



Kenny MacAskill (MSP) and Drew Donaldson (Chair of HACFC) see Haddington's first Legacy Project open for the community

Sunday 20th November saw the ribbon cut on the first IRB22/ FIFA 2* community based synthetic pitch at Whittingehame Drive, Haddington. East Lothian Council are currently investing £4.8m within the county as part of their Legacy Project with a contribution of £1m from **sportscotland** in four new outdoor facilities across the County. The ribbon on Haddington's new pitch was cut by Kenny MacAskill who at this time last year opened the pavilion on the same site.

Whittingehame Drive now provides the Haddington cluster with top class outdoor sports facilities with a 126 x 66m synthetic pitch to enable rugby and football training and match play to take place.

East Lothian Council have entered into a new partnership with Haddington Athletic Community Football Club who will manage the facilities on a day to day basis. This demonstrates the commitment to the development of club sport within the Haddington Community Sports Hub.

During the 12 hour football marathon taking place on the pitch to celebrate the opening Drew Donaldson, Chair of HACFC said ' We as a community club have come a long way in five years. During that relatively short period we have achieved three key milestones; In 2009 we were awarded the SFA Quality Mark at Community Level - the first East Lothian club to gain this award, and last year we opened our new pavilion. Almost a year to the day we are opening this superb new pitch which is a tremendous facility not only for the club but for all of the community. We could only have dreamed of all of this five years ago. '

'Without the support and commitment we have had from East Lothian Council and their consultants PMR Leisure we never would have believed this could have happened. For our part we will now pay back that support through ensuring we have this pitch used by our community to its fullest. Haddington RFC has also this week started training on the pitch for the first time and we know once the youngsters start training they may not want to go back to grass at Neilson Park. Stewart Harris, Chief Executive, sportscotland who spoke at the opening said he was 'delighted to see the new club based facilities being used already by so many young people and this was a great example of partnership working between the Council , funders and the Club.

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