



## Give Us Back Our Game Update



*"If children grew up according to early indications, we would have nothing but geniuses"*

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

### Belfast Boy

I first met Tim Wareing at the Repton seminar and since then have kept in touch. When he invited me over for four days to Belfast to show what he is doing for the campaign and for youth football as a whole in Northern Ireland, I jumped at the chance.

I stayed with Tim, his partner Leanne, who is now also a full time coach, and their family at their house on the same Cregagh estate where George Best was born and where his father still lives.

Tim has been a great supporter of the campaign and had organised 4v4 GUBOG sessions in all of his soccer schools across the country.

Tim and Leanne had taken me on an open top bus ride around Belfast, which took in all the trouble spots that had become so familiar from T.V.

To contrast that with watching hundreds of children playing for fun from both sides of the community was truly inspiring.

The work done by this young man to promote football for all in Northern Ireland is the best work I have come across and his passion for the game has rubbed off on all the kids who play the most breathtaking football with smiles as wide as the River Lagan.

I saw hundreds of kids play at his TW Sports centres and also at Lisburn Distillery where he is the Academy Director.

The highlight was a Friday night session at the Cregagh Community Centre 200 yards from where George Best lived and within the shadow of one of the murals painted of the great man.

Tim is planning further events and we will work with him to organise a major event in Northern Ireland this summer.

### Fun Days

There are now sessions happening every weekend and a number of clubs have withdrawn their teams from leagues to play the GUBOG format.

**4v4 where possible (but 4v5 or 5v5, the most important consideration is that every child plays for every second)**