

Oasis
football
for life



NEWSLETTER – November 2020

From the Global Coordinator



As of course for many others, this year has been tough for everyone involved in Oasis Football for Life.

Already vulnerable and 'at risk', those we work with have most strongly felt the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. For many months, activities have been on hold and families have increasingly struggled to access food, healthcare, and employment during this difficult time.

What has inspired me however has been the response of those within the FFL family around the world. Players, coaches and project leaders have shown incredible resilience, creativity, and compassion to support not only each other, but those in their communities.

Football for Life is always more than just football. We seek to shape and encourage children and young people to be patient, compassionate, caring and selfless (amongst many other things) while steering them away from unhealthy activities like drink, drugs and gang activity.

While the pandemic has proved an incredible challenge it has also highlighted the amazing people we have within the global FFL family. I want to take this opportunity to recognise everyone who contributes to the impact we are seeing in the lives of young people, including all of those who support us in so many ways to do what we do,

Thank you all.
Dave

News from India



In Chennai, India, boys from FFL have been very busy helping to support those in their community during the Covid-19 outbreak.

They have been able to deliver essential food and protective equipment like masks and hand sanitiser, to the most vulnerable in their community. They have also provided advice and emotional support, encouraging those in their community through this tough time.

Similar efforts have been carried out in our other hubs in Mumbai, Bangalore and Punganur. Thank you and well done everyone involved!





News from Uganda



With restrictions eased in Uganda, the Beersheba Football Club have been able to resume training sessions after 7 months.



“I don’t know how to express my excitement at playing football again. During lockdown I stayed with my family members at home, but I also needed my friends and teammates to have fun and learn things together.

It took a lot of patience and discipline to stay at home and wait for the moment we could play together again.

I prefer playing and doing productive things with my teammates because I know I need to be supported by other people to help me fulfil my potential. I learn a lot of things from other people and that is why I enjoy playing with my friends with the support of my coaches.

On our return from the lockdown, the football sessions were amazing. I enjoyed running around with the ball and shouting with my friends on the training ground; and I was so excited to see my coaches and teammates again. I know I’m not physically fit at the moment; the runs I made chasing for the ball made me so exhausted and I lost possession many times, but my coach and teammates supported me because they know I’m a good player when I’m fully fit.”



- Osinde, Under 16s, Beersheba Football Club



Friends of FFL: Messages of Support

During this time of Covid-19 friends and supporters of Oasis Football for Life have been sending messages of support and encouragement to our players and coaches. Here's a selection of those messages....



"Stay safe, look after each other and we can look forward to playing football and meeting our friends again in the near future."

Phil Clinton is a coach at Stourbridge FC in the UK, and his son Nathan, is an Aston Villa supporter who plays for Stourbridge FC.



"Football is more than just a sport. It is community, health, sportsmanship, and skills both on and off the pitch."

On the 7th day God... played football! Go FFL!

Andy Sexton lives in Norwich, UK and supports Queens Park Rangers.



"To the worldwide footballing family, many of us are missing our great game at this time, but stay safe"

Mark Caswell is from Halesowen, UK, and supports West Bromwich Albion and Halesowen Town.

"We have to keep our faith in hard times & believe that God will stand with us."

Gabriel Bobadilla lives in Monrovia, in California, USA, and supports Barcelona.





Jackson's Story



“My early life was really tough, and I went through lots of struggles.

For a long time I was struggling and feeling hopeless and confused, but one of my friends suggested that I join the Beersheba Football Club as it would help restore my mind from my past life and help me behave better.

At first I feared to go, thinking they would not accept me due to the negative things they might have heard about me, but surprisingly they welcomed me and were committed to helping my transformation.

With all I had gone through in the past, I needed emotional support which I couldn't find anywhere else until I joined Beersheba.

This is where I gained friends and coaches who would help me deal with my emotions and my negative attitude towards myself and society.

They took me through sessions of counselling and life skills where I was able to learn a number of good habits like patience, humility, obedience, teamwork, respect for others, commitment, and about always having hope.

In my lower primary stage I couldn't settle in class and moved from school to school. Through the support at Beersheba however, I started valuing education and became committed in class. I was in primary 3 when I joined the club but I'm now in secondary school and hoping to become a very important person in future. I'm now committed to following school and class programmes to ensure I perform well academically.

During lockdown when schools have been closed, I've been making good use of my time. I'm running a small business selling detergents and kerosene in the trading centre which is helping me generate income to sustain myself and acquire scholastic materials for when we get back to school. I'm now hoping for bigger achievements in life and want to make my family proud of me.”



- Jackson, Under 16s, Beersheba FC.





From the Coaches...



“During lockdown it was sad for me to stay home without training and supporting my boys, but I would frequently interact with individual players and find out how they were finding life. This was a big encouragement to them, and I used this time to advise them on how they should conduct themselves while at home.

I enjoy working with young boys because they are always willing to learn things. When they are taught something they take it with a good mind which eventually helps them to develop in different aspects of life. Coaching is big opportunity for me to contribute to the wellbeing of the boys in the community. It is always my desire to support young people in areas of their personal development and I therefore make sure I plan and carryout interesting football and life skills sessions to develop their talents and character.

It’s obvious that in a group of children there will always be those with unacceptable behaviours but as a coach, I take a responsibility to help them improve and become good people in the community.

I was privileged to attend a level one coaching course during the lockdown which helped me learn how to properly prepare sessions for the boys. I now have very good approaches and techniques for handling players in different situations and circumstances. Our first training session after the lockdown was very good. The boys turned up in big numbers and their mentality was positive. We were all happy and enjoyed the training sessions.”

- Coach Ashim, Under 12s, Beersheba Football Club.



“Our football training sessions are still on hold because of the Covid-19 outbreak. At the moment we are carrying out sensitization visits from house to house, encouraging our young people to avoid falling into unhealthy activities like drink and drugs, while they no longer have football to occupy their time.

In previous months we have also helped with relief work and support for some of the most vulnerable in our communities. We hope to be back training and playing again soon but will continue to support one another the best we can until the restrictions are lifted.”

- Eduardo, Mozambique Academy Coach.



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