

Friends of PLAY SOCCER Malawi Newsletter Number 1 January 2008

Welcome to the first of an irregular Newsletter. I will only do one when I think there is enough news to justify it. If I have forgotten your contribution, please forgive me. Some of it will be well known to some of you, but not all of it.



www.friendsofpsm.org.uk

Donation of "Hundreds of Kits" by Celtic



Celtic player Scott McDonald hands over hundreds of Celtic shirts to Glasgow's Lord Provost Bob Winter, in support of the PLAY SOCCER Malawi.



Scott McDonald holds up one of the pages from the "friends of PLAY SOCCER Malawi" 2008 calendar, showing a boy from the Chingumula site wearing an Inter-style Celtic away shirt.

Celtic's Chief Executive Peter Lawwell added "Celtic's rich, charitable history is well known and it is only fitting that at this time of year we donate to such a worthwhile cause. The children in Malawi have very little, so it is important we do what we can to assist this fantastic project and try and make a difference."

Celtic has recently donated all the strips that were laid at Celtic Park by fans in tribute to Phil O'Donnell to the Lord Provost's Office in support of PLAY SOCCER Malawi.

New Bore-hole Funded by Glasgow Council

Following a visit from representatives from the Lord Provost's International Office to Blantyre in September 2007, funding has been secured, and sent to Patricio, for the drilling of a second bore-hole in Ndirande. Patricio was instrumental in having the first one drilled, paid for by the Q Fund. Before that, according a Salvation Army website, surface water was so polluted that all shallow wells were contaminated, making cholera and scabies endemic. We look forward to hearing about the drilling soon.

Collection of Strips by Edinburgh Council

Over the summer/autumn of 2007, the Sports Department of Edinburgh Council collected 1,000 strips and various items for PLAY SOCCER Malawi. We thank them for their invaluable help.



Council Sports Officer, Craig Cunningham and Council Sports Leader, Councilor Deidre Block pack the strips for sending to Malawi

Soccer Academy in Blantyre



Children practice ball skills.



Patricio gives instructions.

Patricio and his co-workers have selected children with promise from all the sites and formed a football academy where, as Patricio says, all Malawi's Ronaldinhos will emerge in future. The exercise is taking place every Saturday at Saint Andrew's International school where the headmaster has been very supportive. Mary's Meals (see www.sircharity.org.uk) has kindly donated a ball to each child so that he can be able to practice on daily basis at home.

Malaria Foundation International

PLAY SOCCER Malawi is starting a partnership with the Malaria Foundation International. (see www.malaria.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=120&Itemid=40) They are teaching the children techniques to prevent being bitten and therefore infected, e.g. covering swamp areas with soil and cutting the long grasses where the mosquitoes breed and importance of sleeping in a treated mosquito net all year round. Then the programme teaches children to get treatment within 24 hours of onset of symptoms. Also, PLAY SOCCER Malawi intends to fundraise for mosquito nets for Malabada Health Centre. (When we were there, I saw in Blantyre's only supermarket mosquito nets on sale for MKw750, about £2.75)

This is another example of PLAY SOCCER Malawi using education of children to spread crucial health messages to the whole community.

Friends of PLAY SOCCER Malawi Calendars 2008

I am pleased to tell you that all 50 of the calendars sold out - in a week! After that I received requests for 11 others. Ah well, next year I will order more. Thanks to all who bought one (or two or 12.)

I sent \$1,600 to Patricio this week - £500 from the calendars, £250 from donations (thank you) and £50 from six month's of the small change in my pocket at the end of each day (I just keep 50p and above.)

Patricio said the money from calendar sales will go towards the purchase of mosquito nets for the health centre in Malabada - I am sure you will agree this is a worthy use.

Hutchison Vale/PLAY SOCCER Malawi Partnership

Before Christmas, I was talking to Tam Smith (Mr Hutchie as their website calls him.) He asked me to contact him in the New Year as they had other team kits to donate.

Mary and I had a great night at the Hutchison Vale Presentation Night as top table



guests. It was incredible to see how many players and coaches the Club has. Five year and ten year awards for the players were presented by John Collins, a former player for Hutchie.

Mary with guest of honour, Brad Pitt, at the Hutchison Vale Presentation Night.

Brad is sporting a very fetching tie made from new Scotland/Malawi tartan.

Plans for the Future of Friends of PLAY SOCCER Malawi

In addition to helping with strips and other items, I think it's now time to commence serious fundraising. How about this for starters?

Buy a pint for Malabada Health Centre - every time you have night out, put £3 into a kitty to buy a mosquito net. Encourage friends and workmates to do the same. Believe me, you will not miss it, but preventing one child getting malaria is priceless.

Later this year, I plan to have a ceilidh night - watch this space.

See ya! Thanks for your support.

Bob