

## 'It's like scoring a hat-trick': how sport is aiming to drive sustainability

### Level 2: Intermediate

#### 1 Warmer

a. Here are some ways of helping the Earth by reducing the amount of carbon you produce. Which three of these do you think are the most important?

- Use public transport.
- Don't fly.
- Become a vegan.
- Don't buy new clothes.
- Don't buy products packaged in plastic.
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Have a shower instead of a bath.
- Buy a bicycle.

#### 2 Key words

a. Find the following words in the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

1. a noun meaning *the clothes and equipment needed for a sport*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)
2. a noun meaning *a condition in which someone is too fat in a way that is dangerous for their health*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)
3. a verb meaning *use something again* \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
4. a noun meaning *a prize or other reward that is given to someone who has achieved something*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (4)
5. a noun meaning *a long period of time when there is little or no rain and crops die*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (5)
6. a noun meaning *something that could be dangerous* \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
7. an adjective meaning *relating to that part of your body that processes food and carries waste out of your body* \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
8. an adjective meaning *using methods that do not harm the environment*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (6)
9. a noun meaning *a natural or chemical substance that is added to soil to help plants grow*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (7)

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10. an adjective meaning *referring to people who work in offices rather than doing physical work*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (9)
11. a noun meaning *the amount of money that you must spend in order to start a new project*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (10)
12. a two-word noun meaning *three goals scored by one player in a football match*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (11)

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**20 October, 2021**

- 1 Steffan Rees, a karate instructor in south Wales, realized that lots of children were unable to come to his classes because the kit was too expensive, while at the same time others had unused kit in their wardrobes. He suggested introducing a sportswear and equipment recycling scheme and Natasha Burnell started Play It Again Sport.
- 2 Burnell loves her job. Play It Again Sport is based in the Rhondda Valley, an ex-mining community with high levels of obesity, sickness and unemployment and lower levels of access to transport. "We will take anything to do with sport," she says. "The only rule is that we can reuse it. We don't want to put stuff in landfill. We've had skis, lacrosse sticks, football boots – you name it. We sell stuff in a recycling shop."
- 3 With the money raised by selling the donated items, Play It Again Sport provides sporting activities for the local community, a running group, sport in schools, walking rugby. It tries to offer a little bit of something for everyone.
- 4 This support for the local community won Play It Again Sport an award at the British Association for Sustainable Sport (BASIS). The chief executive of BASIS, Russell Seymour, says "Sport has been impacted by climate change and people are realizing it."
- 5 The impact has been everywhere, affecting elite athletes and grassroots players, in the UK, but particularly the global south. There has been flooding in the UK, drought in South Africa, a lack of water and air pollution in India. Super typhoons and hurricanes interrupt events while intense heat is a hazard for athletes and spectators, especially children.
- 6 Seymour stresses the power of sport as a way of communicating about the climate crisis. This has been the experience of Shoreham FC, winners of BASIS's Club Strategy award. There, the owner and chairman Stuart Slaney's son Luca was diagnosed with an intestinal disease and became a vegan. He persuaded Stuart to do the same, then suggested the club serve a part-vegan menu. Fans started asking what other sustainable things the club were doing and the process started.
- 7 They began with the simple things: replacing lights with LEDs and changing to a renewable energy supplier. They stopped using fertilizer and started changing their mechanical equipment to electric equipment.
- 8 The club installed a bike park, then reduced the cost of tickets for fans who cycle to the ground or can prove they arrived on public transport or by electric car. The club is also planning to install electric vehicle charging points.
- 9 Fans have mainly been keen. Forty supporters have changed their energy supplier, while others come to help with the recycling. "Most of our supporters are working class," says Stuart Slaney. "We don't see sustainability as a white-collar thing. Our supporters seem more interested in lowering their carbon footprint than most people." The part-vegan menu has been successful too with three of the players changing to a vegan diet.
- 10 Financially, Slaney has been pleasantly surprised. The LEDs required an initial outlay but there's been a 30% reduction in energy bills. They're also about to invest £50,000 in LED floodlights, which should reduce costs by 70% and ensure "you can no longer see us from space!"
- 11 "It's been a massive journey for me," says Slaney, "and you can't just jump in. We planned it over six months and slowly started to get our carbon footprint down. The satisfaction is like scoring a hat-trick on match day."

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First published in *The Guardian* 20/10/2021

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#### 3 Comprehension check

a. Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the article? Correct any that are false.

1. Lots of children didn't go to Steffan Rees's karate classes because the classes were too expensive.
2. It was Natasha Burnell's idea to start a sportswear and equipment recycling scheme.
3. They only accept things that are to do with sport.
4. They spend the money they earn from selling the old sportswear on new sportswear.
5. People don't realize the impact that climate change has on sport.
6. The impact has mainly been in the northern hemisphere.
7. Stuart Slaney's son persuaded him to become a vegan.
8. Shoreham FC has stopped using fertilizer.
9. The club has installed electric vehicle charging points.
10. The club's energy bills have gone down since they installed LED lights.

#### 4 Key language

a. Complete the table using words from the text.

adjective	noun
1. sustainable	_____
2. obese	_____
3. sick	_____
4. unemployed	_____
5. active	_____
6. dry	_____
7. satisfied	_____

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#### 5 Discussion

a. Discuss these statements.

- "Everyone can do something to prevent climate change."
- "Recycling clothes and equipment is not the answer."

#### 6 In your own words

- a. Use an internet search engine to find out as much as possible about Play It Again Sport.
- b. Report your findings to the class.