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## Introduction

### Minister opens new school sports facility

*Hugh Robertson joins school football session*

*Minister for Sport and the Olympics, Hugh Robertson MP, unveiled a new sports facility on a busy day that also saw the Olympic torch pass through the town.*



Minister for Sport and the Olympics, Hugh Robertson MP, officially opened a brand new sporting facility in Faversham, Kent, funded by the Football Foundation, on a busy day that also saw the Olympic torch pass through the town.

The state-of-the-art third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch at The Abbey School in Faversham will create a lasting sporting legacy for both pupils and the local community.

Hugh Robertson, MP for Faversham and Mid Kent and Minister for Sport and Olympics, said: "The pitch itself looks fantastic! I didn't really believe back in January or February when we were talking about this that we'd actually get it done in this sort of time period. The Football Foundation is incredibly important. It creates a unique funding formula between the Government, the Premier League, The FA and Sport England. They put a facility here that we are opening this afternoon and it is already fully booked!"

The pitch enables the school to develop its football activities for all year groups. It also allows three FA Charter Standard partner clubs to grow and sustain their participation levels, providing them with a quality facility to assist with their training and matches. Forecasts suggest that the pitch will be used by over 2,200 people on a weekly basis.

The club worked in partnership with the Kent FA to secure a £390,000 grant from the Football Foundation.

Catrin Woodend, Headteacher, said: "We have worked for three years to make this dream a reality. The Abbey School and the community of Faversham are exceptionally proud of this new facility. It will further enhance and support the academic progress and sporting achievements of all our local young people. We have a duty to nurture our very talented youngsters to ensure they become successful ambassadors, not only in their sport, but also in life."

## News Stories

### Ben Shephard backs our Grow the Game scheme

*"The better our grassroots is, the better the chances for England"*

*TV presenter Ben Shephard put his boots on to support the Football Foundation scheme to increase football participation across the country.*



Ben Shephard gave his support to the grassroots game, as he presented a cheque to Putney Town Football Club before joining in a training session with the squad - click the right arrow next to the image below to scroll through a gallery of images.

Asked whether he'd be willing to join the team after impressing during training, the Goals on Sunday presenter and Foundation ambassador replied that he'd love to, but he works on Sunday mornings!

The Grow the Game grant will allow Putney Town FC to increase the number of male football teams at the club and increase the participation levels by 80% over two years.

Ben said: "The boys here are trying to increase participation so they can have two teams playing on a Sunday. Last season, they reached three semi-finals and came second in the league. Hopefully the money from the Football Foundation will help them build on that success next season."

The key strength of Grow the Game is that its participation increases are sustainable rather than transient. Its grants create a solid infrastructure of teams and newly-trained coaches in which new people can start playing the sport, rather than simply providing temporary activity sessions, which are then vulnerable to drops in participation once the programme ends.

"I am lucky enough to work at the top of the game, covering the Premier League and Champions League. None of that would happen without the grassroots game. The better our grassroots football is, the better the chance England have of winning an international tournament," Ben added.

John Bedford, Putney Town FC Secretary worked with The Surrey County FA to apply for the grant. He said: "We were delighted to receive funding from the Football Foundation to aid the development of our club. The money will fund coaching courses, equipment and has allowed us to have a pre-season coaching session with a UEFA-qualified coach."

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## United gets its own theatre of dreams

*Dream stadium opening for Worcestershire club*

*Evesham United opened their new stadium with a match against a Man Utd legends team, that included former crowd favourites Denis Irwin, Sammy McIlroy, Clayton Blackmore and Andy Ritchie.*



A star-studded line up of Manchester United legends, including Denis Irwin, Sammy McIlroy, Clayton Blackmore and Andy Ritchie, joined ex-manager Ron Atkinson to officially open Evesham United Football Club's new stadium, funded by the Football Foundation and the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FSIF).

The official opening ceremony of the Robins Spiers & Hartwell Jubilee Stadium was followed by a match between Evesham United Old Boys' and a Manchester United Legends side that boasted over 2,500 Red Devils appearances between the team.

A crowd of around 1,700 came to see the stadium opened by Ron Atkinson and then witnessed the United Legends roll back the years with a comfortable 4-1 victory.

The project will allow Evesham United, to meet the growing demand for football in the local community and provide appropriate facilities for the first team to host Southern League Premier Division matches.

The new stadium will help facilitate a five-year Football Development Plan to increase the number of teams at the club from 22 to 42, bringing the total number of club members to 670.

The facility includes six first team and community changing rooms, seven community grass pitches, and an associated social space.

The club worked in partnership with the Worcestershire County FA to secure a £955,457 grant from the Football Foundation and an additional £150,000 from the FSIF.

Jim Cockerton, Chairman of Evesham United, said: "This is a fantastic day for Evesham United and the local community. The project has taken years of planning and to see the stadium complete and ready to be used makes it all worth while."

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## Premier League brothers support opening of 'different class' facility in Bromsgrove

*Much anticipated community sports project completed.*

*Craig and Gary Gardner attended the opening of the new state-of-the-art sports pavilion for Meadow Park FC, who can now concentrate on expanding and diversifying.*



Premier League brothers Craig and Gary Gardner, who play for Sunderland AFC and Aston Villa FC respectively, attended the opening of a much anticipated community sporting project at Meadow Park Football Club, Worcestershire.

The state-of-the-art sports pavilion includes four changing rooms, two officials changing rooms, a kitchen, and a small clubhouse.

Craig Gardner, Sunderland midfielder, said: "The facilities here at Meadow Park are a different class. You can come here have a game and get dirty. It's great for the community. You need this sort of football and, not only do you need to work hard, you need to be able to enjoy your football."

The new facilities will allow the club to concentrate on expanding and diversifying their teams by continuing to meet the growing demand for girls' and women's football in the area as well as introducing disability teams to the club.

The facility was made possible thanks to a range of funding sources:

- The club worked in partnership with the Worcestershire FA to secure a £153,529 grant from the Football Foundation.
- An additional grant of £84,000 came from The FA, as part of their capital allocation within the Whole Sport Plan funding agreement with Sport England.
- Bromsgrove Council contributed a further £50,000.
- The club's Voluntary Fundraising Committee led by Sarah Stanhope raised £73,000 towards the project.

Paul Hutchins, Chairman at Meadow Park FC, said: "It is fantastic that together we have recognised the major importance of protecting these sporting grounds and knowing that with their help we can provide these types of facilities, not only for the short term, but for generations to come."

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## Going above and Beyond Sport

*Big names descend on London to share best practice on sport as a vehicle for change*

*David Beckham, Muhammad Ali, Tony Blair, Michael Johnson, Niall Quinn and Rt Hon David Miliband MP were amongst many high profile names at the 2012 Beyond Sport summit in London.*



Beyond Sport brought together leading figures from sport, development, business and politics to London just days ahead of the Olympic Games.

Barclays Spaces for Sports (BS4S) is a global sponsor of Beyond Sport and with 13 sport for development programmes across the world, including 200 sport sites in the UK managed by the Football Foundation,

the community sports programme was ideally placed to support Beyond Sport.

As part of the summit, the Football Foundation and BS4S delivered popular workshops focusing on achieving sustainability, led by our Activity Sustainability Advisors, who work specifically with both Football Foundation and BS4S projects struggling to secure their long-term future.

There were also site visits for delegates from around the world to the BS4S community sports site, Lilian Baylis, and the Football Foundation-funded facilities at Bacon's College.

A highlight of the week was the appearance of Muhammad Ali, who was joined by David Beckham, on stage at the Beyond Sport Summit to present the inaugural Generation Ali Beyond Sport Award. The boxing and football icons presented the award to Matiullah Haidar, a 19 year old from Afghanistan, who coaches sport in Yorkshire to help engage struggling refugees.

## Ferdinand helps keep Brixton active

*Rio goes back to aid South London*

*Manchester United footballer Rio Ferdinand teams up with Barclays Spaces for Sports (BS4S), using his newly Co-founded Rio Ferdinand Live The Dream Foundation to boost community sport.*



Local young people in Brixton have received a huge boost after the Active Communities Network secured a grant worth £7,000 from Barclays Spaces for Sports (BS4S) to help get more people in the community active.

The initiative offers a variety of sports sessions, many free of charge, at the Canterbury Gardens multi-use games area. The Rio Ferdinand Live the Dream Foundation provides additional support through the delivery of sports sessions and tournaments.

The funding will enable the Active Communities Network to deliver three sessions a week at the BS4S funded community sport site.

It will specifically target young people who do not currently participate in sport, with peer mentoring, training and volunteering opportunities on offer to help attendees' develop employment skills, allowing them to become role models in their local community.

Rio Ferdinand said: "Providing affordable training sessions on good facilities, such as the Canterbury Gardens multi-use games area, is so important in helping young people develop their skills and realise their ambitions and I hope that together with Barclays Spaces for Sports and the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, we are able to help change many lives."

## Football Foundation TV

### Georgie Bingham becomes Football Foundation ambassador

*Watch our mini video*

*Sky News & talkSPORT presenter Georgie Bingham returned to her home county of Suffolk to see first-hand the impact of the work of the Football Foundation, on her first trip as an ambassador of the charity.*



Sky News and talkSPORT presenter, Georgie Bingham believes that the grassroots game is where 'dreams are made' and that investment into facilities plays a significant role in the health and fitness of future generations.

Georgie was speaking at Kesgrave High School, Suffolk, where she was promoting the work of the Football Foundation in her home county, at the official launch of the start of work on a new floodlit third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch.





## Before and After

### 3G pitch build from start to finish - Telford College

*Watch how a Foundation project takes shape from nothing to a state-of-the-art football facility*

*From the planning stage, to the start of work, and contribution of numerous local contractors; all the way through to the students and local community using the pitch for the first time - this video shows it all!*



*This is the full story of how Telford College built their stunning new 3G pitch with a £200,000 grant from the Football Foundation.*

Watch the amazing transformation from empty space to a state-of-the-art football facility in only a matter of months.



The new pitch provides an extension to the successful Sports Academy at Telford College launched in 2003 (that also received significant funding from the Foundation) and will complement the indoor Super Dome with a facility to allow all year round outdoor activity.

The facility will cater for both football and rugby and will be available for community usage in the evenings. Blue Square Bet Premier side AFC Telford will also train on the surface.

Former Wolves goalkeeper and current Sky Sports presenter Matt Murray was on hand to officially open the site and lead a goalkeeping clinic for some budding Telford College students. Wolves midfielder Dave Edwards was in attendance to make presentations to players participating in a five-a-side tournament.

The club worked in partnership with the Shropshire FA to secure a £200,000 grant from the Football Foundation to make the project possible.

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