

[Return to Cover Page»](#)

Introduction

Brendan Rodgers unveils Premier League-funded facility

Liverpool manager and players, Jordan Ibe and Lloyd Jones, try out new pitch

Liverpool players Jordan Ibe and Lloyd Jones, unveil a new third generation artificial grass pitch at their old school, Rainhill High, alongside Liverpool FC manager, Brendan Rodgers.



Rainhill High School in St. Helens was awarded £300,000 by the **Premier League Community Facilities Fund (PLCFF)** to build a third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) on site.

The new surface is one of the first of its kind in the area and was opened by **Liverpool FC** Manager, Brendan Rodgers, alongside Liverpool FC players Jordan Ibe and Lloyd Jones.

The pitch will provide a state-of-the-art facility for the local community, as well as sports centre for the **Liverpool FC Foundation** to deliver its **Premier League Kicks programme**, coaching schemes and holiday courses. In addition, over 30 local football teams from four different clubs will now have a pitch on which to train and play matches, even through the bad weather during the winter months.

Liverpool Manager, Brendan Rodgers, said: "Facilities like this are incredibly important. Youngsters in this country do not have the same weather conditions as some of their European counterparts so the draw to play football in this country has to be facilities like this one."

Head of PE at Rainhill High School, Erin Backstad, commented: "This pitch has been a long time in the planning and we have all been looking forward to it. The new pitch means that we can continue with lessons in the bad weather and although we do have access to other grass pitches, these become unplayable in the winter and lessons are either cancelled or moved indoors."

The Liverpool FC Foundation and Rainhill High School established an educational partnership in 2009 and since then, the school have set up '**Liverpool FC Academy Education Centre**'. The school provides GCSE education to the club's Under-12s to Under-16s, BTEC qualifications to the Under-18s and life-skills education to the Under-21s.

Liverpool player, and former pupil at the Academy, Jordan Ibe, said: "I remember that before this new pitch was here it was just a field, but this new 3G pitch is the closest thing to grass and is great for training and playing matches on."

John Pout, Headteacher at Rainhill High School, said: "Funded by the Premier League Community Facilities Fund, this third generation artificial grass pitch now enables football to be played all year round.

"We are extremely grateful to Brendan for opening the pitch. Our partnership with Liverpool Football Club, their Foundation and local clubs is fantastic and long may that continue."

Brendan Rodgers concluded: "This brilliant new facility is a wonderful credit to everyone involved in the opening, you don't much better than this. It's great to see first-hand the difference that this Premier League-funded pitch will make to the students here and the community."

Use the arrows below to view pictures of the opening.

News Stories

FA Chairman Greg Dyke opens stunning new football centre

Major new community complex for Gloucestershire's grassroots

FA Chairman Greg Dyke officially opens new state-of-the-art football facilities at the Gloucestershire County FA's Almondsbury headquarters.



FA Chairman Greg Dyke has officially opened new state-of-the-art football facilities at the **Gloucestershire County FA's** Almondsbury headquarters.

Developed with the help of a £420,296 Football Foundation grant, the new facilities will provide all-weather coaching facilities for local clubs and schools, and coaching for girls and disabled players in the venue's two player development centres.

Greg Dyke, said: "It is a real honour to be unveiling these fantastic new facilities, which will provide an important hub for grassroots football development in this part of the South West."

The facility comprises a full-size floodlit third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch to FIFA Recommended 1 Star standard, together with six refurbished changing rooms and enhanced spectator facilities.

"This site is the first Football Foundation-funded facility that I will have had the pleasure of officially opening since becoming FA Chairman, and with the grassroots and home-grown talent high on the game's agenda and at the heart of our 150th anniversary celebrations this year, it could not be more timely or more topical," Greg added.

Gloucestershire FA Chief Executive, David Neale, enthused: "Football Foundation funding has enabled us to build a first-class facility that will help us develop and inspire both this, and the next generation, of grassroots players, coaches and referees."

"The new facilities will provide significant new opportunities for young people in the area as we now offer both match day and coaching facilities for local clubs and schools, unaffected by wet weather through the winter months."

The Almondsbury site will become a key hub for clubs at all levels of the grassroots game to train and perform on, whether it be Mini-soccer, 9v9 or the traditional 11v11 format for teenagers and adults.

Gloucestershire FA Chairman, Roger Burden, said: "These excellent new facilities will hugely benefit local clubs and schools in the area. The 3G surface and changing rooms will help drive participation and football development in this part of Gloucestershire, and I am delighted that FA Chairman Greg Dyke was able to join us in unveiling the site in style."

Click the arrows below to take a look at some photos from the official opening.

Report: How the Foundation is boosting the UK economy

Research shows benefits to UK economy of Foundation's investment into grassroots

A new report carried out by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr) has found that Foundation investment into our grassroots infrastructure delivers major benefits in terms of growing gross domestic product (GDP) and job creation.



Since 2000, the Foundation has awarded 1,664 facility grants worth £320m towards developing new

pitches and changing pavilions, and now a new report carried out by the **Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr)** has found that investing into the country's grassroots infrastructure also delivers major benefits to the UK economy, in terms of growing gross domestic product (GDP) and job creation.

Cebr analysed the Foundation's financial support for 80 construction projects in 2011. The Foundation provided around £15m of funding towards these projects that had a combined total project cost of £46m. Cebr findings showed that this total investment in construction was expected to generate £22m in GDP through direct impacts, and an additional £31m through indirect (demand stimulus through supply chain) and induced (increased incomes which induces consumer spending) impacts. The report also demonstrated that the economic output multiplier was £2.53.

Cebr also found that the Foundation made a significant contribution on employment creation. The report said that Foundation-funded projects were "expected to directly support a total of 4,992 jobs during the construction phase (4,458 jobs) and operation phase (534 jobs), on a part-time or full-time basis". Furthermore, around seven out of ten of the jobs created went to local firms (73%).

The report's main findings showed that the Foundation's £15m investment into developing better sports facilities ensured that:

- **£53m** was contributed to the UK GDP
- **£7.73** is generated for the UK economy from every pound invested by the Foundation
- **4,992** jobs were directly supported (which equates to 1,378 Full-Time Equivalent Jobs)
- **1,050** local firms benefited (in fact 73% of construction jobs were sourced locally)
- **2,700** volunteers provided £9.5m of economic output at the sites.

Shehan Mohamed, the Senior Economist at Cebr, who helped produce the report, said: "The lack of construction activity has been the largest single downward contributor to overall GDP growth, so the Foundation's investment into grassroots sports construction projects therefore comes at a critical time."

The report also highlighted other important impacts from investing in the UK's grassroots sports infrastructure, such as public health and the regeneration of the area that has benefited from funding towards the development of a modern sporting facility.

Shehan added: "As well as regenerating deprived urban communities, these sites increase participation in sport and regular exercise, which helps combat an obesity crisis that the Department of Health estimates is costing the NHS £5.1 billion per year – and is projected to continue rising sharply."

Christmas comes early for grassroots with Club Cashback

A simple and effective way to raise money for your local club, just by shopping online.

Grassroots sports clubs across the UK are in line for an early Christmas present if they shop with Club Cashback, a portal which generates a cashback reward for your club every time a purchase is made online with selected retailers.



Grassroots sports clubs across the UK are in line for an early Christmas present if they shop with Club Cashback, a portal which generates a cashback reward for your club every time a purchase is made online with selected retailers.

With over 2,000 retailers to choose from, including some of the biggest high street brands, every purchase made via the new Club Cashback platform will earn your club a cashback reward of between 1-15% of the total sales value.

A partnership between the Football Foundation and **Club Website**, the scheme supports local clubs by helping them to raise much-needed funds, and ensure future sustainability within the grassroots game. Some examples of what your club could buy with funds raised through the Club Cashback, include:

- **£30** pays for a qualified FA Level Three certified coach, to train a team for one hour.
- **£50** pays for ten new match footballs.
- **£100** pays for a new pair of full size football nets, or a qualified referee for three games (depending on

your region).

- **£250** pays for four new pairs of portable goals for junior football.
- **£500** pays for a new full kit for your team (squad of 15, plus kitbag).
- **£1,000** could start you on your way to securing Football Foundation partnership-funding.

The process to start generating rewards is easy. Once you have signed up online, simply find your team using the 'Club Search' feature. Next, browse the Club Cashback section for the retailer, these include: Tesco; Marks & Spencer; Play.com and B&Q, and click on their website link. Finally, shop on-line and complete your transaction as normal, knowing that you are boosting your club's coffers in the process.

For more information on Club Cashback and to sign up, visit: cashback.footballfoundation.org.uk.

Football Foundation TV

Brendan Rodgers unveils Premier League-funded facility

Footage from the official opening of Rainhill High School's new Premier League-funded 3G artificial grass pitch

Check out footage from the official opening of Rainhill High School's new Premier League-funded third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP), with exclusive interviews from Liverpool boss, Brendan Rodgers and Liverpool Player, Jordan Ibe.



Check out footage from the official opening of Rainhill High School's new Premier League-funded third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP), with exclusive interviews from Liverpool boss, Brendan Rodgers and Liverpool Player, Jordan Ibe.

Click the image below to view the video.



Before and After

Hawkinge youth celebrate brand new sports pavilion

Before receiving funding from the Foundation, all Hawkinge Youth FC had for a changing facility at the local Transfer Road sports site was small shed at the edge of the pitch.



Before receiving funding from the Foundation, all **Hawkinge Youth FC** had for a changing facility at the local Transfer Road sports site was small shed at the edge of the pitch.

Now, thanks to a Foundation grant of £244,000, obtained with the help of the **Kent County FA**, the club and local community boasts a brand new pavilion consisting of four new changing rooms; two officials' changing rooms; an equipment store; plant room; male and female spectator toilets; a wheelchair accessible toilet; a kitchen; a communal room and an office.

Hawkinge Youth FC can now focus on expanding their club to over 22 teams by the end of this year and obtaining Community Club Status within the next 12 months.

Use the left and right arrows below to view the transformation.



— ■ FUNDING PARTNERS ■ —

Newsletter Marketing Powered by *Newsweaver*