



Patron Graham Taylor OBE

Annual Review

Season 2014/15



More than 275,000 items of kit sent around the world since 1998.

*The more we receive,
the more we give!*

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Kit Kit Hoorah!

In November 2014, KitAid reached a major milestone and celebrated 250,000 items of kit being sent worldwide.

We marked the occasion quietly by cutting a slice of celebratory KitAid cake at one of our monthly boxing up sessions.

A cool quarter of a million kits is certainly a glorious achievement!

WELL DONE TO EVERYONE who has helped make this moment possible.

It is heart-warming to know that KitAid has made a difference to so many lives.

Our patron Graham Taylor OBE said:

"I continue to feel astounded by the achievements of KitAid and I am proud to be part of this remarkable charity. I look forward to the year ahead knowing that together we have all helped bring joy to thousands of children, youths and adults with the donation of football kit."



Awesome Airdrieonians!

Shirts for season tickets! That was the advertised exchange at Airdrieonians FC. Their prosperous project, which was led by Dougy Allsop and his team from the AFC Supporters Trust, resulted in an incredible 4,000 items of kit.

This fantastic offer for youngsters under the age of 16 was a heartfelt move to not only support KitAid but strengthen the support for the club by filling their stands with young fans for the future.

A family day of celebration followed the kit amnesty and KitAid Trustees travelled to the club to share the moment, show appreciation and make Airdrieonians FC a KitAid Ambassador Club.

"This is a unique project and we offer a massive thank you to Dougy Allsop for his commitment to KitAid and to his own club," said Derrick Williams. "Airdrieonians FC shirts have already travelled far and wide and are being enjoyed in many corners of the world. Thanks to a great family club for their wonderful work for KitAid."



"Dear Kit Managers"

In 2014 KitAid patron Graham Taylor wrote a personal letter to the kit managers of all 92 league clubs.

His plea for kits reaped results. Amongst the donations that followed were ample supplies of MUFC kit that arrived fresh from the MUFC training ground at Carrington.

In December 2014, KitAid Trustee Julia Childs tucked the MUFC kit into her luggage, boarded a plane to Lesotho and handed it over to the Christian Warriors, a determined team of youngsters who live in a remote, rural part of the country.

The kit proved to be a perfect present! It not only gave the team pride and purpose but prompted a huge win against their opponents in a KitAid cup tournament.

"We love this kit," said Christian Warriors coach and manager Regan Jansen. "It helps us feel like we are a family. We thank Graham Taylor, Manchester United and KitAid for thinking of us all".

In response to the kit delivery, MUFC posted news of the kit recipients on their club Facebook page. Fans worldwide responded and a massive 110,000 likes poured in from near and far as a result of the posting.

Manchester Evening News also covered the kit story and a further 6,000 shares were noted.

Thanks MUFC. Thanks Graham. Well done to the Christian Warriors in Lesotho. RESULT!

KITAID GRANTS HELPS BUILD COMMUNITIES

KitAid has made a difference to the recipients of three community grants.

£750 went to Lesotho (photo right). Funds helped give a facelift to poor training room facilities, enabled the community to buy goalposts, boots, and cup tournament refreshments and fund team travel to away matches.

"This money has strengthened the community" said Pieter Mierke who helps

co-ordinate team activities and training. **"It is a huge boost to an area that is deprived and forgotten."**

£1,000 grant went to Craft Aid. Funds will help improve the lives of orphans and improve sports projects in Uganda.

£1,000 grant was awarded to Mbale Uganda to buy kit, equipment, goalposts and netballs for the 200 students at Budwale School.



£1,000 grant was awarded to Stegoda FC to fund shirt printing equipment for the community.

Here comes the groom!

We are frequently flabbergasted by kit donation stories.

Did you know that a donated KitAid England shirt was so deeply appreciated that it was worn by the African recipient on his wedding day?

"I love my shirt," said Kuti Ranoosi from Lesotho. "It was just what I wanted to wear for my wedding day in December. My wife Mapaballo also loves my England shirt."

It is heartwarming to hear such kit tales and share them with the KitAid community.

Did you know that KitAid shirts and shorts are often so loved that the proud owners have been known to wear them to bed or to church.?

We await for more incredible kit stories.



How much!?

KitAid prides itself on being a high impact and low cost charity that is funded by donations.

The costs of spreading smiles, bringing joy and scattering thousands of items of kit worldwide is kept to a very tight operational budget of just £4,000. Our unique operating model means we can achieve so much for so little.

- **Thanks to the Ricky Road Run for a fantastic donation of £1,600.**
- **Thanks to Herts FA for a much appreciated donation of £605.**
- **Thanks to Affinity Water Angling Society for handing over £335.**
- **Thanks to Schroders in the City for a donation of £430.**
- **And a final thank you to the Premier League for a donation of £500.**

Yo Soy Segundo



Yo Soy Segundo (I am second) – the magnificent motto of Brazilian footballer Kaka was much used and appreciated by the 80 youngsters, 32 coaches and helpers who took part in the KitAid sponsored Ballysillan football camp.

Now in its 9th year, the Summer Camp in Northern Ireland is a much respected community event that nourishes the hearts and memories of the children and parents who attend. KitAid is proud to sponsor this annual event.

Football, fresh air, exercise, team work, confidence building and banter is the winning combination used to bring change and hope to children.

The support worker of a troubled ten year old lad who attended in Summer 2014 said "The family had limited funding and there were behavioural problems at home. Since being part of the Football Camp not only has he developed a real enthusiasm for sport, he has also grown in self-confidence and belief."

Peter Thompson, from the Ballysillan Youth For Christ project in the heart of the community who runs Summer Camp said, "This comment is a massive reminder why we do what we do and how by investing, loving and encouraging the individuals we work with, we see them reach their potential with positive change in their lives as well as positive impact on those around them. Thanks again to KitAid for supporting this project."

Sir Tom tributes travel the world

A Malawian football team are amongst the countless clubs who have been pulling on shirts left as a tribute to the legendary Sir Tom Finney.

Hundreds of football fans placed personalised messages, shirts and other memorabilia around the iconic The Splash statue following his death, aged 91 in February 2014.

Following a clean-up, the huge collection of shirts were handed over to KitAid by members of the Tom Finney Soccer Centre.

Shirts donated were of all different eras and although the majority were from North End, Tom's popularity reached fans from Blackpool, Blackburn, Manchester United and Wigan.

Sir Tom's son Brian Finney and daughter Barbara Herbert said they were glad the shirts would be helping a charitable cause.



There's only two Derrick Williams!

They share the same name. They also share a passion for football. One of them wears a number three shirt and plays for Bristol City. The other spends his spare time wearing a KitAid t-shirt and playing for the world!

In January 2015 the two Derrick Williams came face to face on the Bristol City turf. Smiling from behind a KitAid banner, the moment was marked by 600 shirts being handed over as a result of a kit amnesty at the club.

"It was great to meet my namesake" said Derrick Williams senior. "I thank him, the club and fans for collecting so many shirts and for thinking of KitAid."

Congratulations to Bristol City on their promotion and for winning the title and thumbs up to the two football devoted Derricks!



Box of

Glorious golden shirts came our way at the August 2014 Watford Football Club open day!

Fans visited our stand to drop their precious club shirts into our kit collection box and find out more about KitAid. Training kit was also donated from the club.



Our annual invite to this popular event gave us the opportunity to share the work of KitAid with supporters, collect more 'Orns shirts so we can spread gold around the world!

We are proud to say that Hornets shirts are being enjoyed by appreciative kit recipients worldwide. Thanks to WFC for all their support and to all the fans.

Good luck in the Premier League!

An Ace Space!

A massive thanks for this massive space. This storage container was donated by the Facilities team from Affinity Water to 5 Speed Couriers in Harlow who collect kit for us from all over the UK.

This crucial donation came at an essential time for KitAid. We had been filling up every storage space at 5 Speed and quite simply running out of storage space. The container now acts as an overflow facility. As quickly as it is emptied... it fills up again!



Proud of our patron

Watford FC showed their appreciation of legendary former manager Graham Taylor OBE, our KitAid Patron, by re-naming a stand at Vicarage Road in his honour.

Sharing the celebrations at the official opening was our KitAid founder Derrick Williams who had been invited by Graham to join his family for this magnificent moment.

"I was proud and privileged to be invited to this event at Watford FC and we are also very proud to have Graham as our KitAid patron," said Derrick Williams. "It was a wonderful occasion. The support from Watford fans on the day showed how much Graham achieved during his time as manager and chairman at Watford FC."



Shirts to Work

Swapping a suit and tie for their favourite club shirt, Affinity Water workers took advantage of the 'Wear your Shirt to Work Day' and got involved in this fun event.

Scheduled to coincide with the England v Italy World Cup game on June 13, 2014 supported by several companies, it was an opportunity for participating staff to wear their club colours and donate their footie shirts to KitAid.

It was not England's day for World Cup jubilation, but it was KitAid-tastic day that boosted shirt donations.

Thanks to Julian Chenery from AIG who organised the event and signed up a number of other companies to join in. Get ready for the next Shirt to Work Day coming soon at a company near you!

Why not get your workplace to join in this year?

Alder Hey comes our way

The gift of a football kit has helped a group of youngsters on the road to recovery from surgery.

Simon Graham, a registrar at Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool, recently contacted KitAid asking for football shirts to give to children who have undergone surgery at the Malawi Children's Hospital.

This inspirational work by Simon and his colleagues in Malawi instantly got KitAid's backing.

"Our KitAid slogan of 'It's more than just a shirt' could not be closer to the truth," said Trustee Janet Neville. "We have received some great photos of the children recuperating in their donated shirts and we will continue to support Simon and Alder Hey Hospital with their work in Malawi."

Bonded with the Bright Stars

In a corner of Africa, the Bright Star Soccer Academy are celebrating a new found all female friendship.

Far away from their Zimbabwe training ground, they have forged links with Garston Ladies FC in a new KitAid twinning project.

The Bright Stars, who have 62 girls on their books aim to give girls from poor families an opportunity to help lift themselves from poverty.

"I have always wanted to establish twinning links between grass root clubs who support us and teams in Africa," said Derrick Williams. "Following the recent visit to the UK by Father Joe from the Jesuit Mission Zimbabwe project I am pleased to finally have got things moving on this idea. I am really hopeful it will bring benefits to both parties and that we can extend this idea to other clubs."



AFA Kit Day

What a difference a day makes! When The FA held a conference at St George's Park, we asked the coaches attending to bring in their old kit.

They did us proud! An unbelievable 150 bin bags of footie kit came our way from County FA's all over the county and rumour has it that The FA will be doing the same again this year.

Thanks to The FA for making our day.

An auction of legends

Bidding for Best, Bremner, Brooking, Hurst, Osgood and other footie legends will give fans a chance to own a slice of photographic memorabilia.

Precious pictures of these sporting superstars were donated to KitAid by Fleet Street press photographer Ian Johnston.

Ian, who has been snapping football legends for decades was keen to pass on a gallery of his sensational images to benefit KitAid.

"This will be a great opportunity for you to buy an original photo of a football hero," said Trustee Sean McGuigan. "We are getting ready to set up a display of these pics before bidding takes place."

Home and Away

Adventure seekers are being sought to share the love of football with teams, clubs and supporters in Namibia.

Adventure Kicks, (the football & futsal division of Scottish Co Sandbaggers) are a football development and tourism company who cater for footballers and teams of all abilities, are now unofficial partners with KitAid.

Their tailor made trips provide the opportunity for UK teams (amateur and pro), to compete and experience training as local players do worldwide.

They have run successful soccer tours, placements and training camps to Mongolia and Africa. Their planned February 2016 trip to Namibia is aimed at KitAid supporters and the wider community.

Contact Martin Myers at martin@adventurekicks.com for further information.



These boots were made for donating!



Top Chelsea and England Women's forward Eniola Aluko has handed over a bumper batch of football boots and trainers to KitAid.

Eniola, who recently appeared on the Clare Balding show is part of the Chelsea Women's squad who have pushed their way to the Women's FA Cup Final, and top of the Women's Super League.

Despite her tight soccer and media schedule, Eniola had sent out a tweet that she was keen to support

KitAid projects and hand over kit to support girls in sport worldwide.

"Great to hear more about KitAid and your donations all over the world," said Eniola.

"I am passionate about engaging women and girls sport and would love to help in the provision of kit."

Eniola's boots are now proudly being worn by girls in Tanzania thanks to our partnership with Football Action.

Blantyre turns Blue!

We received kit from a lady who very sadly lost her son John, a keen Everton fan, the family wanted a good home for his much cherished shirts.

The shirts were given to one of our charity partners FOMO (Friends of Mulanje Orphans), one of their volunteers was travelling to Blantyre in the Southern Region of Malawi.

Kits were handed out to a team in the village Nkhonya. They sent a photograph of the team proudly wearing John's shirts and their Captain wrote a thank you letter to the family. He explained it had 'solved the problem of the lack of jersey' and "we like to inform you that we named our team your name from Nkhonya FC to Mulcahy's Young Soccer FC. On behalf of the team with thanks".

It really was 'more than just a shirt', having kit means the team can now play in matches and join a district league. The team said they will try their level best and will send news back about their progress.

TearKITAid

We are very fortunate to have a committed team of regional supporters who work to support KitAid in many different ways. With kit donations from all across the country the team help by collecting and storing kit, supporting events and publicising our work. Every member of KitAid is a volunteer and they do not claim expenses, which is how we manage to operate on a shoestring budget and still donate 275,000 items of kit across the world.

If you would like to volunteer for KitAid please email us and we can help you to join the amazing team that is Team KitAid.

Here is a list of the current squad and the cities/towns they cover:

Helen Carver	Birmingham/West Midlands
Kevin Hurst	Burton on Trent
Grayham Bailey	Crawley
Caroline & Ian Heswell	Halifax
Jacky & Mark Davison	Hemel Hempstead
David Ingham	Lancaster
Lee Seacombe	Leicestershire
Vin O'Brien	Liverpool
Peter Moulds	Manchester
Wendy Pike	Ongar
Lesley Giddens	Preston/Lancs
Karl Luton	South Wales
Tania Bolton	Surrey
John Maxwell	Swindon
Ben Van Nes	West Sussex
Janet Neville	Wirral/Merseyside

Thanks to clubs, kit manufacturers and to our fantastic team

There are hundreds of grass roots clubs from all over the UK who regularly donate their unwanted kit to us. We have some great partnerships with the Hertfordshire FA, The FA, as well as the Evo-stik Northern Premier League.

There are too many clubs to mention but we must say thank you to Liverpool FC, Manchester United FC, Queens Park Rangers FC, Watford FC, Cardiff City FC, Reading FC, Bristol City FC, Airdrieonians FC,, Stenhousemuir FC, FC United of Manchester, Marine FC, and Chesham United FC.

We also receive amazing support from PUMA and Great Branding from Luton, as well as 5 Speed Couriers from Harlow and Affinity Water.

Our final thanks must go to our dedicated team of helpers who regularly turn up to our monthly boxing up sessions, all of our Trustees, and lastly, our inspirational Patron, Graham Taylor OBE.



Blue Moon in the Gambia

Man City training kit donated by their Former Academy coach Scott Sellars, has given a Gambian team a fresh blue new facelift. Scott, who is now a coach at Wolves, had a successful career playing for several clubs including Newcastle United and Leeds United.

On behalf of the kitted out Gambian squad, thanks Scott!



Social media



Want to get in touch, put your old kit to good use, donate your time to help others, or simply find out more about the remarkable story and work of KitAid?

Simply visit www.kitaid.net

- Catch up with the latest news at www.kitaid.blogspot.com
- Tweet us at follow us on @kitaid
- Facebook us at Kit Aid Charity
- See the latest pictures on our Instagram and Tumblr sites
- Or email us at kitaid@affinitywater.co.uk

Each week we get over 4,000 hits to our twitter page so please follow us to keep in touch.

