



## NOVEMBER 2018: NEWSLETTER





## Contents

Project Partners & Supporters	3
About the Cover Pictures	4
<b>Project Front Foot (UK)</b>	
PFF to Refocus on UK & Europe	4
Project Practicalities	4
Tweaking	5
Kit 4 France	5
Project Picture Archive	5
Front Foot Forum	6
<b>Project Front Foot (India)</b>	
Work in Progress	7
Lions Club of Chembur	7
And finally ....	8

## PROJECT PARTNERS



## PROJECT SUPPORTERS



## About the Cover Pictures

The changing face of Project Front Foot.

# Project Front Foot (UK)

## PFF to Refocus on UK & Europe

With the dust now settling on our recent *tour de force* in Mumbai, PFF can reveal that this was our last trip to India as a working charity. The decision to refocus our efforts on the UK and Europe was conveyed to PFF partners during meetings in Mumbai throughout October. The consensus among PFF trustees was that after ten years of frontline work the time was right to hand the baton onto others.

In departing the Mumbai cricket scene PFF leaves behind a fully functioning cricket academy where, ten years ago, there was none. We were also able to provide a simple - low cost, high enjoyment - way of taking cricket to remote rural schools through small kit packages.

In keeping with this change of direction we again turned to our in-house graphic designer and long-time friend of Project Front Foot, Vincent de Gouw. His Sydney-based company, Adgraphics, designed our current logo back in the summer of 2009. In producing our new version Vince stayed with his tried and trusted design and simply replaced the colours of the Indian flag with those of the European Union. A perfect meeting of minds as we envisage more than a spot of Brexit-busting as 2019 unfolds.



The seeds for this change of direction were sown 20 months ago with our support of Afghan refugees in Germany. Earlier this year we were able to work with the UK Refugee Council and, as recently as seven weeks ago, PFF donated a substantial amount of kit to refugee cricketers in France. During the past year we have fielded further enquiries from Serbia, Bosnia, Spain, Holland and Portugal.

## Project Practicalities

With Project Front Foot set to concentrate on work in the UK and Europe from 2019, certain changes are set for our current working format.

- The project website, in dire need of a makeover, will come offline at the end of December; to re-emerge in a format to reflect our new direction during the months to come.
- In similar vein, the December newsletter will be the last for some months as we look to regroup and refocus our efforts on the work ahead. This too will return in 2019.
- In light of the above, day to day project news will be channelled through our Facebook page.
- The annual project Kit Appeal will now begin in early January with collections targeted for March and April for distribution at the start of the new UK and European season in May.

## Tweaking

Prior to leaving Mumbai, and with an eye to the future, PFF had a Dharavi print company run off a couple of banners with the new logo. The first was a copy of the one we'd used to distribute the kit during the previous five weeks. The wording on the second, however, suggests we'll be tweaking the tail of a few of Westminster's great and good in the coming months.



## Kit 4 France

While the UK may be withdrawing from all things European, Project Front Foot continues to actively encourage partnership. On the morning we packed for Mumbai we donated a substantial amount of kit to support a refugee cricket team in the La Rochelle region of France. The latest news on this consignment is that it is due to be handed over in early December. Pictures to follow.

## Project Picture Archive

Given the theme of this newsletter, we take the opportunity to turn the clock back 20 months when we successfully concluded our Afghan Kit Aid Appeal. This 2000 mile, three-month odyssey ended in Essen late on a spring Saturday morning. Brian Mantle, head of the Deutscher Cricket Bund, was on hand to meet and greet with his family together with a dozen refugees. The refugees' curiosity soon overcame their shyness as they retrieved bag after bag of donated kit.



It was then over to our travelling companion and BBC World Service reporter, Seth Bennett, who asked for volunteer interviewees. Adil was the first to step forward, pictured above centre, followed by Brian to explain the Cricket Bund's position. Having got a taste for camera and microphone, Adil then proceeded to select one of the new Kookaburra bats and proudly proclaim that he could score a hundred with it. The interviews over, it was time to head to a nearby park and put the players and some of the donated kit through its paces.



With a batsman and keeper padding up, the others in the group took it upon themselves to organise an impromptu fielding session. Safe hands were clearly evident as the ball whistled off the middle. From this brief hit out it was clear that these guys had both talent and enthusiasm in equal measure. A reminder, to all those who donated clothing and kit, that it had gone to a good home. Once again, Project Front Foot reaching those cricketers and communities that others cannot. With the return journey beckoning it was time to take our leave, but not before a final picture.



### **Front Foot Forum**

PFF trustees wish to thank Alan Maddison for donating much needed funds during November.

The December newsletter will be dedicated to all those in Mumbai who have supported Project Front Foot during the past decade.

For more details and pictures of Project Front Foot's work in November please click on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/projectfrontfoot/](http://www.facebook.com/projectfrontfoot/).

# Project Front Foot (India)

## Work in Progress

With just five weeks on the ground during September and October, and so much kit to distribute, it was obvious that Project Front Foot would not be able to participate at every handover. To this end, we left bats, balls and wicket sets with the following partners to place on our behalf:



## Lions Club of Dahisar

Many thanks to Mr JNS Murthy and the Lions Club of Dahisar for providing the following pictures of various kit handovers during November in Karnataka. The lucky recipients were all from the Kolar district and included a youth hostel, the Industrial Training Institute, a High School in Devarayasamudram village, and Government schools in Mallappanahalli and Thattangunte villages.



## And finally ....

it was not possible to speak to all our partners while in Mumbai. Chris Way, for instance, was in the Philippines. As co-founder, with Krishna Pujari, of the then Reality Cares (now Reality Gives), Chris was my first point of call with the idea for a cricket project with the Dharavi kids. We met at Leopold's café in Colaba one morning in February 2009. The outcome of the meeting was: "OK, Vic, go away and do it!" Eight months later I was back in Mumbai, sleeping on Chris's floor; the part of the floor, that is, not taken by bags of kit. And the rest? Well that, as they say, is history. It's fitting, then, that the last word in this landmark edition should go to Chris.

*Hi Vic,*

*Thanks for the email - good to hear from you and hope all is ok in Mumbai.*

*For what it's worth, I think that your decision makes a lot of sense. Great to read about the impact that you're having in Europe, and I hope that this continues to flourish and that you're able to get some monetary donations as well as just kit going forward.*

*Yes, I didn't know what to expect all those years ago. I've met more people saying that they want to help out than have had hot dinners, but you've been true to your word and stuck it out despite the challenges and frustrations and to that, I tip my hat to you. Thanks a lot for being the "father" of the program and for driving it forward - it wouldn't be in existence without your efforts.*

*Thanks again and safe travels,*

*Chris.*

Vic Mills. Berlin. November 2018.