



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIPPO HAVE REVITALISED 20 YEAR OLD LEISURE CENTRE

Hippo has successfully brought a 20 year old leisure centre in Maidenhead back to life.

Hippo was thrilled to win the project due to their innovative design and ability to complete within a tight deadline without affecting the pool activity programme. With the go ahead given in April and a scheduled completion date of 22nd July there was no time to waste!

Meeting the demanding criteria set by Magnet Leisure was a real test for Hippo's experienced design team. The brief required providing the dated leisure centre with a revitalised look whilst creating something special for the under 8 age group. The features needed to complement the bigger slides and water play offered at nearby Windsor Leisure Centre, but give children too small for the main pool the opportunity to play and swim safely whilst encouraging play with family and friends.

Hippo is an expert in determining which types of play equipment are safe and suitable for children of varying ages. An exciting slide suitable for the under eights was fitted despite the limitations created by the existing pool design. The answer

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was a mini flume design with a gentle slope making it appropriate for the target age group. It was also essential to keep the area family friendly but cater for the older age range of children. Hippo installed 2 water cannons to sit on the poolside and aim at a target system hanging over the teaching pool. A variety of water activities including tipping buckets and waterwheels randomly positioned to provide the excitement of waterfalls into the pool were also included.

Hippo was careful not to omit the toddler age group from having fun and increasing their water confidence. Their attention can be captivated with a refurbished crab and rock interactive water zone which provides gentle play for this age group. Hippo also mounted new sensory play panels onto the pool wall, fitted a small slide and 2 Squirtum hand pumps. This will enable children who are less water confident to have fun and to encourage parents to interact with their children.

Hippo were successful in minimising spend on the areas not visible to the public by using their experience and creativity to utilise existing plant, pumps and pipework. Safety was at the forefront of the refurbishment and the entire floor surround of the Water Play Zone was coated in an impact absorbing, non-slip, EPDM safety surface.



The grand opening was a huge success with record attendance levels achieved. Chris Hall, Centre Manager for Magnet Leisure Centre could not have been happier with the impressive work of the Hippo team and commented, "It's been great to work with the team from Hippo Leisure. From the initial idea stage through to planning the work and launching an array of features at our opening party, their service, advice and guidance has been excellent. The team at Hippo clearly understood all aspects of the project from our point of view including developing the right features based on ours and customers' needs, working with on-site technical staff and being sensitive to our existing pool programme and users during the installation. I have received a massive amount of positive feedback from our swimmers and the pool has been packed since the opening. We are already thinking ahead to what we can do next!"



PHOTOS:

Grand opening – playing with water cannons (MAIDENHEAD 001825-11)

Magnet Leisure Centre featuring tipping buckets, water wheels (Picture 031)



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