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Introduction

Alan Pardew unveils club's 'home for homeless'

Newcastle boss launches unique sport and homeless facilities at club that produced Andy Carroll and Gazza

Lucky youngsters at Gateshead Redheugh 1957 Football Club were thrilled when Newcastle United manager Alan Pardew paid them a visit.



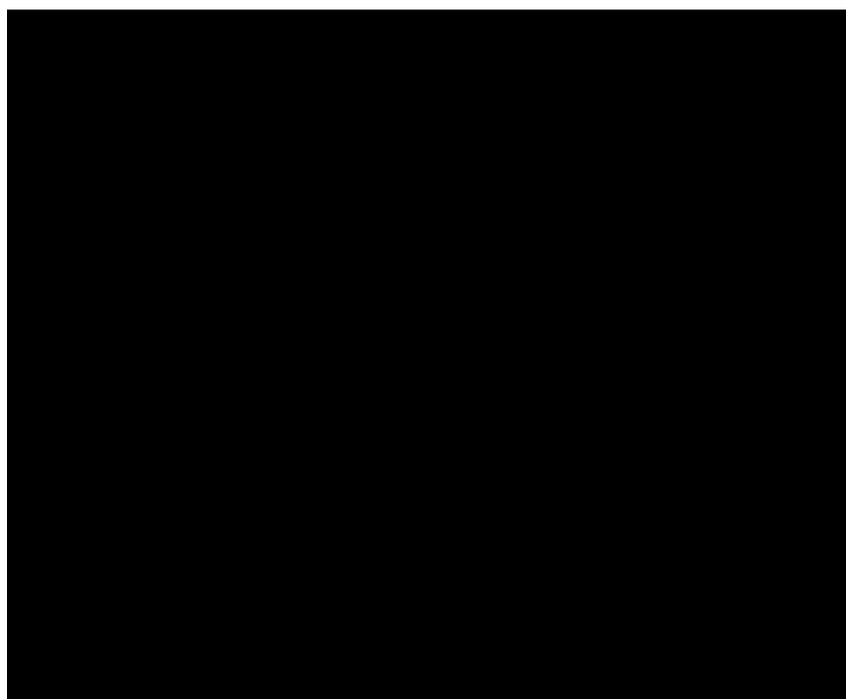
Pards tries new changing rooms out for size

Lucky youngsters at Gateshead Redheugh 1957 Football Club were thrilled when Newcastle United manager Alan Pardew paid them a visit to officially declare their new sports pavilion open.

The sports pavilion forms part of a wider £2.7m community scheme, which involves the development of the site at Eslington Park. This is led by Four Housing Group, with support from charity, The Cyrenians, will provide a residential support and training centre for homeless people in the area aged 16 to 25.

Football will be used as a vehicle to help them get their life back on track at the site, which is the first of its kind in the country.

Gateshead Redheugh 1957 FC worked in partnership with the Durham County FA to secure a £102,000 grant from the Football Foundation to pay for the site's grass pitches and drainage system. Watch an exclusive mini-film of the launch event below.



Terry Ritson, Sports Co-ordinator at Gateshead Redheugh FC, said: "We would like to thank the Football Foundation for making our dreams become a reality. The new club house will help the club move forward into the future by providing first class facilities for both boys and girls football."

The Independent's Martin Hardy spoke to Alan on the day. You can read his account by clicking [here](#).

News Stories

Mayor of London's Olympic legacy already benefiting the capital

The Mayor of London: Sport Legacy Facilities Fund has supported 62 projects, with activities from cricket and rock climbing to BMX-ing and yachting all benefiting.



New community sports facilities are taking shape across the capital and tens of thousands of opportunities to get regular access to sport have been opened up as a result of the Mayor of London: Sport Legacy Facilities Fund.

The Fund is part of Mayor Boris Johnson's commitment to deliver a sporting legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and it's being delivered on his behalf by the Football Foundation.

Already 23 different sports have been supported, with 13 projects already complete and open to the public. These include: a seven-a-side 3G artificial grass pitch in Barnet; a new climbing wall in Kensington; cricket nets in Harrow and a new BMX track in Greenwich.

In the opening three rounds of funding the programme has invested in projects worth over £38m, with the fund contributing £5.2m.

The gallery below gives you some examples of facilities that have benefited from this funding.

Star of The Wire and Luther launches grassroots sport campaign

Actor Idris Elba discusses special places he played football as a kid, as he launches the 'My Space for Sport' campaign.



A new campaign featuring celebrities from the worlds of TV, film, sport and music, is encouraging customers, sports fans and young people to discover one of the 200 Barclays Spaces for Sports facilities around the UK.

My Space for Sport is a campaign to help highlight the 200 Barclays Spaces for Sports multi-sport sites across the country. With so many outstanding facilities on offer, gone are the days when young people were restricted to a kick about in the street.

Barclays Spaces for Sports facilities are open to the whole community and you can locate your nearest site by clicking [here](#).

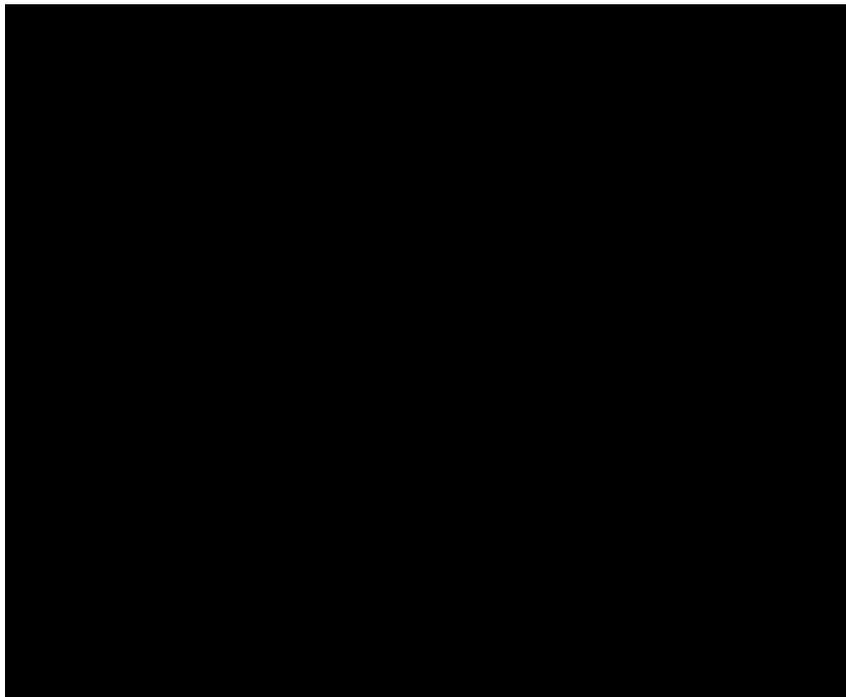
Launching My Space for Sport is actor and musician Idris Elba, star of television dramas 'The Wire' and 'Luther'. He will be followed by other celebrities passionate about grass roots sport, including DJ Norman Jay MBE, Vernon Kay and Hope Powell.

To kick off the campaign, Elba went back to where he used to play football with his friends as a kid at London Fields in Hackney. He met with local children there and after reminiscing about 'his twenty-yard screamers' and 'curling them in like Brady', Elba then visited the Arsenal FC Barclays Spaces for Sports site at Rosemary Gardens in Islington.

Rosemary Gardens, with their astroturf pitches and courts, catering for multiple sports, show how Barclays investment has helped improve facilities in often deprived local areas, for the benefit of everyone in the local community.

Barclays Spaces for Sports is part of Barclays community investment programme, which invests in local communities as an integral part of the firm's Citizenship strategy. With a focus on financial, enterprise and life skills, Barclays supports disadvantaged people in building the confidence and skills to achieve financial independence and security.

[Click here to watch the film featuring Idris Elba.](#)



World Cup Final ref Howard Webb backs investment into grassroots

Top referee Howard Webb discusses the importance of good facilities in keeping people engaged in football.

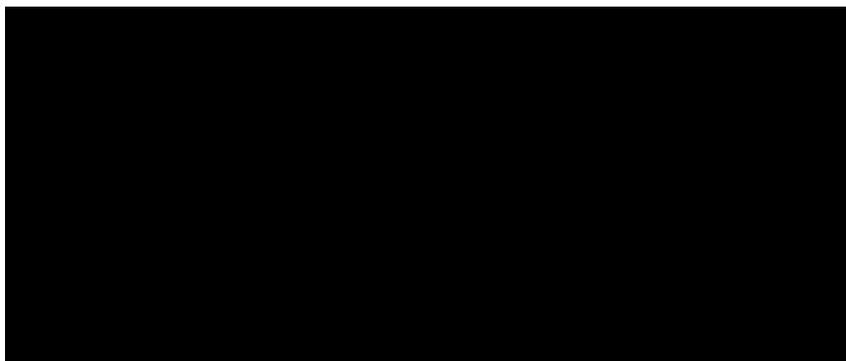


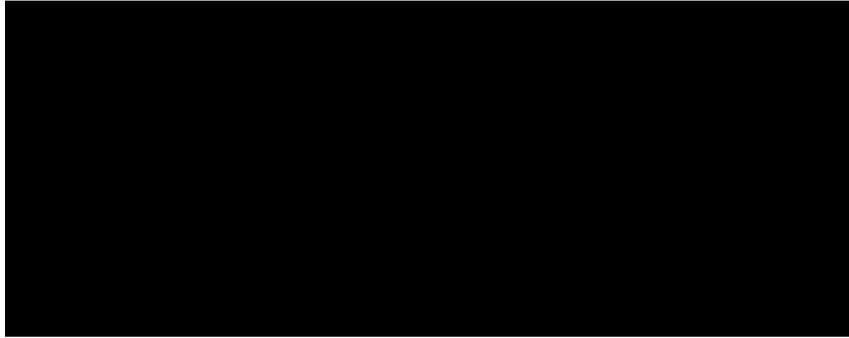
Investing in grassroots football facilities can help bring communities together and teach valuable life lessons, according to Premier League referee Howard Webb.

Webb, who earlier this year received an MBE for his services to football, was speaking at the opening of a new £1.2m football complex in Huntingdonshire earlier this week:

“Football is so important - it brings everybody together, encourages teamwork and it gives kids ideas about winning and losing in the right way.

“Being heavily involved in local football I have seen how passionate people are about the game, and what an important part it plays in peoples life's first hand. This is why I am always keen to stay involved and encourage other people to get the most out of football”, he said.





Webb, who took charge of last year's World Cup Final in South Africa, recalled the lack of facilities available when he started out refereeing in the grassroots:

"I have had to come all the way though different levels of football. I started local football as an 18-year-old, quite often changing at the side of a car and shivering on local playing fields. That's why these facilities mean so much to the community, especially a 3G pitch that can be used all the time, in all weather conditions and when it's freezing cold like today", he added.

The project at One Leisure St Ives has seen the introduction of a new full-size floodlit third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch and an extension to the existing sports centre to provide four new changing rooms. Forecasts suggest that an additional 1,150 people will gain access to football on the site each week.

The council worked in partnership with the Huntingdonshire County FA to secure a £500,000 grant from the Football Foundation towards the project. Webb praised the country's largest sports charity, who receives their funding directly from the Premier League, The FA and the Government:

"The Football Foundation is making a huge difference. This sort of facility today wouldn't be possible without their funding. The amount of investment they have made in facilities is absolutely huge and everyone here today is so grateful for their efforts in making this possible", he said.

Paul Thorogood, CEO of the Foundation, who was born and grew up in area, attended yesterday's event and explained the transformation the site has undergone in the last 30 years:

"This was complete wasteland and to see the way it has been developed over the years has been fantastic. It means a lot to the community in a number of ways. The Football Foundation is dedicated, with funding provided from the Premier League, The FA and government, to raising the standard of grassroots community sports facilities and to get more people actively playing the national sport", he said.

Britain's oldest goalie honoured for years of service

72 year old RAF veteran Colin Lee has been awarded the Barclays Community Sports Award for 30 years' dedication to grassroots sport.



Colin Lee, a 72-year-old retiree and the oldest registered amateur football player in Northamptonshire, has been awarded the Barclays Community Sports Award for November.

Colin has been involved with grassroots football in Northamptonshire for over 30 years, after leaving the RAF in 1974. Having formed a Sunday League club with workmates, Colin went on to establish three additional adult teams and three youth teams all of which now train and play weekly. Colin also established an RAF veterans' team which he continues to play in himself.

As General Secretary of all eight teams, Colin is responsible for organising all training sessions and weekly matches for around 140 members. He also hopes to establish a girls' team, along with a second veterans' team early next year.

Upon receiving the award, Colin said: "I was so shocked and pleased when I heard I had won a Barclays Community Sports Award. Funding is always an issue for us and the prize money will go a long way in providing kit and helping me expand our existing teams."

Gareth Southgate, a judge on the Barclays Community Sports Award panel, commented: "It's volunteers like Colin that keep grass roots sport thriving, and it's fantastic to hear about the many players across all generations playing weekly football thanks to Colin's hard work and dedication over three decades." To find out more about the Barclays Community Sports Award click [here](#)

Football Foundation TV

Footballer and pundit opens £2.1m multi-sport complex in Oxford

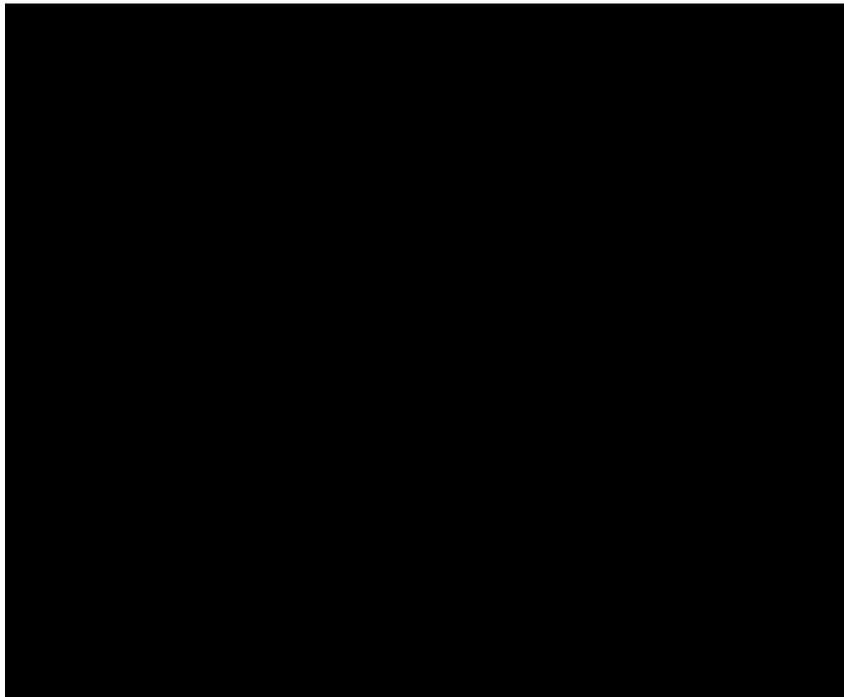
Watch our exclusive mini film of ex-England and Arsenal star Martin Keown at last week's launch of a site that caters for male and female players, as well as disabled adults and juniors.



Former Arsenal and England legend Martin Keown has officially opened the new Community Arena at Oxford City Football Club. Martin was joined by Football Foundation Chairman Gary Hoffman. Watch the film of the day below.

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he Arena was funded with a £732,194 grant from the Football Foundation and will support a range of sports, such as the netball that was on show on the day. It will also provide a base for Oxford City FC's 31 teams that run from Under-6s to adults and the club's award-winning community work and disability projects.



The club worked with the Oxfordshire County FA to apply for the Foundation cash. It also secured £83,000 from the Foundation's sister organisation, the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FSIF). £350,000 of Lottery funding came from Sport England's Places People Play legacy programme.

The site will cater for a wide range of sports, with Oxfordshire Netball Development Board a close partner of the club. The facility will also carry the London 2012 Inspire mark – celebrating the link to the Games.

Side Articles

Hot off the press! Our Annual Review

See our latest Annual Review before anyone else.



The Football Foundation's Annual Review for 2011 is rolling off the presses as we speak.

However, as a Top Corner reader, you can read it first!

Click [here](#) for an online version.

Before and After

They're off! How Ascot Utd replaced their rotting wooden hut with a stunning new pavilion



Ascot United FC used to have a rotting, timber portacabin for their changing rooms and club base. After many years' hard work and fundraising, the club and local community now enjoy a beautiful new pavilion.



We would wager that if there was a prize for changing rooms, Ascot United Football Club's old portacabins wouldn't have won by a length.

However, after years of hard work by their volunteers, and the help of £388,609 from the Football Foundation, the club's 68 teams and 800 registered players now enjoy a far more comfortable matchday experience.

Lots of other local groups also get to enjoy the new sports facilities and function rooms too, so it has become a real community hub.

Check out the gallery of images below to see how the site has been transformed.

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