



Harlequins

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HISTORY MADE AT LADIES FESTIVAL OF SPORT

Harlequins Ladies made history this month, hosting the biggest-ever crowd at a women's club match in this country, when they took on their local adversaries Richmond FC at The Twickenham Stoop.

Taking place just two days after International Women's Day, The Stoop welcomed a record crowd of 4,542, in a tight encounter, which saw Harlequins Ladies squeeze past their local rivals 14-12.

Supporting the 2018 'Press for Progress' theme, the day celebrated and empowered women and girls by taking a stand for equality in the world of sport.

UK Sport Chair Dame Katherine Grainger said: ***"This was a great initiative by Harlequins and we are excited to be involved in promoting women in sport at this match. Rugby Sevens was a massive success in Rio with the women's team narrowly missing out on Bronze."***

"As part of our DiscoverYourGold campaign, we have used the day to identify young people with sporting talent, with an aim to help them fulfil their potential and maybe join some of today's players on the plane to the Olympics."

As part of the celebration of women's sport, The Stoop also welcomed some of the UK's most inspirational and talented sports women including Olympic champion Christine Ohuruogu and Olympic silver medallist Sharron Davies, alongside several members of Team GB's Rio 2016 Olympic gold medal winning hockey team.

Before the game, over 300 girls between the ages of 11-18 participated in a community club tournament, coaching clinics and Switch sessions held by the Harlequins Foundation. Switch was launched in 2016 to encourage more girls to get involved in rugby.

To read more about the programme visit: www.harlequins.foundation/participation/

Girls pre-match community club tournament



In front of record crowd, Harlequins Ladies squeeze past local rivals Richmond



COMMUNITY KIDS TAKE OVER THE STOOP

Last month over 700 local kids took over The Stoop, with many assisting the Club's photographer, Kit Man, stewards and operations team, as part of the annual Harlequins Foundation and Community Day.

Throughout the year, the Club works closely

with a large number of affiliate clubs and schools, and this day marks an opportunity to say thank-you for their hard work, loyalty and commitment to Harlequins. Along with the Harlequins v Newcastle game day support, the Harlequins community team ran two coaching clinics on Craneford Way, along with 30 clubs attending a tag tournament at Kneller Hall.



Kids take over The Stoop



RECORD NUMBERS ATTEND THE STOOP'S RUGBY CAMP

This half-term over 400 boys and girls joined Harlequins Community Camps across six of the Club's affiliate clubs, and the Twickenham Stoop, for three action packed days of core skill development.

The Stoop's mid-semester camp was the largest held, with over 90 boys and girls from local clubs and further afield, joining qualified community coaches, to learn first-hand how to 'Play the Quins Way'. Despite the unpredictable weather conditions, all the players took to the challenge with smiles on their faces.

Last month also saw a return of the hugely successful girls camp, which saw girls from as far as Kent and Hampshire travel to Guildfordians RFC, for an intensive day of training. One of the players said, "the Harlequins coaches made us work hard, but it

Harlequins community camp fun



was thoroughly enjoyable, as we were able to develop our skills, and generally improve our standard of play".

As we look to the warmer and dryer weather of the Easter holidays, the Harlequins' Community Team is offering a full programme of camps,

including the return of the forwards, backs and kicking clinics, along with a new evening camp for older players, The Harlequins International Masterclass, and a chance to be coached by some of our current Harlequins first team players. For more information, visit: www.rugbycamps.co.uk/harlequins.

DEVELOPING A LONG-TERM VISION FOR THE STOOP

Harlequins has committed to creating a fantastic new neighbourhood destination on our current site, with a new state-of-the-art stadium at its heart.

As a leading London rugby club for over 150 years, Harlequins have always been proud to innovate, both on and off the field - bringing the belief in the power of sport to change lives.

We have always aspired to be something bigger than a rugby club. So, we are now embarking on one of the most exciting and important projects in the Club's history that

will secure a sustainable future for Harlequins at The Stoop.

This is a hugely ambitious and pioneering development opportunity for the Club and one we need to get right, working closely with our neighbours, Richmond Council, and our partners to deliver.

In the coming months we will be consulting the community on our plans, ensuring all our neighbours, fans and interested parties have their say. As part of this, we have now launched our new project website which will host new information about the development when available, as well as details of how you

can stay up-to-date as part of our ongoing consultation.

We have an opportunity to create something truly special for our community, our fans and our affiliate clubs - while making a significant and positive social, cultural and economic impact on the local area.

We look forward to working closely with you all to realise that ambition and would like to know how you would like to participate in this process. To let us know your thoughts and to be kept up-to-date, please contact vision@quins.co.uk or visit www.QuinsVision.co.uk.

HITZ HIGH ACHIEVERS LEAD THE WAY

West Londoners, Kya and Natalie, are shining examples of the rapid progress young people can make with the right support and the right attitude.

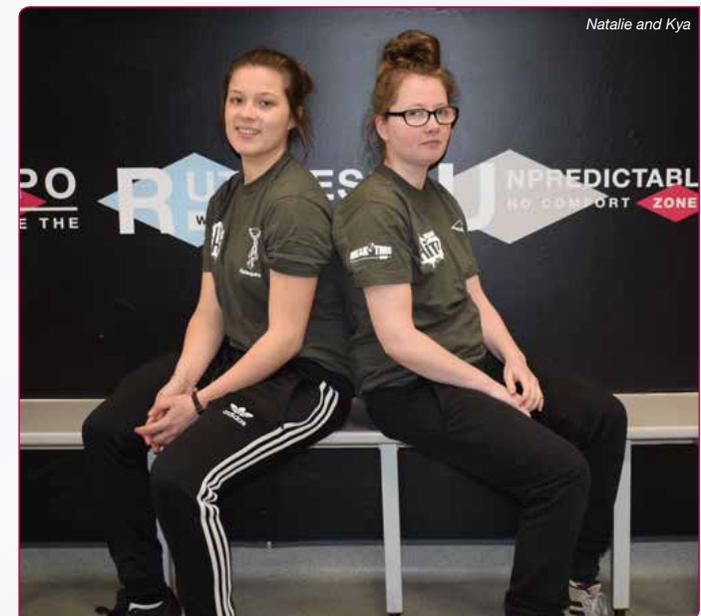
Both young women joined the HITZ Learning Academy - an educational programme run by the Harlequins Foundation for 16-18-year olds who are no longer in mainstream education - in 2017 and have made huge progress since.

HITZ allows young people to gain much needed qualifications, while also improving health and wellbeing through rugby's core values and sporting opportunities.

Struggling in mainstream schooling due to her autism, Kya has gone from strength to strength since she joined HITZ in September. While her main reason for joining was to complete her maths and English study with one-to-one support that wasn't available at school, she has also found success in the HITZ sporting challenges. Taking great pride in beating all her classmates, Kya has decided she wants to go into sports coaching and disability sport. She will continue to work with HITZ until June this year, and we cannot wait to continue to watch her develop long after she finishes the course.

After a referral from a youth worker in Hounslow, Natalie joined HITZ in late October, missing the first month of the programme. Although some late starters can have issues with workload, Natalie tackled the challenge head on and is now leading the pack from the front in all coursework deadlines. Alongside her academic focus, Natalie has been helping co-deliver other Harlequins outreach projects as part of her work experience, where she has displayed a natural ability to use her own life experience to help others who may be suffering with similar challenges and circumstances. Outside of HITZ, the drive and confidence built through her time at HITZ have led to a job in childcare.

For more information on HITZ and our other Foundation programmes visit: www.harlequins.foundation.



Natalie and Kya



The Twickenham Stoop



MEMBERSHIP

Harlequins is excited to announce that 2018/19 membership is now on sale starting at just £210 for renewing Members and £280 for new Members.

Our Members' loyalty and passion are the heartbeat of the Club and energises everything that we do. By renewing or joining us for the 2018/19 season, you will play a crucial role in our next chapter.

Stand with us as we look ahead to next season. Visit: www.quins.co.uk/membership to find out more.

UPCOMING EVENTS



RIVAL RIDE

in support of the
Harlequins Foundation



Join the Harlequins Foundation team, club legends **Mel Deane, Olly Kohn, George Lowe & Jim Evans**, by taking part in the inaugural **Harlequins Foundation Rival Ride**, **Friday 13th April – Saturday 14th April 2018**.

As part of The Harlequins Foundation

Team, you will be joining 150 fellow riders on a 200km cycle ride, to raise money and awareness for the Harlequins Foundation. You will also guarantee your place to watch the hotly contested clash between Harlequins and Gloucester Rugby at the iconic Kingsholm stadium.

You will receive a number of rewards, sustenance, dinner and accommodation

hosted by Harlequins club legends, as well as a return coach travel and bike transfers.

Places on the Rival Ride are just £150. We ask all participants to commit to raise £500, however the Harlequins Foundation will be on hand to provide support and advice for all fundraisers. To secure your place, visit: tickets.quins.co.uk

HARLEQUINS FOUNDATION HOSTS INAUGURAL SEN RUGBY FESTIVAL

The Harlequins Foundation is bringing rugby to new audiences across South London and rural Surrey by hosting the inaugural **Special Educational Needs (SEN) Rugby Festival at The Stoop on 18th May**.

Up to 200 pupils from 15 special secondary schools will join Harlequins Foundations Coaches for an entertaining morning of mixed-ability coaching and an afternoon of round robin festival matches.

Rich Mur, Assistant Head of KS4, in charge of rugby at St Philips Special School is looking forward to the first event of its kind in London: "Rugby is a sport that caters for all shapes, sizes and abilities. This is what makes it such a great sport for people with special educational needs. With the Harlequins Foundation, RFU and St Philips School working together we hope to share the wonders of the game with local special schools being invited to the

inaugural SEN Rugby Festival. We hope this becomes a yearly event that grows each year and eventually nationally"

The SEN Rugby Festival is an initiative of Project Rugby, which aims to increase participation in the game by involving people from traditionally underrepresented groups and building their self-confidence and resilience through the power of the game.

Mixed-ability rugby is on the rise across the globe as an alternative rugby format. Harlequins Foundations and Chobham Rugby RFC, new mixed-ability rugby side, the 'Surrey Chargers' will also be there to inspire new players and ensure everyone is involved and having fun.

If you would like to find out how your school or community group could take part in Project Rugby with the Harlequins Foundation, please email Matthew Williams, Harlequins Foundation Coach, matthew.williams@quins.co.uk.



HARLEQUINS FIXTURES AT THE STOOP

V LONDON IRISH
(Saturday 7th April kick-off 15:00)*

V EXETER
(Saturday 5th May, kick-off 16:00)
(last match of the season)*

*Please note that there are also matches at Twickenham Stadium on these days.

Mixed ability rugby side the Surrey Chargers in action



LOCAL COMMUNITY & RESIDENT DROP IN SESSION

REMINDER:

Harlequins are holding their next informal drop-in session on Wednesday 11th April between 18:00 – 19:00 at Debenture Lounge in the DHL stand to discuss anything our local residents wish to have a chat about! Teas and coffees will be provided. For more information please email: operations@quins.co.uk