

[Return to Cover Page»](#)

Introduction

PM officially opens Wigan Youth Zone

David Cameron officially opens new Premier League-funded Wigan Youth Zone

Prime Minister David Cameron officially opens Wigan Youth Zone, describing it as one of his "proudest days as Prime Minister".



Prime Minister David Cameron officially opened Wigan Youth Zone, describing it as one of his "proudest days as Prime Minister".

In front of a crowd of young people, supporters and Youth Zone volunteers, he said: "To be here to actually see this facility open gives me a tremendous amount of pride. It is a great day for Wigan who can now say they have the biggest youth club in the country."

Wigan Youth Zone opened on 8 June 2013 and already has 6,000 young members who enjoy the facility. The new facilities were made possible by a £350,000 grant from the Premier League Community Facility Fund, which is funded by the Premier League and managed by the Football Foundation.

Mr Cameron continued: "It is a massive boost for Wigan and it is really something the town can be proud of."

The Prime Minister stayed at Wigan Youth Zone for more than two hours playing table football, helping young people on the facility's 10ft climbing wall and chatting with the young members.

In the state-of-the-art gym he met Andrea Bianchi, UK Director of Technogym, who gifted all the fitness equipment to the facility straight from the London 2012 Olympic Village.

Richard Scudamore, Premier League Chief Executive, said: "Wigan Athletic has a fantastic reputation for community development delivery and now the club is set to become an even more important hub thanks to the Wigan Youth Zone. That is what Premier League Community Facility Fund is all about, providing sports facilities that reinvigorate communities."

Mr Cameron concluded: "What you get out of life is what you put into life. I would like to thank all of the people who put everything into building this facility."

Wigan Youth Zone is the brainchild of Wigan businessman Dave Whelan, who has with Martin and Bill Ainscough, donated over half the development costs.

News Stories

Season launch kicks off on FF-funded 3G

Bacon's College hosts the Premier League's new season launch

The Premier League season launch was held at Bacon's College in Rotherhithe, South London. The college had received an £817,000 grant from the Football Foundation to develop a range of sports facilities, including the 3G surface where the launch took place.



The Premier League season launch was held at Bacon's College in Rotherhithe, South London. The college had received an £817,000 grant from the Football Foundation to develop a range of sports facilities, including the 3G surface where the launch took place.

The facilities were showcased during the launch live on Sky Sports News and included a match between Manchester United's and Tottenham Hotspur's Under-18 Premier League Kickz teams, and training sessions for the local kids held by former Spurs defender Ledley King and Football Foundation Ambassador, Graeme Le Saux.

The Foundation funding, awarded to Bacon's College in 2005, has provided a wide range of new facilities for the local community, including two junior football pitches, an artificial cricket wicket and practice nets, as well as changing rooms and CCTV cameras. This resulted in a 700% increase in the number of local football participants since the facilities were built, with the number of individual users rising from 1,086 to 7,265.

Premier League Chief Executive, Richard Scudamore, said: "The Football Foundation-administered facilities fund is creating a new generation of pitches, changing rooms and multi-sports facilities based around professional football clubs. This means club coaches can make sure that their local communities are getting the best possible use out of them."

Stoke boss unveils Shropshire sports site

Mark Hughes declares Market Drayton FC's clubhouse open

Stoke City FC Manager, Mark Hughes, visits Market Drayton Football Club to officially open their new clubhouse funded by a £19,850 grant from the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FSIF).



Stoke City Manager, Mark Hughes, visited Market Drayton Football Club to officially open their new clubhouse, funded by a £19,850 grant from the **Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FSIF)**.

Hughes watched Stoke City take on Market Drayton in a pre-season friendly and declared the new clubhouse open.

Bob Mellor, Chairman of the Evo-Stik Division One South outfit, said: "This is a real honour for Market Drayton to have Stoke City to send a team and to have a manager of Mark Hughes' standing to take time off from his busy pre-season."

The new clubhouse will provide Market Drayton FC with a sustainable income from bar and shop sales and a hospitality area for club supporters on match days.

Champions welcome major BMX site

Peckham boosted by new state-of-the-art BMX track

BMX world champion, Quillan Isidore, and Olympic Development ProRider, Tre Whyte, helped launch one of the UK's only national standard tracks in Burgess Park, South London.



BMX world champion, Quillan Isidore and Olympic Development ProRider, Tre Whyte, were amongst the BMX greats attending the launch one of the country's only national standard track, the Burgess Park BMX track.

Tre Whyte, Olympic Development Rider, said: "I started out training at the Peckham track so I know what this means to the club and to young people in the area."

Made possible by a £121,700 grant from the Mayor of London: Sports Facilities Fund, alongside other funders, the new track forms part of the transformation of Burgess Park and is set to become the new home of Southwark's premier BMX club, Peckham BMX.

"Personally, it would have been amazing to have such a great facility in my local area when I was growing up. I'm sure so many young people are going to want to take up BMX-ing, it's a great sport and I'm proud that the borough I grew up in is investing in it in such a major way," Tre added.

Kate Hoey MP, the Mayor of London's Commissioner for Sport, said: "The new BMX track at Burgess Park is an excellent example of the kind of projects we have supported right across London through the Mayor's Sports Facilities Fund. I am delighted that, in partnership with Southwark Council, we are making a tangible difference towards improving grassroots sports provision and I would like to thank and congratulate everyone involved in the project to date."

The opening was a fun-packed event with BMX demonstrations from the professionals and performances from local rap sensation Phreeda Sharp and local band Chickenwing All Stars.

Peckham BMX Club coach, CK Flash, who gave an emotional speech during the track opening, said: "We're so happy to have a new home within Burgess Park, the new track inspires us to up our game and we're confident that we can now take now set our sights on the Olympics."

See Football Foundation TV section of this issue of Top Corner to watch a short video of the launch event of the BMX Track in Burgess Park, or click the right arrow to scroll through the below gallery of images from the day.

MP welcomes youth football investment

Silver End Youth FC receives funding to Grow the Game

Priti Patel, MP for Witham, presents Silver End Youth Football Club with a Grow the Game cheque for £5,000 to help create three new teams, including a girls' team.



Priti Patel, MP for Witham, presented Silver End Youth Football Club with a £5,000 Grow the Game cheque on behalf of the Football Foundation.

Priti Patel MP, said: "Silver End Youth FC is a great local team and I congratulate them on receiving this grant. I am delighted that they will be able to now get more young people, especially girls, playing football and look forward to seeing them nurture local talent."

The funding will enable Silver End Youth FC to create three new teams over the next three years, including a girls' team. The grant will also fund new coaches to be trained and qualified to FA standards in order to provide opportunities, sustain participation and inspire the youth of the community for many years to come.

In addition, the grant will contribute towards facilities hire – a necessity in providing a safe and enjoyable playing experience for the youth teams, especially during the winter months.

Mark Aylward, Secretary at Silver End Youth Football Club, said: "We are very pleased to be awarded this grant from the Football Foundation and are very excited about the being able to grow the club through new teams especially the prospect of having a girls' team again. The grant will help us to get this project off the ground and sustain the new teams."

England to host Danone Nations Cup

Could this be England's year to win the Danone Nation's Cup?

England is soon to host another global sports contest – the Danone Nations Cup World Final in 2013! England is yet to win the tournament, but a home advantage could be just what is needed to give this years team a boost.



England is soon to host another global sports contest – the Danone Nations Cup World Final in 2013.

England is yet to win the tournament, but a home advantage could be just what is needed to give this years team a boost.

The tournament has been running for 13 years with 2.5 million children from 40 countries globally taking part each year.

The 2012 world final took place in Warsaw, Poland, with 40 teams, 40,000 spectators, 250 journalists and the competition's international Ambassador, Zinedine Zidane.

Nicolas Riom, Managing Director of Danone UK, said: "Danone UK is very proud to host the Danone Nations Cup World Final in 2013. This is a perfect opportunity to keep the spirit of the Olympics alive in the UK and inspire millions more children to get active and believe in their dreams."

Last year, England's team were ranked 4th in the 2012 tournament's 'fair play' awards and came 26th overall.

Kris Hollidge, England Team 2012 coach and sports coach at Forest Hill said the experience had been unforgettable, adding: "It was just amazing seeing the boys getting to know and play with teams from all over the world. Some members of the Korean team, who won the tournament, came to swap shirts with the boys because they got on so well."

Former England, Liverpool and Wimbledon player, John Scales – and Football Foundation Ambassador and Danone Nations Cup Ambassador – said: "Last year was a truly brilliant world final and it has been wonderful to see the boys building stronger and stronger bonds as a team and getting on so well with their competitors from all over the world – that's what the Danone Nations Cup is all about."

Now the countdown is on until England gets to host the 2013 Danone Nations Cup World Final.

"After such an amazing summer we have seen how well London can host global sporting events. We are committed to ensuring next year's Danone Nations Cup World Final will be bigger and better than ever," Nicolas Riom added.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.danonenationscup.co.uk/>

Football Foundation TV

BMX pros show off their skills on stunning new track

Watch short film of Burgess Park's BMX facility launch

Click the image below to see footage of the new BMX track in Burgess Park, Peckham, part-funded by the Mayor of London: Sport Facilities Fund.



A number of BMX riders and BMX greats attended the launch, alongside Mandu Reid from the Mayor of London's office, to celebrate the opening of one of the country's only national standard tracks.

Click the image below to see footage of the track in use.



You can read the full story on our website [here](#).

Before and After

Transformation of Derbyshire playing surface

How a pitch too dangerous to play on has become an in-demand facility

Before the development, the town of Whaley Bridge had only one sports facility, but this was deemed too dangerous to play on by many local football clubs, including Whaley Bridge FC. Now the town boasts a third generation pitch that has become a major sports hub for the area.



The town of Whaley Bridge in High Peak, Derbyshire had just one community sports facility to service its 8,000 strong population.

However, Whaley Bridge Council worked with the Derbyshire County FA to secure a £97,048 Build the Game grant from the Foundation to install a modern 3G playing surface.

The development also included floodlights and disability access. This allows for teams to play in the evenings and in winter and for disabled teams to be able to make the most of the great facility. Whaley Bridge FC have predicted an increase of 16 to 22 teams in the following five years, increasing participation in the area and encouraging many people to join in with sport, especially football.

Use the right arrow below to see the transformation at Whaley Bridge take place.



— ■ FUNDING PARTNERS ■ —

Newsletter Marketing Powered by *Newsweaver*