



with Sue Law, FA Head of Equality and Child Protection

What is The FA's philosophy when it comes to equality?

The philosophy is simple - it is about Football For All. It is about creating opportunities for more people from different communities to get involved in football, regardless of the level to which they aspire. We want to encourage people to improve, by gaining football qualifications in coaching and refereeing. And we also want to ensure that people know, and have access to information on, how they can be considered to represent clubs and leagues on committees and councils.

been through FA Child Protection training programmes, which help people to reflect on their own behaviour and guide them as to what to do if they have a concern about a child's welfare.

How vital is it for The FA to lead on this issue?

It is absolutely crucial that the national governing body takes its moral and legal responsibility and demonstrates firm leadership in this sensitive area - there can be no doubt that The FA is serious about child protection and equality.

What is child protection and equality about?

For us, it is about ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment. We want everyone to have a positive experience in football, no matter what their age or ability. We work with key partners to drive football's policies and strategies to address child protection and the wide range of equality issues in relation to race, gender, disability, homophobia and social inclusion.

How important is child protection?

Children and young people are the future of the game and our approach is twofold - to prevent poor practice and abuse, and to deal with those concerns that are brought to our attention. To date over 150,000 people have



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

DATE	VENUE	EVENT
September 18-24	Staverton	FA International Course for Referee Instructors
October	Trinidad	FA-CONCACAF Physical Fitness Workshop
October 7	Manchester	Euro 2008 Qualifier: England v Macedonia
October 23-27	Botswana	Women's Football Development Workshop & JFO Training
November 7-13	Bolivia	Coaching For Hope - FA Youth Coaching Course
November 13-17	Peru	Marketing & Administration Workshop
November 15	Bora Bora	Oceania Football Confederation Congress
November 20-24	Malawi	Administration & IT Workshop

Supporting Namibia



The British High Commission in Namibia is presented with a plaque in recognition of its support of the Namibia Youth Football Development Programme

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COMMUNIQUÉ



COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUE SIXTEEN

United against HIV/AIDS

England legend Paul Gascoigne leads a goodwill trip to Botswana to heighten HIV/AIDS awareness as the country battles the disease.

- Developing women's and girls' football in Lesotho
- Improving coaching standards in Meridian partner countries
- Training coaches in Trinidad & Tobago
- Instructing referees in Qatar
- Working with Iraq's young coaches
- Q&A with Sue Law, FA Head of Equality and Child Protection



CAF

FA goodwill mission helps Botswana fight HIV



Former England internationals Paul Gascoigne and Ray Clemence visited Botswana in August as part of an FA goodwill mission, hosted by the Botswana High Commission.

The primary purpose of the visit was to promote The FA's international outreach programme and to demonstrate the power of football in raising awareness of HIV and AIDS. Botswana is one of England's three partners through the UEFA-CAF Meridian Project and amongst the countries hardest hit by AIDS. In 2005 there were an estimated 270,000 people living with HIV - around a quarter of the population.

The programme began with an emotional visit to the Tlokweng SOS Children's Village near the capital city Gaborone. SOS Children's Villages is The FA's international charity partner and Tlokweng provides homes for around 200 abandoned or orphaned children of all ages.



Botswana's national team coach, Colwyn Rowe, joins in a kickabout with Gazza at the SOS Children's Village

Two promising young Botswana footballers take a break with Gazza



Ray Clemence, now goalkeeping coach for England's national team, said: "I met a local man who has HIV and has been campaigning for many years to raise awareness and fight against the stigma attached to AIDS. It was a humbling experience to meet him and to talk to the medical staff and patients, especially the little ones."

The visit concluded with a training session for Botswana's most promising young footballers at the National Stadium, integrating a variety of football games designed to raise awareness of the issues surrounding HIV and AIDS.



"It was heart-warming more than it was heart-breaking," said Paul Gascoigne.

"They played instruments for us, they danced for us and they really looked after us, showing us their houses and the projects. The stories we heard about the children being abandoned or orphaned were very sad but the work of The FA and with the likes of Ray and myself being here, it really seemed to help."

Day two began with a visit to the Princess Marina Hospital in Gaborone where doctors explained the extensive work that is being done to combat the AIDS pandemic which has stricken the country. Life expectancy is less than 40 years and an estimated 120,000 children have lost at least one parent to the epidemic. Botswana was the first African country to aim to provide antiretroviral therapy to all its citizens.



Ray Clemence meets David Enge, who is HIV positive himself and has established a network of support for people living with HIV

"Football is the world's most popular sport," explained FA Head of International Relations, Jane Bateman. "As such, I believe it has an immensely positive role to play in leaving a real social legacy in the countries in which we work."

"In Botswana, the very future of young people is threatened by HIV; football has the opportunity to engage their interest and to convey messages which improve their knowledge and help to deal with the problem."



England goalkeeping coach and former international Ray Clemence imparts his wisdom to the young players



CAF

Women's game in Lesotho heading in right direction



Three young attendees enjoy the proceedings at the girls' football development workshop in Maseru

The development of the women's game in Lesotho received a timely boost when The FA returned to Maseru in May to stage a second girls' football development workshop.

More than 30 delegates, who took part in the first seminar in October 2005, returned for the second phase of coaching which was led by FA coaches John Ackerley and Lucy Wellings over two days.



The participants learned how to become football tutors themselves and how to organise mini-football festivals. The workshop culminated in each of the coaches displaying their newly-acquired skills at a local SOS Children's Village, where over 40 girls took part in a number of football drills.

"There have been some exciting improvements since October, including the development of new teams, a volunteers workshop and increased media coverage," said FA Regional Development Manager Lucy Wellings.

"The opportunity to improve standards of coaching was welcomed and all of the participants showed a real desire to transfer their knowledge gained in the classroom to the training ground. The FA hopes that LEFA will now match our own commitment to developing women's football and reap the rewards of introducing girls to the game."

Wilberforce go Wandering in Malawi

Wilberforce Wanderers AFC headed off to Malawi in June to take part in a three-match tour of the country and distribute a consignment of FA-donated footballs and shirts.



Their whistle-stop trip culminated in a game against the Malawi Premier League Division side Admarc Tigers in the national stadium in Blantyre where the Wanderers were soundly beaten 5-0.

CONCACAF



CONCACAF scores top marks

FA monitors coaching standards in UEFA-CAF partner countries



The FA monitored the improvement in senior football coaching in all three of its UEFA-CAF Meridian Project partners between May and August, with Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi receiving in-service training workshops.

In a busy period for the International Relations team, the vastly-experienced FA coach, Colin Morris, travelled to Botswana and Malawi in May, while The FA's Andy Poole visited Lesotho in August.



The attendees share coaching techniques in a tactical discussion during a break from the fitness sessions on the pitch

The pair delivered two three-day assessment workshops in which football coaches from the national associations and top-flight clubs were put through their paces in a rigorous fitness examination. They were also expected to demonstrate their coaching techniques.

Colin Morris said: "The feedback from the coaches on both courses was very positive

and I was impressed by the progress made by both the Botswana and Malawi football associations."

Andy Poole added: "There was enormous enthusiasm from the coaches to learn and to improve training techniques which they will hopefully take back to their clubs throughout Lesotho."



FA coaches Graham Keeley and Mick Hennigan put 24 students from across the Caribbean through their paces during a gruelling 10-day intensive International Licence Course in Trinidad & Tobago in May.

There was a 100% pass rate, with three candidates obtaining an A grade which allows them to proceed to the full UEFA B Licence.



Celebrating the draw with Sweden

World Cup in Germany. Their campaign, the highlight of which was holding Sweden to a goalless draw, saw them knocked out of the tournament at the group stage.

But the World Cup has given the small nation real cause for optimism, a feeling which has clearly filtered through to coaches in the Caribbean where standards are rising fast, according to Graham Keeley. "The overall standard of coaching was quite good," said Keeley. "All the candidates were very studious and worked extremely hard throughout the course."



Graham Keeley

"The candidates contributed to the theory sessions throughout, sharing many of their own experiences with other group members and asking some very good questions on all aspects of the course."



AFC

Qatar looks to FA refereeing expertise



Ray Olivier delivered both theory and practical sessions to over 50 referees and assistant referees, who were taking part in an intense three-week training programme ahead of the new domestic season in Qatar.

The indoor sessions concentrated on the importance of teamwork, showing examples of best practice and how to manage the expectations placed upon match officials in controlling the game.

And the outdoor sessions allowed the participants to demonstrate their understanding and to reinforce the learning points delivered during the theory sessions through a series of fluid and set-play activities.

The FA's Regional Referees Manager, Ray Olivier, shared his expertise with the Qatar Football Association in July when he was invited to attend a Qatar referees training camp in Tunisia.

Ray Olivier said: "I think the seminar helped the referees to reflect on their player-management skills in controlling the game; they were given the opportunity to put this into practice."

"The seminar was professionally organised and an ideal environment for learning and training to take place. The balance between both the physical and theory sessions will ensure that the referees are fully prepared for their forthcoming season."



Ray Olivier shows the importance of fitness in officiating as he puts the referees and assistant referees through their paces

Iraq receives coaching boost

The FA showed its continued support for developing football in Iraq when it held a week-long Level 1 FA coaching course for 18 young Iraqi coaches in the United Arab Emirates.

The FA-backed training programme was part of Football United, a grassroots football development scheme designed to help young Iraqis to develop international coaching skills.



Darran Bowles talks the Iraqi coaches through their Level 1

FA coach Darran Bowles, who mentored the participants during the week, said: "All the students were very enthusiastic to learn and asked many questions on coaching and related topics."

The Football United initiative was launched in 2004 to encourage youth participation in football throughout Iraq and to promote stronger ties between Britain and Iraq through sport. It has already seen four Iraqi coaches receive their FA International Licence in England, and a further 100 coaches earn various coaching qualifications.

The FA's Head of International Relations, Jane Bateman, said: "We are particularly pleased to be part of the Football United project which provides a rare opportunity for coaches from Iraq to access formal training to improve their coaching ability."

All Stars in Thailand

Worcester All-stars, a disability football club based in the county of Worcestershire in England, travelled to Thailand in April to help with various humanitarian projects in the north of the country.



The team delivered football coaching sessions to disadvantaged local children and left behind soccer equipment donated by The FA.

FA NEWS

England's new coach off to flying start



Steve McClaren was unveiled as the new England Head Coach - and he made the dream start to his reign as the national team thrashed European Champions Greece 4-0 at Old Trafford in the first international friendly of the season.

McClaren, who was outgoing Head Coach Sven-Göran Eriksson's assistant, took over the hot-seat as manager on August 1. He has promised to usher in a new era following the disappointment of a quarter-final exit on penalties to Portugal at the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ in Germany.

And England, led by new captain John Terry, delivered on that promise with a vibrant display that will have warmed the hearts of the home fans.

"It is a fantastic honour to lead your country in whatever you do," said McClaren. "I am happy to have been chosen for the job. To lead your country is, for me, the greatest honour. I believe it is going to be the start of a great challenge and a great adventure."

FA Chief Executive Brian Barwick added: "I am delighted we have Steve as Head Coach. He is a progressive and forward-thinking coach with valuable experience of working with the national team for the past five years."

RAF takes football to Africa



The RAFFA Development Squad at Klipgat Orphanage

The RAFFA Development Squad travelled to South Africa in April to distribute replica football shirts as part of the "Taking Football to Africa" appeal organised by RAF Shawbury Air Traffic Control Squadron.

They donated jerseys at the Missionaries of Charity Orphanage in Klipgat. The orphanage looks after 55 children and young adults aged between 8 months and 18 years, who have been abandoned and are either HIV positive or have some form of physical or mental handicap.

Davies leaves The FA



FA Executive Director David Davies retires from his post at The FA at the end of September after 13 years' service.

CONMEBOL



Uruguay & Argentina seek FA guidance

The Uruguay Football Association called upon the experience of The FA's Head of Stadium Safety and Security, Chris Whalley, to help it deal with the growing problem of football-related violence.

Uruguay's domestic football programme was suspended for two weeks in May following the murder of a football fan outside a stadium.

Chris Whalley was also invited to Argentina to address issues ranging from hooliganism to spectator safety.

In Buenos Aires, Whalley met leading Argentine government, police and club football officials, with more than 200 delegates attending the seminar conducted jointly by Whalley and Javier Castrilli, Argentine Under Secretary of State for Security at Football Matches. In Uruguay, he met Eugenio Figueredo, President of the Uruguay FA, and held a meeting with the chairmen of the top-flight football clubs.



"The visit was very successful, in terms of the people whom I met - government ministers, police and football club chairmen," said Whalley.

"Both Argentina and Uruguay have problems with supporter violence in the stadia. But there are many social, cultural and economic differences to the problems we faced in England, so the answers that we have found may not be appropriate for dealing with the problems in those two countries."