

# NEWSLETTER

## ALL CHANGE AT THE TOP

*After completing his three year term in office Lord Pendry has announced he is stepping down as Chairman of the Football Foundation on 31 March. In recognition of his invaluable service to grass roots football he has agreed to become the Foundation's first President. His replacement is Dave Richards, Chairman of the Premier League.*



**Lord Pendry said:** "After three exciting and rewarding years at the Foundation I am delighted to pass the Chairmanship baton to my good friend Dave Richards. We have made a great start in revitalising the grass roots of the game and Dave is the perfect person to carry the work of the

Foundation forward. It is an honour for me to become the Foundation's first President.

**Dave Richards said:** "Lord Pendry has made a huge impact in his term at the Foundation and it is a great honour to be invited to succeed him as Chairman. The work of the Foundation is vital to the future well-being of our national game and I look forward to the challenge of building on the excellent work that Tom has overseen."

**Geoff Thompson, Chairman of the FA, thanked Lord Pendry for his work on behalf of the Football Foundation:** "On behalf of the funding partners we are grateful for Tom's expertise and leadership over the last three years during which the Foundation has made a real effort in the development of grass roots football and community and education initiatives. Tom is a tremendous supporter for the game of football and we are delighted that he has accepted the role of President of the Football Foundation."



## FOUNDATION MAKE NEW SIGNING

England and Newcastle legend Alan Shearer joined the Foundation team to launch our brand new kit. Sponsored by Umbro the kit is available to all under 16 teams as well as a variety of training equipment and balls...

**£53m**

Thanks to our partners



## NEW

The Football Foundation now has a free phone helpline for advice and queries.

Please call: **0800 0277766**

## In this issue → → →

**Pitch Found on Moon Shooting for Success Street Football League NACRO Reading the Game Sporting Equals Finedon Volta Club Skill City Charlton Football Goalpost Safety Barclaycard 'Free Kicks' →**

## ...FOUNDATION MAKE NEW SIGNING

Taking time out from training with his Newcastle team mates Alan welcomed this latest boost for junior football.



South London kids show off the new Foundation kit.

"I remember playing the game at youth level and it was it very important to look the part on the field. The Umbro/Football Foundation Junior Kit Scheme will allow your team to do just that. Enjoy playing in the kit and the best of luck."

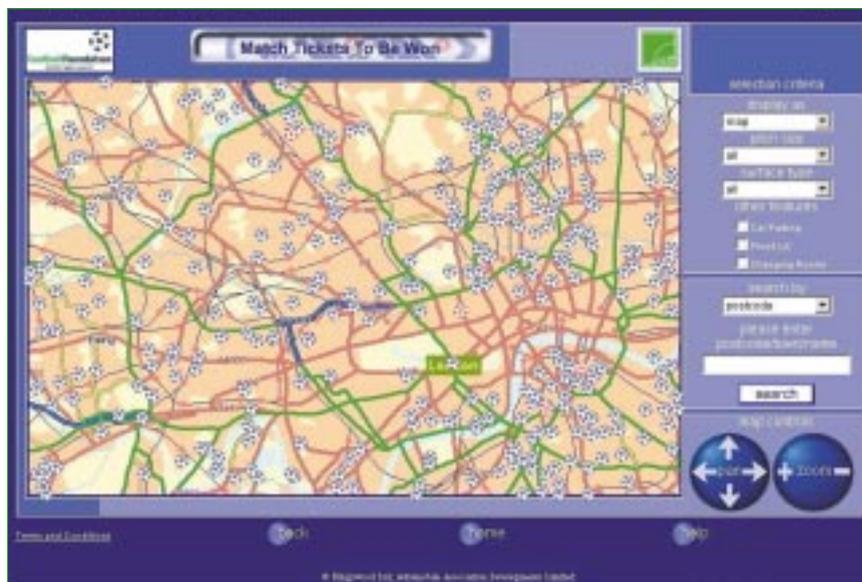
On a cold morning in South London we took our new kit out to test the reaction of the kids. The result was an overwhelming thumbs up.



## A major step towards revitalising the grass roots of the game was taken in January with the launch of the Register of English Football Facilities (REFF).



The survey is the largest ever undertaken in British sporting history and is the first of its kind in the world. Over 45,000 pitches have been assessed and mapped and the information is available to the public on our new website [www.reff.org.uk](http://www.reff.org.uk).



# REFF SURVEY UNCOVERS PITCH ON MOON



The results show that almost 40% of all pitches have no changing facilities and, more alarmingly only 7% had changing provision for female footballers. Poor pitch quality was identified as a major concern with half of respondents highlighting the need for better drainage. A further 94% of pitches have no floodlights, making them virtually unplayable for much of the year.

Rather than being the finished article, The REFF project is very much a starting point. The data will be constantly updated to keep the site live. Members of public and football community are encouraged to monitor and update site information in their areas in order to keep REFF

on top of the game. If you know of any additional sites in your areas, or just want to tell us where the information needs updating, please email us at [enquiries@reff.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@reff.org.uk).

“Billy Goat Park on the Back of the Moon” won the award for the most bizarre name discovered and “Garrison Field” on the Isles of Scilly claimed the prize for most remote pitch.

During one of the quieter moments we discovered that if all the white lines on England’s pitches were put together they would stretch to Australia - we really should get out more...

From left to right: Tanya Cavanagh, Lord Pendry, Richard Scudamore, Trevor Brooking and Peter Lee at the launch of the REFF project.



# ***Blackpool is Shooting for Success (SfS)***

Taking time out during the Labour Party Conference we got out the now famous inflatable pitch and organised a five a side event at Bloomfield Road – home of Blackpool Football Club. Featuring Blackpool's Chairman Karl "Chopper" Oysten, the Foundation team continued their spectacular bad run of form, finishing second from bottom. Eventual winners were the local lads from Blackpool Borough Council's Shooting for Success team who picked up the trophy and a £161,500 cheque for their Shooting for Success programme, combating crime through football.



Local children joined Minister for Sport Richard Caborn and Foundation Chairman, Lord Pendry for the presentation.



The money was clearly well spent as the SfS team celebrated the Christmas holidays by hosting a football tournament featuring over 100 youngsters aged 12-16, which aimed to break down some of the tension that exists amongst the town's young people.

Cllr Eddie Collett, Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning and Citizenship, wished everyone at the event the very best of luck: "It's a fantastic project that focuses on reducing youth crime and drug misuse whilst increasing participation in sport. It's refreshing that so many well known figure-

heads such as Richard Caborn (Minister For Sport) and professional players such as Ryan Giggs have supported this scheme and given it such a genuine ground force."

## **Street Football League (SFL) Women's Launch, Catford**

One of our most successful projects, the Street Football League, opened their doors to the capital's female homeless football fans at a launch at the Catford Powerleague.

Oscar winner and MP for Hampstead and Highgate, Glenda Jackson, and Foundation trustee and SFL patron, Trevor Brooking, joined the teams for the inaugural tournament.

The players now receive weekly professional training and healthy lifestyle education in order to boost self esteem and awareness – we wish them every success.

## **Blades Open Up Academy To The Community**

The new Academy at Sheffield United will be opened up for community use with the financial backing of the Foundation. We awarded £838,294 to the Blades' Academy to install a full-size synthetic pitch and build a new three storey complex. The building will incorporate a sports hall with an indoor synthetic pitch, changing rooms for up to six teams, two match officials' changing rooms, a social area, a classroom, a gymnasium and a physio room. The new complex at the former Forgemasters Sports Ground, will also be the home of Sheffield United's Academy whose budding young professionals will now share their new base with members of the Sheffield footballing community.



The Foundation's Peter Lee and Geoff Webb and the Minister for Sport Richard Caborn present the club with their cheque.

# WILLIAM COLLINS PLAYING FIELDS



The Foundation's Geoff Webb (left) opens The William Collins Playing Fields.

**A new footballing facility in Liverpool was opened late last year in honour of a man whose work nurtured giants of the sport for more than half a century.**

**William "Billy" Collins helped establish a league in the Scotland Road area of the city after the war, which produced players such as Jimmy Melia of Liverpool FC and Larry Carberry, who won the first division at Ipswich Town under Alf Ramsey, as well as Liverpool and Real Madrid star Steve McManaman.**



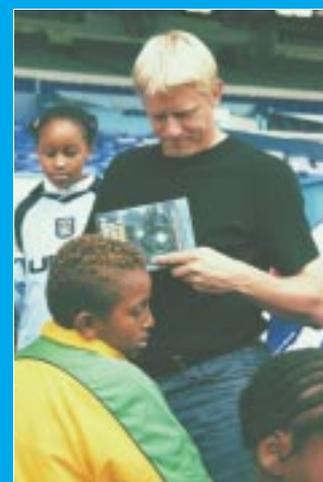
**The north Liverpool site, which was originally created as part of the slum clearance programme in the late 1960's, has now been totally refurbished with a £583,000 Foundation grant to provide five top quality pitches and changing rooms for boys and girls, complete with disabled access and security.**

## Reading the Game



Gordan Taylor and Peter Schmeichel join the kids for the launch

The National Literacy Trust (NLT) has a long established relationship with professional football and has been responsible for some pioneering work with clubs and players to promote reading and literacy. Now, thanks to a £109,000 grant from the Football Foundation, a unique initiative entitled Reading The Game has been established within to strengthen the role of football, as a key motivational force in raising literacy standards for both children and adults.



## Smooth as Silk

Macclesfield Town's Silkmen Study Centre, backed with over £50,000 of Foundation cash was officially opened by Minister for Sport Richard Caborn. The centre, equipped with the latest information technology will allow local school kids to learn computer skills in some amazing surroundings.



## HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR CONGRESURY

The New Year started well for the Congresbury Recreation Club with the announcement of a £239,300 grant to fund a new pavilion, incorporating 4 changing rooms, treatment room, kitchen and viewing area.

Chairman of Congresbury Recreation Club Tony Sullivan said: "This fantastic Foundation award will make the facilities in Congresbury the best in the local area and is a tribute to the hard work put in by the committee to provide facilities for the future of sport in the village."

## FOOTBALL FOR ALL

The Football Foundation and Everton FC's Football in the Community Scheme have joined forces to increase access to the game for disabled players on Merseyside.

The Foundation has awarded the club's community scheme a grant totalling £22,950 to employ a development officer to increase opportunities for disabled kids by providing free, professional coaching and expertise to all

local special schools and day centres. The project will create new after school centres for young disabled people and will operate and manage tournaments and competitions at after school centres and special schools. All recreational opportunities are reinforced with further opportunities to progress and play competitively for one of Everton's six official disability teams.

Dave Connor of Everton's Football in the Community Programme added: "This is fantastic news for Everton's Football in the Community Disability Football Development Programme. Thanks to the Football Foundation we can now expand footballing opportunities to more disabled people over a bigger area. We have seen first hand the positive effect football can have on people with a disability and enjoy playing our part in empowering individuals through a sport we are passionate about."

## DEARNE VALLEY CRACK OPEN THE CHAMPAGNE

Footballers of Dearne Valley College in South Yorkshire were celebrating a great start to the New Year today following a £287,250 award by the Football Foundation.

The grant will allow the organisation to construct a new floodlit all weather pitch, using the latest in artificial surfaces complete with modern all inclusive changing facilities. By providing these facilities the college hope to boost participation rates amongst young people and adults and particularly amongst under represented groups.

## *It's fun to play at the YMCA*

A unique football programme undertaken by Hove YMCA has received a £78,333 vote of confidence from the Football Foundation, the UK's largest sports charity.

The Y Sports Programme will develop a range of sports activities for over 200 young people per week, in particular targeting young people from ethnic groups and those who have suffered from social exclusion.

New teams will be encouraged to take part and players will have regular coaching sessions provided by Sussex FA. Football Clubs will be established and based at the Hove YMCA for under 10s, 12s, 14s and 16s squads, expanding the number of teams that they currently have.

An early pilot project established by the YMCA already appears to be having a significant impact. The project uses football as a tool to engage, working with young people who may be at risk of offending, or who are socially deprived or marginalized by refugee status. The Foundation grant will expand this initiative to target a wider audience.

Hove MP Ivor Caplin joined the Foundation's Mandy Ayres and Seagull's first teamers to present the money to the organisation.



# Sporting Equals



The Foundation is proud to be member of the Sporting Equals campaign undertaken by the Commission for Racial Equality.

Sporting Equals works with the governing bodies of various sports and with key national umbrella organisations to develop policies and working practices that promote racial equality.

Commitment to racial equality in sport has clear social, economic and commercial benefits. It will encourage more people from all ethnic backgrounds to take part in sport, and it will lead to fairer, more diverse representation at all levels in coaching and in the administration and management of sports.

We are proud to be playing our part.



The Foundation Board meet the CRE to sign the Sporting Equals Charter.

# Skill City Comes to Salford



Manchester kids enjoy the Foundation's inflatable pitch.

We joined forces with the reds and blues of Manchester as rivalry between City and United stopped for three days in December.

A joint venture developed by The Prince's Trust and UK SKILLS, Skill City at Salford Quays attracted over 100,000 young people from all over the North West and careers advice was on offer from a diverse range of occupations, from fridge making to football coaching.

The Foundation giant inflatable pitch again proved to be the main attraction and hosted all types of football related events, from physiotherapy to 5-a-side tournaments.

# *Out and About With Charlton in the Community*

Congratulations to the Charlton Football in the Community Scheme on the launch of their Regional Coaching Centre.

The Centre is aimed at the development of talented players to underpin the national disability squads and will run in conjunction with the excellent work being carried out by the club, developing the game for women, girls, the disabled and ethnic minorities.



## *Finedon Begin Again*

Players at the exotically named Finedon Volta club now have a modern clubhouse thanks to a £102,067 payout from the Football Foundation. The club's previous dilapidated changing rooms were demolished to

make way for a new pavilion, housing changing facilities for male and female players and an associated social area, which is rapidly becoming a focal point for the community.



*Chairman Jeff Piggot gave us a guided tour.*



# New Opportunities for School Football



The Football Foundation and the largest of the UK's lottery good cause distributors, the New Opportunities Fund, have joined forces to announce a £30 million investment package for school football facilities across England.

The multi-million pound investment of lottery money will particularly tackle poor football facilities in schools in disadvantaged areas, with 51% of the funding targeted at the most deprived wards in the country.

The new lottery funded grass roots scheme is open to over 20,000 primary and secondary schools across England. Schools can apply directly to the Foundation for awards of up to £1 million to upgrade sports facilities and to provide new opportunities to extend sporting provision for pupils and communities.

And we have already made a great start. The first wave of funding packages reached the schools in the New Year, providing over £2.5m for football mad school children. Across the country pupils will soon be having access to some of the best school football facilities in the country.

Stephen Dunmore, Chief Executive of the New Opportunities Fund, said: "This new scheme is part of the Fund's PE and Sport programme which aims to bring about a step-change in the provision of sporting facilities for schools and communities. By working in partnership with the Football Foundation, we are moving closer to achieving this goal and helping to build a more inclusive and healthier society."

# West Ham Reach Out to Asian Community

A grant of £150,000 has been made to West Ham Asians in Football (AIF) Project.

Based at Upton Park, the project seeks to extend opportunities and coaching to youngsters in Newham, Tower Hamlets and Redbridge. Whilst primarily aimed at Asian boys and girls aged 6 to 13, the scheme is open to all youngsters.

The AIF Project will be developed, by creating new clubs and leagues, whilst working through the existing clubs and league infrastructure throughout inner city areas. All levels of the game will be catered for, from district and club teams down to mini soccer clubs.

---

## ***MORE MIDLANDS GIRLS TAKE UP THE GAME***

Girl footballers in the Midlands have cause to celebrate following the announcement of a £34,000 award to develop the grass roots game for more girls in the area.

The Birmingham Active Sports Partnership have been awarded the grant to develop access to the game within Birmingham schools and clubs for girls aged 11-16 and follows successful awards of £67,508 to Warwickshire Active Sports and Northamptonshire Sport who also netted £50,000.

The money will allow the organisations to enhance and develop club structures for girls and young women, with a particular focus being placed on providing increased opportunities for young people with special needs and the development of new female coaches from black and ethnic backgrounds.

# GOALPOST SAFETY

Tragically during the past few years, nine children including Jack Sheerin, a seven year old from West Yorkshire, and Jonathan Smith, an eleven year old from Essex have been killed by falling goalposts.

Football should be fun, safe and enjoyable, whether you play in a park, at school or for a local club. That's why our colleagues at The FA are working with manufacturers and the British Standards Institution to set new standards in goalpost safety.

The four golden rules of the leaflet and campaign are - Check It, Secure It, Test It, Respect It, and The FA needs YOUR help.

FA National Goalkeeping Coach and former Anfield and England legend, Ray Clemence, launched The FA's Goalpost Safety campaign to highlight the safety issues involved with using goalposts in grassroots football back in August 2000 at Watford FC, and is keen to raise awareness of the campaign once more. Said Clemence: "The issue of goalpost safety is one that I take very seriously. Under no circumstances should children use goalposts as gymnastic equipment, they are simply not designed for that. If you want to become England's Number 1, you have to defend your goal, not attack it."



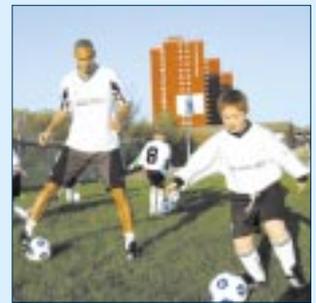
## FOCUS ON DISABILITY IN NOTTS

A £161,962 cash bonanza has allowed The Nottinghamshire Disability Football Focus Group to provide a countywide disability football programme, providing schemes for people with disabilities to play football, creating a sustainable infrastructure for the future.

The group, made up from representatives of bodies including Notts County Council, Active Sports, Notts FA,

Notts County Football in the Community, YMCA, West Notts College and the English Federation of Disability Sports, is now targeting schools and local clubs to enhance and improve disabled facilities, to provide coaching schemes and reduce barriers to disabled participation. Community volunteers will be encouraged to support and develop coaching and mentoring programmes.

# BARCLAYCARD 'FREE KICKS' ARE CALLING ALL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



Rio takes the kids for a training session.

**Do you know anyone truly dedicated to grassroots football? Are you yourself? Here's your chance to prove it.**

In the style of the prestigious Barclaycard Player and Manager of the month awards, The Barclaycard 'Free Kicks' Champion award has been created for the unsung heroes who tirelessly support the grass roots of football. Deserving recipients could be a long-standing groundsman, a coach who has worked tirelessly to develop players, someone who drives the minibus or has done the sandwiches for years.

Barclaycard is committed to supporting grass roots football in the UK. Investing £4m over the three years of the sponsorship into kits for teams in disadvantaged areas

and club community schemes. Through 4thegame.com, Barclaycard's official Premiership website, you can vote for people you feel really deserve a Barclaycard 'Free Kicks' Champion award. All you have to do is fill in the online form. To recognise their efforts each winner will receive a limited edition silver medal as well as a donation of £1,000 to the team or charity of their choice.

#### **Previous winners have included:**

David Beardall, Wallsend Boys club, who has made a real difference to many children's lives. He has trained kids, and helped them achieve their dreams of reaching league status. He helped save the club in 1959, after a serious fire. He recruited kids, helped raise funds,

and managed the entire club for nearly half a century. 100's of children have trained with Wallsend Boys Club, including Alan Shearer, Lee Clark, Steve Bruce, Peter Beardsley and many other league players.

Alan Smith, whose prowess as a footballer has made him a cult hero in his home city. Alan Smith has given up hours of his spare time to support the work of Leeds United's successful community department. Leeds born and bred, Alan has developed a unique bond with the people of the city who appreciate his commitment both to Leeds United and the city of Leeds.

**Go to [www.4thegame.com](http://www.4thegame.com) to nominate a Barclaycard 'Free Kicks' Champion.**

**BARCLAYCARD FREE KICKS**



# FOUNDATION PITCH IN FOR TAMESIDE

A £656,991 grant to the Tameside SportsTrust (TST), the largest handed out in the North West, allowed the group to build eight new five a side pitches – shared between Stalybridge and Droysden. Foundation Chairman

Lord Pendry was joined by former Man City goalkeeper Alex Williams, now heading up the club's Football in the Community Scheme, and TST Chairman Gordon Jaques to open the project on a chilly day in Manchester. Entertainment was

provided by local primary school pupils, who will be using the pitches free of charge during games lessons, who launched into a robust eight a side tournament. Bet Alex is glad he retired.



Kids enjoy the new Tameside football project.

Alex Williams joins the kids for training.

## Pompey Get Interactive

Portsmouth's great start to the new season continues with the news that young Pompey fans will soon be using the power of football to get connected to the web, thanks to a £61,816 Football Foundation cash boost.

The money will allow the club to establish a state of the art interactive computer library at the Pompey Study Centre for local kids to polish up on their literacy, numeracy and IT skills. This will be the first library of its kind in the country.

3500 young people already use the existing study support centre from 73 schools in the Portsmouth area and the new library will enhance this successful centre. Qualified teachers will be on hand for expert advice and the centre will host guest lectures by authors and poets for budding writers.

Pompey Manager Harry Redknapp had this to say following the news: "I'm delighted the money has gone to a good organisation who do some great things indeed. This should be a definite benefit for the kids around the area and what better way for them to learn than through football."



Harry Redknapp welcomed the news.

## Ludlow Project Gets Underway

One of our largest projects kicked off with the laying of the Foundation stone for the new home of Ludlow's Football Club. The pitches provided by a £900,000 grant, are already in use, whilst the second phase of the development, the new pavilion, was launched by Foundation Chairman Lord Pendry and Ludlow boss Peter Gwilliam.

**Should you have any queries regarding this Newsletter, or anything on the wider work of the Foundation, please do not hesitate to contact us:**

### Football Foundation

25 Soho Square, London W1D 4FF

Tel: 0800 0277766

Fax: 020 7287 0459

E-mail: [enquiries@footballfoundation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@footballfoundation.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 1079309



**FootballFoundation**

*football's biggest supporter*