

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

Ricky's coaching effort earns him award

Honicknowle youngster Ricky Harris has come a long way since the Kickz youth football project came to Honicknowle Green when he was 14 years old, in 2009.

He was spotted by Plymouth Argyle's Kickz Co-ordinator Mickey McCloskey, who asked him if he would like to volunteer helping to coach with Kickz

"I had been thinking about my future, and wanted to get involved with sport, so this was too good an opportunity to miss," said Ricky, now aged 16. "It's something I've wanted to do ever since I was a little boy," he added.

Ricky's efforts and commitment have earned him this month's Kids Are Alright Award.

Plymouth Argyle's 'Football in The Community' team partners with the Police and Fire services to bring Kickz to Honicknowle on a regular basis, taking the 'Soccerena', a ready made pitch set-up, into the area for the youngsters to play on and receive proper coaching, all for free.

Ricky has been giving up his time to volunteer three evenings a week for the last 18 months, helping coach young people between the ages of 11 – 19 in football skills.

He has also coached with Argyle's Mini Soccer initiative during the school holidays.

Mark Lovell, PAFC Community Scheme Manager, said, "Ricky is a good role model for Honicknowle where he has gained respect from his peers and inspired others.

"He has been a great asset to the Kickz sessions, he's a young ambassador to his local community and shows others that there are opportunities available to them within the Kickz programme."

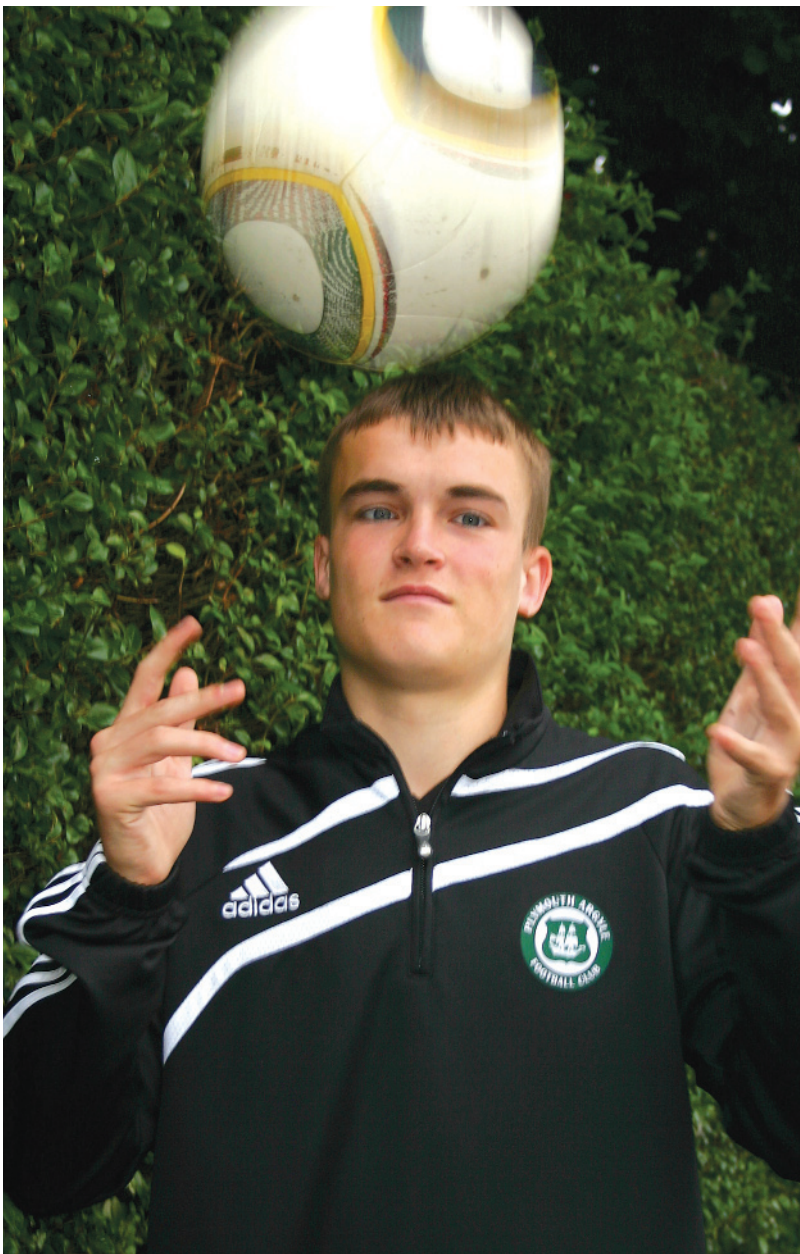
In fact, Ricky has done so well over the last year and a half, that Plymouth Argyle have offered him a two year coaching apprenticeship, starting in September, where he will be developing his skills as a coach, and earning an NVQ in sports development, leading to a nationally recognised coaching qualification.

"Doing this has really boosted my confidence," commented Ricky. "I really enjoy it when the young people we coach ask me to show them how to do this or that. I show them, and then they get it and do it themselves – it's great to be part of that.

"We learn respect for adults through this, by relating to the coaching team, and it also helps keep us out of trouble and gives us a way to get into sport."

"I want to thank everyone at Argyle for the opportunity they have given me for the future, I appreciate all they've done for me," Ricky added.

Ricky's Mum Karen echoed Ricky's appreciation of Argyle when she said "I'm really proud of Ricky for what he's achieved in school and out of school, and thanks to Argyle for all they've done."



Award winner Ricky Harris



More information on Kickz...

Using the power of football and appeal of professional football clubs' brands, Kickz aims to engage young people who may otherwise be difficult to reach.

Programme vision

The Kickz vision is 'to target some of the most disadvantaged areas of the country in order to create safer, stronger, more respectful communities through the development of young peoples' potential'.

Objectives

The scheme is designed to:

- engage young people (aged 12-18yrs) in a range of constructive activities which link to the Government's Every Child Matters policy
- create routes into education, training and employment
- encourage volunteering within projects and throughout the target neighbourhoods
- break down barriers between the police and young people
- reduce crime and anti social behaviour in the targeted neighbourhoods
- increase the playing, coaching and officiating opportunities for participants

Following successful pilot projects at 4 clubs beginning April 2006 (Tottenham Hotspur, Fulham, Brentford and Manchester City), the project has since rolled out to 39 professional clubs delivering 110 separate projects and engaging over 30,000 young people.

Find out more...

Anyone who wants to find out more about Kickz in Plymouth should contact Mickey McCloskey, Kickz Co-ordinator on 01752 562561 extension 4.



1,000 youngsters take part in the Summer Mix programme

At the time this Shopper article was written, the Summer Mix programme was three quarters of the way to completion.

During the first three weeks, 53 programmes with 82

courses have been run, with over 1,000 young people taking part. Summer Mix core team member Ian Smith said, "This is the first year we have run this in Plymouth and it has been a huge learning curve, and a very worthwhile experience."

Feedback from a questionnaire question, "What can we do to improve on this for next year?" brought this response from one satisfied young person: "Nothing much... every day we have done fun things and you cannot improve on that".

Take our Survey and you could win £50 worth of M&S vouchers!

Your views are really important to the Kids Are Alright campaign, and this is a great opportunity for you to let us know how you feel about young people in Plymouth.

The Kids Are Alright survey has been designed with assistance from the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, a cross-departmental govern-

ment organisation reporting to the Ministry of Justice, the Home Office and the Attorney General's office.

It is designed to measure perceptions of young people in Plymouth before and after the campaign. There is a prize draw where you have the chance to win £50 worth of M&S vouchers, so make sure you fill out the online survey as soon as you can to be in with a chance of winning!

Nominate a young person

You can also nominate a young person for the

monthly award – if you know a young person who is making a positive contribution to their community, go to www.tkaa.co.uk and tell us why – they could be our monthly winner, receive £50 worthy of vouchers but more importantly be recognized and encouraged for the work they are doing!

Visit www.tkaa.co.uk to take the survey, nominate a young person and find out more about The Kids Are Alright campaign.

For more information on The Kids Are Alright campaign, or to nominate a young person for a kids are alright award please visit

www.tkaa.co.uk

