Community Pitch report
June 2017

The Community Pitch continues to see high levels of use during the first part of 2017 – building on a successful 2016 and seeing Albion in the Community expand its work with a range of new sessions, particular new programmes aimed at players with a disability. There also continues to be high levels of usage for women and girls football.

Key objectives already being address during 2017 include sustaining a high level of increased activity, and providing increased access to schools across Sussex and to the immediate local community.

CUA objectives	1 January 2017 - 31 May 2017			Annual Total
	Pitch usage by hours			Participation hours
	YTD	Prior year	% Change	2016 Actual
Internal free usage:				
18 and under	760	600	27%	13,158
Girls and women	211	199	6%	3,584
Low income socio economic groups	30	25	18%	360
Black and ethnic minorities (included within other categories)	0	0	-	0
People with disabilities	264	210	26%	3,335
Coaching and officiating courses	33	8	296%	198
Educational courses for participants aged 18 and under	122	75	62%	3,767
External use (free and charged):				
Organised local group/club sessions	131	101	30%	2,200

Selected highlights from January to June 2017

Women and girls

More than 60 girls took part in a free half-term soccer school on 12 April. The event, which was sponsored by American Express and delivered by Albion in the Community, was part of the charity's efforts to encourage more women and girls to play football.

Since the start of January, the Community Pitch has seen 211 hours of use by women and girls, resulting in 3,584 individual player sessions.

Schools engagement

Ten teams and 150 players from local schools took part in an under-16s girls football tournament on the Community Pitch. The schools came from all over Sussex. Three players from Brighton & Hove Albion's successful women's team also attended and spent time meeting the young players.

Elsewhere, Albion in the Community welcomed more than 30 pupils from local SEND schools for a session aimed at young players with autism. The session was part of Albion in the Community's work as part of World Autism Awareness Week and saw a number of participants signing up to take part in the charity's regular session for people with autism that takes place in the dome at the American Express Elite Football Performance Centre.

Low income participation

Albion in the Community is holding a free football fun day on the Community Pitch for young people who live near to the American Express Elite Football Performance Centre, with the charity taking particular efforts to engage with people from low income families living in the Lancing area.

Disability football

Albion in the Community's (AITC) disability department hosted a successful taster session for players who have Down's syndrome. The event was well-attended and had been advertised through AITC's usual channels. Invitations were also sent to local disability groups, day centres and schools. The session proved so successful that AITC has now decided to launch a new team for players with Down's syndrome. The team, Brighton & Hove Albion Down's Syndrome FC, will train regularly on the Community Pitch and hope to compete in a national league. Players from the taster session were subsequently invited to play on the pitch at the American Express Community Stadium as part of AITC's disability department's play on the pitch event, where they hosted a team of players from the Aldingbourne Trust.

AITC also held holiday football course aimed at people with a disability, with more than 60 players attending. These soccer schools are now a regular fixture on AITC's calendar and give dozens of local people with a disability the chance to play at the American Express Elite Football Performance Centre and benefit from expert coaching. The sessions are also a great way to signpost players to AITC's regular disability football sessions, including a number that take place at the Community Pitch.

Financial performance

Paid usage of the community pitch by local youth teams remain a limited market. Significant efforts have been made to promote the facility hire to local schools and football teams, which has resulted in greater breadth of use than in 2016. The higher income in 2016 includes some initial leasing to groups over the age of 18.

Financial performance	YTD (Jan - May 2017)	Prior year YTD
Income	£20,191	£23,480
Direct expenditure		
Staff	£10,602	£10,097
Maintenance	£8,888	£8,465
Utilities	£10,744	£10,233
Cleaning	£3,571	£3,401
Equipment	£175	£167
Stewarding / Security	£6,248	£5,950
Total direct expenditure	**£40,228**	**£38,312**
Sinking fund	£10,417	£10,417
Total expenditure	**£50,644**	**£48,729**
Net income (subsidised by Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club)	**-£30,453**	**-£25,249**