

Firm aims to be a winner at Olympics

BW by business editor
Bev Hawes

AS the countdown continues to next year's London Olympics one county company has already set its sights on gaining business at the Winter Olympics in 2014.

Yesterday PKL Group sent out a trade delegation to Cheltenham's twin town, Sochi in Russia which will be hosting the winter event.

PKL, a leading supplier of temporary and permanent kitchens, is already providing its services at London Olympics.

It is hoping to repeat its success with contracts at Sochi, the Black Sea resort, in three years time.

PKL's commercial director Peter Schad led the trade delegation to Russia, organised with help from the Cheltenham Borough Council Twinning Office.

He took along some items that are synonymous with Cheltenham as gifts for the hosts, including a signed 125th anniversary shirt from Cheltenham Town Football Club and merchandise from Cheltenham Racecourse.

Peter said: "As they are twinned with us we wanted to take a piece of Cheltenham over with us.

"The football club and racecourse have very kindly donated gifts for us to take and we're extremely grateful; we've got some beautiful prints of Cheltenham too.

"The Mayor has also written a letter of introduction to Sochi, along with an invitation for them to come to Cheltenham next year when the Olympic



■ **GIFT:** Cheltenham Town FC player Sido Jombati hands over a signed shirt to Peter Schad from PKL Group, who is heading off to Cheltenham's twin town Sochi in Russia, host of the Winter Olympics 2014

torch for London 2012 passes through in May.

"We're hoping the visit will strengthen the ties between us and open doors for the Winter Olympics in 2014."

PKL is based at Stella Way, Bishop's Cleeve, and employs 80 people.

The company has more than 900 portable kitchen units, available for short or long-term rental, to provide catering facilities during refurbishments, events and emergencies.

It also provides permanent kitchens through contract rental of catering equipment and

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modular kitchen buildings. The company was formed in 1985 when former chairman Peter Joy identified a niche for providing rented heavy duty catering equipment with a free-standing portable unit. Since then PKL has completed over 10,000 temporary kitchen hires all over the world including at Olympic and Commonwealth Games and rapid response camp kitchens

for military zones.

In 2009 the company was awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise in the international trade category.

PKL turns over around £18 million. Managing director Chris Irving joined the company in 2004, having previously been an Infantry Major Instructor at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

● *The Citizen* and *Gloucestershire Echo* recently launched its Made in Gloucestershire campaign to help promote the county's products and services.