New Book Supports Character Formation

Dave’s book, Kolo and the Mighty Mangoes, has now been published and is available to buy as both paperback and eBook from Amazon and other leading retailers.

The book tells the story of Kolo who joins the Mighty Mangoes football team and encounters many highs and lows as the team aims to win the cup competition.

It is aimed at 8–13-year-olds but has been enjoyed by both younger and older readers.

The story raises issues about character and behaviour, with questions at the end of each chapter for thought and discussion.

“Kolo and the Mighty Mangoes is a brilliantly engaging story that will not only capture the minds of its readers, but also teach valuable life lessons. The questions at the end of each chapter help the reader to examine their own decision making and behaviour, and ultimately provide a great way for them to develop positive character building.”

- Simon Thomas (Sports Presenter, Author and Podcaster)

“A great story run through with so many vital moments of learning that will definitely help children to focus on who they are and who they are becoming. And yes - It may well have been written for young readers, but Kolo and the Mighty Mangoes is a story that can help all of us to think about all those ‘vital moments’ we have every day where we get to choose what kind of person we want to be.”

- Jill Rowe (Ethos & Formation Director, Oasis UK)
Mumbai Girls Win First Tournament

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic things have opened up slightly for our girls in Mumbai, India, and activities are now taking place again.

The programme is also growing with 47 new girls recruited this year, and last month 4 teams made up of both the new and existing players, took part in a local tournament.

The best player award in the tournament also went to Oasis, with Karishma Jaiswar taking the trophy for scoring 6 goals.

“The new girls were very nervous to compete in their first tournament as they had only just started to play. While they didn’t win, they learnt a lot during the matches and enjoyed the experience. The older girls however, managed to reach the final and win the tournament.

They have improved so much and this was their first ever win which gave them so much joy and confidence.”

- Coach Suzanne

“On the morning before going for the match, I had decided that we would win and bring the trophy back home.”

- Karishma Jaiswar
New Skills and a Great Harvest

Over recent weeks the young farmers at the Beersheba Football Club have been trained in growing tomatoes. Tomatoes are used a lot in the community but not grown by many farmers. Empowering the boys with this knowledge, therefore, has given them an opportunity to access a ready market and contribute to the welfare of their families.

The boys have also harvested the maize that they planted some months ago. Maize is a staple food in Uganda and in growing and harvesting this crop the boys have contributed significantly to the provision of food for their families.

“I was part of the team that was taken through training to grow maize some months ago. We enjoyed the training, and we were able to do all the steps we learnt.

We continued taking care of our crop even in harsh weather, and now we are enjoying the harvest. We are so happy, and it is an encouragement to us as young farmers and gives us hope and courage to continue farming.”

- Philip

Tomatoes are in high demand and are highly consumed, so I am excited to have an opportunity to acquire this knowledge.

Farming is good because we get food out of it and get money from the sales.”

- Amuza
Leadership Training for BFC

An important part of the running and success of the Beersheba FC Savings Groups is the appointment of leaders to take on different roles and responsibilities within their groups. Leadership training recently took place to help equip and empower these young people to execute their roles effectively.

“The habit of saving money at a young age is very important and we are grateful that we have such an opportunity here to learn and apply.

When I was appointed to be the group treasurer, I didn’t have any knowledge about how things are done until they organised a leadership training day where they taught us many leadership skills.

I’m responsible for the cash box keys which is a sensitive role and I must be very careful with the keys and I make sure the box is locked properly before members leave the meeting. I lock it in front of the entire group so that everybody is satisfied regarding the safety of their money.”

- Ibra, Treasurer and Key Keeper, Under 14s Savings Group
What team do you support and who is your and favourite player?
I support Arsenal and Bukayo Saka is my favourite player. He is a very talented player who is an example to the rest of the young people of our generation. He is very flexible to play in whatever position the coach asks him to play; he remains positive and works for the good of the team. Such a mentality is what all young people should have to fit into society.

What’s the best thing about being part of Oasis FFL?
We want children to develop a positive character. With FFL boys are treated equally with love, and this makes them feel a sense of belonging.

What do you like about working with the boys in your team?
I like working with the players to help them improve in football and in life. I am also interested in becoming a great coach in future, so this is a good opportunity for me to develop my career. I am doing what my coaches used to do for me, they helped me learn many things in football and in other aspects of life.

I hope to build a team of responsible people in this community, people who can contribute to the community and their families. At their age (under 12s) they are open to learning anything, so I want them to teach them good habits and important life skills, so they turn out to be good people.

Tell us a little about yourself?
I am very free and friendly with everybody; I do not look at differences in people but want to unite with everybody. I don’t like wasting time on unproductive activities but rather find time to share experiences with other people. I like supporting other people to feel better in life.

What advice do you have for our FFL coaches and players around the world?
Coaches should be calm and respectful in whatever they do. They are role models to those they are coaching so whatever they do must be moral. They have a level of trust in their players which helps the players build confidence in themselves. Coaches help players discover themselves in football and other areas of personal development. A coach like Thomas Tuchel has built a level of confidence in his Chelsea players which has helped them perform much better this season.
Supporting Children and Youth to Reach Their Full Potential