



PROJECT FRONT FOOT NEWSLETTER

SORT & PACK SPECIAL

OCTOBER 2017

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS





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Cover Picture

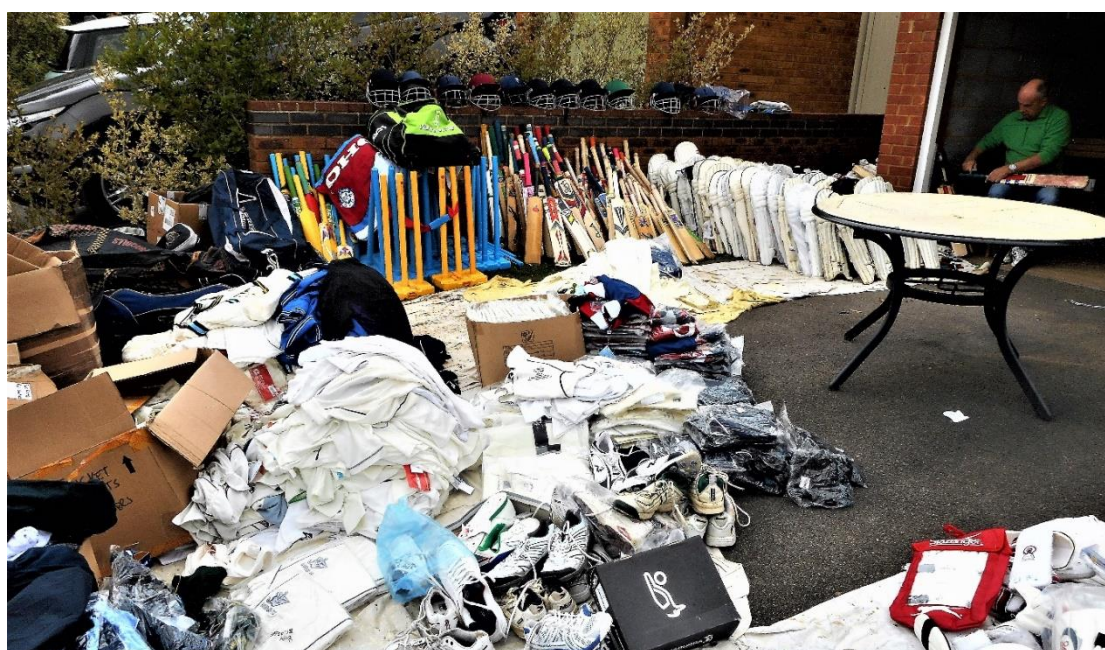
Project Front Foot: helping to put Dharavi on the front foot.

Project Front Foot (UK)

Sort & Pack IX

Thanks to the continued support of British Airways we will be taking nine bags (200kgs) of clothing and equipment to Mumbai on 24 October. To get the maximum out of this, every single gram of weight and space has to be used. To this end, the bulk of light-weight space-filling items such as plastic wicket sets and bats for our Rural Schools Initiative will be purchased at source in Mumbai.

The goal of the sort and pack process is to divide the kit so that PFF can support as many projects, schools and villages as possible, while responding to our partners' distinct kit requirements. For instance, two bags are destined for the Dharavi Cricket Academy and contain enough kit to see the U12, U14 and U16 squads through the entire 2017-2018 season. In contrast, five bags will go to support projects involving the development of women's cricket in and around Mumbai through our friends at Female Cricket.



Undaunted by grey skies and the threat of rain we requisitioned both sides of basecamp's double garage along with an entire forecourt, wall and lawn. And so - to the bemusement of a procession of dog walkers - it began. Team PFF (Tim, Jenny, Ron, Fred & Vic) toiled for seven hours to sort and pack the plethora of kit.

This was no easy task given a chill October Monday and rain showers that saw kit hurriedly returned to the garage and umbrellas hoisted. Thanks to Cilla and Richard Robertson there was an eleventh hour donation of kit from the Reed Cricket Club; a noteworthy addition too in that Reed recently won the National Village Cup Final at Lord's.



By late afternoon all was safely gathered in. With the bulk of the process completed all that remains is the typing of an inventory and a slight tweaking of the contents. Huge thanks to Tim, Jenny, Ron and Fred for their time and energy in the process making a volunteer-intensive day a whole lot of fun.

PFF as Donor

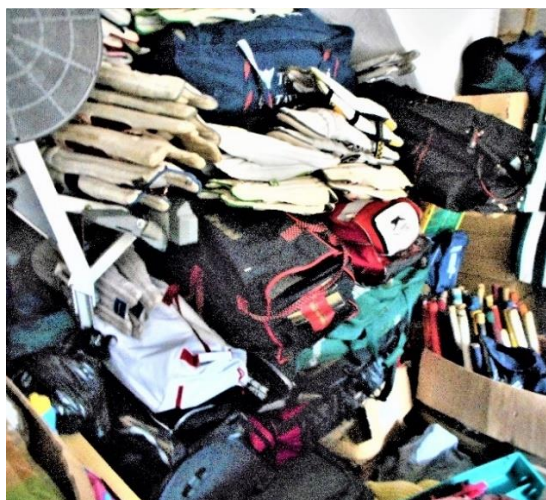
In the course of our Summer Kit Appeal we receive donations of junior and adult sportswear unconnected with cricket. In such cases PFF dons the mantle of donor to place these items with deserving UK causes. In the past we have supported the North London Action for the Homeless and the Oxford Pathways Project.



In the coming weeks junior sports shirts along with a selection of hoodies and shorts will go to foster homes in and around Berkshire, while three bags of adult sweaters, tracksuits and footwear are destined for a centre for the homeless in Slough. Pictured above, project volunteers Ron and Tim pack the kit, while Fred records the details.

Connecting Europe

The volume of kit donated this summer far surpasses our limit of just nine bags for Mumbai. The emporium of clothing and equipment remaining in storage at basecamp (pictured opposite) suggests that we will again be looking to “connect Europe” next Spring with another Kit Aid run to refugee communities on the continent. Interested parties are asked to contact Vic at the following email address: projectfrontfoot@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and talking logistics. Game on!



Front Foot Forum

For more details and pictures of Project Front Foot’s October please click on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/projectfrontfoot/. A heads up, too, for later this month and during November when PFF will be posting daily dispatches and pictures from Mumbai and rural Maharashtra.

Project Front Foot (India)

Project Beneficiaries

The nine bags of donated clothing and equipment added to the bats and plastic wickets sets we source in Mumbai will be distributed among the following beneficiaries:

Dharavi Cricket Academy

Set to start its ninth season early next month, the Dharavi Cricket Academy remains our flagship project. In partnership with the NGO, Reality Gives, and our main sponsor in Mumbai, Allcargo Logistics, we will be supplying all the equipment requirements for the U12, U14 and U16 squads. The first PFF appointment on reaching Mumbai will be with Reality Gives and our coaching staff to discuss the format for the new season.



Allcargo Logistics

A global logistics company, Allcargo currently sponsors the Dharavi Cricket Academy. In a joint-undertaking this autumn we will again dovetail their current Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects with schools in and around the port of Nhava Sheva. Unlike Dharavi, country schools do have the space to play sport, but like Dharavi have little or no resources to provide kit for the children to play with. Allcargo will nominate several schools for PFF kit support.



Galaxy Surfactants

Another global company and long-time project friend, Galaxy's CSR work in India focuses on schools in and around their various offices and plants. We anticipate providing kit packages to both suburban schools around Navi Mumbai and further afield in rural areas bordering Tarapur. Pupil numbers again suggest that those benefiting from our kit packages will be upwards of a thousand.



Mumbai Lions Club (Dahisar branch)

Last autumn we teamed up with the Dahisar branch of the Mumbai Lions Club to provide small kit packages for several inner-city schools as well as a village community sponsored by this busy pride of Lions and Lionesses. This work will continue in November as we again join forces to provide kit packages for inner-city schools.



Female Cricket

This autumn we will again join forces with Female Cricket (www.femalecricket.com) to provide valuable Kit Aid for women's cricket in and around Mumbai. To the two bags remaining from last season's donations we will be adding a further five leaving Vishal and Srinath with a huge amount of clothing and kit to distribute to deserving players and clubs.



PFF Picture Archive

Launched in January last year, this archive enables us to take a fond look back at the project's early days. This month's pictures date back to November 2014 and feature the project's specialist short legs, Hobbs and Sutcliffe.



A cricket pavilion is not a cricket pavilion without its resident cats. So it is in Matunga where Hobbs and Sutcliffe appear only too happy to join in the fun. When not employed in keeping the rodent population down, these Matunga moggies are always up for a spot of cricket. No dead cat bounce here, however, as the use of protective equipment is always a high priority.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Reed Cricket Club for their late addition to our kit appeal and to Jane and Gay Bennett-Powell for logistical support. Lest it be forgotten, charities such as Project Front Foot do not run on fresh air. To this end, my thanks to David and Tim Shaw of GH Shaw Ltd, and to the fastest lawyers in Sydney's west, Walter T Lyubicic & Associates for recent funding.

And finally

as we make ready for the start of a new season with the Dharavi Cricket Academy, it's worth stressing the benefits of a settled and structured coaching regime as employed by our experienced team. The combination of top level coaches and attention to detail produce stunning results as illustrated in the flawless forward defensive pictured opposite. With our ninth season just days away, it's reassuring to know that the new intake will be well versed in the art of classical front foot play.



Vic Mills. Basecamp. October 2017.