**Kader FC awarded funding for facility upgrade project**

Grassroots sport in Middlesbrough is set to benefit from a major boost following the news that Kader FC has been awarded a grant of £363,967 from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund. The funding will be used to resurface an existing all-weather pitch, install boundary fencing, construct an equipment store and purchase pitch maintenance equipment.

The club, which currently has 25 teams ranging from the Under-7 level to adults, can now replace their existing sand-based artificial grass pitch (AGP) with a state-of-the-art third generation (3G) AGP. Previously, the club has limited its use of the sand-based pitch due to it no longer being fit for purpose, resulting in them using up to ten different venues for training during winter months.

Once the new 3G AGP has been completed, Kader FC’s players will be able to take advantage of the facility all-year-round. Other users, including North Riding FA, will also benefit from this. Thanks to the new boundary fencing, the site is now more secure – providing users with an excellent environment to develop the game.

In addition to the AGP, Kader FC’s site also boasts a number of grass pitches including: four full-size pitches; three 9v9 pitches; four 7v7 pitches; four 5v5 pitches and a training area. The funding will also be used to purchase pitch maintenance equipment, to help the club continue the high standards of its facilities.

A new groundsman’s store will be installed to house the equipment. This is in addition to the club’s existing changing pavilion, which was remodelled in 2013 thanks to a previous grant of £243,000 from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund.

It is expected that the club’s upgrade project will increase the number of teams using the site to 47 within the next five years. This will include a rise in the number of female teams, with girls’ participation being a key objective. Kader FC also hope to introduce two disability teams, and will be supported in this by the North Riding FA.

By providing more high-quality facilities, coupled with coaching at the appropriate age group, the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund aims to improve the experience for regular players as well as attracting new players to the game. Many of the new state-of-the-art facilities will serve to strengthen the connection between professional football clubs and their local communities, particularly in the most deprived areas of the country, through the professional clubs’ community trusts’ outreach work.

The Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund is funded by the Premier League, The FA, and the Government, via Sport England. It is delivered by the Football Foundation, the country’s largest sports charity. Since it was launched in 2000, the Foundation has awarded around 15,000 grants worth nearly £580m towards improving grassroots sport, which it has used to attract additional partnership funding of just under £800m – over £1.4bn of investment into the grassroots game.

Chris Hudson, Kader FC secretary, said: **“****This is a fabulous achievement for Kader FC, taking us to the next level with a great state-of-the-art FIFA-standard 3G pitch.**

**“Kader is a wonderful, family orientated club and has been backed by the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund and of course the North Riding FA. The children of the future have so much more to look forward to with these excellent facilities that will also help improve the physical health of the community.**

**“Putting business plans together and raising funds to achieve this grant has been hard work, however, the club has had a vision and I am so pleased that we have been successful in achieving this. Hopefully the next journey should be a fantastic one continuing to improve our standards even higher.”**

Paul Thorogood, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, said: **“It is fantastic news for Kader FC to have been awarded a grant from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund to develop a new 3G AGP, install boundary fencing and purchase maintenance equipment.**

**“Since 2000, the Foundation has awarded 236 grants worth £9.3m across North Riding towards grassroots sports projects worth nearly £18.3m. This latest project, in Middlesbrough, will have a great impact on the local community by opening up access to our national game and improving the quality of sporting experience they enjoy at the enhanced facilities.**

**“It has been made possible by investment from the Premier League, The FA and Government, via Sport England.”**

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For more information, please contact:
- Sophie Huby on 0345 345 4555 Ext. 4292 or sophie.huby@footballfoundation.org.uk
- Chris Hudson on 07977 386 019 or secretary@kaderfc.co.uk