton.



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Clickimin Centre

A place for
the
community
to meet,
socialise and
play

We welcome you to the new Leisure Centre, ideally designed to fill its role as the major Shetland community facility. Its facilities and equipment are superlative and open up new dimensions in sport, leisure and entertainment. On this page we hope to give you a taste of the many ways the building can be used and the vast number of different activities we are able to offer you.

Our **MAIN HALL** is the major feature of the building and is without doubt one of the largest and best equipped sports halls in Scotland. In an area of 1,000 square metres, up to 19 different indoor sports can be accommodated, and comprehensive spectator seating enables us to stage large sporting tournaments, internationals and exhibition matches.

The hall has also been designed as a major concert venue, with a seating capacity of 1,200, allowing us and other local organisations to stage large entertainment events, in the main previously denied in Shetland.

With such a vast, well equipped area we aim to satisfy both the casual sports user and the organised club, society or group and will make every effort to cater for all the activities which are possible within the building.



The Main Hall

Sport activities available in the Main Hall:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Archery | Gymnastics | Trampoline |
| Badminton | Hockey | Volleyball |
| Basketball | Keep Fit | Yoga |
| Cricket Practice | Martial Arts | Handball |
| 5-a-Side Football | Netball | Aerobics |
| Golf Practice | Table Tennis | Short Tennis |
| | Tennis | |

We are all becoming aware of the need to look after our bodies and stay on top of the excesses of modern living and our **FITNESS SUITE** provides a simple, safe and effective answer to the problem. It contains the very best in modern weight training multi-gyms situated in a warm and comfortable environment.

The **MULTI-USE STUDIO** and function room is a tremendously versatile area which services both the sporting and social side of our activities. Superbly decorated it caters for all sizes and types of events, ranging from small business meetings to large social gatherings, all arranged to suit your personal requirements.



The Clickimin Centre viewed from the Stanley Hill

When not in use as a function room, the Multi-Use Studio is an ideal venue for aerobics, dance, martial arts, gymnastics, yoga and, in particular, an afternoon creche for our housewives' recreation sessions.

A well appointed **COMMITTEE ROOM** is located adjacent to the main reception desk and is ideal for meetings, seminars, courses, conferences and tournament administration.

The **SHOOTING GALLERY** provides magnificent accommodation for the Lerwick Rifle Club who will be running the area in conjunction with the Centre management.

Our **ALL-WEATHER ATHLETICS TRACK** due to be completed in May 1985, is the highlight of our extensive outdoor facilities, and a separate suite of high quality changing rooms and showers have been provided for all the outdoor areas surrounding the Centre.

The **LOCH BAR** is the ideal relaxation area within the centre. It offers small but extremely well appointed accommodation for our adult sports users and will also service special events and major entertainment attractions at the centre.

Our extremely well appointed **CAFETERIA** is particularly interesting in that our visitors overlook the main Sports Hall. Here we offer a light snacks and refreshment service between 11.00 am and 9.30 pm every day — what better place to relax in the evenings and overlook a host of different activities in the Main Hall.



The Cafeteria

THE REGISTERED USER SYSTEM

In order to provide the best possible booking service to our sports users, we encourage you all to become Registered Users of Clickimin Centre.

Becoming a Registered User involves the completion of a single form with your name, address and telephone number (if any) and in return we will give you a personalised card with your own registration number. This service is absolutely free, and, once in possession of the card, enables you to book any facility up to seven days in advance by telephone. Non-registered users are still welcome to book facilities, but we must insist that you attend the Centre personally to do so and that you pay for the facility when it is booked.

Other benefits of the registered users system are that it enables us to send you details of our programme of activities and forthcoming special events and the card itself serves as a deposit for any hire of equipment you may need. All the benefits of a membership system, but **FREE!**

BOOKING OF FACILITIES

All you have to do is telephone us on Lerwick 4555 or alternatively call in to our reception area — our trained staff

will be delighted to help you.

Block bookings are welcome for up to three months at a time and Peter Moncrieff, the Assistant Manager Programming, will be happy to assist you with these arrangements.

CONCESSION SCHEME

The Clickimin Centre is pleased to operate a concessionary scheme for the use of facilities by senior citizens, disabled persons, unemployed persons, persons in receipt of Family Income Supplement or Supplementary Benefit and YTS Trainees.

Persons falling into these categories will also qualify for a 50% discount of facility charges.

DAILY OPENING HOURS

Facilities	Sports	
	Daily	Last Admission for play
		9.30 am to 10.30 pm
		9.30 pm
Cafeteria	Daily	9.30 am to 9.30 pm

OFF-PEAK TIME

9.30 am to 5.30 pm during school time is designated as off-peak, and facility charges during this time are subject to a discount of 50%.

FACILITY CHARGES (Per activity per hour)

	Adult	Junior
Badminton	£2.00	£1.00
Five-a-side Football	£6.00	£3.00
Netball	£12.00	£6.00
Basketball	£12.00	£6.00
Hockey	£12.00	£6.00
Volleyball	£12.00	£6.00
Indoor Tennis	£8.00	£4.00
Table Tennis	£1.00	£0.50
Fitness Suite	£0.75	—
Golf Practice	£3.00	£1.50
Cricket Practice	£4.00	£2.00
Archery	£4.00	£2.00
Committee Room	£5.00	per meeting
Multi-Use Studio (Sports Use)*	£5.00	£2.50
Hire of Main Hall (Sports Use)*	£12.00	£6.00
Spectators	£0.20	£0.10
Hire of Equipment	£0.30	

*We will be happy to discuss charges for function use and commercial enterprise on application.

Clickimin Centre

Lochside, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0PS
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Clickimin Centre opens its doors

Almost 1,000 people came to celebrate the official opening of Shetland's new £3 million sports and leisure centre at Clickimin on Saturday. Fifteen years in the planning and two years to build, the centre was finally ready to take its place at the forefront of recreation in the islands.

The official opening ceremony at 3.30 pm was by the Lord Lieutenant of Shetland, Mr Magnus Shearer. But centre stage undoubtedly belonged to the guest of honour, Olympic javelin gold medalist, Miss Tessa Sanderson. After she had unveiled a commemorative plaque she was besieged by hundreds of young people, and some not so young, who wanted her autograph. Even after some 40 minutes signing programmes and posing for photographs there was still a large crowd round Tessa.

The building was opened to the public at 2.30 when staff were on duty to show people round the facilities while Lerwick Brass Band performed with their usual panache in the main hall. At 3.30 the public gathered in the hall for the official ceremony.

Chairman of Clickimin Recreational Trust, Mr John Nicolson, led in the official party which included trust members, representatives of the builders, architects and consultants, centre manager Mr Andy Mayers, Mr Shearer and Miss Sanderson accompanied by her public relations manager, Mr Clement Procop. Mr Nicolson said it was a great pleasure for him to welcome everyone to the centre, especially Mr and Mrs Shearer, Miss Sanderson and Mr Procop.

"Lang lippeden come at last!" Mr Nicolson said, was the saying he thought most applicable in describing the building. Appreciation must be given to Lerwick Town Council for their foresightedness in keeping the Clickimin area free from development, "for this real asset", he added.

"Shetland Council of Social Service must be commented on too for their persistent pioneering work." It was they, who after a visit to Faroe in 1971 launched much of the early pressure for a sports and leisure centre at Clickimin.

Mr Nicolson thanked Shetland Islands Council, which gave Clickimin Recreational Trust the £3 million to build the centre and £1.5 million to cover running costs. He thanked the architects, Faulkner-Brown, Hendy, Watkinson and Stonor; the main contractors, Whatlings. (Building) Ltd; and the various sub-contractors. "I thank my fellow trustees and the newly appointed manager and his staff, who

worked so hard to make this such a special day," he added.

Mr Nicolson had a word for the Lerwick licensed trade too. "For reminding us we should never take anything for granted." Lerwick's hoteliers and publicans have objected to the centre getting a drinks licence.

Honest criticism

Mr Nicolson said he was appreciative of the people who had been cynical of the merits of building the centre. They had always been honest in their criticism, he said. "Three million pounds is a lot of money in anyone's terms." He said he had always responded to their views and genuine concerns. "But I believe that cynicism will disappear and this centre will become a real asset to the whole of Shetland." Mr Nicolson then called on Mr Shearer to declare the building officially open.

"This is a great day for the people of Shetland to stand in this wonderful building in the heart of Clickimin," Mr Shearer said. The centre is built on the old town dump and that fact had not escaped Mr Shearer. "Some of us can remember this being the town dump. I doubt if anyone living nearby could have imagined this wonderful centre coming out of the ashes."

Mr Shearer reminded the audience this is Hamefarin year. "Please show the Hamefarers this place," he told them, "and show them what the Old Rock can still do." He thanked the SIC for building the centre, through the trust, with oil monies. "Apart from the income from oil I doubt if my generation would have seen this centre," he added.

Mr Shearer said he trusted the centre would be well used, not only by Shetlanders but by visitors from outwith the islands, visitors whom, he said, would benefit the hotel trade. He thanked Tessa Sanderson and Clement Procop for coming; wished Mr Mayers and his centre staff best wishes; and declared the building open.

Star of the show

Special guest Tessa Sanderson rose to her feet to a tumultuous reception. Dressed in blue, the Shetland sporting colours — Mr Nicolson later called it "typical female intuition" — she could not have been a more popular choice of guest.

"It's great to be here, Shetland is a wonderful place," she said. "I have come here to share my gold medal with the people of Shetland. I salute all who have made this centre possible. It's one of the most excellent centres I have ever seen." Everyone could not be a gold medal winner, she said, but the facilities at Clickimin gave everyone tremendous scope to develop their athletics skills.

"Good luck to you all and lots of success to the centre," she added.

Miss Sanderson then unveiled a commemorative plaque which will be hung in the foyer. The ceremony was completed when the Rev Lewis Smith led a prayer of dedication.

After the speech-making the centre assistant manager, Miss Jasmine Tulloch, presented bouquets of flowers to Mrs Nicolson and Miss Sanderson. Tessa also received a silver bracelet decorated with an impression of the centre, presented by assistant manager, Mr Peter Moncrieff. The Lord Lieutenant was given a model of the building by assistant manager, Mr James Johnston.

The formalities over, the public were again free to tour the centre and be shown the whole range of facilities. They were entertained by Lerwick Pipe Band who were in fine form. But they were not the only ones at work. Miss Sanderson had been swooped on by hundreds of autograph hunters as soon as the ceremony was over. She sat patiently for almost an hour and, helped by Mr Procop, signed what looked like every spare scrap of paper in the building. When at 5 pm the building was closed to start preparations for the celebration buffet/dinner in the evening, she was still surrounded by well wishers.



Coming into the main hall before taking the stage for the official opening, from left, Mrs Peggy Nicolson, Lord Lieut. Mr Magnus Shearer, Tessa Sanderson, M.B.E., and Clickimin Recreational Trust chairman John Nicolson. Photo: Malcolm Younger



Tessa's manager Clement Procop shows off her gold medal as Tessa signs autographs for some of her many young fans.

Photo: Malcolm Younger

Boost for local athletes

LOCAL ATHLETICS was given an enormous boost on Saturday when Olympic javelin gold medalist, Tessa Sanderson, said she plans to visit the islands next winter as part of her winter training programme.

Miss Sanderson was in Shetland at the weekend as special guest at the official opening of the Clickimin sports and leisure centre. So impressed was she by the centre and the islands that afterwards she told *The Shetland Times* she will be back in the winter for a few weeks holiday and training.

"It was cold when I got off the plane," she said, "but it's marvellous. There's a great sense of togetherness and the people are very, very nice." She described Clickimin as out of this world, "One of the best centres I have ever seen. I hope people will use it."

"It's unusual to see so much for the disabled. That's very good," she added.

And the really good news for local athletics was: "I will be back for sure. It's quite peaceful here. A good place for me to get some training done."

Tessa's public relations manager, Clement Procop, shared her enthusiasm for Shetland and Clickimin. "We have seen something starting from nothing and we feel part of it. In a small community like this it's more noticeable. The most important thing in coming back is to see the progression of the centre. The next time we will be looking to see people coming in the doors," he added.



Staff members of the Clickimin Centre get together with Tessa Sanderson, from left, Judith Baker, Peter Moncrieff, Mark Wylie, Neil Watt, Maureen Gardener, Jasmine Tulloch, Tessa Sanderson, Colin Nicolson, Elizabeth Watt (wearing Tessa's gold medal), Robert Leask and James Johnson. Photo: Malcolm Younger