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Introduction

Sky's the limit as Jeff opens school's stunning new facility

Sky Sports presenter, Jeff Stelling, opens a new 3G AGP at High School in Surrey

Sky Sports presenter, Jeff Stelling, officially opened a new third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) on behalf of the Matthew Arnold School in Staines.



Sky Sports presenter, Jeff Stelling, officially opened a new third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) on behalf of the **Matthew Arnold School** in Staines recently.

Jeff, who hosts Sky's popular **Soccer Saturday** football show, was on hand to cut the ribbon, before watching a training session lead by pupils who gained their coaching qualifications on the very same surface.

Jeff Stelling said: "This is a really wonderful facility; it's a high-quality space to play football on all year-round. Sites like this are crucial to improving the grassroots game and enabling more people to play the game – and that can only help us develop the next generation of home-grown talent."

Also in attendance were **Chelsea Ladies** duo, Drew Spence and Hannah Blundell, who both joined in a training session which was led by coaches from the **Chelsea Foundation**, who also run a unique BTEC academic and football programme in association with Matthew Arnold College Academy.



The school, is the only site in the borough that provides a year-round football facility in the form of their full-size 3G AGP. The pitch was developed with a **Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund** grant of £254,438.

The site also boasts a smaller 3G AGP which the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund helped to refurbish with an £88,000 grant.

The school is now growing football activity on-site in partnership with local clubs and the **Middlesex**

County FA. It is also providing for disability football, and children's football for those between the ages of five and seven.

Roland Davey, Assistant Head Teacher at Matthew Arnold School, said: "This facility is absolutely invaluable to the school; I don't know what we did before we had it. Both pitches are used day-in day-out for everything from P.E. lessons to league matches, to coaching assessments for our pupils. Thanks must go to the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund for helping to make all of this happen."

Hannah Blundell, Chelsea Ladies defender, said: "It's fantastic to come down and see this brilliant new facility. The Chelsea Foundation work closely with Matthew Arnold and having this additional surface, due to the additional funding, is a big boost to the boys and girls who will get to use it on a regular basis."

Click the arrows below to see photos from the opening.

News Stories

Newcastle star Steven Taylor takes first penalty on new 3G

Magpies defender pays local school a visit to unveil new pitch

Newcastle Utd star, Steven Taylor, took the first official penalty against student and Sunderland AFC's Under-16 Academy goalkeeper recently at the unveiling of a local school's new sports facility.



Newcastle star, Steven Taylor, took the first official penalty against student and Sunderland AFC's Under-16 Academy goalkeeper recently at the opening of a local school's new sports facility.

The Premier League defender snipped the ribbon and declared **John Spence High School's** new third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) officially open.

Students, which included five budding stars that play for Newcastle and Sunderland Academy sides, also celebrated the opening with a game on the new facility.

The upgrade, made possible by a £242,536 from the **Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund**, will offer state-of-the-art training and playing facilities for the school which also provides a home ground for their partner club, **North Shields Juniors AFC**, who hope to increase their teams from 36 to 48 in the next five years.

Mr Jim Stephenson, Head teacher at John Spence Community High School, highlighted how much the pitch would benefit the school and how "the new playing facilities will enable members of the local community to enjoy football activities for the foreseeable future."

Click the arrows below to see photos from the opening.

Pitch to get more people active in Stoke

Youngsters reap the benefits of Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund cash

The next generation of footballers showed off their skills at the official opening of a state-of-the-art third generation artificial grass pitch in Stoke-on-Trent.



The next generation of footballers – local children – showed off their skills at the official opening of a state-of-the-art third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) in Stoke-on-Trent.

Built on the site of a disused games area, the all-weather pitch at Northwood Stadium was officially 'christened' with friendly matches involving local boys', girls' and men's teams.

Funded by a £431,876 grant from the **Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund** and by **Stoke-on-Trent City Council**, the floodlit pitch can cater for five-a-side, seven-a-side, nine-a-side and 11-a-side games.

Councillor Adrian Knapper, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Sport, said: "I'm delighted that this top-of-the-range outdoor pitch has officially been opened. It will offer year-round opportunities for both

adults and young people to take part in sport. It will not only help to increase participation in football and outdoor sport but it will also aid the development of grassroots football in local clubs.”

Simon De Winton, Manager and Chairman, said: “Having a pitch like this is great news for teams and footballers in the city. I think it will open the doors to get a lot more people involved in sport, particularly youngsters, and that can only be a good thing.”

Click the arrows below to see photos from the opening.

New 3G at Gateshead's talent goldmine will "go down in the history books"

Gateshead Redheugh 1957 celebrate major sporting boost

The football club which has produced Paul Gascoigne, Don Hutchison and Andy Carroll, received a major sporting boost recently when it opened its new third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP).



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Gateshead Redheugh 1957 received a £477,011 grant from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund to build the new facility, which was officially opened by two of the clubs ex-players Colin Symm and Alan Dowson.

The new floodlit 3G AGP will not only enable Gateshead Redheugh's 20 teams to play football all-year-round, but will also provide state-of-the-art facilities for the **Newcastle Foundation** to host the **Premier League Kicks programme** and their 'football fun days' during the school holidays. The pitch will also be used by the club for their 'Mini Reds' sessions for youngsters ages four, five and six.

Terry Ritson, Senior Sports Co-Ordinator at Gateshead Redheugh, expressed his delight at the new facility and added: “What another fantastic day for the club which is sure to go down in the history books.

“It was brilliant to have two ex-Redheugh lads to open the facility – it shows the club's strong football heritage.

“Along with the opening of the clubhouse and pitch developments in recent years, we have all worked hard to have developed such fantastic facilities at Eslington Park. We must thank the **Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund**, and all our other funding partners, for helping to make this 3G AGP a reality.”

Click the arrows below to see photos from the opening.

Barclays sites rewarded with chance to meet Premier League stars

Grassroots heroes meet stars from Premier League clubs Liverpool and Everton as a reward for their work at Barclays sites

Two groups of grassroots football coaches from Barclays Spaces for Sports sites in Everton and Liverpool were invited to a Q&A with stars from their beloved football clubs as part of Barclays' campaign to thank fans and community heroes.



Two groups of grassroots football coaches from **Barclays Spaces for Sports** sites in Everton and Liverpool were invited to a Q&A with stars from their beloved football clubs as part of Barclays' campaign to thank fans and community heroes.

Both groups were made up of volunteers who give up their time to organise footballing activities at the Ancliffe Centre in Everton, and the Anfield Sports & Community Centre in Liverpool. Coaches from the Ancliffe Centre were invited to take part in a training session at Everton's Finch Farm training ground before quizzing manager Roberto Martinez and Scotland international striker Steven Naismith on life in the Premier League. Meanwhile, the volunteers from Anfield Community Sports Centre were treated to a tour of Anfield followed by a question and answer session with Liverpool centre-back Martin Skerter, who was the man of the moment having just scored two goals in Liverpool's victory over Arsenal.

The two groups were selected by Barclays because of their valuable work in helping teach and facilitate grassroots football in the community. This is a part of their 'Thank you' campaign that aims to recognise fans, community heroes and players for the way they support, volunteer and play the game from grassroots football right up to the Barclays Premier League.

Barclays Spaces for Sports uses the power of sport to give disadvantaged young people around the world the confidence and skills they need to reach their potential. In partnership with the Football Foundation, Barclays has developed 200 sports facilities in disadvantaged communities in the UK, engaging over 53,000 people every week.

Click the arrows below to see photos of the lucky fans meeting the stars.

FA needs your help to fight discrimination

The FA launches a new campaign to help eradicate discrimination from all levels of football

The FA launches the Reporting Discrimination campaign – a series of short films designed to help you help us eradicate discrimination from the beautiful game.



The FA has recently launched the Reporting Discrimination campaign – a series of short films designed to help you help us eradicate discrimination from the beautiful game.

Whether it be on the playing fields in your local park, or surrounded by thousands of people at a top-flight game – discrimination has no place in football and if you witness it, we want you to report it.

With the help of former **Premier League** players and Football Foundation Ambassadors Graeme Le Saux and Dion Dublin, the animated films show exactly what to do if you come across discrimination while attending or taking part in a football match.

Saux, capped 36 times for England, said the importance of the campaign cannot be underestimated and added "I was delighted to be involved in presenting these films on behalf of The FA.

"When discrimination takes place at any level of the game, we need to ensure that we can take positive action, and the best means of ensuring that is to encourage players and supporters to report it.

"These films will help explain to players and supporters both the importance of reporting discrimination and highlight the many ways in which they can do so."

The films will be widely distributed across the professional, semi-professional and grassroots levels of the game.

FA Board member and chair of the Inclusion Advisory Board, Heather Rabbatts, added that it is vital these steps are taken so that people in the game know exactly what to do if they come across discriminatory language or behaviour.

She said: "We know under-reporting of discrimination in the game is an issue, therefore instilling confidence is key.

"The FA and the Inclusion Advisory Board has worked with stakeholders across the game in developing these films which hope to convey how easy it is to report."

Kick It Out also provide a free downloadable app, making it even more straightforward to report anything you see.

Chair of Kick It Out, Lord Herman Ouseley, added: "Kick It Out welcomes any material that will increase knowledge amongst players and supporters of how to report discriminatory incidents."

The free downloadable Kick It Out app features in the films and offers a quick, easy and discreet way of reporting incidents anonymously.

Hear it, see it, report it. Check out the videos below telling you exactly how.



Football Foundation TV

talkSPORT and MPs in eleven goal thriller

Sides go head-to-head in friendly to highlight success of grassroots facility in Lambeth

A talkSPORT team took on the official MPs' side in a celebratory football match to support the grassroots game and highlight the success of two third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches (AGPs) in Lambeth.



A talkSPORT team took on the official MPs' side in a celebratory football match to support the grassroots game and highlight the success of two third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches (AGPs) in Lambeth, which were funded by a £77,920 grant from the **Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund**.

The former Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP, Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport Clive Efford MP, John Leech MP, Steve Rotherham MP and Chair of the All Party Football Group, Clive Betts MP gave the team of radio broadcast pros a strong game, but the talkSPORT side came out on top with a 8-3 win.

The game was officiated by former Premier League referee Dermot Gallagher who said after the final whistle: "It was pretty level in the first half, but the fitness told in the second! The MPs played well; Steve Rotherham is a good player, a real battler, and Andy Burnham did well as a striker, but it's difficult when you're the lone frontman."

Click the video link below to watch highlights of the game.



The match took place on Hatfield's pitches in Lambeth, which are used by more than 250 local school children every week with an additional 250 young people and children from the local community accessing free and affordable weekly sports sessions. The pitches were also used to launch the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund from, which you can read more about in **Issue 21**.

Having refereed on some of the best surfaces in Europe, Dermot Gallagher praised the Hatfield's pitches: "Facilities like this are fantastic, I refereed on this pitch years ago [before the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund's investment] and it was like lino! You didn't know whether to wear trainers or slippers, but

today everyone was in football boots which was fantastic to see.”

“For me, artificial grass pitches like these are the way forward for grassroots football. When you consider that some teams haven’t played for three months with all the bad weather we’ve had recently, it’s facilities like this that get more people, especially younger people, playing the game.”

Click the arrows below to see photos from the match.

Before and After

Oxford score new £2.1m sports facilities

Take a look at the amazing transformation this Oxford site underwent!

A new £2.1m sports area will provide more opportunities for people in Oxford to get involved in sport.



Oxford now has new state-of-the-art sports area including a full size third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP), a pavilion, six floodlit netball courts and an 80-space car park.

The new facilities were developed with a £732,194 grant from the Football Foundation. They will be used by the local community and **Oxford City FC**, who currently play in the Conference North, but they also have 30 teams for men, women, boys and girls.

Oxford City FC worked in partnership with the **Oxfordshire County FA** to secure the grant.

The project also received £83,445 from the Football Stadia Improvement Fund, and £200,000 from The FA, as part of their capital allocation within the Whole Sport Plan agreed with Sport England. This is awarded to support the sustainability of community clubs and create more opportunities to participate in sport within a high quality environment.

Click the right arrow to view the transformation in our gallery of images below.

You can also watch a **this video** from the official opening with former Arsenal defender Martin Keown and Football Foundation Chairman Gary Hoffman here.



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