

# PM WANTS NETBALL IN OLYMPICS

By JAKE MORRIS

GORDON Brown wants netball played at the 2012 London Olympics to entice more women and girls into sport.

The playground favourite would be a "wildcard" demonstration sport – and with our women's team ranked third in the world, a medal on home turf would be a real possibility.

A senior government source said: "The Olympics can be crucial to encouraging participation in sport and netball will have great value as a game to encourage girls and women to stay on and enjoy competitive exercise."

The Premier's proposal was welcomed by the England Netball group, who stressed tournaments could also be held for men.

One insider insisted: "Netball is a great sport where you have got to work as a team to score. And it's not just for girls. It would be wonderful to see it included as an Olympic sport." Adding the game would also be a real crowd-pleaser as netball is massively popular in Australia and New Zealand and in Commonwealth countries such as Jamaica, as well as in the UK.

Demonstration games were first introduced into the Olympics in 1900 when ballooning and lifesaving were staged at the Paris games. Medals are awarded but do not count towards the official games haul.

Handball was played in Finland in 1952 and roller hockey at Barcelona in 1992. There have been no demo sports at the last three Olympics but China will showcase Wushu martial art in Beijing this year.

## POSHEST STREET IN LAND

A STREET in north London has been named the most expensive address in England – knocking Kensington and Chelsea off the top spot.

Average property price on Courtenay Avenue, between Highgate golf course and Hampstead Heath is £6.8 million, according to valuations group Mouseprice.



KEEN: Brown

# BRIDGEND

# SUICIDE NO 17 IN THE TOWN OF NO HOPE

## Jenna, 16, found hanged

By RICHARD SMITH  
THE news spread rapidly around the town yesterday. And everywhere the reaction was the same. Please God, not again.

Tragically, the rumours were swiftly confirmed. Jenna Parry, 16, had been found hanged from a tree at a local beauty spot – the 17th young suicide victim in the town of Bridgend in little more than a year.

Dog walker Michael Bennett made the awful discovery shortly after 8am as he walked his dog in a wooded area of common land known as the Snake Pit, less than half-a-mile from Jenna's home.

Michael, a 61-year-old security guard, yesterday summed up the bewilderment felt in the south Wales town as he said: "I feel shaken to the core."

"Why are the youngsters around here doing this? I can't understand it. People of my generation can't explain it – what is going on?"

"It was so shocking to find this poor young girl hanging from a tree. I feel so sad for her and her family. I must have been first on the common this morning and I imagine she was there from last night. She was so young and it is so horrible to die alone like that."

Lisa Jones, mum of Jenna's best friend Jessica, said there had been no signs anything was wrong. She added: "I saw Jenna last night at about 7pm and she was laughing and giggling, without a care in the world."

"That's the sort of person she was. She had everything to live for. This is just so awful."

Jessica, also 16, is a cousin of another Bridgend suicide victim – 17-year-old Zachery Barnes.

Lisa said: "The girls took Zachery's death very hard. It is all very tragic and impossible to explain."

JENNA'S friend Daniel John, 20, said: "She was bubbly and care-free, I can't imagine why she would take her own life."

"She loved butterflies and was very girly. She loved pop music and dance music."

"I last spoke her to yesterday and she seemed normal - perfectly fine. I can't get my head around why she has done this."

Jenna's distraught dad Paul, 44, said: "We are all traumatised and are too upset to talk."

Like many of the other victims, Jenna had her own personal internet pages on teenage social networking site Bebo.

But police say there is no evidence of a link between internet sites and the suicides.

David Morris, Assistant Chief Constable of South Wales Police, said: "Young people use the internet to talk to each other and record their thoughts. We have not found any suggestion of any links or influence from these sites to have encouraged these young people to take their lives."

"These are vulnerable young people and there is a constellation of factors influencing them."

Jenna lived with parents Anne and Paul and two brothers in Cefn Cribbwr, a village on the outskirts of Bridgend.

A multi-agency group made up of social services, mental health experts, psychologists, police and council chiefs has been set up locally to investigate the deaths.

Jo Farrar, chairman of the Bridgend local services board, said: "Our message is simple. Whatever the problem is, don't keep it to yourself. Sharing your concerns will help to put things in a different light and is the first step towards finding a solution."

Bridgend Labour MP Madeleine Moon said: "There is nothing glamorous about taking your own life. It's tough and painful for the families left behind."

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