

DIAL-A-CAB AND KIDS FOOTBALL IN UGANDA...

by Alan Fisher

There can't be many in the London taxi business that know much about football in Uganda – let alone about their junior football leagues that think nothing of including disabled players in the teams. But thanks to Dial-a-Cab driver Steve Bryant, that is about to change! Steve is set to accompany an NHS trouble-shooter on an errand of mercy that could help many Ugandan people extend their current life expectancy beyond its miserly average of 45 years. By 2050, it is hoped that figure could reach mid-60s.

The trouble-shooter is Jane Barr, whose usual task is to float between NHS hospitals and clinics in Devon. However, the plan for Uganda is to deliver urgent medical supplies to both adults and children in Kampala and also to give talks on how they can help themselves more. This especially applies to subjects such as midwifery - there is an acute shortage of midwives. The subject of HIV and AIDS is also high on the agenda and something that affects so many in Africa and advice on how they can help battle the illness will be high on Jane's agenda.

As for Steve, he had heard about kids' football teams in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. The leagues contain many players with disabilities, yet they are taken very seriously. He approached Dial-a-Cab to see whether they could get hold of any old football second-hand football shirts for the kids out there. Like many around the world, these kids love – and know everything about – the English premiership. So after consulting with DaC Chairman Brian Rice, the editor of DaC's in-house magazine, Alan Fisher, went to Netbusters in Newbury Park and explained the situation. They provided a complete set of new Spurs tops together with some scarves and

all at cost price and included the printing of Dial-a-Cab on the back of each one. Brian Rice then presented the shirts to Steve and he is taking them to give to one lucky team.

The Kids League of Uganda, whose motto is Improving the lives of Young People in Africa and elsewhere through sport, told Dial-a-Cab through their representative Ann Dudley: "Our thanks for your wonderful gift of Tottenham shirts for our kids. We have many children who will treasure these wonderful shirts. They would never

normally get a chance to wear such a special bit of kit connecting them to some of their footballing heroes. We hope to get Steve and Jane to present



the Tottenham Shirts while they are in Uganda. Coming 'Out of Africa', it has always been a challenge to get the word out there about the work of The Kids League of Uganda, but with their help and yours, we feel sure that we are heading in the right direction."



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