

UNITY



10 reasons to celebrate

In the three years since its official launch in 2007, the Unity project has gone from strength to strength, with 580 lads now involved with the project. Certainly the last three years have had their lows and we've lost two of our most popular players – RIP Liam and Reece, but we've had many highs too and the progress of the project and its participants has been amazing. In this celebratory newsletter we remember a few of the most positive moments for Unity. I look forward to seeing you at the Forest Ground on 13 May.

Anton Brown, Unity Support worker

Unity is award winning

In December 2009, Unity Football Partnership won the BBC Power of Sport Award at the BBC East Midlands Sports Personality of the Year ceremony. The project was recognised because it has: 'Improved lives and enriched communities'. Also, in January 2010, Elite Security and Unity won the Nottinghamshire Training Network Award for Best Employer.



Unity helps aspiring footballers go pro!

Since August 2007, over 60 of the young men who have accessed the project have gone on to play football on a semi-professional basis, with teams like Alfreton, Eastwood and Hucknall Town, where there are 11 players currently playing in the first team squad.



Unity helps young people aspire and progress

Since August 2007, 117 have progressed into education, employment and training. These include 28 who have been employed by Elite Security and David Boafo and Rueben Williams who are employed as Unity Co-ordinators with Connexions Nottinghamshire.



David Boafo



Rueben Williams

Unity is a blue print for other projects aimed at reconciliation

In October 2009, Unity welcomed visitors from the Irish FA. News of Unity's success had crossed the Irish Sea to a Belfast football project called World United, established to tackle sectarian violence and racism in their city. We hope to welcome them to Nottingham for a match in the near future.



Unity sets up Academy

In 2009 Unity responded to increasing demand from young people aged 16-18 by forming the Unity Academy. Hucknall Town provided a base and entered the team in the Windsor Food Under 19s League. Ex-professional footballer, Alan Avery, volunteered to manage the team and the season ended in promotion. Young people signed up to the Academy are expected to progress into education or training within four weeks of joining.

Unity improves relationships between communities and the Police

Unity play an annual match against Nottinghamshire Police, preceded by an anti-crime workshop. The workshop subjects have covered gun and knife crime, drugs, stop and search and more. Called the Community Cup, it was won convincingly by Unity in 2007 and 2009, with the Police claiming victory in 2008.



Unity helps others

Unity has formed a strong partnership with South Nottingham College and in Spring 2009, Unity Manager, Morris Samuels and two Unity players joined the college's 'Balls to Poverty' visit to South Africa. They helped to distribute free footballs and construct a bridge which enabled young people to attend a school they had previously been unable to reach.

Unity now works with young people starting at age 14

Junior Unity was formed in 2008 and follows a similar model to the senior programme. The Unity Project also works with some City schools, offering a football and a social educational development programme. Recent schools which have benefitted from this include Djanogly, Top Valley, Bluecoat, Hadden Park High and Emmanuel.



Unity is involved in high profile Government campaigns

In 2009, Junior Unity players took part in a football seminar to promote the nationwide anti-knife crime campaign 'It Doesn't Have to Happen'. This was a high profile event, where some of the Junior Unity players had their first taste of the Media spotlight – and handled the attention like old pros! Unity has also featured on the BBC Politics show on Sundays.



Unity works in partnership

The Unity project board is made up of partners from a cross section of public agencies and private companies. These partners provide funding, support and strategic direction for the Unity project, ensuring it continues to expand. For details of partners see logos below...



Unity Football Partnership

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