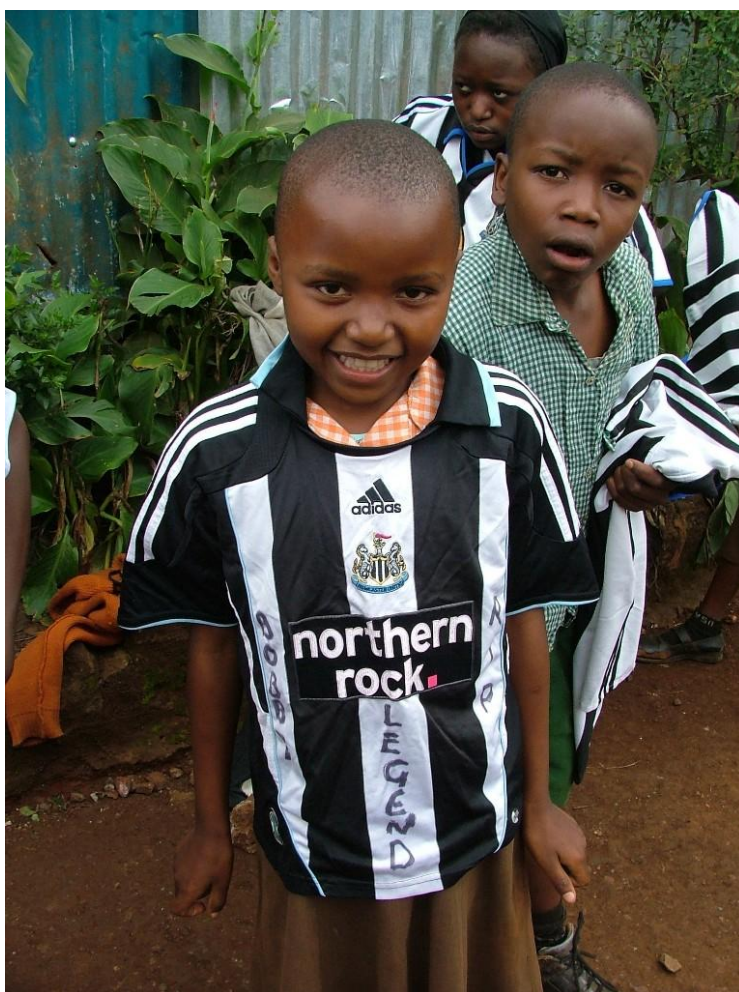


TAKING FOOTBALL TO AFRICA AND BEYOND – JULY 2010 UPDATE



Kibera Slum in Nairobi Kenya

The Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Appeal was founded in early 2006 to collect football shirts from around the UK and distribute them around African villages. The appeal quickly grew to take in countries all over the world. **With the latest deliveries of 2010, the appeal has delivered 26737 items including 13562 football shirts to 30 countries worldwide.** The appeal is run by Squadron Leader Neil Hope, the Community Relations Officer at RAF Shawbury, in Shropshire. Neil is also the FA Councillor for the RAF FA sitting on the Football Development and Youth Committees.

Over the past 4 years the shirts delivered through the Appeal have changed the lives of many young people and adults across the world.

KENYA – EAST AFRICAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Pam Galley lives near Nairobi with her husband and artist Phil. Pam helps run the East African Women's League which is a group of ladies who assist at local schools. In September 2009 a set of boxes was delivered to Nairobi which included 658 items of rugby kit donated through Leicester Tigers RFC and Lord Digby Jones.

KENYA – GILGIL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

A request came in from Kenya for the Appeal to provide some training kit for the PAC 3000 football tournament in GilGil. The tournament, organised by Harry Vialou Clarke brings together youths and adults from the local area in a large competition with 16 teams and over 300 people present. The kits donated to the tournament came from Castleton Gabriels FC and trophies from the RAF Akrotiri football league.



Shots from the Gilgil Tournament

ROMANIA – ORPHANAGES IN CORLATE

The delivery to Romania was through the Ellesmere Port and Neston Romanian Appeal. Since 1991, the Appeal has been assisting in providing aid into the area around Corlate. The 2 main places receiving kit was the European House which houses 70 children from the orphanage and to the Beethoven School for the deaf. The link to the Shawbury Appeal was through Leonard Jones who makes many trips out to the East European country. Len took boxes containing 756 items donated by Sportsjam in Shrewsbury, Scotstoun Primary School in Glasgow, Bressingham Thistle FC, RAF Lyneham and the English FA.

AFGHANISTAN – ORPHANAGES AROUND NORTHERN KABUL

A total of 6 boxes containing 184 items were delivered to Orphanages in the Kabul area of Afghanistan through Camp Eggers. The items were donated by the Yorkshire Building Society, Borrass Rangers YFC, Sutherland School in Telford, Brownhills School, J Nicholls and Charlotte Hope.

CAPE VERDE

Long time supporter of the Appeal, Flight Lieutenant Tony Kinchley, travelled on holiday at Christmas to Cape Verde off the East African coast. Tony took 20 shirts from the English FA with him and delivered them to children in Boa Vista.



Flt Lt Tony Kinchley in Boa Vista, Cape Verde Islands

SIR BOBBY ROBSON

The Appeal was approached by the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and offered shirts left at St James Park and Portman Road as memorials after the sad passing of Sir Bobby. Neil, Tony Kinchley and SAC Ben Burton travelled to the north east to collect a huge amount of these shirts. The shirts were then re-boxed and the first 6 boxes, containing 910 Newcastle United and Ipswich Town shirts, were sent on their way to Kenya for storage by Warrant Officer 1 Wayne Charley of the British High Commission, our man in Nairobi. The shirts were to be held for a forthcoming distribution trip to Kenya.

SHIRTS AMNESTY – BIRMINGHAM

In late 2009 the Appeal was approached by the organisers of the Birmingham based Shirts Amnesty to see if we could help with their appeal through advice and the donation of shirts. In Feb 10, Neil delivered 5 boxes containing 758 shirts donated by the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, English FA, Connor McIlroy and Shelagh Archer to Birmingham for onward delivery to South Africa. Included on this delivery were football shirts donated by Coventry City FC through a shirts amnesty held at the club. A 2nd delivery of 7 boxes was also delivered to the Shirts Amnesty and arrived for distribution just before the World Cup Finals. These boxes included a huge 1081 items including kits donated by the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, AFC Newbury and RAF Lyneham.



Flt Lt Tony Kinchley collects shirts at Coventry City FC

KENYA – READY FOR DELIVERY

In addition to the 6 boxes already stored in Nairobi another delivery departed in early Feb 10 to be stored ready for distribution on the visit to the country by Neil and other charities in early June. This delivery included 6 boxes containing 701 items donated by Scotstoun School in Glasgow, Edward Atkinson, the English FA, the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and Coast Soccer FC from Whitley Bay.

ESFA – USA AND SOUTH AFRICA

The Appeal passed on 2 large boxes of shirts to the English School FA in Feb 10 for onward transmission during schools tours to South Africa and also to Atlanta in the USA. The boxes included kits donated by Scotstoun School in Glasgow and Coast Soccer FC from Whitley Bay.

IRAQ

The Appeal made its third delivery to Saddiq Alwohali in Feb 10 for distribution in Iraq. Saddiq escaped Iraq with his family as a youngster and is now an FA registered coach. Over the past few years Saddiq has been travelling back to the Middle Eastern Country to coach youngsters and adults at football. This delivery included 266 shirts donated by the English FA and 30 footballs donated by Hereford Cathedral School. Another delivery through Saddiq was completed in May 10 when 4 boxes were delivered that had been donated to the Appeal by KitAid. Also in this delivery was a kit donated by Cpl Simpson and the Fire section at RAF Northolt.



Children in England shirts



Saddiq distributes shirts

KENYA – THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL

The Appeal has long links with Thomas Adams School in Wem, Shropshire and their links with Miriu School in Western Kenya. The Appeal has made 3 deliveries of boxes to the school. Currently in the distribution system are 6 boxes from the school including Appeal boxes containing shirts and kits donated by AFC Newbury.

NAMIBIA

This was a delivery through Steve Demmery of MOD Abbeywood. Steve was travelling to Namibia as part of Raleigh International and took 99 items donated by AFC Newbury and Weston Sports.

ZAMBIA – MEDICAL MISSIONARY NEWS

Two deliveries have been made to the Medical Missionary News Charity in Zambia. This link was completed after a couple who work for the charity heard a BBC Radio Shropshire interview with Neil prior to the Kenya trip. The result was the delivery of 2 lots of boxes including kits from Bressingham Thistle, Aintree Hawks and RAF Akrotiri. Most of these deliveries, however, were school uniforms donated by the Green team at Hereford Cathedral School.

KENYA TRIP

In early June, Neil with SAC Ben Burton from the Shawbury Appeal travelled to Kenya with Mark Robson for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, Derrick Williams and Sally How for KitAid and Dave Queen, of the Thomas Adams School Miriu Appeal. During the week in Kenya they delivered well over 2500 items to 10 different schools and charities. The full Kenya report will be distributed along with this newsletter. As part of the trip the team carried an extra bag of kit each as luggage. These bags contained equipment donated by Lianne Mountford, Charlotte Hope, Alveston Juniors, Finham Juniors, and the English FA. Aintree Colts, Julie Keyland, Denise Bergen, Newcastle Blue Star FC and Ian Currey.



Kibera Slum



SAC Ben Burton in Kibera



The team at Saidia in Gilgil



Kibagare Good News Centre

AFGHANISTAN – 1ST ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT

The 1st Royal Irish Regiment is based at Clive Barracks at Ternhill. Neil passed 3 boxes of kits over the fence to the Regiment to take to Afghanistan on their forthcoming deployment to the war-torn country. The boxes included kits donated by the English FA, Shirley FC, the Yorkshire Building Society and Newcastle Blue Star FC.

DONATIONS

Many donations are currently being organised or collected. These include Cramlington FC, St Marys School in Albrighton, David Matthews-Jones, Beryl Giles, Ian Nicholls, Adam Paginton, Becky Hill, Angela Hewitt, Hurtshead

Infant School in Stockport, Lockleaze and Horfield Community FC, Brain Hatton, Wyrley Juniors, Four Oaks Boys Club, Graham Wood, Yorkshire Amateur AFC, Holland FC, Karen Vane Wedge and many other individuals and clubs across the UK.

The Appeal continues to build from strength to strength with offers of kits arriving from all over the UK. I spend most weekends collecting and sorting kits. Appeals of this level could not happen without a bit of assistance however, and I would like to thank Wayne Charley for his excellent work on behalf of the Appeal. Special thanks to SAC Jo Tooze, Sgt Andy McGarry at RAF Shawbury. Also a big thank you to the boys in Receipt and Dispatch at Shawbury and also SAC Ben Burton and Flt Lt Tony Kinchley at Shawbury and anyone else who has helped this Appeal become the huge success it now is.

Countries delivered to (in order of first deliveries): South Africa, Peru, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mexico, India, Brazil, Swaziland, Malawi, Bolivia, Ecuador, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Afghanistan, Iraq, Cameroon, Guinea, Nigeria, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Nepal, India, Thailand, China, Lesotho, Romania, Cape Verde, USA and Namibia.



Squadron Leader Neil Hope
Organiser Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Appeal
FA Councillor for the RAF FA
July 2010