



Giving a Sporting Chance?

IHG World HQ based in Denham, are committed to giving back to the community and this was clearly demonstrated by the NHOP team who were looking for a community based activity to involve the whole of the team to improve the community or environment and to strengthen employee engagement.

After initial problems in trying to identify a worthwhile recipient for the team's diverse abilities, and also a project which could be accomplished within a reasonable timescale, David Jolly got in touch with Volunteer Workout.

Richings Park Sports and Social Club was founded in 1938, and offers a variety of sports including cricket, football, softball, tennis and serves the community. It has three changing rooms that are in constant use and were in need of re-decoration.

After a 'scoping' visit it was decided that this project ticked all of the boxes perfectly for IHG and would enable them to give back to the community in a practical way.

The size and height of the changing rooms meant that they were able to complete the project in one day, and without any need for scaffolding or long ladders.

David Jolly reported that the team arrived at Richings Park early one morning, armed with paint, brushes, cleaning materials, tea bags and sandwiches.

The changing rooms are cleaned after each game by the teams who use them, the standards of cleanliness left a little to be desired. A good 3 hours was spent dealing with mud, spiders, and mummified banana skins before a paint brush was lifted.

At first progress seemed slow, and the anticipated 'one day' job looked as though it might extend well into the night, but with the help of additional volunteers the painting was wrapped up by 5.00pm.

The club were very pleased with the result, and it was described by their treasurer as a 'god-send'.

From a team perspective it demonstrated how well they could work together to achieve a common objective, as well as giving the satisfaction of putting something back into the community.