

Press Release

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Boost for girls' football in Spelthorne

Local people in Spelthorne will be putting on their boots following a £5,000 Grow the Game grant, from the Football Foundation, the country's largest sports charity.

The grant will allow Kempton Girls' Football Club to increase the number of girls' football teams at the club and help promote the club to increase the local communities' involvement. The grant will assist Kempton Girls' increase the qualifications and standard of coaches over the coming years.

The core objective of the Football Foundation's Grow the Game's programme is to increase participation and enable more people to play our national game through supporting the development of grassroots clubs. The programme is delivered in partnership with all of the 46 County FAs and funded by The FA and Government.

So far Grow the Game has awarded 894 separate grants worth £4,354,926 to grassroots football clubs. Analysis of the monitoring and evaluation so far predicts that this will result in the creation of 3,716 brand new football teams competing in FA-affiliated leagues, 70,489 new players participating each week and 14,111 new qualifications or courses being completed.

The key strength of Grow the Game is that its participation increases are sustainable rather than transient. Its grants create a solid infrastructure of teams and newly-trained coaches in which new people can start playing the sport, rather than simply providing temporary activity sessions, which are then vulnerable to drops in participation once the programme ends.

The Football Foundation is the country's largest sports charity, launched in 2000 and funded by the Premier League, The FA, and the Government (via Sport England). Since then it has awarded around 8,000 grants worth more than £420m towards improving grassroots sport, which it has used to attract additional partnership funding of over £520m.

Daren Drage, Chairman said: **“This is a fantastic opportunity for the new club to grow and provide facilities and the means for girls' to become involved in football. We have had great support from Middlesex FA during and after the successful application, and we look forward to working with them to promote football for in the community.”**

Paul Thorogood, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, said: **“I congratulate Kempton Girls Football Club for receiving this Grow the Game grant, which will increase sport participation and support football development in the region. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Middlesex FA for their help in making this happen.**

“The new teams and players generated by the Grow the Game scheme, since its launch three years ago, will go a long way towards helping The FA to achieve its growth target of 150,000 new participants by 2013. It is also helping government and Sport England get more people engaging in regular sport.

“The Football Foundation is committed – with funding provided by the Premier League, The FA and Government – to improve grassroots community sporting provision and help make this legacy vision a reality.”

For more information about the work the Football Foundation is doing all over the country visit www.footballfoundation.org.uk or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/FootballFoundtn>.

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