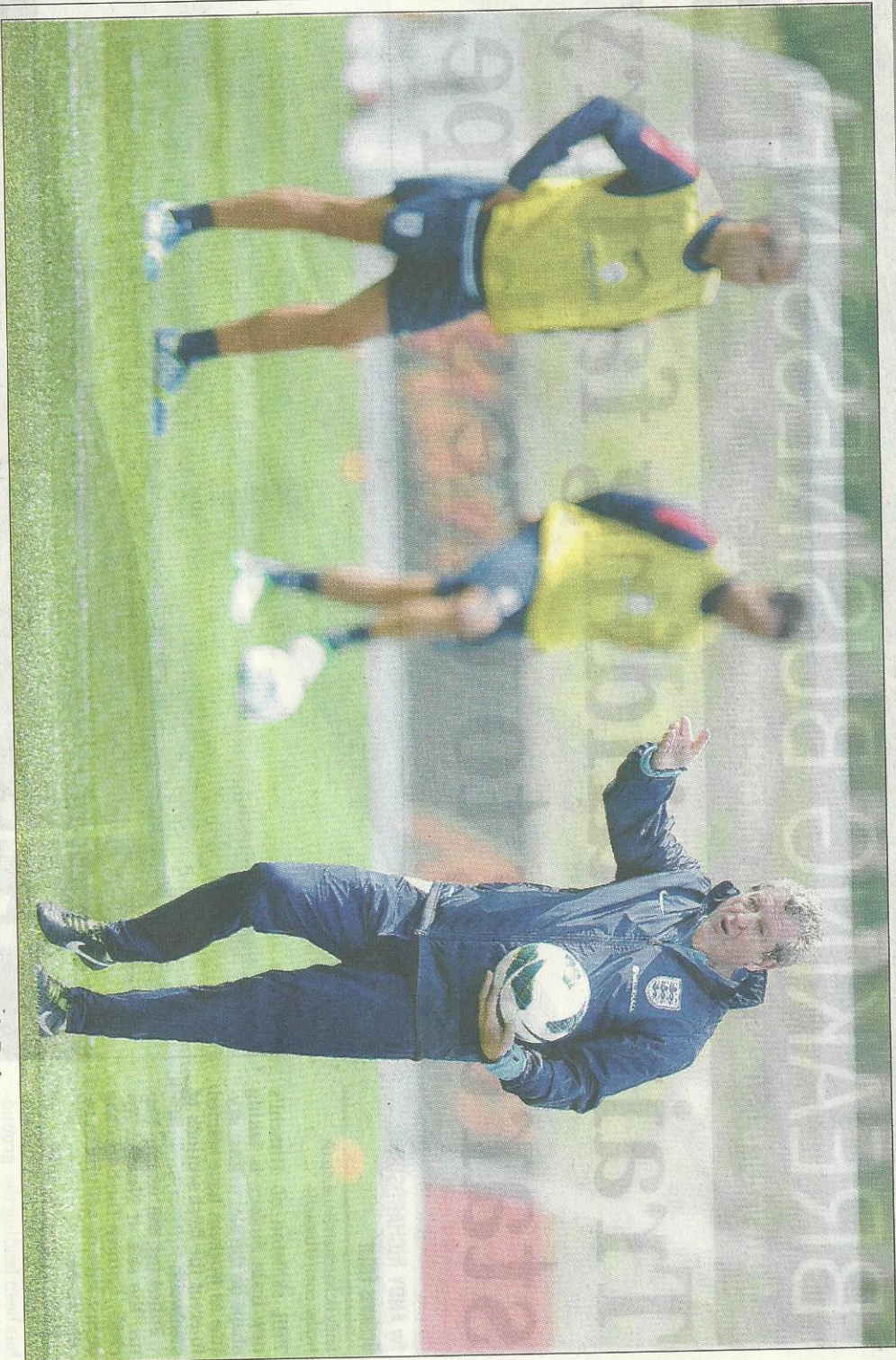


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PRACTICE SESSION: England manager Roy Hodgson talks to players during a training session at St George's Park

Architect hopes to kick start projects

AN architecture firm hopes to kick the opposition into touch after bolstering its team with a recruit who helped to shape a flagship football centre.

Gradon Architecture, in Gateshead, has welcomed Katie Shepherd, Ms Shepherd is the fifth member of staff to join Gradon in the last year, and will work on a housing and community development in Sedgfield, County Durham.

The former Newcastle University student said: "My father was a builder and my grandfather a joiner, so architecture was a natural career path for me. "There are lots of opportunities for me to work on designs that can make a real difference to people's lives."

Gradon is working on a number of projects across the North-East and overseas, including designs for Seaham Methodist Church and homes for a major scheme in Mongolia. Graham McDarby, Gradon design director, said: "Katie has joined at an exciting time. She studied in the North-East and we're delighted to have recruited an architect with such a strong mix of skills and experience."