

*Caring for people with bleeding disorders*

# NEW RELEASE

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## Young people with health conditions score in Greenwich

Fifty young people with serious medical conditions have just returned from the trip of a lifetime to the David Beckham Football Academy in Greenwich, London. The young people, aged between 8 and 15, took part in an exciting new holiday organised by national charity the Haemophilia Society.



The attendees are all affected by lifelong bleeding disorders such as haemophilia. This means that their blood does not clot properly, which can cause painful bleeding, nosebleeds, and lots of bruises. Young people with these conditions often miss out on the sports, hobbies and school trips that their friends can do. Despite this, the group overcame their challenges to take part in world-class training with a team of coaches hand-selected by David Beckham himself.

Chris James, Chief Executive of the Haemophilia Society said: "On the three-day trip in August 2008, the young people made new friends, learned how to cope with a lifelong condition, and played football in the world-class facilities of the David Beckham Academy. It's the first time so many young people with bleeding disorders have gone on this kind of trip, which was made possible with the sponsorship of Bayer HealthCare."

One attendee said "I had a fantastic time, learned a lot, and made lots of new friends who I'll be keeping in touch with". On the final day the youngsters were presented with medals and certificates by David Beckham's father, Mr Ted Beckham.

ENDS

- A bleeding disorder is a problem in the body's blood clotting system. There are over 20,000 people diagnosed with a bleeding disorder in the UK. Symptoms include bruising, nosebleeds, and painful bleeding into joints and muscles.
- Different types of bleeding disorders exist including **haemophilia** which is the most well-known one and is an inherited condition that usually runs in families. **Von Willebrand's Disease** is also usually a hereditary disorder. Up to 1 in 100 people may have this condition but many are not aware it exists
- The treatments for bleeding disorders are very good, allowing children to lead full and active lives and take part in sports.
- **The David Beckham Academy** is a football training school set up in Greenwich by David Beckham.
- **The Haemophilia Society** is the national charity for people affected by bleeding disorders. They have been running children's holidays for over 10 years.
- **Images available for use.**