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Introduction

Thank you Sir Alex

Foundation tribute to British football's most successful manager

During his time at Manchester United and since the establishment of the Football Foundation in 2000, Sir Alex Ferguson supported a number of local grassroots football projects, and unveiled four Foundation projects.



The Premier League's longest serving and most successful manager, Sir Alex Ferguson, announced his retirement from management this month. During his time at Manchester United and since the establishment of the Football Foundation in 2000, Sir Alex supported a number of local grassroots football projects, for which we would like to thank him.

Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, Paul Thorogood, said: "Whilst Sir Alex Ferguson is quite rightly admired as this country's greatest ever manager, he perhaps does not receive the recognition that he deserves for the support he has shown for community sport over the years. Despite a punishing schedule as the manager of the most successful club in the country, Sir Alex has also found time to support the grassroots of the game.

"The Football Foundation is just one organisation that Sir Alex has supported over the years. I would like to congratulate him, not only for his well-known achievements at the top of the game, but also for the unheralded support he has provided to the Foundation and to those who play football simply for the love of doing so."

Since the Football Foundation was launched in 2000, by its funding partners – the **Premier League**, **The FA** and the **Government** (via **Sport England**) – it has developed 9,383 new grassroots projects with grants worth £413m.

In that time, Sir Alex officially unveiled four of the Foundation's local sports sites:

Salford Sports Village, March 2006 – 3G artificial pitches and changing rooms
FF funding: £900,000

Mersey Valley Sports Club, February 2007 – clubhouse and changing rooms
FF funding: £500,000

Broadoak School, October 2008 – 3G artificial pitches and changing rooms
FF funding: £1,000,000

Stretford High School, September 2012 – 3G artificial pitch funded by the Premier League Community Facility Fund (delivered by the Football Foundation)
Premier League funding: £350,000.

News Stories

Pat Rice opens new Islington 3G

Local school's new 3G to host Arsenal community projects

St Mark's CE Primary School's new 3G pitch, part-funded by the Football Foundation, is not far from Arsenal FC's Emirates stadium and will host some of the Premier League club's community projects.



Former Arsenal FC defender and assistant manager, Pat Rice, officially opened an Islington school's new third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch recently.

St Mark's CE Primary School's new 3G pitch, part-funded by the Foundation, will offer a much-needed sporting facility in an area which is short on open recreational spaces.

The school, located not far away from Arsenal FC's Emirates stadium, has forged a link with the Premier League club, who will provide weekly coaching sessions during school time as well as after school sessions. Arsenal FC's community projects, such as 'Double Club', an education and football programme offering a range of subjects together with football coaching, will also use the site.

The school worked in partnership with the London FA to secure a £47,000 grant from the Football Foundation. St Mark's school received a £30,000 grant from the Mayor of London: Facility Fund towards the project. The MoL:FF, which is managed on the Mayor's behalf by the Football Foundation, is part of Boris Johnson's commitment to deliver a sporting legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Calvin Henry, Head Teacher of St Marks CE Primary School, said: "The new facility, part-funded by the Football Foundation has transformed the sporting facilities available at the school and is going to make such a difference to the life of the school and the local community. The children have waited patiently for it to be built and are now so excited to be able to use it."

Lord Pendry opens Blackpool clubhouse

Blackpool Rangers JFC open new extended clubhouse facilities

President of the Football Foundation officially opens pavilion for Blackpool club.



The President of the Football Foundation, Lord Pendry, has officially opened Blackpool Rangers Junior Football Club's newly refurbished pavilion.

The newly extended and refurbished clubhouse will allow Blackpool Rangers JFC to provide fantastic new facilities for over 200 children. The new pavilion, made possible thanks to a £99,600 grant from the Foundation, has a function room, new changing facilities, and the surrounding area now has increased parking provision and a fence for the safety of the children.

Blackpool FC defender, Ian Evatt, and local MP, Paul Maynard, also attended the opening at the Lancashire club.

At the opening Lord Pendry said: "It gives me great pleasure to be here to officially open Blackpool Rangers Junior Football Club's refurbished facilities. Congratulations to everyone involved in this project for their hard work and for ensuring its completion.

"The Football Foundation continues and is committed to supporting projects like this across the country with the funds generously provided by our funding partners, the Premier League, The FA, Government and Sport England."

Chairman of Blackpool Rangers JFC, Stephen Simms, added: "We are delighted and very proud that we now have such fantastic, much needed facilities available at the club. It's been a huge amount of hard work and effort from all concerned. Special thanks should go to the tradesmen who have worked passionately throughout to complete the work to a fantastic standard.

"I cannot stress enough how unreservedly grateful we are to the Football Foundation and the **Lancashire FA**, without their support none of this would have been possible."

End of Season Award winner announced

Volunteer wins End of Season Barclays Community Sports Award

Manneh Elliott, a volunteer basketball coach from Liverpool, won the Barclays Community Sports Award End of Season Award for the 2012/13 season at a star studded event at the Haymarket Hotel in London.



Former England international – and Football Foundation Ambassador – Gareth Southgate, paid tribute to Manneh Elliott, a volunteer basketball coach from Liverpool, after he was announced as the Barclays Community Sports Award End of Season winner for the 2012/13 season during an event at the Haymarket Hotel in London, which was also attended by Gareth's former England team mate and fellow Foundation Ambassador, Graeme Le Saux.

The monthly awards recognise the outstanding contributions to community sport that are being made by individuals across the UK. Each monthly winner receives £1,000 for their group or organisation, with the end of season award recipient winning a further £5,000, all donated by Barclays Spaces for Sports.

Manneh has been a volunteer coach for the Toxteth Tigers Basketball Programme for the past 40 years, and in the process has helped several players achieve basketball scholarships to colleges in the USA. The Toxteth club is represented in the local and national leagues with ten teams, ranging from Under-12s to Under-18s.

Gareth, who heads up the judging panel, said: "Manneh Elliott is a truly deserved winner of the End of Season Barclays Community Sports Award. His longstanding commitment to coaching and to developing young people's skills is to be greatly admired and he is an example of the fantastic volunteers up and down the country who are making a real difference to grassroots sport."

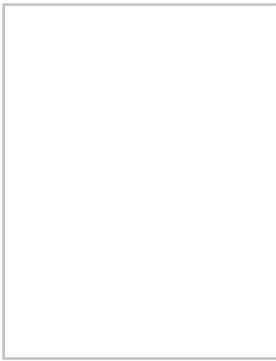
Look out for the Barclays Community Sports Awards at the beginning of the next Barclays Premier League season by visiting www.barclayscommunitysportsaward.com.

Side Articles

ONLINE 32

Read our latest magazine





The new issue of our magazine, ONSIDE, is out now!

Click the above image to read the online version, which features new Foundation Ambassador and former England, Chelsea, Southampton and Blackburn Rovers defender, Graeme Le Saux, Newcastle United stars Shola and Sammy Ameobi and a Q&A with Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Maria Miller.

Before and After

New link for Priory School

Orpington's stunning new sport and leisure facility

Orpington Football Club are amongst those to benefit from the new Priory Link sports facility at The Priory School.



The Priory School received £400,000 of Football Foundation funding towards a stunning new sport and leisure facility in Orpington, South East London.

The new complex includes two brand new third generation artificial grass pitches; eight purpose-built changing rooms; two reconditioned grass pitches; and a community hall facility with integrated offices, a training suite, a hall for hire, a sports hall, a gymnasium, a fitness suite, a dance studio and conference spaces.

The site is also supporting the growth of Orpington Football Club, who are forming an additional 12 teams through the five-year Football Development Plan that they and the London County FA submitted as part of the application for Foundation funding.

Click the 'right' arrow to scroll through the images and see the transformation of the site.



— ■ FUNDING PARTNERS ■ —

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