

## ...while Xu rues lack of time for ping-pong

HE might be making great progress with plans to turn the Royal Albert Dock into an Asian business zone, but the project has taken its toll on Xu Weiping's leisure time.

The Chinese property developer admitted in a weekend interview that he used to spend up to 90 minutes playing ping-pong in the afternoon but doesn't have time at the moment.

The flamboyant Xu, pictured, said: "Recently I've been very busy with work but I will start to play again, because this is good for my health."

Boris Johnson, with whom he

struck the £1 billion docks deal in May, might well give him a game. During the handover at the end of the Beijing Olympics, the London Mayor famously claimed that "ping-pong was invented on the dining tables of England in the 19th century, and it was called wiff-waff". How nice to see Xu taking as keen an interest in British sport as he does in British property.

■ THE Financial Times' coverage of the Co-operative Bank and its former chairman the Rev Paul Flowers is strangely reluctant to focus on

several past accolades the mutual enjoyed. Last year, the Co-op won the title of Europe's Most Sustainable Bank from none other than... the FT. In 2010, it also won Sustainable Bank of the Year award, also courtesy of the Pink 'Un. Sustainable only by being bailed out by a bunch of US vulture funds.

■ HOW headhunters work: a snippet from the High Court case in which junior fuel oil trader Andrew Kearns is suing Glencore for wrongful dismissal. The headhunter who placed him – DNA – was paid a fee of £105,180.15p, the court was told.



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