

Step into Sport interview:

Richard Seedhouse

Q 1. Could you give us some background behind Coundon Court and what they provide to the community?

Coundon Court FC is the National FA Charter Standard Development Club of the Year for 2008. We provide community coaching sessions to all reception and year 1 children. We have boy's teams at U7, U8, U9, U10, U12 and girl's teams at U10, U11, U12, U13, U17 and Adults. We also run Junior Football Organiser courses for all our players once they reach 15 years of age, we have held three courses in the last four years with our original boys team now all playing open age football. We also run this course in conjunction with our school partner Coundon Court School and their PE staff and its Sports Leaders. We also provide Step into Sport and mentor many of our players and parents in their sporting development, as players, coaches, managers, referees or administrators. We were very proud to be chosen to take part in the inaugural FA female coach mentoring program.

Q 2. Why did your club decide to use the Step into Sport programme and how did they get involved?

We run the Step into Sport Scheme as it provides the children with a format for logging the work they do within the community for the good of sports participation, in our case football. We learnt about the course through both Birmingham County FA and CSW Sport and took their advice on the course positives.

Q 3. Can you give any practical examples of how a Step into Sport volunteer contributed to the club in a meaningful way?

We offer step into sport to all our young leaders and we are very proud to say that two of our step into sport volunteers were chosen to represent the midlands region at this years National FA Young Leaders Camp. This reflects on the club very positively and helps to bring on the next generation of young leaders when they can see the rewards. We have Step into Sport volunteers coaching most weekends and without them the community scheme would definitely suffer and possibly crumble through lack of volunteers.

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Q 4. Have any volunteers from the Step into Sport programme continued to work for the club in another capacity? (i.e paid coach, official, web designer)

We have had many successes but we feel the greatest achievements are from the kids themselves as we now have referees and coaches who have gone on to earn money doing what they originally just started doing because they enjoyed it. They have even gone further now branching out from just the club and our now active with other organisations including the Birmingham County FA, CSW Sport, Coventry City FC community soccer and The Lloyd Mcgrath Coaching Scheme to name a few.

Q 5. Would you say your club had taken advantage of the benefits attached for providing a placement for a Step into Sport volunteer? (free workshops etc)

We are aware of the many benefits and have taken advantage of some but we would like to maintain that the real benefit is the energy and enthusiasm of the step into sport candidate.

Q 6. Did the person who acted as 'mentor' feel they had enough support and was the role easy to manage?

I have acted as a mentor with many of the volunteers and the support is on offer if needed but the role is easy to manage, takes a few minutes on a phone call if they need help or guidance, or a friendly chat or word of advice. Every volunteer has been excellent and wanted to achieve. It is just a matter of focusing the energy to achieve the hours clearly defined in the Step into Sport logbook and on line through YST website. Once they begin to get involved and their confidence grows they just want more input and things they can make happen.

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