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News From India



In Mumbai, the Nallasopara Hub under 18s girls' team recently played in their first tournament. This was one of three FFL teams playing in the tournament and although the results were mixed, the girls were extremely happy to participate, and presented themselves well both in terms of performance and behaviour.



When she joined the team, Seventeen year old Riya took on the role of goalkeeper and in the recent tournament played a crucial role saving 12 goal bound shots in her first ever tournament.

"I decided in my mind that I will not let the other team score goals in order to see my team win and my team and get a trophy. I let in three goals and realised what mistakes I had made but it was a nice learning experience for me.

After the game I appreciated myself for what went well and learned from what did not go well."

Football is never just about the game. Our FFL coaches in the Nallasopara Hub share some of the life skills lessons they have taught over the last two months:

- **Teamwork.** We shared about how in a team no individual member is counted. Everyone is equal and needed for playing a game. If a team member makes a mistake, we shouldn't leave that person but instead try to solve the problem and be together.
- **Responsibility.** In a team everyone has to be responsible for their own actions and decisions, and not blame one another. We also explained how they have to follow the team and game rules and regulations.
- **Leadership.** We explained to the team about what it takes to be a leader and how they have to support their team members whenever needed. The leader needs to set an example by following the rules and taking care of the team, and also making sure everyone in the team does the same. We appointed a captain amongst the girls and asked her to get the girls to come for practice; the captain made a number of groups and gave them instructions and rules to follow. She was able to bring the girls safely despite some differences with the team members.
- **Forgiving.** We explained to the team that we need to be forgiving and not to keep any grudges against each other. When we have grudges in our hearts the team gets affected and we as a team will not be able to move on further. Even if one person from the team is down, the entire team goes down. The team understood that and sought out their own issues and came as a team together again.

- Nallasopara Hub FC.





Beersheba FC Save More Than Just Goals!



In February, 60 members of the Beersheba Football Club, across all four teams, took part in their first training session in money management and savings groups. The training will equip the boys in all aspects of financial management and savings, and support them to form their own, self-elected, and self-managed groups of between 15 and 20 boys each (with obvious oversight and support from the project leaders.)

Once young people are equipped with the ability to make sound financial choices they can confidently manage and grow their income and allocate it towards constructive goals. Furthermore, when engaged in a savings group, the players create a sense of solidarity and belonging, and can be encouraged and advised on how financial issues can be handled together.

All groups have now started saving and meet regularly to make their deposits and address any issues.

The groups have self-elected chairmen, secretaries and treasurers, and money is kept in a secure metal box and safely secured on site.



"Before joining the savings training, I didn't know that children can save money because they do not have paying jobs.

However, our trainer helped us realise that we get money in different ways, but we just don't know that we can also save it. I often get money from my parents as pocket money, gifts from friends and relatives, or as prizes from teachers. I want to save little by little so that I can give it to my mother at the end of the cycle to buy me books and pens.

My mother felt so happy to hear that I have joined a children savings group and she was very positive about it"

- Swabar, BFC Under 12s

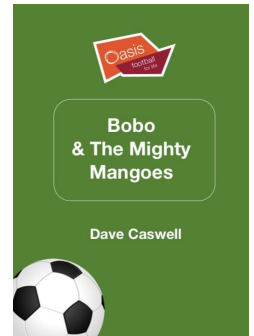




Bobo Teaches the Oasis 9 Habits!

The Bobo and the Mighty Mangoes stories are helping young footballers in Uganda learn about and practice the Oasis 9 Habits.

The Oasis 9 Habits are 'an invitation to a way of life characterised by being compassionate, patient, humble, joyful, honest, hopeful, considerate, forgiving and self-controlled', and are embedded in all the work that Oasis carries out around the world. Each of the 'Habits' are core attributes of what it means to be fully human and which, once embraced and developed, can help people live life to its full potential and in true community and relationship.



"I love the Bobo and the Mighty Mangoes story. When Bobo and his family had to move to a new area, the gesture Bobo's mother took was amazing."

Obviously as children we can feel bad about losing our old friends, and this was the same for Bobo. It made him so sad and angry. He knew he was going to miss his football team and his old friends, but as a way of helping him feel a bit better, his mother bought him a new football."

The story shows she was compassionate to her son and how he was feeling, and it has helped me to also think about other people because sometimes I tend to only think about myself and ignore the way other people feel."



- Ibra, Beersheba FC, Under 12s



"It is good to forgive those who offend us. In this story of Bobo and the Mighty Mangoes, Bobo insulted Hami but Hami remained nice and was able to forgive him. In my community a person can insult you for any reason and it is not easy to forgive, but when Hami forgave Bobo for making fun of him it taught me a lot."

I have learnt that forgiveness is a good gesture towards others. In many cases I find it hard to forgive those who offend me, but Hami challenged me to think differently by the way he forgave Bobo. Forgiveness is a very important habit in life and when associating with others."



- Joshua, Beersheba FC, Under 14s



Oasis Lionhearts in “Outstanding Performance”

After a long layoff due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Oasis Lionhearts Under 14s produced what coach Richard Bell described as, an ‘outstanding performance’ in their first match in nearly 5 months.

The team won 5-2 against one of the strongest teams in the league to move them clear of the bottom of the table.

Coach and Lionhearts Director, Richard Bell, shares his thoughts on the match:

“It was a very competitive match with the Lionhearts fully deserving the victory. Our opponents were a well organised and established team within the top four teams in the league, and I told the players to remember the feeling they had at the end of the match and how important team ethic is.

The performance was very satisfying and shows the great progress we are making.

We are developing a great team spirit in both victory and defeat, and this bodes well for the future.”



New Beersheba Recruit Already Seeing Change



“Before joining Beersheba, I used to watch the football training sessions, but I was still too young to join. Now I’m old enough I’m so excited to be part of this great club.

The coaches here are very caring and good to children. I was very nervous and had low self-esteem when I joined at the start of this year, but my coaches are helping me to gain confidence and believe in myself. I’m already learning how to make runs, receive the ball and pass the ball.

In the past I used to fight a lot but upon joining Beersheba my coaches helped me see that this is not good behaviour, and they are helping me to be more peaceful. I’m still learning many other good habits and skills which I know will help me to become a better person.”

- Hassan, Beersheba FC, Under 12s.



Soccer Sisters Shine in Mumbai!

Divya Maurya (13) and her sister Soni (12) are part of the Nallasopara Hub football team in Mumbai, India.

They have learned many things about football, and also about good character and behaviour. They have learnt about healthy eating, and about making careful and informed life choices, and have become helpful and responsible supporting their teammates with any challenges and helping to clean the ground before practice.

They enjoy playing matches, and even though their team might lose, they play the game in the right spirit and are courageous when facing stronger teams.



Sisters Khushi (15) and Muskan Dubey (14) also both play together in the Nallasopara Hub team.

They used to feel shy to talk to people but by being part of the team they are much more comfortable and talk to everyone.

When they played their first match they were very nervous and scared of the opposition players, but after playing that first match they gained confidence and realised that playing against tough opposition could even help improve their own skills and ability.

Challenges in Mozambique




In Mozambique FFL is still being impacted by the effects of both Covid -19, and Cyclone Chalane, which hit the country at the end of December 2020.

Cyclone Chalane was the third cyclone to hit Mozambique in two years and hit at a time when many people were still rebuilding from the last one.

The cyclone also hit at time when the country is still facing the challenge of the coronavirus pandemic.

Usual activities are still on hold, but coaches and staff are holding special sessions to educate and support players, and provide both practical and emotional support to the wider community



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