



## key to Dome success

by Stewart Payne

The world's largest football table was today being unveiled as a major attraction at the Millennium Dome, where visitors can test their skills and learn the value of teamwork at the same time.

So it is to be hoped that former Blackburn brawlers David Batty and Graeme Le Saux or John Hartson and Eyal Berkovic, once embattled team mates at West Ham, are not sharing the controls, or the lesson might just be lost.

Football, we are asked to believe, is a fine example of teamwork, one of six "transferable personal skills" that will help us find fulfilment at work in the new millennium. And by "transferable", Dome promoters do not mean exchanging blows.

The size of a large lock-up garage, the football table will have space for 14 play-ers a side and will be similar to, but much larger than, those once a familiar sight in pubs before the arrival of computer games. Visitors to the Manpower-sponsored Work Zone - one of 14 themed exhibitions inside the £758 million Dome at Greenwich - can take part in a contest designed to demonstrate "how we can work better in teams".

Other interactive games will promote the six core skills which Dome builders, the New Millennium Experience Company, claim are "essential in the new world of work".

These are communication, numeracy, problem-solving, information technology, manual dexterity as well as teamwork. These, organisers claim, will free the 21st-century worker from the drudgery and tedium of the "old world of work".

To emphasise the point, the Work Zone will contain a huge clock, laboriously ticking away the estimated 100,000 hours we spend at work in a lifetime. To complete the picture of old work, a paper shredder will occupy an entire wall. In contrast, exhibits will demonstrate new skills and opportunities, including personal organisers, bigger than people, on which visitors can explore the options of "how, where, when and with whom" we will work in the next century.

The zone, which shares a building within the Dome with the Learn Zone, has an exhibit that demonstrates the link between what an employer wants and the core skills we all need. Instead of a lifetime in one job, "transferable skills" open up options to give greater flexibility in the job market.

Recruitment company Manpower is one of the main Dome sponsors and is putting up £12 million to help fund the Work Zone.

Managing director Iain Herbertson said: "The world of work is changing at an ever more rapid pace. We all need to power up our skills and look at a variety of career options to ensure we are ready to take our place in the workforce of the new millennium."

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