Soccer clinics a joy for disadvantaged kids

By SABED SHAR

Liverpool Football Club’s youth training coaches held soccer training clinics in Hout Bay last week to the joy of young soccer players and schoolchildren from disadvantaged communities.

The Liverpool FC youth development team was in the country through an initiative between Liverpool-based Angels and Starfish creche and Foreign Fields—a local organisation that has been involved in sports training to raise funds for the Ubuntu Yeku creche. The creche, which looks after 340 children, raises £2,000 for the creche which looks after 84 children.

The group, headed by the club’s community manager Bill Bygroves, taught basic football skills to more than six local teams in the area on Thursday and Friday. For most kids who were gathered at the creche, sports field, it was the first time in their life that they had been able to train on a football pitch.

More importantly, the coaches passed on valuable life lessons and skills to the children through soccer. They tackled a range of issues like drug abuse, bullying, racism, and gun violence using picnicards and simple phrases like “Shoot racism in the head,” “Kick drugs into touch,” and “Give bullying the boot.”

One of the kids who attended the training said, “I really enjoyed the training. The coaches were very patient and taught us a lot of things.”

The coaches also distributed soccer kits and awards to the best performers. The children were elated to receive their certificates and the balls that were given to them.

The coaches also conducted a special session for the girls, teaching them about teamwork and leadership. The girls were enthusiastic and eager to learn.

The trip was a success for the Liverpool FC team and the children. The coaches were pleased with the outcome and said they would like to return and continue with their work.

SHARING: Bill Bygroves shows the young players some ball skills

Picture: JEFFREY ABRAHAMS

LIFE SKILLS: Liverpool FC Community Manager, Bill Bygroves, shares life skills with the young soccer players at the clinic

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