



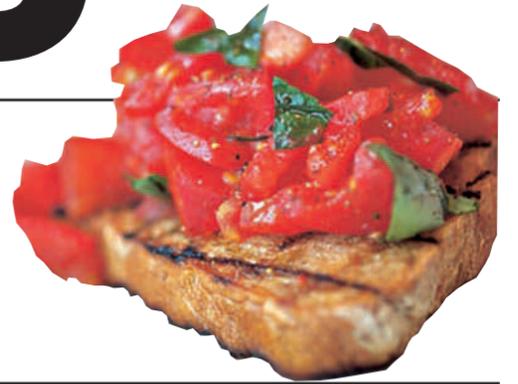
# MK NEWS

Run fast, run high, run free

PAGE 7

Win a meal at a top Italian restaurant in our great competition

PAGE 23



# No legal action after park train ride death

BY ROB GIBSON

rob.gibson@mk-news.co.uk

**GULLIVER'S Theme Park has been criticised in a Health and Safety Executive report following the death of engineer Hugh Dow.**

Mr Dow, of Barnsbury Gardens, Newport Pagnell, suffered massive head injuries while working on a train ride at the park on May 10, 2006.

He had been standing on an adjoining bar between two carriages when it travelled under a low bridge. He died at the scene.

A separate undercover investigation by this newspaper carried out seven months after Mr Dow's death also highlighted 'gaps in procedures' at Gulliver's.

The details of the HSE report were released on Thursday following a freedom of information request by this newspaper.

It said: "At the time of the accident the company failed to discharge its duties under the health and safety legislation in particular it did not have in place adequate systems of work for the maintenance team and that it also failed to assess the risks to which they were exposed."

The HSE report concluded that there was no causal link between the company's failures and the death of Mr Dow.

As a result Gullivers will not face legal action over the death.

The park in Newlands is aimed at children between the ages of two and 13.

It has 29 rides and employs around 100 staff during the height of the season.

On a normal day it attracts up to 2,000 visitors, making it one of the city's biggest tourist attractions

In December, 2006, MK NEWS reporter Rob Gibson carried out a three-day undercover investigation as a ride operator at the park.

A dossier of his findings were also submitted to the HSE which was looking into the incident involving Mr Dow.

The newspaper's investigation raised



Our reporter alongside the cycle monorail he was asked to operate

questions about how staff were employed, trained and paid.

Our reporter deliberately missed requests to attend an induction, which deals with matters such as health and safety, to see how stringent the park would be, but found he was allowed to start work without one.

As a result of our investigation, Gulliver's accepted that this should not have happened and as a result said it has amended its systems accordingly.

Gulliver's also admitted paying our reporter in breach of company regulations when he was paid in cash.

The company also said that steps have been taken to ensure no future repetition.

HSE inspector Matthew Lee said: "The report from MK NEWS identified certain issues. Gullivers accepted that there was a gap in their procedures that they have

now closed. I was satisfied that they said it didn't work as it should have done and it won't happen again.

"I've been to see them and I'm satisfied that they now have the procedures in place to keep the park safe for visitors."

Following the inspection Gulliver's appointed a full time health and safety adviser and agreed to modify the monorail ride, increasing the space between the car and the framework of the loading bay to improve safety.

A statement from park director Duncan Phillips yesterday, said: "Gullivers has been helping the HSE with its inquiries following this tragic accident last year and we welcome the news that no further action will be taken by the HSE.

"We shall continue to give Mr Dow's family our full support, but believe that this report brings a close to what has



Gulliver's death train

been a very traumatic and upsetting time for the family and friends of Hugh Dow and everyone who worked with him.

"Health and safety matters are the number one priority at Gulliver's Theme Parks and, in line with the findings in the report, we have strengthened our team of experts and advisors which manages this area of the business, together with a designated board director.

"The potential risks of our theme parks are continually assessed by the board and our team of consultants and we operate very strict and tightly controlled safety procedures for both staff and visitors on all our rides."

The park faces another inspection in 2008 when the HSE will test it against National Fairground Inspection guidelines.

## NEWS

**Cash cows**  
Scouts put mini moos up for sale  
PAGE 2

**Going for gold**  
City makes Olympic bid  
PAGE 5

**No butts**  
Dropped fag ends prove costly  
PAGE 3

## MK LIFE

**What's going on in the city**  
PAGE 29

## PROPERTY

**Find your dream home**  
PAGE 45

## RECRUITMENT

Hundreds of jobs including all the latest MK Council vacancies  
PAGE 71

## MOTORS

**Buy a new or used car**  
PAGE 88

## SPORT

**Lions roar**  
Basketball team wins opener  
PAGE 103

**TAYLORS**  
Milton Keynes

MK's leading Estate Agent  
Call us **01908 678151**

**TAYLORS**  
Milton Keynes