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Introduction

Dion unveils Birmingham sports site

Former England player Dion Dublin officially opens new sports facilities at Rectory Park

Former Premier League and England striker, Dion Dublin, officially opens a new sports pavilion in the Midlands.



Former Premier League and England striker, Dion Dublin, recently visited Rectory Park to officially open the site's newly-refurbished pavilion and football pitches.

Birmingham City Council received a grant for £305,600 from the Football Foundation to give their old and outdated pavilion a stylish makeover.

Football Foundation Ambassador Dion, who made a total of 743 appearances in his career, scoring 235 goals, said: "It is a real pleasure to officially open these new changing rooms for people in this part of Birmingham.

"Football is our national game so it is only right that the players and volunteers at the grassroots should have somewhere comfortable to get changed and shower before and after matches."

Dion was not the only celebrity face to welcome to the new facilities. Fellow Football Foundation Ambassador and former England Manager, Graham Taylor OBE, was also delighted by the upgrades at the Sutton Coldfield site and added: "As a local resident, it's smashing to see the changing rooms at the Rectory Park Pavilion get a much-needed makeover with Football Foundation cash."

The changes have brought the pavilion into the 21st century; whereas the previous pavilion was outdated, and had no segregated changing, the new pavilion can now boast a stylish and modern interior, including four changing rooms built to Football Foundation specifications, improved electrics and heating, and lockers for storage.

"I am delighted to see this facility has benefited from investment from the Football Foundation's funding partners – the Premier League, The FA and the Government. When I played for Villa it was not too far from here, so it's particularly nice to see this site receiving this major boost," Dion added.

Click the 'right' arrow below to scroll through a gallery of images from the day.

News Stories

TV presenter's surprise school visit

Dan Walker joins PE session on new 3G pitch

A group of lucky Sheffield primary school pupils were delighted when BBC One's Football Focus presenter, Dan Walker, turned up to take part in their PE lesson on the brand new artificial grass pitch at Wisewood Sports Centre.



A group of lucky Sheffield primary school pupils were delighted when BBC One's Football Focus presenter, Dan Walker, turned up to take part in their PE lesson on a new Football Foundation-funded third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) at Wisewood Sports Centre.

Dan, who is a local resident and an Ambassador for the Football Foundation, kicked off the start of works at Wisewood Sports Centre in December last year with the presentation of a cheque for £150,000 of Foundation funding to Sheffield City Council towards developing the new state-of-the-art playing surface.

The TV presenter said: "The pitch was still in the early stages of being developed when I visited the site previously – I had to wear a hard hat and steel toe caps then."

Dan finally got the chance to see the site in action and was impressed with what he saw. He even tested out the new playing surface himself, joining in with neighbouring Wisewood Community Primary School's football session for Years Five and Six. He also chatted to the pupils about their favourite football teams and what they thought of the new facility.

"I'm really pleased to see this sort of investment going into improving the city's grassroots sport sites. In fact, since it was launched in 2000, the Football Foundation has awarded 118 grants worth £9m to grassroots projects in Sheffield," Dan added.

The 3G AGP has been used throughout the summer months for football activity days and by local youth team, Wisewood Juniors Little Lions.

Maggie Birt, Wisewood Sports Centre Manager, added: "We're absolutely delighted with the new 3G playing surface. It has made such a difference to sport in the area, and a lot more local people and schools are getting the chance to become active and stay healthy.

"To be able to welcome Dan Walker back to see what we have built with the funding that he handed over to us is the icing on the cake!"

Click the 'right' arrow below to scroll through a gallery of images from the day.

Walsh reveals landmark NW Leicestershire 3G

Former Leicester Captain opens region's first 3G

Former Leicester City FC captain, Steve Walsh, visits Newbridge High School Academy to officially open their new 3G playing surface.



Former Leicester City FC captain, Steve Walsh, visited Newbridge High School Academy recently to officially open their new third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) funded by a grant of 409,265 grant from the Football Foundation.

The 3G AGP, complete with floodlights, is the first of its kind in North West Leicestershire and represents an incredible boost for grassroots sport in the area.

The community sports facility will not only allow the Academy to enhance its extensive sports provision to its pupils, but increase sporting opportunities to the wider community through their partner clubs who operate over forty teams between them – a figure that is projected to rise to about eighty teams within five years.

Steward Goacher, Head Teacher at Newbridge High School, said: "Without the grant from the Football Foundation we would not have been able to offer the pupils of Newbridge High School Academy or the community this fantastic, state-of-the-art pitch."

Maxine Adams, Business Manager at Newbridge High School Academy, said: "We are delighted that a 3G AGP has successfully come to North West Leicestershire and are extremely grateful to all who have worked incredibly hard to make this all possible, especially the excellent support from the Football Foundation from the very start to now: the grand opening."

Paul Thorogood, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, said: "This was truly a landmark day for the Newbridge High School Academy Trust and for this part of Leicestershire, which now boasts its first ever

3G playing surface.”

Click the 'right' arrow below to scroll through a gallery of images from the day.

Funding available for FA Respect packs

The Foundation continues to support The FA's Respect agenda

The Football Foundation is once again teaming up with The FA to offer clubs and leagues 50% of the cost of FA Respect equipment.



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Leagues are now also able to apply for a single voucher for 50% off any Respect equipment, up to a maximum voucher value of £2,500.

The FA Respect scheme helps clubs tackle unacceptable behaviour, on the pitch and from the side-lines, by providing clubs with the opportunity to purchase FA Respect equipment bundles.

The bundles are available in small and large sizes and include:

- Touchline barriers (large bundle only)
- 'Our club supports Respect' banners
- High-visibility pitch marshals vest
- Captain's armbands
- Parent and carer's DVD
- Player cards
- Respect boards (now also available with a sponsor's logo)

Since its launch in 2008, 56% of respondents to The FA's annual Grassroots Survey said their experience of the game had improved as a result of the Respect programme.

A united effort is vital in preventing aggressive behaviour at the grassroots of the sport, which is why the Football Foundation is offering vouchers to all FA affiliated clubs.

An FA affiliation number is required to be eligible for the scheme, which can be obtained from the club secretary or alternatively from the local County FA.

Clubs that received funding within the last window are able to re-apply as all club's entitlement for the 2013/14 season has been reinstated.

Clubs that are interested can find out more or apply online via the [Foundation's website](#).

The Football Business Awards 2013

The 2013 Football Business Awards are almost here!

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The Awards recognise the essential role that business plays in football, the positive impact of football on the community and vital role played by the businesses which serve the game. In 2012, the ceremony attracted over 450 senior representatives from clubs and businesses working in football from the UK and

around the globe.

Hosted by BAFTA-winning comedienne, Jo Brand, the 2013 awards will see a judging panel made up of a number of respected names in football including Football Foundation CEO Paul Thorogood. There are a number of **award categories** available including best club marketing campaign and the best use of technology, to the best Chief Executive at a football club and the best club community scheme.

The ceremony will be a thoroughly enjoyable glittering gala dinner hosted by Chelsea FC with an anticipated audience of over 500. Tables and seats are selling fast, so make sure you book yours soon **here**.

For more information, visit the **Football Business Awards website**.

Football Foundation TV

Boris reveals new facilities in Croydon

Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, officially opens Streatham-Croydon RFC's new sports facilities

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, visited Streatham-Croydon Rugby Football Club recently to officially open their new Mayor of London-funded changing rooms and spectator stand.



The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, visited Streatham-Croydon Rugby Football Club recently to officially open their new Mayor of London-funded spectator stand and changing rooms.

Thanks to a £70,000 grant from the Sports Facilities Fund, plus additional funding coming from SITA trust, Sport England, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and The London Marathon Trust, it now boasts new state-of-the-art changing facilities, including additional showers, dedicated referee changing rooms, a gym, physiotherapy rooms and storage areas. The spectator stand has also been transformed and now provides smart club-coloured seats for 140 people.

Click the image below to view the video.



Read the full story on our website **here**.

Before and After

Sheffield's U-Mix Centre transformed

See how this Sheffield site was brought to life with Foundation funding

With a grant of £350,000 from The Football Foundation Football Unites, Racism Divides (FURD) were able to transform this Sheffield site into a thriving youth centre.



With a grant of £350,000 from the Football Foundation Football Unites, Racism Divides (FURD) were able to transform this Sheffield site into a thriving youth centre, with the aim of reducing racism through sport.

Football Unites, Racism Divides (FURD) uses football to bring people together from different backgrounds to play, watch and enjoy the game, and to break down barriers created by ignorance or prejudice. The Foundation grant enabled FURD to build an all-weather third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP), complete with floodlights, fencing and new goals.

The project provides a fantastic facility to engage with and meet the aspirations of young people in the Sheffield area.

Use the right arrow below to see The U-Mix Centre develop.



— ■ FUNDING PARTNERS ■ —