

CREATING CHANCES WEEK OF ACTION KICKS OFF.....EARLY!

The Premier League's flagship community initiative kicked off this week with a host of Premier League players and managers supporting a range of charities and good causes as part of the Creating Chances 'Places for players' programme.

'Places for players' is a core element of the wider Creating Chances initiative which showcases the huge amount of positive work that top-flight football does within the community.

* George Boateng, Middlesbrough Captain spent the afternoon playing the role of Alan Sugar for The Enterprise Academy, a programme which aims to develop the business skills of young people in Teesside. George was joined by TV presenter and Creating Chances ambassador Kirsten O'Brien and Middlesbrough legend Garry Gill who helped the children complete their task to design and market a football boot. George then had to make the hard decision of who to fire and who to hire!

· Jonathan Woodgate from Middlesbrough spent the day at Teesside Hospice, where his Grandfather passed away. In celebration of their 25th anniversary, Woodgate took part in 25 different activities ranging from washing the hair of one volunteer to making tea and chatting to the residents.

· Owen Hargreaves, England and Manchester United midfielder joined the staff at Christies Hospice, Manchester welcoming patients, serving tea and working in the library to launch the hospice's partnership with the Manchester United Foundation.

· Kasper Schmeichel, Manchester City goalkeeper, had his finger nail painted pink for breast cancer charity The Genesis Appeal's 'Paint it Pink' initiative. 'Paint it Pink' calls on women and men across the North West to demonstrate their support by sporting one pink fingernail to highlight that one in ten women in the UK will develop breast cancer.

· Danny Gabbidon and Carlton Cole from West Ham United visited the Riverdale Shopping Centre in Lewisham to raise awareness of 'Measure Up Week' with Diabetes UK. The players who were joined by a nurse with a giant syringe, spent the afternoon measuring passer-bys' waists and promoting a healthy lifestyle. This activity was tackling the wider issue of the prevalence of diabetes in the Black Asian minority ethnic community.

· Nedum Onouha, Manchester City and England U21 defender, spent the afternoon at the Derby Street Recording Studio with young people from the 'Kickz goals thru football' initiative producing tracks. The Kickz weekly music workshop gives young people the chance to write and perform their own lyrics and provide them with a platform to showcase their talents. Nedum, who is a budding music artist, specialises in 'Grime' and was able to offer advice on producing a CD which will go on sale locally.

· Anton Ferdinand and Mark Noble from West Ham United spent the afternoon with children from the Richard House Children's Hospice in London baking cakes, taking part in a music workshop and engaging with the children. The holistic services offered at the hospice help children with conditions such as cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy.

- * Momo Sissoko Liverpool midfielder and Bill Bygroves the Liverpool Club Chaplain were busy delivering school assemblies using words, music and club images to get across messages on key social issues. Sissoko and Bill tackled issues such as bullying, racism, drugs, alcohol and guns with children at a local school in Anfield.
- * Luke Young and Andrew Taylor from Middlesbrough FC spent the day with young people from Middlesbrough FC's employment programme, Football First. As game show captains they took part in versions of the popular TV shows The Price is Right and Ready Steady Cook. They were also challenged to guide one another blindfolded through an obstacle course in the ultimate test of teamwork.
- * Lee Cattermole and David Wheeler from Middlesbrough spent the afternoon at Butterwick Hospice, helping terminally ill children make cakes and a kite featuring the hospice's butterfly motif. The hospice helps provides respite, bereavement and end of life care to children from birth to nineteen years and their families locally. It was the first North East Children's Hospice to open nine years ago and currently cares for over 70 children and their families covering an area of approximately 2,000 square miles.
- * Richard Dunne, Manchester City defender made a young girl's day when he took her for a tour of the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. The young girl suffers with an extremely rare condition called Costello Syndrome which is caused by a mutated cancer gene and causes numerous health problems including premature ageing, heart problems, scoliosis and cancer.
- * Teemu Tainio, the Tottenham and Finland midfielder took part in a girls' football coaching session run by the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation. He also took part in a Q&A session centered around the growth of the women's game, to coincide with the Women's World Cup currently taking place in China.
- * Sven Goran-Eriksson, the Manchester City manager was a big hit with the over-50s at their bi-monthly meeting. He took part in a range of different activities including a tea dance, indoor bowling and indoor curling.
- * Harry Redknapp, manager at Portsmouth was making dreams come true at the launch of their fund – 'We Can Make Dreams Come True'. The fund is being launched in memory of life long Pompey fan Jamie, who recently passed away but managed to spend the day with Harry and the first team before that time. The fund will allow more opportunities like this to be possible.
- * Lucas Neill, West Ham captain swapped shouting for singing when he took part in Decoda's Music Gym. Decoda uses music and sound technology to reach out to a broad spectrum of people with severe learning/physical disabilities, autism, or challenging behaviour.