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Introduction

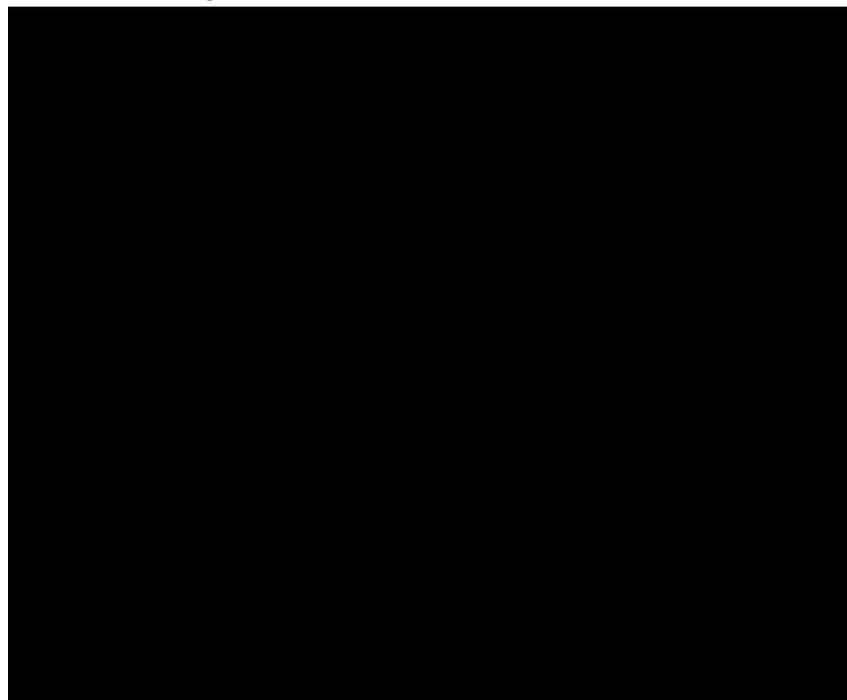
Sir Trevor Brooking opens Leicestershire's newest sports facilities

Former England great launches major community hub

Watch our exclusive short film of Sir Trevor unveiling a brand new sports site in Market Harborough on Friday (24 Feb).



Former England footballer Sir Trevor Brooking has just unveiled some brand new sports facilities in Market Harborough.



The £1.1m Harborough Town FC project includes a new floodlit third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch and the extension and refurbishment of an existing changing pavilion to provide ten changing rooms and additional catering and social facilities.

Sir Trevor made 528 appearances as a midfielder for West Ham United and was capped 47 times for England. He is currently the Director of Football Development at The FA.

Sir Trevor said, "These first-class facilities are the result of many years' dedication by Harborough Town FC and the Leicestershire FA. This site will create more opportunities for local residents to play football and give youngsters the chance to develop their skills and do something positive with their free time."

The project was built with a £610,921 grant from the Football Foundation and will enable Harborough Town FC to increase its number of teams run from 36 to 50. The site will also benefit other local clubs and schools in the area. Forecasts suggest that over 2,300 people will participate on the newly-upgraded site each week – an increase of 370% compared to the site's previous level of participation.

News Stories

Football and government unite to tackle discrimination

Football and government join forces against discrimination, as Prime Minister hosts Number Ten summit.

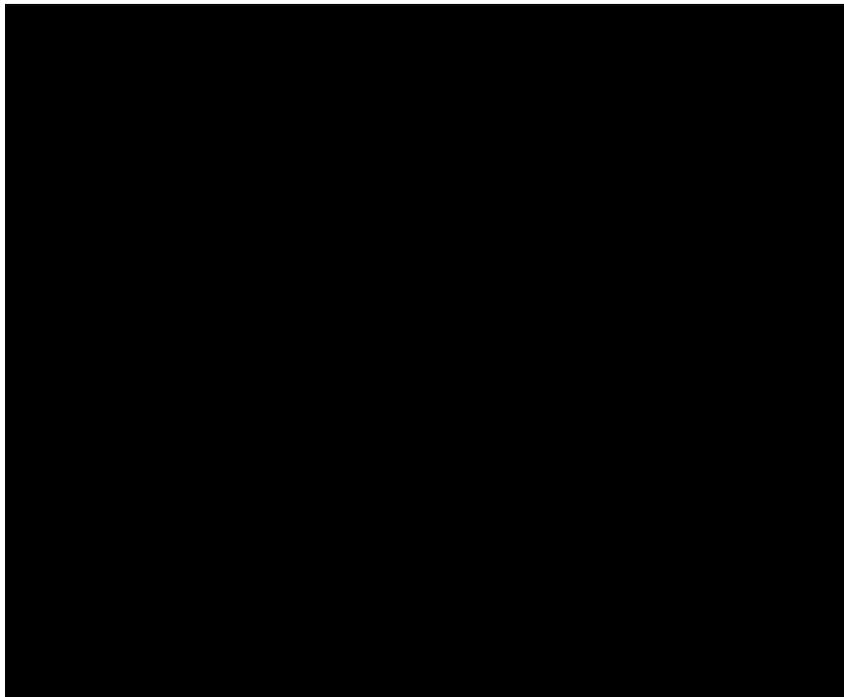


Football bodies joined a wide range of anti-discrimination campaigners last week, as Prime Minister David Cameron hosted a meeting at Number Ten Downing Street.

Speaking after the summit the Prime Minister said: "As our national game, football has exceptional reach into every community. So much about football reflects what makes us great as a nation, and we all want to keep it that way.

He added: "Football has done a huge amount in recent decades to eradicate the types of racist attitudes and behaviour that sadly often blighted the game. But we cannot be complacent. We must address problems which could, if left unchecked, threaten to undo much of the hard work that has been done.

Earlier this month all 20 Premier League clubs signed up to the Charter for Action against Homophobia. The FA meanwhile released a new anti-homophobia film, featuring former footballers Brendon Batson, former FA Cup winner and England international John Scales and ex-Reading skipper Ady Williams who was capped 13 times by Wales. You can watch it below.



Peter McCormick appointed as the new FSIF Chairman.

The Football Stadia Improvement Fund, a supporter of the Football Foundation, has announced that leading sports lawyer, Peter McCormick OBE, has been appointed as its new Chairman.



Funded with £6m a year from the Premier League, the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FSIF) is the country's largest provider of grants towards projects that help improve lower league football grounds. These improvements range from new football stands and turnstiles to floodlighting and improved provision for disabled supporters.

Peter McCormick had been acting Chairman of the FSIF since previous Chairman Clive Sherling stepped down from the role in March 2011. Mr McCormick has been a Director since 2008. He is also a Trustee of the Football Foundation.

Peter McCormick said: "I am delighted to have been appointed Chairman. FSIF helps clubs in 92 league competitions, involving nearly 1,700 clubs throughout the country. It is a privilege to be part of that essential work."

Recent FSIF grants include:

- £28,269 awarded to Frome Town FC to build a new 250 seater stand at their AlderSmith Stadium.
- £56,100 awarded to Guiseley AFC to develop a new 200-seat covered stand and undertake pitch irrigation work.
- £34,086 awarded to Little Common FC to improve its facilities by installing six permanent floodlights and building a fifty seat spectator stand.
- £150,000 awarded to Maidstone United FC to assist with the design and construction of their new stadium, The Gallagher Stadium, at Whatman Way in Maidstone.
- Brighton & Hove Albion FC recieved a £2million grant towards the development of the club's new home: the American Express Community Stadium in Falmer.

Barclays Spaces for Sports shortlisted for Sport Industry Award

The Sport Industry Group unveiled the Shortlist for the Sport Industry Awards 2012 with Barclays Sports for Sports making the cut for The Community Programme Award.



After a rigorous steering process involving more than 40 key figures from across the industry, Barclays Spaces for Sports has been shortlisted for The Community Programme Award at this year's prestigious Sport Industry Awards.

The Sport Industry Awards 2012 shortlist represents the best the industry had to offer in 2011 and Barclays Spaces for Sports impressed with its sustainability programme launched last year.

Barclays Spaces for Sports employed six regional Activity and Sustainability Advisors across the UK and developed a 'Sustainability Fund' to help existing Barclays Spaces for Sports sites secure their long-term future.

Gary Hoffman, Chairman of the Football Foundation, added: "The Sustainability Fund demonstrates the commitment of Barclays and the Football Foundation to each and every site that has previously received funding from the Spaces for Sports programme. To have this commitment recognised by the Sports Industry Awards judging panel is something we take great pride in."

The results will be announced at the star-studded Sport Industry Awards ceremony on Wednesday 2nd May 2012.

Read more>>

Football Foundation TV

Annual Review +

Read - and watch - our first ever multimedia annual review

Annual Review 'Plus' allows you to see interviews with volunteers at projects that we at the Football Foundation have worked with in the last year, rather than simply reading about them.



This year we wanted to do more than simply produce the standard annual report. We wanted to illustrate our work across the country with our partners in a more interactive way. Annual Review + brings the stories and achievements of volunteers at the grassroots level, and Foundation investment, to life with interviews and video clips. Just click the image below to start!



Before and After

How Kendal Utd FC shed its wooden image

Volunteers at the Cumbria club's six years of work and fundraising to replace their wooden shack paid off with a brilliant new pavilion.



Kendal United FC's old wooden changing rooms were built in 1945 but by 1999 were rapidly falling apart,

the club was struggling for players and folded.

Chairman Tim Pryor decided to refocus from senior football to create Kendal United Juniors FC in order to feed a new senior side in the future. They set out with a simple ethos of “promoting health, team-working, respect and loyalty within the young, through football.”

The club worked with the Westmorland FA to net a £330,174 Football Foundation grant, which paid for the majority of the costs. Click the left/right arrows in the below gallery to see the transformation!

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