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Introduction

Sky Sports launches grassroots survey

Sports broadcaster seeking your views on the state of grassroots football

Sky Sports News has commissioned a survey into the state of grassroots football, and they want to hear your experiences.



Sky Sports News has commissioned a survey into the state of grassroots football, and they want to hear about your experiences.

The study asks players how often they play, what barriers they face to playing the game, their opinions on local facilities and ways to improve the general experience.

You can add your comments to the discussion by filling in Sky's **feedback form** or by e-mailing: u2us@skysports.com

News Stories

MP kicks off work on school's 3G pitch

Caroline Dineage MP joined students from Bridgemary School to mark the breaking of the ground at the site of their new 3G pitch.

MP for Gosport, Caroline Dineage, was on hand to officially mark the start of works on a brand new third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) at Bridgemary School.



MP for Gosport, Caroline Dineage, was on hand to officially mark the start of works on a brand new third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) at Bridgemary School which was funded by £355,397 from the Football Foundation and £150,000 from Sport England.

The new full-size, floodlit, 3G AGP will replace a poorly drained natural grass pitch on the School's playing fields. At present, inclement weather causes the existing surface to become unplayable.

The Gosport community will also greatly benefit from the new pitch: Gosport has 61 football clubs with 142 teams, however current access to all weather facilities are very limited, as most are used for hockey or not accessible to the community. During the holidays the Chelsea FC Foundation will also be delivering coaching courses for 5-14 years. In addition to that, the Education Engagement Programme will be reaching out to different social groups through football.

The school also received £150,000 of National Lottery funding from Sport England's Inspired Facilities legacy fund towards the cost of the new 3G APG. To date, the fund has helped more than 1,300 local sports projects across the country.

Speaking at the start of works, Caroline Dineage MP, said: "The more access to high-quality facilities that our

youth have, the better chance our community stands of living a healthy and active lifestyle for generations to come.”

England boss Fairclough: vote for National Game Awards

You can vote for a wide range of categories at The Non-League Paper's National Game Awards

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As ever, the awards represent the opportunity to honour the great and the good once the season has concluded, and your votes will decide who walks away with the prizes.

Paul said: “I’ve attended the last few National Game Awards and they’ve become an integral part of the Non-League calendar.”

Keep up-to-date with all the runners and riders, as The Non-League Paper introduces each award and some suggestions of worthy recipients, including for the Community Club of the Year, which the Football Foundation is supporting.

The awards ceremony will be on May 13th at Fulham's Craven Cottage, but voting is open now, e-mail your suggestion to: ngavotes@greenwayspublishing.com

The categories for the 2013-14 National Game Awards are:

- Player of the Year
- Young Player of the Year
- Manager of the Year
- Goalkeeper of the Year
- Golden Boot
- Step 3 & 4 Player of the Year
- Team of the Year
- Cup Run of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement
- Goal of the Season
- Fan of the Year
- Community Club of the Year
- Fair Play Award
- Unsung Hero
- England C Player of the Year

Respect funding still available

Apply now for a grant which gives 50% off the cost of equipment

Funded by The FA and delivered by the Football Foundation, the Respect scheme offers grants which give 50% off equipment designed to ensure there is good behaviour by players and parents alike in the grassroots game.



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The Foundation is still welcoming applications from leagues and clubs for Respect barriers and Respect packs, which are made up of:

- Touchline barriers
- ‘Our club supports Respect’ banners
- High-viz pitch marshals vest

- Captain's armbands
- Parent and carer's DVD
- Player cards
- Respect Board

Youth football in England is enormously popular. There are over 55,000 teams and every weekend most players, coaches and referees have an enjoyable experience of the game. There are however occasions where instead of being positive and supportive some spectators fail to recognise that youth football is a time to learn the game and instead are aggressive, sarcastic and disrespectful. Some young players will imitate this adult behaviour whilst others will fail to fulfil their potential or choose, like some referees, to do something else with their time.

Thankfully, though, instances like this remain in the minority and with funding now available for equipment designed to uphold the values of the game, football can continue to be an enjoyable experience for all.

To apply for funding or for more information, please click [here](#).

Check out the Foundation on Flickr

Visit the Foundation's Flickr photostream, home to a huge collection of our favourite images from grassroots facility openings

Re-live your favourite Foundation moments with the likes of Sir Alex Ferguson, Graham Taylor and Boris Johnson among other famous faces we have snapped over the years!



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Our Flickr photostream is home to a huge collection of images from Football Foundation events, many featuring our Ambassadors and other famous names from the worlds of politics and sport.

To name but a few, view recent shots from the launch of the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund launch; Dan Walker's visit to the Sheffield Wisewood Centre and Sir Trevor Brooking opening Sporting Club Thamesmead's new 3G pitch and pavilion.

You can also check out some old favourites such as Sir Alex Ferguson's visit to Broadoak, Alan Shearer's return to his old club, Wallsend Boys, and the visit of Eric Cantona and director Ken Loach to Mile End Park.



Upshot nominated for award

Upshot nominated at the 2014 Sports Technology Awards

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Launched in 2012, Upshot helps users manage, monitor and evidence their work. The software was born after the Foundation identified that paper-based reporting was time-consuming and did not lend itself to the management or measurement of the success of funded projects.

Now, Upshot is being used by Foundation-funded projects and more than 200 other not-for-profit organisations. This means that the software is used by 660 staff, to manage 552 projects and 96,703 attendees.

County Durham Sport run an NHS-funded programme, Move for Life, that delivers tailored projects for those who have sedentary lifestyles. The programme, which sees 11 local partners deliver a diverse range of activities including one-to-one advice sessions, have benefitted hugely by using Upshot, which has ensured all activity and data is evidenced in an efficient way.

Andrew Power, Strategic Manager at County Durham Sport, said: "We needed to find a much more efficient solution to allow all 11 organisations we fund to track and report on the progress of their projects. Upshot has provided us with this solution and has allowed us to implement a more automated approach to the follow-up of individual participants, significantly reducing weeks of administrative time."

Click [here](#) to find out more about Upshot or follow [@UpshotSystem](#).

Foundation also shortlisted for PR award

Foundation nominated in 'In-house PR Team of the Year' category for work promoting grassroots

2013 was another busy year for the Foundation. The Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund, a three-year £102m commitment to grassroots football from our funding partners, was launched and the work is underway to direct that investment into building new or refurbishing grassroots football facilities, just like the ones in this [video](#).



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The Foundation's comms team publicise this work on a shoestring but has nevertheless been nominated in the 'In-house PR Team of The Year' category at the 2014 Golden Hedgehog Awards, alongside some major names. Of course the work the team do is only possible because of the investment provided by the Premier League, The FA and the Government, via Sport England - and the team is also blessed with having some fantastic **Ambassadors** who generously give up their time to help get the word out about funding opportunities and successes.

Former Chelsea and England left back - and Foundation Ambassador - Graeme Le Saux, commented: "The Foundation does a fantastic job in directing investment into places where it will make the most impact.

"The scale of the job in fixing facilities at the grassroots level is huge but it is important to celebrate the good work that the Foundation does with the cash that is provided by the Premier League, The FA, the DCMS and Sport England.

"I am delighted to be able to do my part in working with the Foundation's small but hardworking PR team in promoting those successes - and, indeed, supporting the hard work of the millions that play or volunteer at the grassroots game every week."

The awards night is on Thursday 20 March.

The nominees in full, for best in-house PR Team of the Year, are:

- The Football Foundation, External Relations Team.
- Charnwood Borough Council's Communications Team.

- Debenhams.
- EE.
- Midlands Co-operative Society PR Team.
- UKTV, Communications Team.
- University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust In House Team.
- Westminster City Council Communications and Strategy Team.

Football Foundation TV

Exclusive Q&A with Spurs and England's Andros Townsend

The flying winger was joined by Rachel Yankey OBE and Garth Crooks OBE to open Capital City Academy's new 3G pitch

Tottenham Hotspur and England star, Andros Townsend, visited local North London School Capital City Academy recently to officially unveil a newly resurfaced third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP). Watch our exclusive video of his Q&A session with Rachel Yankey hosted by Garth Crooks.



Spurs and England's flying winger made it a memorable day for pupils at the Capital City Academy in Brent when he officially unveiled their newly resurfaced, Foundation-funded, third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP), declaring: "It wasn't so long ago that I was playing on surfaces like this, so I can vouch for how good they really are."

The upgraded facility will provide Capital City Academy, Brent Council Sports Department, the London Football League and ABC Coaching with a state-of-the-art playing surface to help encourage participation in football amongst youngsters in the area. The site will also have time available for community hire such as after-school clubs and local primary schools and will allow Capital City Academy to enhance its links with local professional football clubs, Queens Park Rangers FC, Brentford FC and Leyton Orient FC.

The school worked in partnership with the Middlesex FA to secure a £366,368 grant from the Football Foundation.



Side Articles

Join the Foundation's Communications team!

Applications for two PR and Comms interns are being accepted until 11pm on Sunday 2 March.

The Foundation is offering a year-long work placement to two undergraduate students in full-time education within its Communications team.

The Foundation is offering a year-long work placement to two undergraduate students in full-time education within its Communications and External Relations team.

The successful candidates will experience a unique year-in-industry placement in the exciting world of football and in a friendly environment. They will be working with famous names from sport and politics and deliver high-level public relations (PR) and communications activities each week. This is your chance to build an impressive portfolio, be supported with on-the-job training from experienced colleagues.

If you are interested in this unique opportunity to kick-off an exciting career in PR, then please e-mail jobs@footballfoundation.org.uk with your CV, examples of work that demonstrates your written communication skills (e.g. articles, press releases that you have written, or, failing that, essays) and answers to the following questions:

- 1) How does the Football Foundation relate to your career plans for the future?
- 2) How will working within this department develop your skills in line with your career aspirations and vocational options?
- 3) What skills and experience do you want to gain from this internship?
- 4) Which competency areas are you most keen to develop?
- 5) Are there any areas where you would like to improve on and be challenged on during this internship?
- 6) What skills and attributes do you intend to bring to your role that the Foundation will benefit from?

The successful applicants will be students on a suitable sandwich degree course requiring a year-in-industry or on a gap-year prior to starting a degree course (but with a university place already confirmed). Please note that you will only be contacted by the charity should you be invited for interview.

The closing date for applications is 11pm on 2 March 2014. Interviews are scheduled for 19 March 2014. For more information please click [here](#).

The Foundation is also recruiting for a Barclays Spaces for Sports intern. Again, you'll need to be an undergraduate in full-time education, for more information please click [here](#).

Before and After

Christleton set for sporting success thanks to new facility

See the amazing transformation of Christleton High School's sporting facilities



Chester is now home to a new third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) thanks to a Foundation grant of £407,000.



The new pitch has allowed Christleton High School to provide an unrivalled sporting facility in the area, helping to develop sport at the school and in the community. The facility has also enabled competitive school sport to be played all year round, increasing the skill levels of students by allowing regular all-weather training to take place.

The school worked in partnership with the Cheshire FA to secure a grant of £407,000 from the Football Foundation, who provided support and guidance alongside local community clubs and leisure provider, BRIO.



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

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