



NEWSLETTER – February 2020

Beersheba FC Coaches 'Giving Back'

At the Beersheba Football Club in Uganda there is an ever increasing number of players who are also taking up roles of coaches to support others in the club. All current coaches play for their respective teams, but also give back by helping to coach, mentor, teach and support a huge number of young boys and youth in the four categories of football teams.

These young men organise football training sessions every Saturday but also carry out life skills sessions helping to support the character formation and development of each of their players.

(Just some of the many Beersheba FC coaches are pictured to the right)



I'm grateful for the opportunity I was given to help coach the under 12s; I have always wished to support other young people and now I have the opportunity to guide them to do the right thing. When I was appointed I was worried about how to handle these boys, but I kept reflected on how my coaches used to handle me and my teammates when I was playing in the U12s, U14s and now in the U16. I applied the same approach and now all is moving on well for me in this new role. I work alongside a team of committed coaches who are helping me learn how to handle and deal with young boys. As I'm also a growing teenager, I use my life experience to understand how young boys feel, act, and react to certain issues in life. While I help to coach others I still remain humble and obedient to my coaches because they are also my leaders and mentors, and from childhood Beersheba has taught me to remain humble.

I'm proud of Beersheba FC because the focus is not just on football but also to touch the other aspects of a person's life which is very important for growing up in our community. If it was not for the leaders at Beersheba teaching us good life skills like patience, obedience, teamwork, and humility, I would still have the bad character I had before joining the club, but now I'm on a good path and helping others to do the same. This is my family and I will always give my best to this club because it first showed me the best of life.

- Amidu, U12s Coach



Global Coordinator Running for FFL

Oasis Football for Life Global Coordinator, Dave Caswell, will be running the Bath Half Marathon on March 15th March 2020, to raise vital funds for FFL.

Dave, accompanied by friend and FFL supporter, Gavin Shepherd, is seeking to raise at least £1,000 to support the work of FFL in the UK and around the world.

If you would like to support them in this endeavour and help them hit their fundraising target, you can give easily and securely at:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gavanddave



BATHHALF 2020



Oasis Lionhearts Train the Next Generation

The Oasis Lionhearts Football Club in Birmingham, UK, continues to grow from strength to strength. The club now boasts 5 teams with over 80 boys, aged between 4-16 based at Oasis Hub Hobmoor and in partnership with the Lionhearts Football School of Excellence. As always, the work is much more than just football and the club and community hub in which it operates has delivered a number of exiting initiatives alongside the football.

Players and parents have been involved in a number of teaching and training sessions, from sessions on avoiding gang activity and knife crime, to healthy eating and nutrition. Players have also experienced trips out into the countryside, the first time for many of them, and sessions on different ways of keeping fit and healthy.

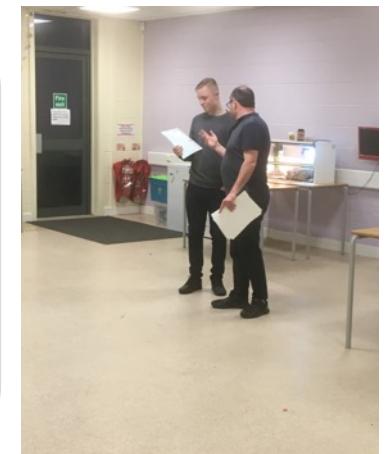
A significant development is that Oasis Hub Hobmoor has become a 'Sports Leadership UK Centre' delivering nationally recognised qualifications during the school holidays linked to other provisions so no child goes hungry.

As an accredited Sports Leaders Qualification Centre, in the summer last year, a formal Level 1 Sports Leadership Qualification was delivered, alongside a 'Go Lead' award for younger participants. Younger participants took part in sessions on Sportsmanship alongside teamwork through outdoor education, while participants over the age of 11 took part in the Young Sports Leader Awards. As part of the courses they also had their first experience of volunteering in the community completing a total of 51 hours leading other groups of young people in sports activities.



One if those who took part in the training was Stuart*. Stuart is 15 and has attended holiday clubs and sessions at Oasis Hub Hobmoor for the last 4 years; he has been diagnosed with autism and found attending his local secondary school extremely challenging. He struggled significantly until he dropped out completely. He is passionate about football and sport, and as he was not able not able to engage in formal education, he signed up to the Sports Leaders Level 1 course.

During the course he learned new skills and grew in confidence. He completed the course gaining his Level 1 but also received 'The Spirit Of Leadership' certificate for his commitment to the holiday club. He is now too old to be a participant at the holiday clubs but has committed to volunteering and leading activities for other young people. He is very proud that he has achieved his first formal qualification and he now attends a local college four mornings a week studying GCSE Maths and English, while also volunteering at the community centre where he is putting his new skills to good use.



*Name has been changed to protect identity.



Stories of Transformation



Vincent joined Beersheba FC when he was just 7 years old.

Even at that age he was a talented player and began playing with the under 12s. Eventually he joined the senior team and in 2017 was selected as only one of four boys out of over 100, to represent Uganda at the "East Africa Aspire Academy Trials" in Kenya.

While in Kenya he was spotted by a scout from SC Villa, the biggest football club in Uganda, and began playing for the under 17s team. When his contract with Villa came to an end, he was encouraged to sign a new contract and stay on, but felt it was time to return home to where his story began.

He is now back at Beersheba playing for the senior team and is an inspiration and mentor to the younger players.

"When I was younger my attitude and behaviour was poor but the coaches at Beersheba helped me a lot to change. They were very patient to help me in both my football and my character development; my father loved the fact I was at a club that took a personal interest in helping each of us boys, beyond just coaching football.

My dream was to play for one of the top clubs in the country but I realised that I wouldn't make it unless I improved in my attitude and behaviour. Beersheba helped me so much to do this as they don't only coach football, but help us to behave well and make good choices. When I was in Kenya there were so many good footballers but some of them had poor behaviour and were arrogant. I'm grateful to Beersheba for teaching me discipline, respect and humility, amongst many other things. This helped me to progress and fulfil my dream of playing for a top club in Uganda.

When my contract with Villa came to an end I was asked to stay on and sign a new contract, but I felt it was time to return to Beersheba. There are still some top clubs wanting me to play for them but for now I'm happy being back at my mother club because to me, it's not just a football club but more of a family."





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