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POMPEY SEND SCHOOLCHILDREN TO ENGLAND V ECUADOR



Pompey co-owner Alexandre Gaydamak has come to the rescue for the group of Portsmouth schoolboys whose World Cup trip to Germany ended in disappointment.

Following 3 days of intense efforts, the boys will now travel to Germany this Saturday and will get to see their heroes at the England v Ecuador game on Sunday.

Gaydamak learned of the boys' disappointment on Monday morning and immediately took action to render Portsmouth Football Club's help with travel, accommodation and match tickets for the boys at Mayville High School, Southsea.

"I heard about the situation on the news and I was very moved, especially as these children attend a school just a stone's throw away from Fratton Park.

"These were unfortunate circumstances. I do believe that it is important for children to be involved in sports and it is great for them to now have the opportunity to go to the World Cup.

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14.06.2006 TV NEWS: WORLD CUP EXCLUSIVE

Pompey and England masseur Chris Neville speaks to Tom Hopkins from the England camp in Baden Baden

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06.06.2006 FAITH AND FOOTBALL

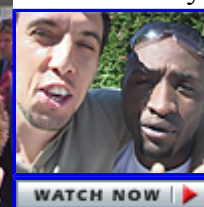
Eleanor Frost meets the new club chaplain, Jonathan Jeffrey, while Linvoy Primus and former Pompey star Mick Mellows

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"We went over to the School, met the boys and it was obvious how passionate they are about football. Most of them are Pompey supporters, and I'm delighted my colleagues and I at the club have been able to make the trip happen for them."

Toddy, Lua and the rest of the squad answer Pompey World's end-of-season questionnaire!
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The plight of the schoolboys, and that of hundreds of others across the country, was captured in the national media, and prompted Prime Minister Tony Blair to offer his help. But in Pompey's case, thanks to the assistance of Premier League Chairman Sir Dave Richards, the club have managed to secure 28 tickets for this weekend's last sixteen game in Stuttgart, and the trip will be funded by Alexandre Gaydamak and Portsmouth FC.

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Mayville High School Headteacher Linda Owens said, "The boys have Pompey FC to thank for finally making their World Cup dreams come true. We are so grateful to Alexandre and everyone at the club for their warm, sincere support. I don't think any other Premier League football club would have intervened in the way Pompey have and we are so grateful for this wonderful gesture. It is lovely to have such a club and its people as part of our community."

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