

Champ Nathan opens revamped sport facility

SPECIAL Olympics champ Nathan Fisher has cut a ribbon to declare Cinderford swimming pool's revamped changing rooms officially open.

The 28-year-old from Harrow Hill, who romped home from Athens last month with gold, silver and bronze powerlifting medals, trains down the corridor at Forest Fitness, and praised the new-look facilities.

Cinderford Town Council and Forest of Dean District Council jointly stumped up £16,000 for the work at Forest Leisure. Heywood Community School, which shares the site, made up the balance.

Cinderford mayor Max Coborn, who'd described the conditions of the changing rooms and washroom as "third world", said of the new-look changing rooms: "They are much improved and I would encourage people to come along to the leisure centre and try them out."

Prior to the work being done, doors were hanging off their hinges and some tiles were stuck on with tape, putting off some people from using the leisure centre, he added.

Drybrook firm Preest did the painting and retiling, Coleford's Mike Burris sorted out



RIBBON CUTTING: Champion power lifter Nathan Fisher with Coun Terry Hale, Mayor Max Coborn and Heywood head teacher Tanya Prosser.

the flooring, TH Haskett and Son of Littledean completed plumbing work, and materials came from Hale of Drybrook. Staff at the leisure centre also pitched in, helping to remove old tiles and complete the work within a fortnight.

Andy Barge, district council customer services manager, said: "The commitment and dedication shown by both contractors and our staff on this project was colossal. Many of them started work early and worked well into the evening to

get the work finished."

Coun Terry Hale, district council cabinet member for the community, said: "This work was vital to refresh the leisure centre for all users' benefit."

Coun Coborn is still pushing for £300,000 of ringfenced cash from the district budget to be used on a long overdue revamp of the pool, reception area and improving disabled access.

Council chiefs say the authority will only spend the cash if the long-term future of the site is secure.



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