



NEWSLETTER – May 2020

A Message from the FFL Global Coordinator

This time of global crisis and lockdown has had an obvious and significant impact on our Football for Life projects around the world. Of course there are many other people in very challenging situations, and not being able to play football may seem like a trivial thing in comparison. And in many ways it is.

However, Football for Life is much more than just football. For many, being part of our projects and part of a team, is a crucial part of their physical, emotional, and social well-being, and many players, coaches, and families across our projects are struggling significantly right now. Many of our projects and teams are in communities with poorer infrastructure, healthcare, and access to food than others, so please spare a thought for those communities that are feeling it the most. Like most charity organisations and programmes Oasis Football for Life is also feeling the economic pinch.

Football for Life teams however, are characterised by close healthy relationships, a sense of togetherness and belonging, and care and concern for one another.

Whether you are a player, a coach, a leader, or one of our fantastic supporters of FFL, at this time let's continue to support and encourage one another, and those in our projects, across the global FFL family.

Thank you for your support and partnership. One Oasis. One Family. Oasis Football for Life.

A word of encouragement and support can go a long way and so we're asking for our FFL supporters and friends across the world to send us a photo and a short message for us to share on our Facebook page with our players and coaches.

Simply email or send by FB messenger on the FFL page:

- ❖ **A photo of yourself wearing your team's football kit, or holding a scarf, etc.**
- ❖ **Details of your name, where you're from, and the name of the team you support.**
- ❖ **A one or two sentence message of support to those in our FFL global family**

Send contributions to: dave.caswell@oasisglobal.org



From the Field: Messages From Beersheba FC.

Coaches and players from the Beersheba Football Club in Uganda, share some messages for the Global Football for Life Family

"In Uganda our FFL activities have been suspended until it is safe for us to resume.

It's especially challenging for the guardians and parents of our boys, who are struggling to sustain themselves and their families. Feeding a family is very difficult in Uganda, especially if the head of the family has a limited source of income, and in this crisis most families have resorted to eating just one meal a day.

We have encouraged all our boys to stay at home, to practice social distancing, and to avoid handshakes - which is very difficult here!

Everyone is being vigilant to help fight this deadly disease and we're sharing key information about the nature of Covid-19 so everyone can stay safe.

We're keeping everyone in our prayers and pray they we will stay strong and healthy in this very challenging time, not just battling with the virus, but also coping with hunger and the other related challenges.

Greeting and best wishes to everyone in the Football for Life family across the world. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Stay strong."

- Fred, FFL Coordinator, Uganda.

"I'm very happy to have this opportunity to connect with all our players and coaches around the world. Every coach feels good when he or she coaches their players and sees the benefits of that coaching.

I would like to tell all our coaches to encourage their players, even if we are in this crisis of Coronavirus, the situation will one day be normal again. I love you all and I appreciate what you do through Football for Life around the world. May God bless you"

- Karim, Senior Team Player and U12s Coach.

"I would like to encourage everyone to stay home and be safe. I know it's hard for some of us but let's try our best in order to protect our lives.

A special message to all the players in the FFL global family and to our Beersheba FC under 12s, under 14s, under 16s boys, and our big team. I know we all miss the game a lot but let's stay home for a while we wait for the situation to be okay again, and we will come back stronger.

If possible, go for jogging or do push-ups at home to keep yourselves fit. Thanks, my people. God bless you all."

- Vincent, Senior Team Player



Bobo makes an Impact

The FFL 'Bobo and the Mighty Mangoes' stories are having great impact on our young people learning to practice the Oasis 9 Habits:

"I have learnt to have concern for those that are affected emotionally, either by their own making, or because of the actions of another person.

In the story of 'Bobo and the Mighty Mangos', Midi was angry and upset after getting a red card. He decided to disappear from his teammates due to the shame he felt for costing the team. In this situation he needed someone to help and Bobo decided to look for him and encouraged him.

Midi felt that he had done the most stupid thing ever that no one in the team would forgive him. He felt much better after hearing words of encouragement from his friend Bobo, and eventually agreed to apologise to the whole team.

I have learnt that everyone needs to be supported to make right choices and decisions. I will always respect my friends and value their abilities and contributions.

I wish my classmates had an opportunity to learn this. My class would then become the best but I will display what I have learnt before them, and they will have an opportunity to learn from me."



Abby, Beersheba FC, Under 12s



Issa, Beersheba FC, U12s

"Upon meeting the 'Mighty Mangoes' for the first time, Bobo noticed one player who had a short arm, and spoke bad of him. Hami, the boy with the short arm, was one of the most committed players on the team and was liked by everyone in the team and when Coach Kato heard that Bobo had insulted Hami, he was disappointed and planned to stop him joining the team.

When Bobo realised his mistake and apologised to Hami and the entire team, they forgave him and continued working together as one family. I have learnt to admit whenever I make a mistake and to take the initiative to apologise to those I offend because we need one another to carry on in life.

Boys in our team offend each other but after learning these positive habits especially about 'forgiveness' we now try to forgive each other."



Other News



Are you a creative and passionate teacher looking for a unique leadership role

One that fuses education support, character development and a Premiership football club?



Oasis in the UK partners up with Crystal Palace

We're delighted to announce a new partnership between Oasis and Crystal Palace Football Club.

From September we'll be working within the educational department of the Crystal Palace Academy to help provide quality academic education alongside key social and emotional support, and positive character development.

New Bobo and the Mighty Mangoes Book to be launched in September


A new collection of "Bobo" stories are currently being written and will be available for use in our FFL projects and UK Academies from September.

These stories help children to identify, understand and practice the Oasis 9 Habits in their teams, communities and general life.

Funds Raised for Football for Life

Many thanks to those who supported Dave Caswell and Gavin Shepherd in running the Bath Half Marathon. A total of **£995** was raised for FFL.



Find us on Facebook 

www.oasisglobal.org/football-for-life

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Supporting Children and Youth to Reach Their Full Potential