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Introduction

Birmingham City LFC star opens new AGP

Chelsea Weston helps Kidderminster school celebrate pitch opening

Chelsea Weston, star of the FA Women's Super League, cuts the ribbon at King Charles I Secondary School's new artificial grass pitch.



Birmingham City Ladies FC defender, Chelsea Weston, officially opened a refurbished third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) in Kidderminster, funded by the Football Foundation this month.

King Charles I Secondary School worked with the Worcestershire FA to secure a £205,000 grant from the Foundation which meant they were able to replace their worn out, 25 year-old, sand-based pitch with a new state-of-the-art 3G AGP.

Chelsea, Birmingham City Ladies FC Young Player of the Season 2012, cut the ribbon to the top quality playing surface, which will be available for students, local football clubs and the community to train and play on.

Tim Gulliver, Head teacher at King Charles I Secondary School, said: "We are very grateful for the funding, support and guidance we have received from the Football Foundation. The grant has enabled us to replace the 25 year-old sand based pitch that was no longer fit for purpose with this stunning new pitch that will benefit not only the students at King Charles I Secondary School, but the Kidderminster community as a whole.

"Without the input from the Football Foundation we could not have realised this fantastic opportunity."

Across Worcestershire, the Football Foundation has awarded 47 grants worth £6.5m towards grassroots sports projects worth a total of nearly £14m with money provided by the Premier League, The FA, and the Government (via Sport England).

News Stories

Premier League launch 2012 CSR Report

Community work hailed by LOCOG Chair Lord Coe

The Creating Chances Report 2012 details work that the Premier League and its clubs deliver at the heart of their communities.



The **Premier League** launched its annual Creating Chances 2012 report last week, a summary of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) work. Creating Chances is the work that the Premier League delivers at the heart of the communities in which Premier League clubs operate.

As part of their CSR work, the Premier League, in association with the Football Foundation, launched the Premier League Community Facility Fund (PLCFF) in September 2012. The new initiative sees an investment of £18m over three years that will provide grants to refurbish or develop new sports facilities for local people across the country.

Stretford High School was one of the first projects to benefit from PLCFF funding, receiving a £350,000 grant towards the development of Stretford Sports Village's new artificial grass pitch. Premier League Chief Executive, Richard Scudamore, was joined by Manchester United manager, Sir Alex Ferguson, to officially launch the PLCFF and open the new facility in Stretford last year.

At the opening, Sir Alex said: "The great thing about the Premier League is that they've been doing this kind of work for a long time now. They don't get the publicity they deserve and without their funding, initiatives like the Stretford Sports Village wouldn't exist."

Lord Coe added: "For years the Premier League has been delivering in the area of sports participation and it was appropriate that just after the Paralympics ended they launched the Premier League Community Facility Fund, with a three-year capital investment of £18m to build local sports facilities to increase participation and physical activity in underserved inner city areas."

The Premier League invests £45m of funding a year into a range of community projects, employing 1,604 club staff, delivering 843 club projects and benefiting 541,750 individuals.

To read the Creating Chances Report 2012, [click here](#).

Youth Football Goalpost Scheme

Clubs across country can get 50% grants towards new goals

As the small-sided game continues to be implemented across the country, grants for junior goalposts are now available until the funding window closes on 31 May.



More funding for goalposts is now available as the small-sided game continues to be implemented across the country, as part of The FA's Youth Development Review.

The Football Foundation has again teamed up with The FA to provide funding towards the installation of new goalposts for small-sided football. £1m was made available by the Foundation in partnership with The FA last year to support clubs and leagues taking up the new smaller formats of the game.

The new 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 formats – played on smaller pitches with smaller goals – aim to develop more technically-gifted English players, whilst ensuring youngsters get more touches of the ball, making for a far more enjoyable experience. These formats will be compulsory for Under-11 teams from next season and Under-12 teams from 2014/15 onwards.

The first goalpost funding window, which closed in September 2012, saw more than 600 clubs benefit from a total of £444,000 funding. The new window, which is currently open for applications now, sees the remaining £556,000 of funding up for grabs. The deadline for applications for this funding window is Friday 31 May 2013.

Clubs can apply for 50% grants for the cost of the goalposts; successful applications in this window will guarantee delivery in time for next season.

To find out more or to apply, [click here](#).

Sport project 'championed' by local MP

Sarah Champion MP accepts two cheques for funding

Rotherham's MP 'championed' improvements at a local park recently when she formally accepted two cheques for funding that will provide a welcome boost for grassroots sport in the area.



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cheques for funding that will provide a welcome boost for grassroots sport in the area.

Sarah Champion MP visited Barker's Park to receive cheques from the Football Foundation and Sport England on behalf of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Champion said: "It is fantastic news for Rotherham that both the Football Foundation and Sport England are supporting our community football pitches. The grants represent a real investment in our local infrastructure which will allow more people to enjoy the sport they love."

Rotherham Council worked in partnership with the Sheffield and Hallamshire FA to secure a £55,542 grant from the Football Foundation and a further £70,000 from Sport England to fund improvements to the existing outdated changing facilities at Barker's Park. The developments will provide high quality changing facilities for users, a changing room for officials, showers and new toilet facilities as well as provision for people with disabilities.

In a double boost for sport in the area, another cheque from the Foundation for £39,000 was also presented for new pitch fencing at Roughwood Road recreation ground.

Boost for North East cycling project

Funding success for Hamsterley Trailblazers

A community cycling group from Bishop Auckland secure a £10,000 grant from Barclays Spaces for Sports to engage more volunteers.



The Hamsterley Trailblazers, a community cycling group from Hamsterley Forest, Bishop Auckland in Durham, have secured a grant worth £10,000 from Barclays Spaces for Sports.

Oliver Graham, Vice Chairman of the Hamsterley Trailblazers, said, "We are delighted that Barclays Spaces for Sports have once again chosen to invest in the Hamsterley Trailblazers. The funding will help to build community cohesion by increasing volunteering and participation in physical activity."

Helen Goodman, MP for Bishop Auckland, said: "This new investment by Barclays Spaces for Sports is great news as it will support the fantastic work of the site's staff and it will also help to engage more volunteers."

Before and After

It was Tyne for new facilities for Forest Hill YFC

North East club's major transformation

North Tyneside club, Forest Hill YFC, replaced a dilapidated 40-year-old community centre with new £1.2million home, East Palmersville Sports Pavilion.



Forest Hill Juniors FC's new pavilion features: six changing rooms, two officials' rooms, a first aid room, a multi-use activity hall, a meeting room, a kitchen and storage space.

There is also a new 40-space car park, floodlit Multi-Use Games Area with 3G surface and improved drainage for one of the grass football pitches at the site.

The improvements were made possible after the club worked with the Northumberland FA to receive a £472,000 grant from the Football Foundation.

The pavilion will predominantly be used by Forest Hall Young Juniors FC, which is made up of 23 teams, including three girls' teams and four senior teams.

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