



HARROGATE TOWN AFC

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



HARROGATE TOWN AFC **IN THE
COMMUNITY**

HARROGATE TOWN AFC CIO IS A REGISTERED CHARITY - NO: 1186826



Supported by
**Premier League
Primary Stars**

History of Harrogate Town AFC

The Exercise Stadium has been home to Harrogate Town AFC since the formation of the club.

Over the decades the ground has evolved under the stewardship of hard working and dedicated directors, supporters and volunteers. In 2012 a new custodian and current Chairman, Irving Weaver set out ambitious plans to develop the ground to a standard that President, George Dunnington, could only describe as "a dream".

The dream started to become a reality in 2013, with the construction of two new stands at the stadium.



History of Harrogate Town AFC



After promotion to The National League in 2018 and the required ground developments that go with it, three new stands were built during the 2018/19 season, taking the capacity to over 4,000.

A standing terrace in front of The 1919 Venue and changing room end and a separate standing terrace next to the Family Stand were both opened on Monday 22nd April as Gateshead visited The Exercise Stadium, with a seated stand next to the Exercise Stand completed in the Summer of 2019.

Following promotion to the EFL in August 2020, a grass pitch was installed to comply with EFL regulations, replacing the existing 3G pitch. In addition to this, a new Main Stand was constructed with close to 1,000 seats, boosting the capacity of the stadium to 5,000.

Following the conclusion of the 2021/22 season, it was announced that £3.5m would be invested off the pitch, including the installation of a new seated stand taking the number of seats available in the ground to over 2,000.

In the seasons that followed, the record home league attendance would be broken numerous times, with the record now standing at 4,136, a total reached on two occasions during the 2024/25 campaign against Notts County and Carlisle.



HARROGATE TOWN AFC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Founded in 2019, Harrogate Town AFC Community Foundation is the club's registered charity, created to drive positive change across Harrogate and the surrounding district. Using the power of football and the club badge, it works to improve health and wellbeing, build safer and more active communities, and enhance life chances.

Legally independent from the football club, the Foundation is committed to transparent governance, public accountability, external audits, and high ethical standards in delivering community benefit.





HARROGATE TOWN AFC
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Vision

To be truly inclusive and welcoming, working at the heart of our community, inspiring positive change through sport, supporting mental health and wellbeing and promoting an active, connected lifestyle for all. We strive to break down barriers, foster belonging and create a safe space where everyone can thrive.



HARROGATE TOWN AFC
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Mission

At Harrogate Town AFC Community Foundation CIO our mission is to build an inclusive and supportive community that actively engages people of all ages and backgrounds. We are committed to promoting physical activity, supporting mental health and wellbeing for all, and strengthening community connections through accessible programmes, outreach and the power of sport.

About us



HARROGATE TOWN AFC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

- **Educational initiatives** in nursery, primary, and secondary schools, such as the delivery of the *Premier League Primary Stars* programme.
- **Youth work**, undertaken in partnership with youth organisations, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and through the *Premier League Kicks* programme.
- **Social engagement sessions for older adults**, aimed at reducing isolation and promoting wellbeing.
- **Disability football programmes**, providing inclusive sporting opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- **Mental health support programmes**, designed to enhance emotional wellbeing and resilience within the community.

Inclusion Projects



HARROGATE TOWN AFC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Walking Football

**HARROGATE TOWN AFC
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Walking Football

Are you over 50, looking to keep active, stay fit and socialise whilst playing the game you love? Then why not try walking football?

Monday / 12-1pm @ Ripon Sports Pavilion
7-8pm @ King James School, Knaresborough

Tuesday / 8-9pm @ Rossett Sports Centre

Thursday / 7-8pm @ Rossett Sports Centre

All abilities welcome
£5 per session

For more details, please contact one of the team by emailing community@harrogetownafc.com

Talk of the Town

TALK OF THE TOWN

SOCIAL GROUP FOR OVER 50s

SOCIALISE | FUN GAMES | REMINISCE

THURSDAYS | 2PM - 4PM
BILTON & WOODFIELD
COMMUNITY LIBRARY

FRIDAYS | 10.30AM - 12PM
TRINITY
METHODIST CHURCH

Pitch Positive

**HARROGATE TOWN AFC
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Pitch Positive

A brand new free, fun, drop-in football session for adults of all abilities who want to engage in positive activity to support their physical and mental wellbeing.

Sessions are 'a game of two halves' which include:

- 60 minutes of football activities
- 30 minutes for refreshments and lifestyle conversation

**On Tuesdays 7-8.30pm
at Rossett High School
Harrogate HG2 9JP**

For Adults 18+

For more information, please contact one of the team by emailing community@harrogetownafc.com or to sign up scan the QR code

Walking Football Feedback



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I've enjoyed playing a different style of game, but what I especially enjoy is how inclusive the games are. They are competitive but include everyone regardless of background, ability, shape or size. I hate team sports when they exclude people or set them against each other. Our walking footballers are a team. We might get grumpy with each other sometimes but everyone is welcome.

Particularly having moved to Ripon from the Midlands, it has been extremely beneficial for me to find a way of meeting like-minded new friends with whom I socialise on occasion. And at the end of every game, I always feel lifted and pleased with myself for having gone.

I lost my wife to cancer two years ago and the walking football has given me a social outlet and the general banter to cheer me up 👍



Arun's Journey Through Pitch Positive

Arun Sivajoti, 31, went from years of isolation and poor mental health to finding support, confidence, and purpose through Pitch Positive, a community football programme run by Harrogate Town Community Foundation. With regular sessions and peer support, he improved physically and mentally, made friends, and started working matchdays at the club. His story reflects the programme's wider impact: helping people feel connected, build routine, and improve wellbeing in a safe, supportive community.

'Supporting each other is at the heart of what we do at Pitch Positive. Now, more than ever, community connection matters. Football offers a universal language that breaks down barriers and builds friendships. Programmes like these remind us that no one should face life's challenges alone. Because when we support one another, we all grow stronger...together.'



HARROGATE TOWN AFC

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MAN v FAT FOOTBALL®

LOSE WEIGHT, PLAY FOOTBALL



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MAN v FAT Football supports men to lose weight and improve health and wellbeing through regular sessions that combine weigh-ins, 7-a-side football and peer encouragement in a supportive environment. The programme is inclusive for men of different ages and abilities, and it has produced clear results, including substantial individual weight loss and opportunities for players to take part in national tournament events.



Dave Chapman has been part of our club for a couple of years and has lost an incredible **51kg (just over eight stone)** – around **38% of his body weight**. As a result, Dave has been invited to take part in the annual **MAN v FAT Amazing Losers match** at Walsall's Bescot Stadium, featuring players from across the country who have achieved extraordinary weight loss. It's the first time someone from our club has qualified and everyone involved is hugely proud of him.

TWINNING PROJECT



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The Twinning Project is an innovative rehabilitation and education initiative that pairs professional football clubs with prisons. It aims to reduce reoffending rates and support the successful rehabilitation of offenders by using the power of sport to teach vital employability, life, and coaching skills



Education

Education is at the forefront of a lot of our delivery. We have carefully designed programmes from nursery through to secondary. Our qualified and experienced team of coaches, have great relationships in the settings that they deliver, and we see high participant numbers involved in our programmes. Working alongside the Premier League Foundation and EFL in the Community, we have a supportive network to keep up to date with the latest delivery methods.

TOTAL REACH: 4255 children across 41 schools.

Working with 130 young people on our Youth Matters Mental Health project.

PPA, CPD, afterschool clubs, competitions, workshops, assemblies and walk to school events are programmes that we have provided.



HARROGATE TOWN AFC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

7 nurseries delivered in – 101 children
1321 children delivered to weekly in 13 schools.
2179 children engaged in workshops and activities.
40 girls attending weekly Wildcats football sessions.
230 children attending weekly cricket dynamos sessions in collaboration with YCC Foundation.
Partnerships: Premier League Primary Stars Programme (PLPS), Wildcats and Dynamos with Yorkshire Cricket Foundation.

Competitions: 4 competitions where 254 children were involved. Highlight PLPS (Premier League Primary Stars) – National finals with Saltergate School playing at Molineux and regional finals with Pannal Primary School at Accrington Stanley.



Case Studies

Every year, we organise and run competitions through the EFL and Premier League. This gives our partner schools in the area an opportunity to take that next step, represent their schools and then the foundation in later stages if successful.

Saltergate Schools went above and beyond last year, winning the local round of the Premier League Primary Stars Cup. The girls were successful in the regional round at Newcastle Utd, booking themselves a place in the National Finals held at Wolverhampton Wanderers. An amazing day which saw the girls having the opportunity to play on the pitch at Molineux, representing Saltergate Primary School and Harrogate Town AFC Community Foundation.



Pannal Ash Primary School

Pannal Ash Year 5/6 team, were the winners of the local round of the EFL Utilita Cup. This saw them progress to the regional finals held at Accrington Stanley.

It was a tough day against good opposition; however, Pannal made it to the final, narrowly missing out by a goal.

The boys represented their school and the foundation really well with lots of talent on show giving the school and club some great exposure and memories.

Match Day

Matchday experiences at Harrogate Town AFC continue to be offered and provided for all home games with foundation staff. Working with the local community, schools and grassroots football clubs, alongside HTAFC, we strive to provide memorable experiences through flag bearing, ball crew and mascot opportunities, along with a community ticket offer.

Our club mascot, Harrygator, also attended a number of community events and galas to raise awareness of Harrogate Town AFC Community Foundation. Harrygator has also supported school engagement by being involved in the local Walk to School initiative with the Sustainable Travel team at North Yorkshire County Council.

Supported Flag bearers – 505; ball crew – 234; mascots – 64



HARROGATE TOWN AFC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

We were proud that the club received recognition from the EFL and achieved the **GOLD** award for family excellence.

As a big part of the matchday experience, it was brilliant to receive this feedback, especially for our foundation staff that work matchdays.



Highlights



HARROGATE TOWN AFC
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**



41

PARTNER SCHOOLS
WORKED WITH



443

FREE CHILDREN'S MEALS
PROVIDED



3,193

ADULT ATTENDANCES
ON PROGRAMMES



1,597

CHILDREN ATTENDED
FEAST HOLIDAY CAMPS

600+

MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH
PROGRAMME ATTENDANCES



1ST TEAM MATCHDAY ACTIVITIES

