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Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of Top Corner!

This is the first edition of our brand new e-newsletter

Each issue of Top Corner will be packed with news and features from the grassroots of the game that we love.



This is the first edition of Top Corner, the official e-newsletter from the Football Foundation, the charity funded by the Premier League, The FA and Government (via Sport England) that invests in community sport.

Each issue of Top Corner will be packed with news and features from the grassroots of the game that we love.

You will see exclusive short films, such as this issue's recent visit by Alan Shearer to see the new Foundation-funded facilities of the club he played for as a kid, Wallsend Boys.

We will also include free resources. This issue Ben Shephard is helping promote our 'Sustainability Toolkit', which offers advice on measures you can take to help ensure your project can survive in this difficult economic climate.

Each issue will include the regular feature 'Before and After'. This illustrates the impact of Foundation investment on a particular public sports site. This issue we look at the North Sheen Recreation, in Richmond - a stunning transformation from a run-down wreck to a beautiful, modern changing complex and social club.

And there are two opportunities to win prizes: the Barclays Community Sports Award, with a cash prize of £1,000; and the chance win a copy of FIFA 12, through our partnership with EA SPORTS.

We'd love to hear your feedback on Top Corner and will be looking to continually improve and update its content and design. Feel free to forward it to a friend or colleague, and if you want to stop receiving it at any point, just click the unsubscribe link at the bottom of the homepage.

We hope you enjoy reading our first issue!

News Stories

Football Foundation appoints new independent Chair

Former Vice-Chairman of Barclays, Gary Hoffman, has been appointed as the new Independent non-executive Chair of the Football Foundation.



Gary Hoffman has been appointed as the new Independent non-executive Chair of the Football Foundation.

Gary brings with him not only an outstanding record of achievement over many years in the world of high finance, but while at Barclays Bank, spent five years as Chairman of the Barclays Communities and Charities Committee and was a key architect of the highly successful, multi-award winning Barclays Spaces for Sports Programme, delivered in partnership with the Foundation. Gary was also a Trustee of the Charities Aid Foundation for three years and was previously Vice-Chairman of Coventry City.

Speaking on behalf of the Foundation's Trustees, Acting Chair Roger Burden said: "Securing Gary's services is great news for the Football Foundation and indeed for the grass roots of the game in general. With his proven track record in the business, sporting and charitable spheres, his CV stood out as the ideal candidate to chair the Board of Trustees. On behalf of my fellow Trustees I would like to welcome Gary to the Foundation; we are all very much looking forward to working with him in the future."

Gary said of his appointment: "I am proud and delighted to be joining the Football Foundation; I have been a huge fan of their work since I first encountered them during my time at Barclays working on the Spaces for Sports programme. The grass roots of the game are the bedrock on which everything else is built and I hope to be able to use the experience I have gained over the years to make a valuable contribution to the Foundation Board and the organisation as a whole."

Gary chaired his first meeting of the Football Foundation's Board of Trustees on Wednesday 16 November.

Have your say on grassroots facilities!

Help The FA shape their facilities strategy by letting them know your views on the state of grassroots football facilities in their online survey.



The FA is seeking the views on grassroots facilities across the country and has launched a simple survey, in which you can have your say.

The purpose of this survey will help in the development of the FA National facilities strategy which will help to support the National Game Strategy.

You can complete the survey very easily online right now via The FA's website by clicking [here](#).

All respondents will have the chance be entered into a draw to win a top prize of a signed England shirt and 10 other prizes of Umbro goody bags.

It's only open for a few more weeks so don't miss out on the chance to have your say!

Nominate a local star for the Barclays Community Sports Award

Do you know someone that is making a big difference to your local area through sport? Why not nominate them for the Barclays Community Sports Award and give them the chance to win £1,000 towards their good work?



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good work?

The accolade is awarded each month during the Barclays Premier League football season alongside those for Barclays Player and Manager of the Month, to highlight the great efforts being made by many in community sport. The award is open to any individual benefiting their community in any sport - not just football!

Each monthly winner receives £1,000 for their group or organisation, a limited edition trophy and is entered into the end of season award to win a further £5,000, all donated by Barclays Spaces for Sports. The end of season award winner also receives a VIP trip to London to receive their award from Gareth Southgate.

The award is being delivered in partnership between Barclays Spaces for Sports, the Premier League's Creating Chances programme and the Football Foundation.

Read more or nominate someone here: www.barclayscommunitysportsaward.com.

Ben Shephard endorses Foundation's sustainability toolkit

Ben Shephard promotes our 'Sustainability Toolkit' - a very handy (and free!) guide to help clubs and charities in today's difficult economic climate.



Sky Sports presenter and keen sportsman, Ben Shephard, has backed the Football Foundation's Sustainability Toolkit, an action plan to help guide organisations and their projects in today's difficult economic climate.

The toolkit outlines some of the key areas to consider when planning the longer term sustainability of a community project or organisation.

Pulling together 12 key topic areas to help the reader start developing a sustainability plan, the Sustainability Toolkit has been tailored to suit either an entire organisation or just an individual project.

Some of key areas documented for consideration include:

- Good governance, forming an appropriate and 'fit for purpose' structure
- Business planning, writing a business plan and what makes a good one
- Income generation, how to survive beyond the end of a grant
- Workforce development, maximising an organisation's key asset
- Monitoring and evaluation, assessing the impact of a project
- Partnership working and alignment to strategies, how to strengthen and increase capacity

Ben said: "I am delighted to be able to support the Foundation's Sustainability Toolkit. It's an informative and functional guide which takes on even greater importance given the current difficult financial climate. The 12 topic areas easily define the key points for consideration and mean that the process of becoming more sustainable is not a daunting one."

"I have visited several Football Foundation funded projects and understand how important it is for these sites to sustain themselves in order to continue to provide opportunities for the community."

To download a copy of the free toolkit click [here](#).

WIN a copy of FIFA 12!

Win a copy of FIFA 12 - just answer one simple question for the chance to win.

We have teamed up with EA SPORTS to offer you the chance to win a copy of FIFA 12.

EA SPORTS is celebrating the release of FIFA 12 with a new initiative called Love Football Play Football. The campaign, in partnership with the Football Foundation, is distributing 5,000 free footballs to amateur teams and local communities, enabling FIFA 12 fans to transfer their gaming skills from their thumbs to their feet.

The distribution of footballs into local communities will be supported by exclusive skills tutorials starring Wayne Rooney. Wayne has created a series of Love Football Play Football skills tutorials to provide consumers with the chance to get the most out of their new balls. The tutorials can be viewed at www.YouTube.com/EASPORTSfootball in the Love Football Play Football tab.

Now you can win a copy of the game by answering one simple question: For which club did Wayne Rooney make his Premier League debut?

- A) Manchester Utd
- B) Everton
- C) Swansea City

Send your answers to competitions@footballfoundation.org.uk.

Football Foundation TV

Alan Shearer's return to his childhood club

Watch our exclusive short film of Alan Shearer's recent visit to the stunning new Foundation-funded facilities at Wallsend Boys Club, where he played as a youngster.

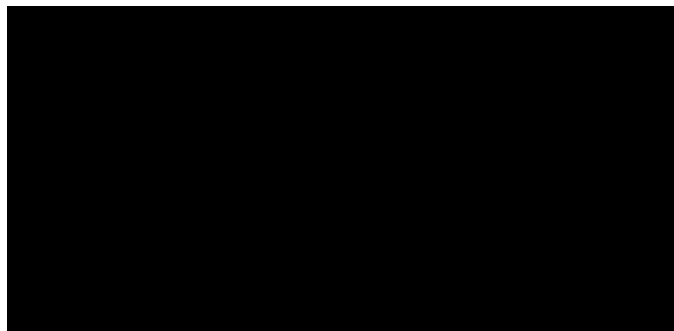


Watch our exclusive short film of Alan Shearer's recent visit to the stunning new facilities - funded with a £1m grant from the Foundation - at Wallsend Boys Club, where he played as a youngster.

The club has produced an incredible array of talented professional footballers - 67 in total to date. These include Peter Beardsley, Steve Bruce, Michael Carrick, Steven Taylor, Lee Clark, Steve Watson and Robbie Elliott. However, they achieved this despite never having had a ground of their own, and having their teams spread across several different sites in and outside of their borough.

In our film some of the coaches describe the immense difference having their first ever sports facilities has made to Wallsend, as well as the ethos of respect and responsibility that runs through the club.

You can also read The Telegraph's Jim White describe his experience of visiting Wallsend Boys at their new site [here](#).



Side Articles

Read the latest issue of our magazine **ON SIDE**

Click [here](#) to read the latest issue of the Foundation's magazine, **ON SIDE**.



Before and After

The amazing transformation at North Sheen Rec



Read the story of the amazing transformation of North Sheen Recreation Ground in South West London, following a Football Foundation grant of £629,300.

The changing block at North Sheen Recreation Ground, in South West London, had fallen into an appalling state. It was heavily vandalised, literally covered in graffiti and certainly not fit to provide for the many hundreds of youngsters and adults that played football and other sports every week.

With the help of a Foundation grant, and the partnership funding our investment helped to attract, a fantastic new £1m sports pavilion now stands in its place.

The main beneficiaries are Kew Park Rangers Football Club, recently awarded the prestigious FA Charter Standard Community Club Award. The club currently provides training opportunities for 600 members, aged from four up to adults. It has 26 teams competing in local leagues. This project will help the club sustain its membership and facilitating year on year growth - especially in women & girls and disabled football.

As well as the £629,300 grant from the Football Foundation, £350,000 came from the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Parks Improvement Programme.

An added bonus was Chief Football Commentator at The Times and local resident, Patrick Barclay, writing a feature on the project and becoming a patron of Kew Park Rangers FC.

Browse the gallery below to see how the site has been transformed from North Sheen 'wreck' to North Sheen Rec.

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Registered Charity Number 1079309



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