COUNTY FOOTBALL NEWS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE LONDON FA
ISSUE 5 - SEPTEMBER 2009

COVER STORY:
FA Tesco Girls’ Football Week

ALSO FEATURING:
London Coaches Association leads the way
Safeguarding the vulnerable
Upcoming courses at London FA
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Printed by ESP Colour LTD, Elgin Drive, Swindon SN2 8XU. Tel: 01793 418400. E-Sports Publications • Tel: 01793 438408
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The new season is almost upon us and there is an awful lot of administration for the club secretary and league secretary to carry out to get the whole thing going. These volunteers are real heroes. While Kaka and Ronaldo get massive media coverage they are very well paid indeed. Grassroots administrators get nothing but demands on their time. So remember for every professional earning a fortune there are hundreds of amateurs giving their time and commitment for no financial reward.

Towards the end of last season we held a meeting with six Leagues selected at random. They were a mix of Saturday, Sunday, ethnic, youth and midweek leagues. The meeting took place at FA headquarters at Soho Square and was attended by an FA Senior Manager. The discussion was fascinating and really provided a lot of direction for our year two NGS plan. It also informed The FA of some of the problems actually faced at grassroots level. I want to hold follow up meetings with the same leagues so that the good work can continue to benefit our thinking.

At the last meeting of the Youth Council of the LFA, Chairman Brian Miller gave a superb critique of The FA’s latest Charter Standard criteria. Brian is excellent in this area and we have sent his feedback to Soho Square so that they can continue to improve what is a sound concept.

I was also pleased to confirm the continuation of our Fair Play scheme with the Camden Sunday Football League. This has been going for three years now and will continue to at least the fifth year. We provide medals and small cash prizes to the clubs that are selected by the League Management Committee as the best two in terms of behaviour and improvement in discipline. Obviously this could not be a one-off, it needs a number of seasons to truly measure its success or failure and I am grateful to our colleagues in the League for their support of the scheme.

The forthcoming season will be the second for the Respect Programme. What was the outcome of year one? Was there a noticeable decrease in misconduct, in particular dissent? Well, no! In fact we processed more red cards than the year before but we also recruited more referees so we need to go through another year before making any analysis.

Finally, I recommend to all our leagues and clubs keep an eye on the LFA website. There is always lots of information to help you. Last year the site had 9.5 million hits which is remarkable.

Have a great season 2009-10, the best of luck to you all.

David Fowkes
Chief Executive
ENGLAND WOMEN STARS HELP GIRLS’ FOOTBALL WEEK

England women’s internationals Rachel Yankey and Lianne Sanderson joined local female footballers in London, where they hosted an exclusive, free coaching session on 24 June for local Under-16 girls at Whittington Park to mark the launch of The FA Tesco Girls’ Football Week.

The week ran from 22 to 28 June inclusive, with similar events taking place across the country. The aim of the seven-day promotion was to give girls more information on football in their area and allow them the chance to sample the game for the first time in a fun and safe environment.

Local girls aged from under five to 16 were invited to come along to Whittington Park, where they took part in a uniquely designed free football taster session.

Specially trained FA coaches were on hand to give the girls the very best coaching tips, while they were able to test their skills in a number of inflatable football games, such as target practice and speed camera shooting. Representatives from the London County FA were also on hand to provide girls with more details on local teams and how to get involved in their local area.

Morag Taylor, Marketing Manager for Women’s Football at The Football Association, commented: “Girls football is the number one female participation sport in England, but we’re keen for even more girls to get involved and enjoy the game over the coming seasons. The FA Tesco Girls’ Football Week is all about introducing young girls of all abilities to the game, helping them to improve their skills and have fun with their friends.”

There are currently 150,000 females playing affiliated football in England and more than double that number who want to get involved but are unsure of how to go about it. As a result, part of the week’s activities saw The FA and Tesco, with the assistance of London County FA, helping girls find their local clubs so that they can join up and continue to enjoy the game.

England International Rachel Yankey added: “It’s always good to see young girls participating in the game as, after all they are the next generation of the England Women’s team. Girls’ Football Week provides girls who may not have thought about playing football before with a fantastic opportunity to have a fun introduction to the sport and provide them with the means of hopefully continuing their development in the game for years to come.”

More details about the events that are taking place in your local area during The FA Tesco Girls’ Football Week can be found at www.TheFA.com/girlsfootball.
CELEBRATE THE FA TESCO

“GIRLS FOOTBALL IS THE NUMBER ONE FEMALE PARTICIPATION SPORT IN ENGLAND, BUT WE’RE KEEN FOR EVEN MORE GIRLS TO GET INVOLVED AND ENJOY THE GAME OVER THE COMING SEASONS. THE FA TESCO GIRLS’ FOOTBALL WEEK IS ALL ABOUT INTRODUCING YOUNG GIRLS OF ALL ABILITIES TO THE GAME, HELPING THEM TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS AND HAVE FUN WITH THEIR FRIENDS.”

MORAG TAYLOR, MARKETING MANAGER FOR WOMEN’S FOOTBALL AT THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
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NEW PAVILION A MAJOR BOOST FOR LONDON

The London FA are pleased to announce the opening of a newly refurbished and extended sports pavilion in the heart of London at Paddington Recreation Ground. The project has doubled the number of changing rooms and created a resource centre for schools, sport clubs and community groups to use for meetings, training and presentations. The pavilion is also now fully accessible for disabled users.

“I AM DELIGHTED TO BE AT THE OPENING OF THIS FANTASTIC SPORTS PAVILION. HAVING GROWN UP IN LONDON, I KNOW HOW PRICELESS GOOD SPORT FACILITIES IN THE CAPITAL ARE.”

FA CHAIRMAN LORD TRIESMAN

Lord Triesman at the opening of Paddington Rec.

Paddington Rec’s new pavilion.
£4.2M THAMESMEAD PROJECT UNDER WAY

A groundbreaking ceremony marked the start of construction at the site of a new £4.2million community multi-sports hub at Thamesmead.

Sporting Club Thamesmead, which is being developed by Trust Thamesmead and its partners, will provide a range of sporting activities, social and community facilities, as well as improving the enjoyment of being involved with Thamesmead Town Football Club – whether simply watching the games, playing or coaching.

“The fantastic response from the Football Foundation, the Homes and Communities Agency and our other funders means that Thamesmead will at last have the quality facility it has been sorely lacking for so long,” said Vic Grimes, the Trust Thamesmead Chairman.

Celebrating the opening of Thamesmead.

ALAN CURBISHLEY OPENS £2.5M SPORTS CENTRE

Hall Place, Bexley, received a grant of £1m from the Football Foundation and has been able to open a new outdoor sports changing pavilion and education/lecture facility.

A schools tournament was arranged by the School Sports Partnership of Bexley to mark the occasion, with all matches being refereed by six newly-trained ‘Young Female Leaders’ from Townly and St. Catharine’s schools.

Lord Pendry, President of the Football Foundation, said: “These new facilities at Hall Place are state-of-the-art and will greatly increase the opportunities local people have to play a range of sports.”

????, ???? and ???? at the opening of Hall Place Sports Centre.
In recent weeks, The Football Foundation has highlighted the fact that demand for capital funding is oversubscribed - see the following link: [http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/apply/facilities-grant/notice-for-projects-awaiting-approval-for-facilities-grants/](http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/apply/facilities-grant/notice-for-projects-awaiting-approval-for-facilities-grants/)

However, The Football Foundation has also announced the launch of a new small grants scheme (capital) called ‘Build The Game’ due to be officially launched on August 1 this year. The ‘Build the Game’ programme is aimed at smaller capital projects and has a flexible and simplified application process. For more information regarding ‘Build The Game’, please contact your local County Development Manager at your local County Football Association (see details on page three of this magazine).

There are still other live funding streams that you may consider. Sport England has recently launched new programmes including a ‘Rural Communities Fund’ and an ‘Innovation Fund’. Sport England also operates a Sportsmatch scheme which matches all private contributions, pound-for-pound, up to a maximum of £100,000. For information on this and other Sport England funding programmes, please see: [http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx)

Funding for local community projects is also often available from the local authorities, many of which run small grant schemes. For advice and information regarding such schemes, either visit your local authority website or call and ask to speak to a ‘funding officer’.

Finally, anyone interested in accessing other funding sources for specific projects should contact their county development manager at the local County Football Association. Most County FAs have access to a grant search system called Grantfinder – county development managers will be able to offer you access and advice regarding other specific grant sources relevant to your project.

There is no doubt that due to the demanding economic times we are in, finding funding for football projects will continue be a challenge.
The audience for the Respect programme is enormous and has required work with professional, semi-professional, amateur, women’s and disability football, with coaches, adult and youth players, managers, spectators, club officials and referees.

Across the grassroots game, 540 leagues and 53,000 teams opted into Respect and implementing measures to improve behaviour. Throughout this first season, the impact of Respect has been monitored and we want to share with you the following statistics on the impact of Respect:

• In the professional game, player behaviour has improved. There have been 44% fewer cases of mass confrontation and a 50% decline in cases of reported harassment of referees. Referees report an improved relationship with players but feel that some managers could set a better example to players and spectators.

• There has been an increase in the volume of dissent cautions in all leagues apart from the Premier League. The professional game match officials however believe this to be a result of more referees dealing with on-field dissent instead of tolerating it as in previous seasons.

• The use of a team captains to assist the referee to manage player behaviour is considered of value.

• Compared to the same period for season 2007-08, there has been an eight per cent rise in referee numbers. There are more student referees in training. The FA is ahead of its recruitment targets for referees and currently has nearly 26,000 registered referees.

• The number of serious assaults on referees declined by 10 per cent in 2008-09 but, disappointingly, over 500 referees still reported being subject to physical abuse. This is clearly not acceptable.
In August 2008 The FA launched its Respect campaign to answer a plea from you, the officials involved in grassroots football, to improve behaviour. Two high profile incidents in the Premier League combined with a clear message from FA grassroots football research showed that action was needed – and fast.

The FA had a considerable impact in youth football, with advertising and educational promotions helping to deal with the problem of abusive touchline parents.

In the national game cautions for dissent have risen by three per cent but there has been a decline in charges for misconduct and the number of dismissals.

The use of designated spectators’ areas marked by barriers, a painted line or cones is an effective way of improving spectator behaviour. Nearly 11,000 clubs took up the offer of financial support from the Football Foundation to purchase barriers.

The vast majority of those involved in football agree that the Respect scheme is definitely needed and that it is a long-term programme that requires constant reinforcement and reinvention.

The FA’s focus for 2009-10 will be more of the same. The FA and County FAs have a clear responsibility to lead Respect, and you can speak to your County’s Respect Lead Officer if you want to find out more information.

The FA has issued new codes of conduct with sanctions for the coming season. If you have signed up to Respect, you will be sent new code sign-up sheets and posters by your County FA. You can view the new codes by visiting TheFA.com/Respect.
The FA Youth Award – innovation in coaching young players

The FA Youth Award is proving to be a groundbreaking course. It is the first course to be specifically designed for those who work with young players and feedback has been extremely positive following last year’s launch of Module One – ‘Developing the Environment’. Module Two – ‘Developing the Practice’ has been piloted and interest is growing as the course is rolled out across the country.

The FA Youth Award marks a different approach to developing young players as it focuses as much on ‘how’ to teach players as on ‘what’ to teach them. By adopting this new approach, the course encourages coaches to develop a greater understanding of how players learn.

This method of developing young players also uses practical activities looking at the vitally important areas of self-esteem, motivation and how to manage mistakes. By raising awareness in these areas, and how they link with the development of our young players, the coach is given an insight into the components which need to be present in order to create a vibrant and enjoyable learning environment for the players. If implemented, this will allow the players to not only develop their football skills, but also their personal skills which will help them as they grow up.

The FA Youth Award is the first course that looks specifically at coaching young players. The course applies the FA’s four-corner model as it looks at the player in four key developmental areas: ‘Physical,’ ‘Psychological,’ ‘Technical’ and ‘Social’.

Football is then packaged through a number of exciting new activities in such a way that it “fits” the player and not the other way round. This marks a progressive change in coaching philosophy, creating a truly player-centred approach to the coaching and development of our young players.

Three modules are being delivered for The FA Youth Award:

- Module One: ‘Developing the Environment’ - focusing on the 5-11 age group - available now.
- Module Two: ‘Developing the Practice’ - focusing on 12-16 year old players - coming this summer.
- Module Three: ‘Developing the Player’, with emphasis on the 17-21 age group - coming soon.
Feedback from students who have already completed Module One has been extremely positive:

“I have found it very thought provoking and I think that it hits the button on coaching youth players.”

“I found the class discussions out on the field post-practice, as well as the classroom work, an extremely valuable part of the course.”

“Best FA course I have been on.”

To enrol on Module One, candidates need to be at least an FA Level One qualified coach, or alternatively a qualified teacher can undertake a one-day introductory module before taking Module One. The FA Youth Award provides an alternative coaching pathway for those who specifically want to work with younger players.

With the new FA Youth Award promising to be one of the most popular FA courses yet, we encourage people to make sure they take their places soon and put themselves at the forefront of football coaching.

For further information about the courses, contact The FA Learning team on 0870 8500 424.
Introducing FA Members’ Services

Members’ Services is a new online facility being offered by County Football Associations and The Football Association. It’s free to all affiliated leagues, clubs, referees and coaches.

Our aim is to provide online information to leagues, clubs, referees and coaches, giving them access to their football, reducing the administrative burden and giving them up-to-date information instantly, whenever they need it.

Members’ Services is available from any County FA website, via the Members link. You’ll need to know your FA Number (FAN, which used to be referred to as an NPD) and you’ll need to get a password, which can be obtained automatically from the The FA systems.

At present Members’ Services is available to the following people:

- Leagues: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
- Clubs: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
- Referees: All registered referees
- Coaches: All coaches

When you first request access, the system will check your details (cross-referencing with the FA/County records), and once you have a password, you can login and access your information.

Club secretaries, chairmen and treasurers can access the following information through their County website:
- View your Club Information online
- Update your contact information
- View your FA accreditations
- Keep up to date with your latest club discipline
- Check which players you have registered (County registered only)
- Football Pages – Find a Referee tool
- Keep up to date with your County FA financial records for your club
- Feedback on what other services you would like.

League secretaries, chairmen and treasurers can access the following information through their County website:
- View your League Information online
- Update your contact information
- View your FA accreditations
- Weekly Discipline Statement online – keep up to date with discipline
- Link Full-Time information to County Team information
- Football Pages – Find a Club and Find a Referee
- Keep up to date with your County FA financial records
- Feedback on what other services you would like.

Referees can access the following information through their County website:
- Check your contact details
- Update your contact information
- View your FA accreditations
- Maintain availability
- Enter Weekly Behaviour marks for Full-Time fixtures you officiate
- Feedback on what other services you would like.

Coaches can access the following information through their County website:
- Check your contact details
- Update your Contact Information
- View your FA accreditations
- Display yourself on the Find a Coach tool
- Download The FA Learning Coaching tool
- Feedback on what other services you would like.
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www.umbrofootballkits.co.uk or call 0845 603 7047

You might not have his touch, control or speed. But you can wear his socks.
The criteria for The FA Charter Standard Club programme have been slightly modified to reflect the views of over 37,000 people who were consulted on the development of The FA’s National Game Strategy 2008-12. Many of the changes also replicate examples of good practice that have been implemented by FA Charter Standard clubs and as a result The FA’s Charter Standard Club programme is further raising standards and supporting the needs of grassroots football.

From July 2009 all new clubs will have to adhere to the new criteria together with those existing FA Charter Standard Clubs renewing their status in season 2009-10. However for existing FA Charter Standard clubs a transitional period has been allowed to provide sufficient time and support.

Following the Goals and Enablers of The FA National Game Strategy the additions made to the criteria are as follows:

**Goal 1: Growth and retention**
- Clubs to have a link with a local school, FE college or university to recruit new players.

**Goal 2: Raising standards**
- First Aid equipment to be present on match days and training sessions.
- Clubs to implement the Respect programme codes of conduct.
- Clubs to host a briefing for players, parents/carers, spectators, coaches and managers to discuss on- and off-field behaviour.
- Community Clubs to run a workshop on why and how to address poor behaviour and improve standards.

**Goal 3: Better players**
- One coach to attend The FA Age Appropriate Introductory Module by July 2010.
- Development and Community Clubs: one coach to attend The FA Youth Award (L3) Module 1 by July 2010.
- Community Clubs: one coach to attend The FA Youth Award (L3) Module 2 by July 2011.
- No more than 1:16 coaching ratio and two adults present at all sessions/games.

**Goal 4: Running the Game**
- Development and Community Clubs to have a development plan based on the National Game Strategy template.

**Enabler: Workforce**
- A volunteer co-ordinator is nominated and roles identified for volunteers in the club.
- Development and Community Clubs: head coach identified with L2 and Youth Award (L3) Module 1 by July 2010.
- Community Clubs: one coach to attend FA Mentoring course by July 2011.

A great deal of support is available from your County Football Association and this includes:
- An Application and Support Resource CD-ROM that has the new criteria and many documents that include the Respect programme codes of conduct and development plans.
- Accessing FA Age Appropriate Introductory Module and Youth Award (L3) coaching courses.
- Guidance on developing your club through the Football Development workforce and accessing funding.
- Guidance from the County Welfare Officer on how to address poor behaviour.

Alternatively, documentation can be found at: www.TheFA.com/CharterStandard

For season 2010-11 it is planned that all clubs will be supported through an annual health check process with their County FA to ensure all existing clubs adhere to the new criteria.
Safeguard children through training, best practice and responsible recruitment (CRB)

Call: 0845 210 8080
TheFA.com /footballsafe
LONDON COACHES ASSOCIATION
LEADS THE WAY

Founded over 40 years ago, the LFCA is the oldest and largest County coaching association in the country.

Under the Chairmanship of Alex Welsh, it has a membership of over 650 and its mission is to be the leading regional body for the continuing professional development of football coaches in the country. In order to achieve this the LFCA wishes to provide a service that blends coach education and coach development so that coaches in London have the best possible opportunity of fulfilling their potential and in turn improve playing standards at all levels.

In 2007 the Association entered into an exciting partnership with Nike which resulted in the acquisition of a part-time Coach Educator, Mark Drabwell and the revamp of its website. The sponsorship arrangement has transformed the LFCA from a once a month coaching association to a year round comprehensive coaching service tailored to meet individual member’s needs.

The LFCA now offers:

- Monthly Masterclass sessions taken by the game’s leading coaches at the SCORE complex at Leyton Orient
- Level 2 and 3 introductory and preparatory courses
- Age specific sample sessions
- Position specific sample sessions
- Quarterly sessions at the Nike BootRoom delivered by football celebrities
- Bi-monthly sessions targeted at female coaches
- An interactive website
- Soccer Coach magazine published twice per year
- A coaching jobs service
- An Annual Dinner attended by leading figures in the game.

The LFCA has close links with the London Football Association with the latter providing grant aid to cover administration costs. The LFCA provides a vital coach education function for those who have obtained FA qualifications and as such is an integral part of the County Plan.

The cost of annual membership is £20 which represents tremendous value for money. To contact the LFCA e-mail Membership Secretary Alan Jackett on 07717 538522 or awiprem@btinternet.com
SAFEGUARDING THE VULNERABLE

“THE SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE GROUPS ACT (2006) AIMS TO PREVENT UNSUITABLE PEOPLE FROM WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS THE ACT WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON FOOTBALL FOR UNDER-18S AND THE FA HAS WORKED HARD TO ENSURE THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL HAS BEEN HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD BY THE GOVERNMENT.”

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Requirements for the 2009-10 season:

- Continue to get all coaches and anybody working with children CRB (Criminal Records Bureau)-checked.
- Ensure new starters working with under-18s are CRB-checked immediately.
- Follow FA guidance on reporting concerns.

In addition, grassroots football clubs with youth sections must:

- Ensure they have a club welfare officer in place who has an FA CRB check and has completed Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officer training.
- Ensure club welfare officers are familiar with The FA’s Online Safeguarding Children service – this is The FA’s tool for ensuring club welfare officers can see who has been CRB-checked.

For information on both Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officer training please contact the following:

Alan Clarke – Safeguarding Children: alanclarke@btinternet.com
Sue Gill – Welfare Officer: sue.gill@londonfa.com
UPCOMING COURSES AT
COACHING COURSES

**LEVEL 1**

This 30-hour course represents an introduction to football coaching and includes both practical and theoretical elements. The practical component contains 23 conditioned practices where the game is the teacher.

*“Let the game be the teacher.”*

The content of each practice has been designed on the premise that most coaches at grassroots level have limited technical knowledge.

The 20-minute assessment at Level 1 requires students to be able to conduct an appropriate warm-up and cool down and to set up safe practices using realistic numbers and space.

**LEVEL 2**

This course is divided into two parts, initial training and external assessment. It is intended for people aged over 16 who are committed to coaching football to children.

Students will learn how to coach technical (unopposed), skill (opposed) and game-related (4 v 4) situations. This knowledge will be tested via two initial practical assessments.

*“Learn how to coach technical, skill and game-related situations.”*

**LEVEL 3**

This course is intended for those aged over 18 who have obtained the Level 2 certificate.

This course will enable coaches to coach in the following: functional practices – a player or small group of players working in a relevant area of the pitch; small-sided (8 v 8) directional game practice; phase of play – team units using the full width of the pitch.

*“Expected to demonstrate technical and tactical knowledge.”*
REFEREE COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>START DATE</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course 09.20</td>
<td>starting Saturday, 8 August</td>
<td>at Kidbrooke, London SE3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course 09.26</td>
<td>starting Saturday, 5 September</td>
<td>at Southfields, London SW18 (females only).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course 09.23</td>
<td>starting Tuesday, 8 September</td>
<td>at Hornsey Road, London N7.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course 09.22</td>
<td>starting Wednesday, 9 September</td>
<td>at Welling Kent DA16.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course 09.25</td>
<td>starting Wednesday, 15 September</td>
<td>at Victoria, London SW1.</td>
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<td>Course 09.27</td>
<td>starting Thursday, 1 October</td>
<td>at Wandsworth, London SW18.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course 09.28</td>
<td>starting Monday, 5 October</td>
<td>at East Ham, London E6.</td>
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World Cup hat-trick hero Sir Geoff Hurst and former Manchester United Youth coach Eric Harrison joined 14 lucky competition winners on a coaching day in Chiswick on Tuesday, 25 August 2009. The competition was run by McDonald's in conjunction with Absolute Radio, and supported by the London FA to provide the winners with the opportunity to learn new ideas from an England International World Cup winner and an ex-professional football coach.

The 14 winners were provided with coaching displays throughout the day from Eric Harrison and the London FA coaching staff. The day also included a Q&A session where the guests answered questions and shared some fascinating stories from their past.

Manchester United’s former youth coach also stressed to the coaches the ability of a coach to develop a player – and he should know, having helped to nurture the collective talents of players such as David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs, Nicky Butt and the Neville brothers.

Sir Geoff Hurst elaborated this point naming the late great Ron Greenwood as the best coach he had worked with who used innovative, creative and detailed coaching methods to get the best out of his players.

When describing the day’s activities Geoff remarked: “Eric and myself have been involved in the McDonald’s programme since 2002, and it has been a great success. It is fantastic to see all these keen coaches taking part today, and hopefully they will go on to be a credit to their communities.”

The day was a fantastic opportunity to learn from two great footballing legends from different areas of the game, Daniel Gayle, FDO London FA, said: “This was a great event, and we would like to look at organising similar events across London, as it has allowed enthusiastic coaches the chance to gain further knowledge from a different source.”

If you would like more information on coaching courses within London, and how to get on the coaching ladder please contact Neil Fowkes: neil.fowkes@londonfa.com or 0207 6108367.

“THIS WAS A GREAT EVENT, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO LOOK AT ORGANISING SIMILAR EVENTS ACROSS LONDON, AS IT HAS ALLOWED ENTHUSIASTIC COACHES THE CHANCE TO GAIN FURTHER KNOWLEDGE FROM A DIFFERENT SOURCE.”

Daniel Gayle, FDO London FA
BACK THE BID

With your help we can bring the FIFA World Cup to England in 2018. All you need to do is sign up to show your support. The more support we have, the better our chances. Visit england2018bid.com and back the bid.
The team bus

Sharky – Striker and fastest ‘shotgun’ caller in the west

‘Arry – Midfielder and awesome dribbler (especially in his sleep)

Matt – Goalkeeper and tone deaf, ‘sings’ along to anything and everything

JJ – Winger and professional whinger, can’t drive himself but slates everyone else

The Don – Captain and backseat driver

Whatever your level, find a team near you. There are 30,000 men’s 11-a-side teams signed up for this season and they need players like you.

Plus check out The FA’s new YouTube channel for the chance to make your team famous:

YouTube.com/TheFA

TheFA.com/play

Get into Football