

Make It Happen in Sierra Leone

Press Release -
21.01.14



Coaching Couple help Charity in Sierra Leone

On 22nd February Husband and Wife Coaching Team, Mark and Naomi Aspin, will head to Sierra Leone for 2 weeks to undertake charity work under the sponsorship of Manchester based Charity 'Make It Happen in Sierra Leone' where they will both coach cricket to the local community in the capital, Freetown. Mark a Level 3 Head Coach will spend time coaching local men and boys as well as working with the National Squad who are travelling to Benoni, South Africa in March for a competition.

Mark who is also an ECB Tutor will, in addition, work with local team managers and coaches to help them

improve their coaching skills and along the lines of the coaching courses run in the UK.

Naomi, who is an ECB Level 2 Advanced (Club Coach Award) and Secretary of the Lancashire Coaches Association, will work with women and girls for the 2 weeks including matches between the newly formed ladies teams. Naomi commented "Cricket to these girls is about learning life skills, camaraderie and being part of a team. It provides hope in a country still suffering with the after effects of civil war and is wholly embraced by the community."

Mark, who also went out to Sierra Leone in February 2012 with the Charity said "My last visit was a real eye opener. It is amazing how these people cope every day with the smallest amounts of food and money yet still smile. They are so appreciative of the time you spend with them and are always so polite and well mannered."

"Many people live in tin shacks without sanitation and have very little by way of possessions. If you give them a pair of trainers they split them between 2 people so they can have a training shoe each. It really is humbling to see."

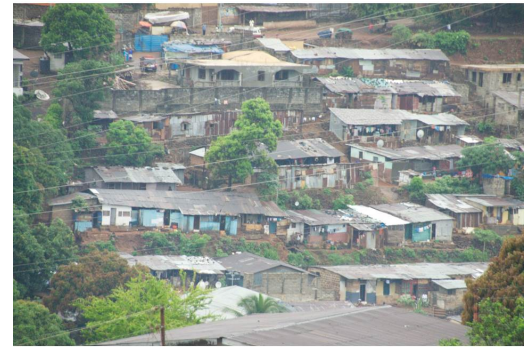
mih- sl.org

Registered Charity 1143538

- Created to improve education in the post-conflict ravaged country of Sierra Leone, ranked as the poorest country in the world by the United Nations.
- Our work has consisted in refurbishing state owned and run schools in Freetown, the capital of this West African State, as well as constructing new schools in the countryside.
- The first new-build project was in the Tonkolili District and another junior secondary school being built in Pate Bana Marankh, just outside the city of Makeni.

Michael Collin, Chief Executive of 'Make It Happen' said of the trip "It is our perception that cricket is a great game for bringing the best out in young people and that is why we are supporting and sponsoring Mark and Naomi.

Make It Happen actively support the Sierra Leone Cricket Association and we are also sponsoring a national youth cricket competition



which will be held later in the year in one of the more remote areas of Sierra Leone where we have built schools."

Mark and Naomi who are members of Church & Oswaldtwistle CC would like to

use their trip to raise awareness of the Make it Happen Charity and to ask their cricket colleagues and others for donations of old sports clothing and equipment. Naomi said "At this time of year many people are clearing out their wardrobes



to make space for what they received at Christmas and, Clubs are taking stock of what equipment they have in advance of this year's season. If any individual or Club would like to donate sports clothing or cricket equipment this would be very much appreciated."

Items sought are tracksuits, t-shirts, cricket shirts, cricket trousers, trainers, cricket spikes, bats, pads, gloves and helmets of all sizes (Junior & Senior). Also other equipment such as marker cones and batting grips are very much in need. **NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL**, all items gratefully received.



Contact Mark Aspin to arrange collection/drop off of donations
07931-246538 or mark.aspin1@btinternet.com