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KICKIN' IT

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NORTH RIDING FA
ISSUE 4 - MAY 2009



COVER STORY:
Richard Brodie Interview
ALSO FEATURING:
Respect by Jamie Clarke
Getting to know you
The FA pull-out magazine

*Front Cover Image courtesy of Lewis Outing

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COUNTY STAFF



Chief Executive

Tom Radigan
Email: tom.radigan@northridingfa.com
Tel: (01642) 717777



Senior Administrator

Trevor Wing
Email: trevor.wing@northridingfa.com
Tel: (01642) 717773



Administrator

Lesley Clark
Email: lesley.clark@northridingfa.com
Tel: (01642) 717770 / 717771



Administrator

Caroline Sutton
Email: caroline.sutton@northridingfa.com
Tel: (01642) 717770



Coach Education Co-ordinator

Paul Stephenson
Email: paul.stephenson@northridingfa.com
Tel: (01642) 717772



County Development Manager

Mark Coulson
Email: mark.coulson@northridingfa.com
Tel: (01642) 717775



Senior Football Development Officer

Steven Wade
Email: steven.wade@northridingfa.com
Tel: (01642) 717774



Football Development Officer

Emily Toase
Email: emily.toase@northridingfa.com
Tel: (01642) 717774



Girls' & Women's Disability Football Development Officer

Paul Kreczak
Email: p.kreczak@tees.ac.uk
Tel: (01642) 342287



Referee Development Officer

Ross Joyce
Email: ross.joyce@northridingfa.com
Tel: (01642) 717778



County Welfare Officer

Jamie Clarke
Email: jamie.clarke@northridingfa.com
Tel: (01642) 717778



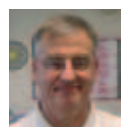
Rural Football Development Officer

Jamie Pover
Email: jamie.pover@hambleton.gov.uk
Tel: 07763 412 803

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FROM THE COUNTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Welcome to this season's third edition of "Kickin It" – the official magazine of the North Riding County FA.

Since the last edition the staff have continued to deliver the first year of the North Riding's four-year County Plan and the half-year results show that our performance and headline figures continue to improve. This is particularly true and pleasing on the refereeing front where Referee Development Officer, Ross Joyce has continued his good work, having increased numbers by more than nine per cent above his first-year target. Ross has also recruited a further 114 trainee referees. The future of refereeing in the County is, therefore, in a very healthy state at present.

I would like to thank all of you who recently completed the online survey in respect of the County's performance over the past year. The results show that the North Riding's performance is better than the national averages.

You should have all by now received your affiliation forms for season 2009-10. Clubs will note that, in an effort to increase participation, the North Riding will not be charging a fee to enter any of its Cup Competitions other than the Senior Cup, so I hope that we will see increased entries for all Competitions next season.

Finally, on behalf of the North Riding I would like to congratulate York City on reaching The FA Trophy Final at Wembley on Saturday, 9 May and wish them every success in their quest for silverware.

I hope you enjoy this edition and don't hesitate to contact any member of staff if you have any queries.

Tom Radigan

County Chief Executive

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e-mail: a.mcloughlin@e-sportspublications.co.uk



RESPECT IN THE FINAL

Grangetown Boys 4
Fishburn Park 0

The first North Riding Cup Final of the season came in the form of the Saturday County Cup and featured Grangetown Boys Club of Middlesbrough and Fishburn Park of Whitby in a battle of the Teesside League on a cold Wednesday night.

Grangetown Boys ran out comfortable winners in the end, a 4-0 victory reflecting their position at the top of the Teesside League, eight places above opponents who struggled to match the league leaders in a cold and wet encounter under the floodlights at Stokesley SC.

The game started with Grangetown pressure and they almost instantly scored, hitting a shot just wide, before Sean McCannister took advantage of Fishburn being on the back foot and struck low into the bottom corner to make it 1-0.

The advantage was doubled before Fishburn had their first shot on goal and it was a speculative long-range effort from their centre midfielder, which had to be tipped away from the top corner by the 'keeper.

Grangetown had a few more chances go to waste, with Morrison and Merson coming close to all but sealing the win early on, before Fishburn once again pulled out a left-foot volley that went close.

Half-time was approaching and



Line up before the kick-off.

a free-kick was awarded to Grangetown. The referee had done well all match to utilise the principles of **Respect** and often involved the captains when warning players of their conduct, which helped the game continue with no cautions and good behaviour. The ensuing free-kick was whipped in by Anthony Williams and Alan Shepherd rose to flick it up and over into the far corner of the net to make it 3-0.

Grangetown kept Fishburn at bay in the second half, but also failed to stamp their authority on the game to further increase their lead.

With 20 minutes remaining, Jimmy Simpson, the captain of the 1987 FA County Youth Cup-winning side entered the fray for Fishburn. He was too late to lead his team to victory as he did in the 3-1 win over Gloucester over 20 years ago, but he



Respect both ways.



Jimmy Simpson pressures the ball.



Stuart Campbell calls over the captain.

Respect



commanded the centre of the pitch well.

Only a couple of long-range efforts sprinkled the dying minutes with action, until a scrambled goal from a resulting corner allowed Grangetown Boys to seal the win through McCannister.

Grangetown Boys Club captain Alan Shepard stepped forward to collect the first trophy of 2008-09, presented by John Corner of the North Riding County Football Association.

A one-sided Final didn't hide the message that was so prominent in the showpiece match. **Respect** was there for all to see, both on the warm-up t-shirts and in the behaviour of both teams, the match officials and spectators.

Grangetown Boys Club are the Saturday County Cup champions 2008-09. **Respect**.



Grangetown Boys Club celebrate winning the Saturday County Cup.

RESPECT BY JAMIE CLARKE

The County Welfare Officer, Jamie Clarke, has led the Respect programme in the North Riding and has every single league committed to becoming Respect leagues. Here he writes about his season so far.

We've come a long way in a short space of time with the programme. Initially, we had 18 leagues signed up and committed to the programme. We now have all of our senior and junior leagues committed to becoming **Respect** leagues over the next few seasons.

We have two of our leagues operational with the **Respect** programme. The York Leeper Hare League and the North Riding Women's League have been implementing the codes of conduct for players, club

officials, spectators and also referees. The **Respect** barriers for spectators are in use, and the whole programme is looking good in the North Riding.

We will be working throughout the summer with leagues to implement the necessary steps, so that those who are in a position to move forward with the programme can do so in time for the 2009-10 season.

Overall, the programme has been very well received by all members of the North Riding County Football Association. The positivity generated by leagues and clubs has been refreshing, and bodes well for the future of the game at grassroots level.





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NORTH YORKSHIRE GIRLS' CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

North Yorkshire Girls' Centre of Excellence staged its very own mini awards ceremony recently in recognition of the young female players within the Excellence Programme.

Eight of the girls, selected for their exemplary attendance records, were presented with Calendars of their National Female Role Models (England Women's Football Team).

The Calendars, supplied to the Centre by The FA, gave an ideal opportunity to thank both players and parents for their continued commitment and dedication to the Centre of Excellence.

North Yorkshire Girls' Centre would like to thank The FA and the North Riding County Football Association for all their continual support of the Centre, taking the Women's and Girls' game onwards and upwards.

The young players receiving their National England Calendars are:

- Fay Woollard and Amy Smith (Under-10)
- Kirstie Hunt and Georgia Marsden (Under-12)
- Lauryn Browne and Emma Robertshaw (Under-14)
- Megan Branham and Emily Garland (Under-16).

And here are some comments from the players about the COE:

Amy Smith (Under-10): "I like playing with all my team-mates, especially travelling to



away games, because we all travel together on the big bus and it's great fun. That's why I always want to be there."

Kirstie Hunt (Under-12): "One of my favourite England players is Sue Smith and now I can see Sue with all the other England players on my very own Calendar. I hope one day I will be able to play for England too."

Lauryn Browne (Under-14): "I never want to miss out, because I love football and the training is great. The players make me welcome and comfortable. One day I would love to make a living out of football."

Megan Branham (Under-16): "I love the level of football that is played at the COE because it's challenging. I really enjoy



playing against high-quality players and teams as this gives me the opportunity to improve my game. The training at the Centre is always good and I hate to miss the sessions. The Calendars highlight all my favourite England players, so it was great to be awarded with one."

The North Yorkshire Centre is also supported by 'Futures Through Football', who this season have supplied all playing kits for the girls. Our grateful thanks go to 'Futures Through Football' for all their assistance.

Additionally, we would also like to thank David Winterburn and the City of York Girls' League, Roberts Training, Wicked Stitches, Tesco Stores and M & S for their help and encouragement for the Centre of Excellence.



WELFARE OFFICER WORKSHOPS

DATE	VENUE
Thursday, 7 May	York
Thursday, 28 May	Dales
Thursday, 4 June	Stokesley
Thursday, 18 June	Scarborough

(Venues to be confirmed)

All above workshops will commence at 6.30pm and finish at approximately 9.30pm.

Workshops cost £20 per candidate.
For more information and to book go to www.NorthRidingFA.com.

DEAR DAVE



David Morris, one of the North Riding FA Skills Coaches, is giving you the opportunity to ask anything related to coaching 5-11 year olds. Ask him anything from warm-ups, to match preparation and child development. All your questions will be answered and displayed on NorthRidingFA.com. The best ones will feature in the next edition of Kickin' It! So start thinking now and email Dave Morris at: kickinit@northridingfa.com.

NORTH RIDING TEAM NEWS

Under-18

The North Riding Under-18s finished fourth in the Association of Northern Counties Youth Competition Division One, and will head back down to Division Two after one season. North Riding finished fifth on five points, below West Riding (6pts) and Durham (8pts). The final game of the season saw North Riding hold Durham, FA County Youth Cup Semi-Finalists, to a 1-1 draw, an impressive result given the poor form leading up to the match.

North Riding will once again be looking to recruit players for 2009-10 in order to drive the team back up into the top division and compete in The FA County Youth Cup.

Please see the nomination form below to apply for a trial in pre-season, for yourself or for one of your players.

Under-16

The North Riding Under-16s played Liverpool on 4 October (lost 3-2) at the same time as the Under-18s, Durham on 11 March (lost 4-3) and Cumberland on 4 April (won 1-0). The side is aimed at bringing in players early to identify talent for the Under-18s side in the future. To nominate yourself, or one of your players, for the Under-16s County team please fill in the form below.

County Cups

For more information about the County Cups and winners, past and present visit www.NorthRidingFA.com.

Senior Cup

We're at the semi-final stage and Middlesbrough, Stokesley SC, Teesside Athletic and Marske United make up the four.

Everyone tipped a repeat of the Boro versus York final again this year, but Stokesley cruised through to the semi-final, knocking out last year's runners-up York City. Middlesbrough brushed off Whitby Town to keep their hopes of retaining the trophy for a second successive time alive.

Saturday County Cup

Grangetown Boys won the Saturday County Cup with a 4-0 win over Fishburn Park – see the **Respect** pages for a full report and photos.

Ladies' County Cup

Middlesbrough Ladies retained the North Riding Ladies County Cup with a 3-0 win over York City Ladies on 22 March. Visit www.NorthRidingFA.com.



NOMINATION FORM - Trials For North Riding Teams

Player name:

Date of Birth:

Club:

Contact number:

Name of Nominator:

Nominator Contact number:

Relationship to player:



FA NEWS

Finding funding

It's now a year since The FA's National Game Strategy 2008-12 was published, with every county producing its own plan to underpin the activity and targets the overall strategy contains.



Accessing funding for football projects is increasingly challenging. However, there are some proven sources, other than the Football Foundation. Some are listed below with links to further information:

- **Sportsmatch** - matches contributions made from commercial/private sector to a maximum of £50,000 per project.
www.sportsmatch.co.uk

- **Local Authority small grants schemes** - many local authorities offer small grant schemes for community projects - visit your relevant local authority's website.
- **Trusts and Foundations** - there are over 80 charitable trusts and foundations offering assistance for local community projects, including those which support sport. Further advice is available from your County FA.
- **Awards for All** - a scheme run by The Arts Council, The Big Lottery Fund, and Sport England offering grants of between £300 and £10,000 for community based art, sport and heritage activities.
www.awardsforall.org.uk

Further help is available from County FAs, most of whom have access to grant databases which may identify local, relevant funding sources.

Grassroots show returns



Grass Roots Football LIVE returns to the NEC over the weekend of 12 - 14 June.

More than 14,000 volunteers and players from thousands of clubs throughout the country attended the 2008 show and the organisers have promised an even bigger and better show this time around. The FA will have a significant presence at the event with our own dedicated theatre and exhibition stand.

Visitors can enjoy coaching clinics, interactive skills areas, celebrity masters matches, live entertainment, topical debates and the UK's largest football exhibition.

Further information can be found at www.grassrootsfootball.co.uk including details on ticket prices, the full event programme.



One year in – how is the National Game Strategy shaping up?

It's now a year since The FA's National Game Strategy 2008-12 was published, with every county producing its own plan to underpin the activity and targets the overall strategy contains.

So, how are we all doing?

"The good news is we're on track to deliver our 2012 national targets in all but two categories," notes Kelly Simmons, The FA's National Game Manager, who has overall responsibility for delivery of the Strategy. "Those two categories are the retention of teams within the 11-a-side adult men's game and the number of registered and active referees.

"We are ahead of our annual targets in Mini-Soccer, women's football and disability football. The real challenge within our growth targets is arresting the decline in adult male 11 v 11 football. This will require The FA, County FAs, leagues and clubs working really hard over the next four years to stem the drop-out between youth and adult football and provide a range of flexible competition opportunities.

"We always knew the retention of 11-a-side teams and referee recruitment would be two of the toughest challenges, and during 2009 we will be rolling-out further aspects of the Respect programme which are intended to help our recruitment and retention drive.

"Since the start of the current season, the Respect programme has been portrayed in the media as an issue within the professional game, but we have been consistent in our view that it is a 'whole game' issue.

"In grassroots football, we now have over 550 leagues signed up to deliver the Respect programme with and through their clubs, which is very encouraging, and reflects the original research which went into the National Game Strategy, which identified addressing poor behaviour as the number one priority at grassroots level."

However, the Respect programme is only one way to combat the fact that 7,000 referees leave the grassroots game every season, primarily because of the abuse they receive on the pitch and from sidelines.

The FA has also invested more than £4 million in Referee Development Officers in every County FA to support the recruitment and retention of referees- and just as importantly, support them through the various levels. To support these Officers,

a major 'Get into Refereeing' campaign has been unveiled this year to encourage and recruit new officials. Numbers completing the referee training course has doubled this season – a promising start.

"This 'pathway for talent' as it could be described, applies equally to players and coaches," says Kelly. "I see the development of these two areas as two more major challenges for the National Game. A discussion document on a new Coaching Strategy for the game in England was published late last year and contains a fresh approach – promoting age-appropriate coaching, focused on the younger age groups. County FAs have started rolling out these new courses for coaches working with young players.

"Through this work, and initiatives like The FA Tesco Skills Programme, we are all looking to breed a new generation of players – who will enjoy the game more because they are more skilled – and if they show undoubted talent, are guided through the pathway to reach their potential. To date number of young players have taken part in The FA Skills

“The first year has been busy to say the least, and the next three will be no different. However, we have a fantastic opportunity to make a genuine and positive difference to the game we all love.”



Programme and the feedback from players, parents and coaches has been fantastic.”

Finally The FA is looking to provide better support services to its clubs and leagues. “You then have to set all the above against the infrastructure of the game,” says Kelly. “Do we at The FA provide enough support to many of the readers of this

magazine – our league and club officials? I believe we need to provide a better range of business services to leagues and their member clubs to keep their heads above water – and to develop.”

All these challenges fall within the four goals the National Game Strategy has set, from which we cannot deviate if the Strategy is to be a success.

1. To grow and retain participation.
2. To raise standards and address abusive behaviour.
3. To develop better players.
4. To run the game effectively.

FA National Game Strategy half-season figures				
Goal	Target area	Baseline	Target	December
Growth and Retention	Mini-Soccer Teams	23946	23961	24604
	Youth Male 11-a-side teams (inc 9 v 9)	37406	37571	37147
	Youth Female 11-a-side teams (inc 9 v 9)	5601	5790	5678*
	Adult Male 11-a-side teams	31315	31556	30689
	Female 11-a-side teams	1179	1244	1253
	Male Disability teams	88	200	362
	Female Disability teams	2	18	22
Raising Standards	% of mini soccer and youth teams in FA CS Clubs	54%	61%	56.5%*
	FA Charter Standard Community Clubs	341	378	363*
	Leagues delivering Respect	0	540	557
	FA CS Leagues	0	50	2*
Better Players	Players aged 5-11 in the Skills Programme	420,000	800,000	720,056*
Running the Game	% Success developing grassroots football (FA)	37%	45%	52%
	% Success developing grassroots football (CFA)	57%	62%	n/a**
Workforce	Registered and active male referees	21,876	23,767	22,145
	Registered and active female referees	649	749	618
Facilities	Total project costs approved by the FF	0	75,000,000	46,000,000*

*Half-season figures, on target to be achieved by the end of 2008-09

**Figures will be available from March 2009

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Michael Owen wears the UMBRO Nazionale kit



FA Charter Standard programme takes another forward leap

Since The FA's 'Charter Standard' quality assurance programme was launched in 2001, it has had an undeniably positive effect on the provision of grassroots football, particularly in younger age groups.

Indeed, the magazine you're now reading will no doubt cover news of which clubs have recently achieved Charter Standard status in your county.

Now, The FA National Game Strategy is taken the concept a further step forward, but introducing FA Charter Standard leagues - and a national pilot study is currently taking place with 50 leagues before the nationwide roll-out takes place from 2 April.

The idea of Charter Standard leagues underpins one of the four key goals of the National Game Strategy: to raise standards and improve behaviour. By 2012, the aim is that 30 per cent of all leagues will have achieved FA Charter Standard status (some 510 leagues), all adhering the core principle which underpins



the Charter Standard 'brand': "To offer everybody in grassroots football a high-quality, safe, enjoyable experience, that is nationally recognised."

The pilot and programme is being led by Jeff Davis, one of The FA's National Football Development Managers, who explains there's a longer-term vision: "Ultimately, we want to develop an entire network of efficient league structures that provide a positive environment from Mini-Soccer, youth football, adult and veterans' football for recreational football players.

"Of course, there are many leagues which do this already, but as with Charter Standard clubs, we want to create a national, uniform standard so that everyone involved - irrespective of their role - is assured that the league in which their involved is being run to the highest standards.

"Charter Standard leagues will also play a key role in delivering certain aspects of the ongoing Respect programme, encouraging improved behaviour and imposing sanctions should Codes of Conduct be broken.

"At present, we're using the pilot phase to test the relevance and achievability of the draft criteria we've drawn up, as well as the proposed application and accreditation processes. The pilot will also enable us to get feedback from the leagues involved and shape the support package we'll need to have in place."

Just like clubs, Charter Standard will become a 'badge of honour' for a league - and to choose just one example, will assure parents that their child is 'held' by a structure which is safe, has agreed behaviour

standards in place - and a development plan for itself and its clubs.

One of the draft criteria is that at least 60 per cent of clubs must already have Charter Standard status, with the others required to achieve this within two years of the league being awarded is Charter Standard mark. Then there will be an 'annual health check' for all Charter Standard leagues to ensure standards are being maintained and the development plan is on track.

"Once we have collated all the information from the pilot phase, all Counties will be fully briefed on the process for their member leagues to attain Charter Standard status. So if you are a league official reading this, you will soon be contacted by the relevant person at your County FA to attend a briefing session.

"We are also putting together a valuable package of benefits to those leagues that are successful, so there will be some very tangible benefits - and wide-ranging support - both from your County and The FA."

Meanwhile, The FA's Charter Standard Club programme goes from strength to strength - and there are now more than 3,500 clubs at all levels who have achieved this envied status - including 56 per cent of all youth clubs (under-16).

The club scheme is aimed at every club outside the Premier and Football Leagues, and if are thinking of applying, you need to have various items already in place, such as a written constitution, FA CRB-checked volunteers and all team managers should have a minimum of the FA

Level 1 Coaching badge. You should also have behaviour Codes of Conduct in place and a commitment to attend in-service training, provide Mini-Soccer opportunities for under-10s and promote schools liaison and equal opportunities for all.

"Applying is free, and even a club with one team can make an application," notes Les Howie, FA National Development Manager (Clubs and Coaches). "Rightly, it's not easy to attain, but by achieving a Charter Standard award, you are demonstrating to all members, parents and the public, that you are a well-organised and safe club. It's also an excellent way of promoting your club to potential members, parents, volunteers and sponsors.

"There's an extensive benefits package in place, so to get started, contact your County FA to guide you through the application process."





Beware the dangers of ‘overplay’

If you work with young players, it’s vital you’re aware of the dangers ‘overplay’ can cause, how to spot it and what to do about it.

You could be a coach, parent, teacher, league official – indeed anyone working on the development of young players. Whatever your role, it’s your responsibility to look after the medical interests of the players in your care.

“So we’re clear, ‘overplay’ describes the cause of injuries due to excessive overuse of specific parts of their body,” says Alan Hodson, The FA’s Head of Medical and Exercise Science.

“Young players are particularly vulnerable to ‘overuse’ injuries caused by overplay. Such injuries, which can involve certain bones or muscles/tendons, develop over time due to too much repetitive activity. They will continue unless correct medical advice and treatment is followed.”

Young players are particularly vulnerable to ‘overuse’ injuries as their muscles and bones grow at different rates – particularly when they experience ‘growth spurts’.

“Because football – in training and matches – involves strong, repetitive actions like running, jumping and landing, we need to be particularly vigilant,” Alan notes.

The four main areas where ‘overuse’ injuries occur are the back, knee, shin and ankle/heel. Persistent aching, discomfort, tenderness and/or pain that won’t go away without several hours/days rest is a warning sign – and remember, these aren’t injuries you can ‘run off’. They will get worse with continued activity. These injuries will not be a result of a ‘direct’ impact, like a tackle, or twisted ankle – they will have developed over time, and will take time to cure.

“If you suspect a player in your care is suffering from an ‘overuse’ injury, your first port of call should be his/her family doctor, but keeping your eyes and ears open is vital, as problems can be minimised by early recognition and prompt action,” Alan concludes.

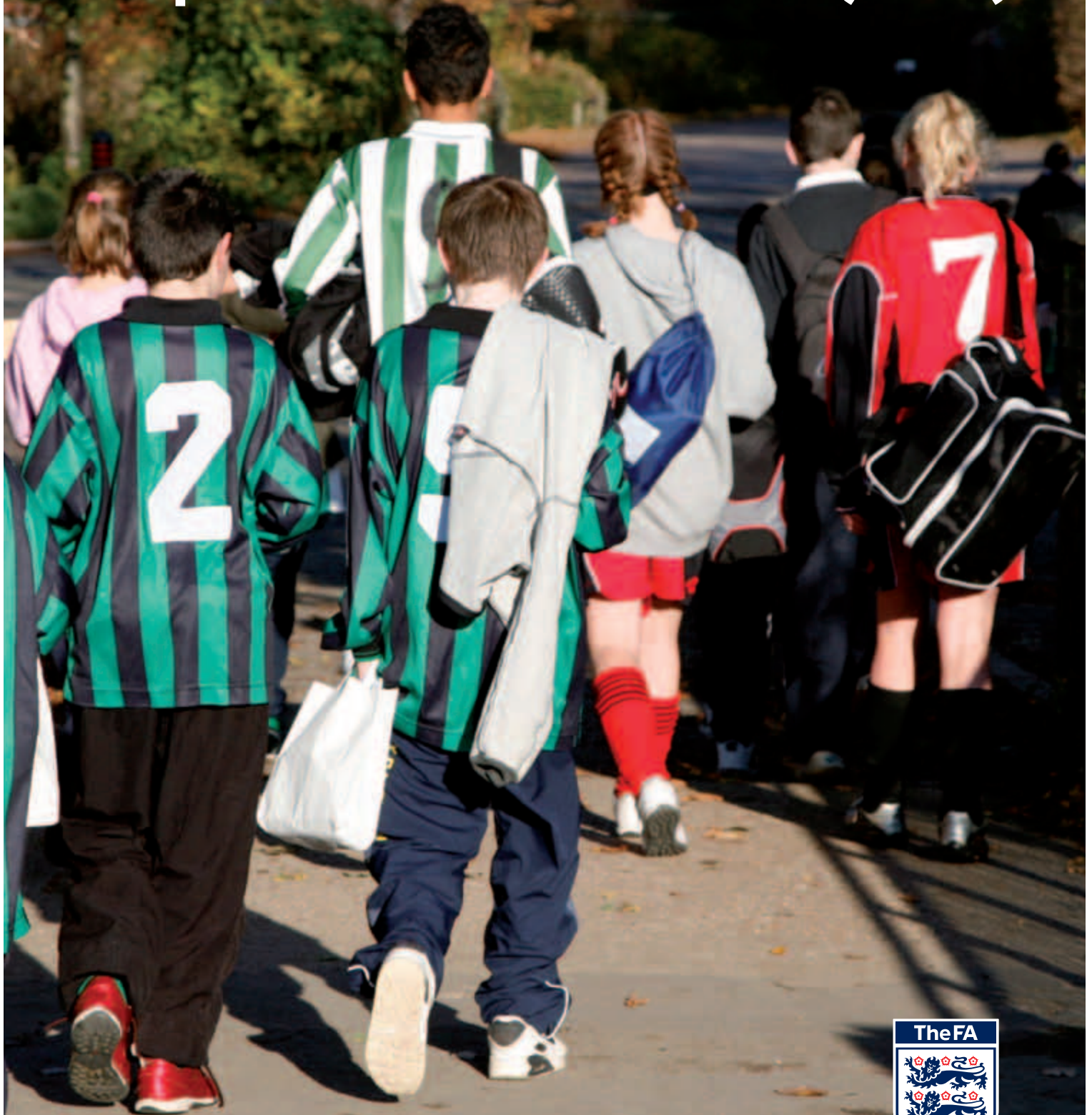
The FA’s Medical Working Group advises all those who work with young players to consider:

- The amount of training and matches a young player is asked to be involved in.
- Ensuring a player’s activities are partly aimed at success – and partly at sheer enjoyment.
- Never dismissing signs and symptoms of ‘overuse’ injuries.



A more detailed booklet on ‘overplay’ and ‘overuse’ injuries can be downloaded at: www.TheFA.com/overplay

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Respect

GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

St Mary's College Football Club is an Adult Saturday club based in Middlesbrough. The club plays its fixtures at the college and endeavours to recruit past and present students of the college.

Registered within the North Riding FA, the 2008-09 Season has seen the club join the Jack Hatfield Teesside League for the first time after competing for many seasons in the Hathaway & Stokesley District League. They join a further 13 teams in Division Two.

As well as participating in the league

cup competitions, the College also compete each season in the North Riding Saturday Challenge Cup. They have also been a sole representative for Teesside in the Yorkshire Old Boys College Shield for over 10 years.

Over the last two seasons the club has had a new management team and they now take the club into its most exciting challenge to date. The management team is the trio of Chris Strike, Craig Sillick and Tony Wilson. Between them the trio have been with the club for over ten years and are still influential players in the current squad.



St. Mary's College FC.

LA GALAXY ALLSTARS FC TEESBOROUGH SUNDAY LEAGUE

Linthorpe Athletic Galaxy Allstars are a relative newcomer to the Teesborough Sunday League scene. The team was formed in the summer of 2007, after mates Alex Fowler and Oliver Swain couldn't find teams bad enough to let them join! Well, actually, it was more a moment of inspiration and a feeling that we could have a good crack at putting together a competitive team which would provide a rollercoaster of emotions – and it hasn't disappointed!

Despite the name, they were unable to lure David Beckham to the club, but did attract a whole host of enthusiastic young

players with huge potential, but little experience of competitive action. In the early months it showed! The first half of their inaugural season included a 17-1 and an 18-2 spanking at the hands of streetwise opposition. However, there were some great moments including their first-ever win, a six-goal thriller, and an epic penalty shootout victory to take them into the next stage of the cup. And there was an unforgettable game avoiding sheep muck on a farmers field when we played a rural village side!

As the team improved, they also brought in 'Big Al' Stelmach to coach the side and ensure we all stayed off the booze on Saturday nights and remained fit and well

drilled. Although 'Big Al' has now joined the ranks of club supporters alongside many legendary figures, his legacy is a team playing attractive football. This season they have added a few new recruits, but essentially the squad is very similar to those involved in the early hammerings. They have improved as a team, play with a smile on their faces and have some ace team nights out (never on a Saturday though). They are sitting third in the league and are unbeaten since the first game of the season. The ambition is to be promoted and, who knows, one day Linthorpe Athletic Galaxy may even play their American namesakes in a Transatlantic Challenge match!

CAYTON CORINTHIANS JUNIOR FC

Two years ago, in conjunction with North Riding FA, Charter Standard Development Club, Cayton Corinthians Junior FC, started laying the foundations for starting a soccability team. The Scarborough Community coach for girls and disability did some coaching sessions at Woodlands Special School which then led to Cayton becoming involved through a club/school link.

The Cayton coaches then went into Welburn Hall Special School at Kirkbymoorside and a couple of the pupils began attending the coaching sessions.

Sue Flinton, a Level 2 and CDF coach,

began taking the team along with assistance from Claire Stockhill and Kev Smith (both Level 1). A Football Foundation grant was applied for and successfully gained. A kit sponsorship was given by Carewatch UK and the team was up and running.

Ten boys aged from 12 to 16 began to regularly attend the fortnightly training sessions. The team has competed in matches against other soccability teams from the North Riding, travelling to Stokesley, York and Easingwold.

The club then went into mainstream schools and further players joined the squad. Twelve boys are now thoroughly enjoying their football and being part of a club. Some

of the team travel 20 miles to attend training. One of the squad, Joe Sunter, has recently been attending and playing for the newly formed North Yorkshire Soccability COE, an achievement we are very proud of.



Cayton Corinthians Juniors.

STAR INTERVIEW

RICHARD BRODIE

York City have made it into the FA Carlsberg Trophy Final and Richard Brodie has been paramount to their charge. His form has been so impressive that he has earned a place in the England C squad – the England team selected from the National Game (non-League).

It's been a stellar rise for a player who was playing in the Northern League Division Two just two years ago. 'Kickin' It' speaks exclusively to York City's leading goalscorer.



Richard Brodie.
Image courtesy of Lewis Outing.

Kickin' It: After just one season in the Conference you earned yourself a call-up to the England C side. How did you feel when you received the phone call?

Richard Brodie: This season has been full of ups and downs to say the least, but to get an England call-up was fantastic. I was quite surprised because it was the first month of the season and even though I had scored three goals, I had spent a lot of the time playing wide left rather than down the middle. The 'phone rang the day after we played Barrow on August bank holiday from the previous manager Colin Walker. I actually asked him if he was winding me up!

KI: What was the experience like representing the Three Lions?

RB: We played a friendly in Bosnia, it was a real eye opener. I was treated like royalty, picked up and dropped off by my own driver, put in a top-class hotel and fully kitted out in England training kit and tracksuit. I didn't have to do anything apart from remember my passport; everything else was taken care of. We had a few problems with flights due to bad weather but that couldn't be helped. Driving through a country like Bosnia makes you realise how lucky we really are.

KI: Two years ago you were playing in the Second Division of the Northern League. Did you ever think you would play for England?

RB: If I'm honest I was all set up playing Northern League football and working full time as a joiner, with a small hope that I could make the grade still at 19. Then to get the chance at a full-time contract at York City under Billy McEwan was a dream come true. It was an opportunity I couldn't let go and even though the adjustment to full-time football took a while, I've got my head down, worked hard and it's helped me get noticed.

KI: What are your ambitions now that you have tested international football?

RB: I'm not really one for setting ambitions, so really I just want to keep working hard and doing what I'm doing and play at the highest level possible, obviously the higher the better. When I was out the side at York, I didn't get in the next England squad so to get back in is my next target. However, if I don't manage to do so, it won't be the end of the world as I will keep working hard.

KI: You've helped York City reach Wembley. Playing for England and a Wembley Cup Final in one season – what more could you ask for?

RB: As I said earlier, this season has had many ups and downs. After going away to Bosnia, I found myself out of the side at York, even though I was top scorer. I went out to Barrow on loan for a month and got my career back on track before I became a forgotten man. I would like to thank Barrow for giving me that opportunity, as it has stood me in a good stead to come back to York for a fresh start under a new manager (Martin Foyle). I really haven't looked back since, scoring goals and reaching The FA Trophy Final at Wembley. Hopefully, I can get a few more and help the team reach the safety zone in the Blue Square Premier, which is my ultimate goal at present.

KI: Who has been the most influential person on your career?

RB: There have been a few I must say, as I have a very close-knit family including my mam and girlfriend who listen to the highs and lows night after night, especially after a game. However, after losing my dad at the age of seven my grandad (who was a pro at Middlesbrough in the '50s) took me all over the place home and away up until signing

pro' when you travel with players. He helps me with everything and he is a very wise man, always giving me good advice after being in my shoes and constantly reminds me what I need to succeed on and off the pitch.

KI: For our junior readers, how did your career start and what advice would you give to budding footballers staring out at junior level?

RB: I've always had a ball at my feet from an early age, being brought up in a football-orientated family and training at local soccer camps. It was Whickham Fellside Juniors where I first started playing competitively, scoring goals at the age of ten. I stayed there until I was 16, moving onto Redeugh BC where I was also playing County football for Durham and making substitute appearances for Whickham in the Northern League. I then began to play permanently for them at the age of 17. After one season there I moved on to Newcastle Benfield for six months before signing pro' for York City. One little bit of advice would be to enjoy your football, otherwise there's no point in playing, and never ever give up. Somebody's always watching.

Quickfire Round

1. What is your most memorable goal?
Lewes at home, 30-yard volley on my weaker right foot.
2. Who is the best player you have played with? David McGurk at York, centre-back.
3. And against? Robert Huth and Emmanuel Pogatzetz at Middlesbrough – two big strong centre-halves.
4. Who would be your dream strike partner? Alan Shearer – to hold the ball up and be target man.
5. What music is on your MP3 player at the moment? A variety – dance, R&B and oldies.
6. Who is the best dressed at York City?
Mark Greaves – does okay for 34!
7. Who is the worst? Onome Sodje.
8. What's your favourite film?
American Pie (not really a film guy).
9. If you could play in any league in the world, which would it be?
English Premier League.
10. Worst moment in football?
Being sent off as a sub at Wrexham, lasting just seven minutes!

NORTH RIDING FA COURSES

LEVEL 1 COACHING CERTIFICATE

£125 (Charter Standard Clubs - £90)

Ref.	Venue	Date	Time	Module
L1/609	Scarborough	Monday, 27 April Thursday, 30 April Thursday, 7 May Saturday, 9 May Sunday, 10 May Saturday, 16 May	6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm	Induction Safeguarding Children Emergency Aid Practical Practical Assessment
L1/709	Stokesley	Monday, 27 April Thursday, 30 April Wednesday, 6 May Saturday, 9 May Sunday, 10 May Sunday, 17 May	6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm	Induction Safeguarding Children Emergency Aid Practical Practical Assessment
L1/809	Scarborough FREE- McDONALDS CHARTER STANDARD CLUBS ONLY	Monday, 11 May Wednesday, 13 May Thursday, 14 May Saturday, 16 May Sunday, 17 May Sunday, 31 May	6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm	Induction Safeguarding Children Emergency Aid Practical Practical Assessment
L1/909	York	Monday, 18 May Thursday, 21 May Tuesday, 26 May Saturday, 30 May Sunday, 31 May Saturday, 6 June	6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 9am-5pm 10am-5pm 9am-5pm	Induction Safeguarding Children Emergency Aid Practical Practical Assessment
L1/1009	Northallerton	Monday, 1 June Thursday, 4 June Monday, 8 June Saturday, 13 June Sunday, 14 June Saturday, 20 June	6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm	Induction Safeguarding Children Emergency Aid Practical Practical Assessment
L1/1209	Middlesborough	Monday, 29 June Thursday, 2 July Monday, 6 July Saturday, 11 July Sunday, 12 July Saturday, 18 July	6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm	Induction Safeguarding Children Emergency Aid Practical Practical Assessment
L1/1309	Stokesley FEMALE ONLY	Monday, 13 July Thursday, 16 July Monday, 20 July Saturday, 25 July Sunday, 26 July Saturday, 1 August	6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm	Induction Safeguarding Children Emergency Aid Practical Practical Assessment
L1/1509	York	Monday, 20 July Thursday, 23 July Monday, 27 July Saturday, 1 August Sunday, 2 August Saturday, 8 August	6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 9am-5pm 10am-5pm 9am-5pm	Induction Safeguarding Children Emergency Aid Practical Practical Assessment

LEVEL 2 COACHING CERTIFICATE

£250 (Charter Standard Clubs - £150)

Ref.	Venue	Date	Time	Module
L2/109	NRCFA Stokesley	18-23 April	9am-5pm	Practical
COURSE REVIEW DAY		Saturday, 23 May (9am-5pm)		
ASSESSMENT		Saturday, 4 July (9am-5pm)		
		Saturday, 8 August (9am-5pm)		
		Sunday, 9 August (9am-5pm)		

Ref. Venue Date Time Module

L2/209	York	4-9 July	9am-5pm	Practical
COURSE REVIEW DAY		Saturday, 6 Sept. (9am-5pm)		
ASSESSMENT		Saturday, 10 Oct. (9am-5pm)		
		Saturday, 7 Nov. (9am-5pm)		
		Sunday, 8 Nov. (9am-5pm)		

FA GOALKEEPING COACHING AWARD-LEVEL 1

£100 (Charter Standard Clubs - £65)

Ref.	Venue	Date	Time
GK/109	York	Saturday, 20 June Sunday, 21 June Saturday, 27 June	9am-5pm 9.30am-5pm 9.30am-5pm
GK/209	Stokesley	Saturday, 15 August Sunday, 16 August Saturday, 22 August	9.30am-5pm 9.30am-5pm 9.30am-5pm

FA YOUTH LEVEL 3 MODULE 1

FREE (Charter Standard Clubs Only)

Ref.	Venue	Date	Time	Topic
YA/109	York	13-16 August	9am-5pm	Practical

FA EMERGENCY AID WORKSHOP

£15

Ref.	Venue	Date	Time
EA/109	Middlesbrough	Monday, 18 May	6pm-9pm
EA/209	York	Monday, 24 August	6pm-9pm
EA/309	Stokesley	Monday, 7 December	6pm-9pm

AGE-APPROPRIATE COURSE

£50 (Charter Standard Clubs - £20)

Ref.	Venue	Date	Time
SK/209	York	Monday, 8 June Monday, 15 June	6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm
SK/309	Scarborough	Saturday, 26 September	10am-4pm

FIRST AID FOR SPORT

£100 (Charter Standard Clubs - £10)

Ref.	Venue	Date	Time
FAFS/1	Stokesley	Tuesday, 9 June Thursday, 11 June Saturday, 13 June Wednesday, 17 June	6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 9am-3pm 6pm-9pm
FAFS/2	York	Tuesday, 17 November Thursday, 19 November Saturday, 21 November Tuesday, 24 November	6pm-9pm 6pm-9pm 9am-3pm 6pm-9pm

ALL CANDIDATES APPLYING FOR THIS COURSE MUST ALREADY HOLD A BASIC EMERGENCY OR FIRST AID QUALIFICATION OR EQUIVALENT AS WELL AS THE FA SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN QUALIFICATION.

REFEREE COURSES**MATCH DAY SKILLS WORKSHOP**

Ref.	Venue	Date	Time
CO7-09	North Riding FA, Stokesley	Wednesday, 13 May	6.30pm-9.30pm

BASIC REFEREE TRAINING COURSE

Ref.	Venue	Date	Time	Module
CO8-09	York College, York	Wednesday, 5 August Saturday, 22 August Sunday, 23 August Wednesday, 26 August	7pm-9pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm 6.30pm-9.30pm	Module 1 Introduction Day 1 Day 2 Safeguarding Workshop
CO9-09	Teesside Athletic FC, Redcar	Wednesday, 12 August Saturday, 29 August Sunday, 30 August Wednesday, 2 September	7pm-9pm 9am-5pm 9am-5pm 6.30pm-9.30pm	Module 1 Introduction Day 1 Day 2 Safeguarding Workshop

HALF-TERM EVENTS

Thanks to The FA and Tesco, over February half-term there were 6,000 free coaching places available for players aged 5-11 years old across the whole country. The North Riding FA Tesco Skills team ran two events at Catterick Garrison JFC and Wigginton Grasshoppers FC. The events ran across two days from 10am-12noon and 1pm-3pm on 17 and 18 February.

These courses are designed to give more children opportunities to play and enjoy football with quality coaching across the country "We've got to give every 5-11 year old in the country the opportunity to play and enjoy the game, and if they want to get better we need to show them how." Sir Trevor Brooking FA Director of Football.

In the North Riding, over the two courses over 200 children received free football coaching. These events were fully enjoyed by players, parents and local grassroots coaches who brought some of their kids along also. A parent of two children said: "This has been a well organised event that all children have enjoyed and learnt valuable football skills. It was great to have an activity for free that the children could attend over half-term. The coaches were inspiring, passing on their knowledge, experience and skills to young children."

For more details of what's happening in the North Riding with the Skills team visit www.northridingfa.com/Development/FASkillsProgramme



Free coaching enjoyed by all.



FA Tesco Skills Centre a success.



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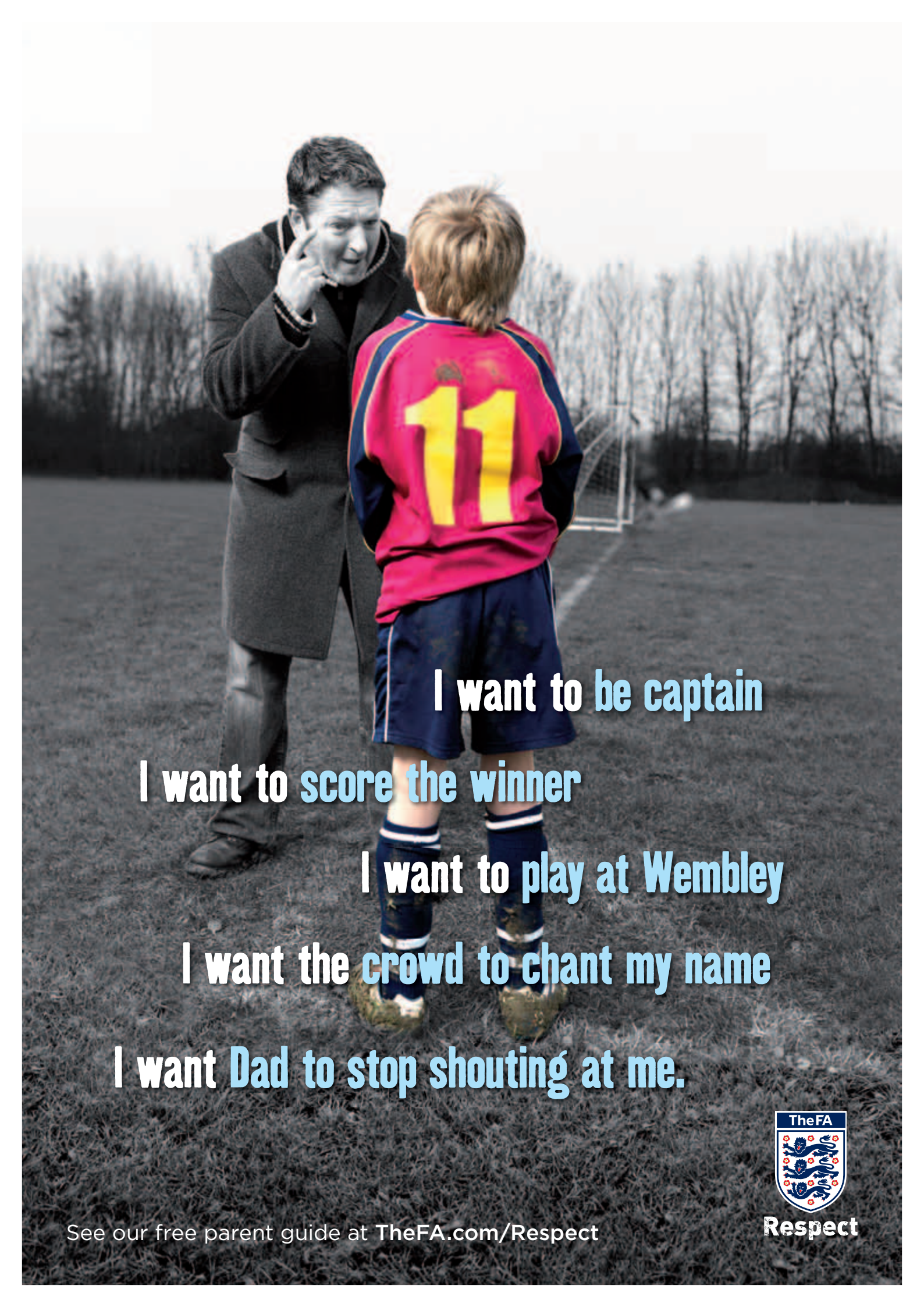
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