



Press Release

July 2018

Takeley FC seal brand new FA funding

England Under-19s Head Coach, Paul Simpson, believes funding from The FA's Retain the Game scheme could help to secure the long-term future of Takeley FC.

The grant, which has been awarded to help aid the retention of adult male teams within grassroots football, will enable Takeley FC to sustain their First and Reserve teams over the coming years.

Retain the Game is a programme funded by The FA and delivered by the Football Foundation. It awards grants of £750 to existing grassroots football clubs to boost their financial sustainability and allow them to continue offering playing opportunities in organised football.

Funding has been targeted at clubs that operate with two or more male teams aged under-17 and above, and either currently hold The FA's Adult Charter Standard Award or commit to attaining the award within the next footballing season.

The strategy aims to encourage more clubs to strive for Adult Charter Standard, with research from The FA demonstrating increased levels of sustainability and player recruitment for teams with this award.

Paul Simpson, England Under-19s Head Coach, said: **"It's great to see The FA and the Football Foundation supporting participation in the adult male game at the community level.**

"Affordability has often been identified as a key barrier, so this grant will ease the financial burden placed on clubs and allow them to concentrate on providing access to competitive football.

"It is very pleasing to see Takeley FC taking advantage of this pilot scheme and ensuring that they look forward to a bright future, providing regular opportunities for local people to enjoy the benefits of playing our national game."

Money invested as part of Retain the Game will go towards covering core costs - including matchday and training facility hire - first aid training and new Nike kit and equipment through a bespoke voucher.

The new scheme has further bolstered The FA's efforts to increase participation in grassroots football. Earlier this year, they also awarded grants of £1,500 as part of their Grow the Game programme, with particular emphasis placed on boosting the number of female and disabled grassroots football teams.

Pat Curran, Chairman of Takeley FC, said "We have been awarded a #RetaintheGame grant from @FA & @FootballFoundtn! This money will mean we can keep funding our adult male teams and provide a platform to keep playing the game. We will be using the grant to help towards the costs of training facilities for our teams.

ENDS

For more information contact:
Pat Curran, 07831 263339

Notes to editors

About Retain the Game

Retain the Game is delivered by the Football Foundation, the nation's largest sports charity. Retain the Game is inclusive of players from different ethnic backgrounds, faiths and sexual orientations.

The push to reverse the decline in adult male league football follows the recent Grow the Game funding window for 2018, which made £1.5 million available for grassroots clubs looking to create new women and girls or disability football teams. Last year the scheme supported:

- 2,047 new teams
- 10,016 female footballers
- 18,941 male footballers
- 7,407 new coaching qualifications

The FA

The Football Association [The FA] is the not-for-profit governing body of football in England. It is responsible for promoting and developing the game at all levels; from grassroots through to the professional game, FA Competitions; including the Emirates FA Cup and SSE Women's FA Cup, the England International teams, and has two core assets: Wembley Stadium connected by EE and St George's Park.

About the Football Foundation

As well as delivering Grow the Game, the Football Foundation delivers the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund on behalf of the Premier League, The FA and the Government, through Sport England. Since 2000, the Foundation has supported over 17,000 grassroots projects worth more than £1.4bn.



— FUNDING PARTNERS —

The Football Foundation Whittington House 19-30 Alfred Place London WC1E 7EA
T 0345 345 4555 E enquiries@footballfoundation.org.uk W www.footballfoundation.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1079309 Registered in England and Wales Company limited by guarantee Company number 3876305

improving facilities • creating opportunities • building communities