

News Release

FIRST BARCLAYS COMMUNITY SPORTS AWARD OF THE SEASON RECOGNISES ACHIEVEMENTS OF CEO OF JASON ROBERTS FOUNDATION

The first winner of the August Barclays Community Sports Award, and the first of the 2011/12 season, is Otis Roberts, Chief Executive of the Jason Roberts Foundation, based in London. The Foundation, created by Blackburn striker Jason Roberts, aims to provide opportunities for young people in the UK and the Caribbean to participate in structured sporting activity - to improve health and fitness, self esteem, confidence and social inclusion.

The Barclays Community Sports Award is in its second season and will be awarded each month through the season, just like the awards for the Barclays Player and Manager of the Month Awards. The award aims to demonstrate the outstanding contributions to grassroots sports that are being made by individuals and groups up and down the country, at the same time as those in the professional game are being recognised for their achievements. Former England and Barclays Premier League player Gareth Southgate is chair of the judging panel for the second consecutive year.

Otis Roberts is the driving force behind the Jason Roberts Foundation, giving up his time and dedicating his energy over the last four years into engaging the youngsters in London with training and volunteering schemes. Roberts' energy and enthusiasm has created an environment where young people in the area can thrive through sport. Recent initiatives have included the Respect Brent Programme and the Jason Roberts Football Club where youngsters between 5 and 14 are able to get free football training, and become part of football teams during the summer holidays and at weekends to give them productive activities to do in their spare time. .



Otis Roberts said: "I'm so pleased to be awarded the Barclays Community Sports Award by Barclays Spaces for Sports, the Football Foundation and Premier League Creating Chances. The work that we do in the community for our young members is vital and it's fantastic to have our work recognised in this way. I'd like to thank our partners and all the people who have got involved over the years for their continued support"

Gareth Southgate said, "I'm delighted to be back on the judging panel for the Barclays Community Sports Award, and to announce Otis Roberts as the first winner of this season. What Otis has created in his community is a safe-haven for young people who are at risk of suffering from social exclusion or crime. His achievements are an inspiration to us all."

The Barclays Community Sports Award is delivered in partnership between Barclays Spaces for Sports, the Premier League's Creating Chances programme and the Football Foundation.

Each monthly winner will receive £1,000 for their group or organisation, a limited edition trophy and will be entered into the end of season award to win a further £5,000, all donated by Barclays Spaces for Sports. The end of season award winner will also receive a VIP trip to London to receive their award from Gareth Southgate.

To nominate a person, group or organisation for the Barclays Community Sports Award of the Month simply visit www.barclayscommunitysportsaward.com

-ENDS-

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT LEXIS SPORT AND ENTERTAINMENT:

LUCY MCGETTIGAN - +00 44 (0)207 908 6435 lmcgettigan@lexispr.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

Barclays Spaces for Sports

- Barclays Spaces for Sports is a community sports programme using sport to revitalise disadvantaged communities in countries around the world where Barclays operates.
- It was launched in the UK in 2004 and has delivered 200 sustainable sports sites, giving more than half a million people in disadvantaged communities the opportunity to benefit.
- Following its success in the UK the programme was extended globally in 2008, bringing the total commitment by Barclays to more than £37m. Additional investment of more than £30m from partners the Football Foundation brings the overall total to more than £67m.
- Sites and projects are already established in South Africa, the United States, Spain, the UK, Zambia, Zimbabwe, China and India.
- Barclays Spaces for Sports is part of Barclays global community investment programme, which invested £55.3m across 37 countries in 2010.
- To find out more visit www.barclays.com/community/spacesforsports

Premier League Creating Chances

- The Premier League launched Creating Chances in 2007 to use the power of football to increase sporting participation and encourage individual clubs to bring about positive social change in their local communities. The Premier League invested £111.6 million in community good causes between 2007 and 2010 – a figure that represents nearly 4% of the League's revenue. This investment has enabled clubs to engage 14 million participants and levered £305 million of partnership funding. Key Creating Chances initiatives include:
 - Kickz - Premier League clubs work with their local police forces to engage with young people in some of the most disadvantaged areas of England
 - Premier League 4 Sport - a groundbreaking £3.8m partnership with the UK Government that uses football to encourage participation in the four Olympic sports of badminton, judo, table tennis and volleyball
 - Premier League Health - a unique £1.63m programme funded by the New Football Pools to help improve the state of men's health in England
 - Premier League Enterprise – an initiative that delivers information, advice and enterprise activities to young people aged 11-19 years old
 - Premier League into Work – a scheme that gives jobseekers the skills and abilities they need to find work, while improving their fitness levels and football skills
 - Premier Skills - an innovative coaching development programme run in conjunction with the British Council in 15 countries in Africa and Asia

The Football Foundation

- Funded by the Premier League, The FA, and the Government via Sport England, the Football Foundation is the nation's largest sports charity. Launched in July 2000, the Foundation has so far supported around 8,000 community sports projects worth more than £945m. For more information, visit www.footballfoundation.org.uk