

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

### Level 3: Advanced

#### 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. Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

all-encompassing	compostable	drought	fertilizer
hat-trick	kit	obesity	rolling
rummage around	stipulation	sustainability	swathe

1. Clothes and equipment needed for a particular sport are known as \_\_\_\_\_.
2. If you \_\_\_\_\_, you search for something among a lot of other things.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a condition in which someone is too fat in a way that is dangerous for their health.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a condition that says what is allowed or necessary.
5. If something is described as \_\_\_\_\_, it includes or involves everything.
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a large amount of something.
7. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a period when there is little or no rain and crops die.
8. If you get the ball \_\_\_\_\_, you make something start to happen.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is a substance added to soil to help plants grow.

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10. If a substance is \_\_\_\_\_, it is made of plants and can be recycled to improve the quality of soil.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ is the process of using methods that do not harm the environment.
12. In football, a \_\_\_\_\_ is three goals scored by the same player.

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#### ***Shoreham FC have made changes ranging from vegan pasties to carbon offsetting while Play It Again Sport is removing financial barriers in south Wales***

**Tanya Aldred**

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- 1 It all started when 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 stuff sitting unused in their wardrobes. He suggested to the charity People and Work that it introduce a sportswear and equipment recycling scheme. The momentum built and Natasha Burnell started running Play It Again Sport in November, 2019.
- 2 Burnell loves her job, which involves lots of human interaction and plenty of rummaging around in her huge store room. 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. Keeping things local and low-cost is essential.
- 3 "We will take anything to do with sport," she says. "The only stipulation is that we can reuse it. We don't want to put stuff in landfill. We've had skis, lacrosse sticks, cleats – you name it. We have donation boxes in every leisure centre in the area, and we sell stuff in a recycling shop."
- 4 With the funds raised by selling the donated items, Play It Again Sport provides sporting activities for the local community, a running group, sport in schools, armchair aerobics for older people, walking rugby. It tries to offer a little bit of something for everyone: the walking rugby tends to attract men over 50 who come together and socialize.
- 5 The job brings Burnell into contact with the best of the human spirit. "I went to a rugby club in June in a low-income area. We were selling boots for £3 – socks for free – and an 11-year-old came over with his friend and insisted on buying him boots. The friend had come down to play in old trainers and school uniform, and his smile brought a tear to my eye. It also shows the sense of community round here – people will support each other."
- 6 This commitment to the local community and circular economy won Play It Again Sport an award at the British Association for Sustainable Sport (BASIS). The event also served as a 10th birthday party for BASIS, which has found that in the past year interest in its work has gone through the roof. "The level of engagement reflects that of society," says the Chief Executive, Russell Seymour. "Sport has been impacted by climate change and people are realizing it."
- 7 The impact has been all-encompassing, affecting elite athletes and grassroots players, in the UK, but particularly the global south. Flooding wiping out swathes of games in the UK, drought doing the same in South Africa, cricket matches in India moved because of lack of water while international matches have been interrupted by air pollution. Super typhoons and hurricanes threaten venues and interrupt events while intense heat is a hazard for athletes and spectators, especially children.
- 8 Seymour stresses the power of sport as a means of communicating about the climate crisis, which matches the experience of Shoreham FC, winners of BASIS's Club Strategy award. There, it was the diagnosis of the owner and chairman Stuart Slaney's son Luca with Crohn's disease, which got the ball rolling. Luca went vegan, persuaded Stuart to join him, then suggested the club serve a part-vegan menu. Fans started asking what else the club were doing sustainability-wise and the process started.
- 9 They began with the simple stuff: replacing lights with LEDs and changing to a renewable energy supplier. They stopped using fertilizer, started switching their mechanical equipment over to electric and changed to compostable kitchen wear.
- 10 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. That deduction then goes towards carbon offsetting. The club are also planning to install EV charging points.

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- 11 Fans have largely 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." The part-vegan menu has gone down well too with three of the players switching to a vegan diet.
- 12 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!"
- 13 "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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#### 3 Comprehension check

a. Answer the questions using information from the article.

1. What does the charity Play It Again Sport do?
2. What four problems does the Rhondda Valley have according to the article?
3. What is the only condition placed on items donated to the charity?
4. Which social group is particularly involved in walking rugby?
5. What 'brought a tear' to Natasha Burnell's eye?
6. What two factors affected cricket matches in India?
7. Why did Shoreham FC's chairman become a vegan?
8. What benefit do fans who cycle to the match get from Shoreham FC?
9. What two further 'green' installations are the club planning?
10. How has Shoreham FC managed to achieve a 30% reduction in energy bills?

#### 4 Key language

a. Complete the phrases from the text using prepositions.

1. insist \_\_\_\_\_ doing something
2. be diagnosed \_\_\_\_\_ a disease or condition
3. be interested \_\_\_\_\_ doing something
4. invest \_\_\_\_\_ new equipment
5. provide activities \_\_\_\_\_ the local community
6. change \_\_\_\_\_ an alternative energy supplier
7. a reduction \_\_\_\_\_ energy bills
8. a commitment \_\_\_\_\_ the local community

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#### 5 Discussion

a. Discuss these statements.

- "If everyone does a little, it will make a huge difference."
- "Everyone should be on a vegan diet."
- "Governments should support poor people. They shouldn't have to rely on charity."

#### 6 In your own words

a. Use an internet search engine to find out as much as possible LED lighting and its different uses. Report your findings to the class.