



playon **PRO** **WORDS**

Welcome from our
CEO **Viv Anderson**



The coronavirus crisis has been the catalyst for new levels of communication, for the coming together of communities and families, and the rapid reinvention of society.

Neighbours who never usually talk to each other share jokes in Whatsapp groups and clap together on Thursday evenings.

Music students give garden concerts to the residents of care homes, families sing covid-reworked Les Mis arias, fathers join in tik-tok with their children, and Captain Tom Moore has inspired us all by walking 100 lengths of his garden and raising £millions for the NHS.

We are always at risk of anxiety, panic, loneliness; these things are constants. But now, because of the widespread nature of the problem, we are more than ever able to share in the vulnerability.

To show our support for the NHS and the lonely and vulnerable we have gathered together our ambassadors to put messages of support together. I hope you enjoy the videos below.

Best wishes and keep in touch.

Viv Anderson

Playonpro Ambassadors Join Together to Give Messages of Support

Over 90 of our ambassadors have recorded their support, with the message "Keep In Touch".



Please forward these links to your friends and followers...we have to keep getting the message across.

Thank you to all our video participants and to Alan Brazil and Bryan Robson for their support on talkSPORT



Virtual Sport, Repeat Highlights and Home Darts

With the lack of any live sport on any channel now, Virtual Sport has given us something to watch when the Virtual Grand National was televised. Bookmakers offered odds, with profits going to NHS Charities Together. Forty runners who would have been most likely to line up at Aintree took part, using CGI technology and special algorithms. The animated version had much of the drama associated with the real race, with the long-time leader Aso falling in the closing stages and virtual ambulances following the runners and riders round the course. All horse running in Great Britain has been suspended until at least the end of April.



Nostalgic Sport

Easter Weekend had repeat Cricket on - Ben Stokes' innings at Headingley and the World Cup final England vs New Zealand. But with an added running commentary from Mike Atherton, Nassau Hussein and Ben Stokes at home. The BBC are planning a summer of nostalgia: in July the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympics is to be replayed alongside highlights from the rest of the London Games and Rio 2016 replacing coverage of the postponed Tokyo 2020.

Instead of the Euro 2020 football tournament, which has also been pushed back by a year, the BBC will show matches from Euro 96 and other European championships as live, alongside highlight packages. There will also be classic Wimbledon contests on our screens during the July fortnight normally turned over to tennis.

All of this is being done in the hope that reliving great moments of old will not only help struggling BBC schedulers left with hundreds of empty hours to fill, but distract the rest of Britain from ongoing lockdown.

Living Room Darts

Five-time world champion Raymond Van Barneveld recovered from 6-3 down to beat **Phil Taylor** in a charity darts match played from their living rooms. It was billed as the biggest clash in stay-at-home darts history with Van Barneveld winning 7-6 as he renewed his rivalry with **Taylor** on a soft-tip interactive board B Paddy Power raising £15,000 for NHS charity Heroes and the Haaglanden Food Bank Foundation.

Darts to host living room spectacular in live event Friday 17th April.

It lacks the lustre of the Olympics, Wimbledon or a Premier League finale, but a living room-based darts competition launching Friday 17th April will at least give Britain a long-awaited sporting fix. Players going head-to-head at home on makeshift oches might yet become a highlight of a sporting calendar that has been all but obliterated by the lockdown.

The Professional Darts Corporation announced the ingenious introduction of the PDC Home Tour, a tournament broadcast live from the homes of its star players.

Beginning on Friday and expecting to continue almost into June, the PDC Home Tour will employ a nightly league format of four competitors playing each other once over the best of nine legs with a winner crowned each night. 32 group winners will then advance to the second phase of the competition, with all matches broadcast on the PDC's online TV channel for free.



Sporting Chance

Sporting Chance, established by Tony Adams over 20 years ago, offers services to support current and former professional sportspeople with any emotional or mental health problem. They are implementing the gold standard for Mental Health Awareness in football teams. They are looking for ambassadors to attend their meetings, to talk about their experiences, as well as providing a service for any athletes who need to access their services. Please look at the app for their contact details. We are really excited to partner with Sporting Chance.



Ambassadors Coronavirus tales

Peter Barnes tells us that 2 weeks ago he was very weak for 5 days with no appetite and couldn't even taste food. He had 5 nights in bed where he was so poorly 1 hour later it was as though somebody had put him under a cold shower and he was shivering as well. After losing 12lbs in 7 days he had a conference call with his Doctor who put him on

Antibiotics as a further precaution as Peter is a mild Asthmatic. Since then Peter assures us he feels 100% better, is eating like a horse and has managed to put a few pounds back on and is walking now everyday.

Everyone at playonpro wishes Peter all the best.

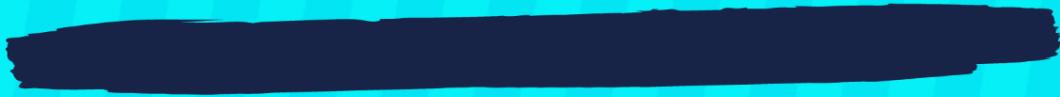
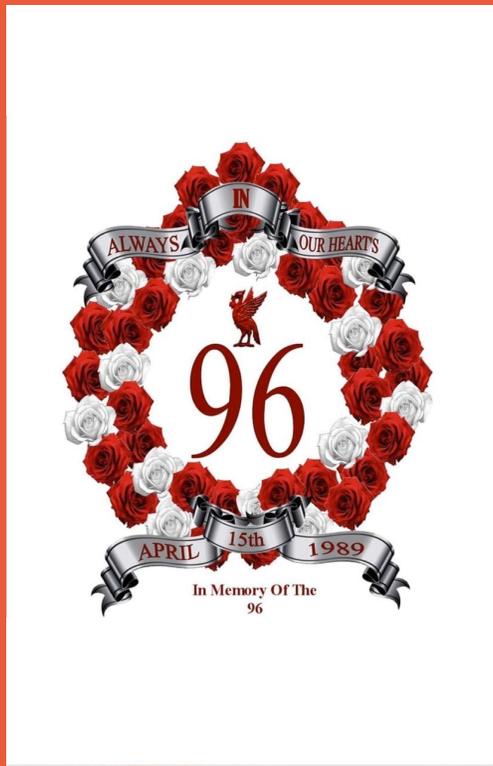


Ambassadors please continue to invite your fellow ex-professionals. Our star inviter this month is Fraser Murray who has invited David Rowson, Paul Bruce, Barry Conlon and Trevor Challis. A bottle of champagne will be on its way.

A screenshot of a mobile application interface for 'playonpro'. At the top, there is a hamburger menu icon and the 'playonpro' logo. Below the header, a grey box contains the text 'INVITATION SHOULD GO TO PROFESSIONAL SPORTS PLAYER'. Underneath, there are five input fields: 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Email', 'Phone Number', and 'Message to playonPRO admin'. At the bottom of the form is a dark blue button with the word 'INVITE' in white capital letters.

31 years ago thousands of Liverpool fans set off to watch their team play Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup semi final. 96 of those fans never made the return trip. Our heartfelt

condolences go out to their families and the people of Liverpool.



Personal Response from Footballers

Being the first mover is vital. People will long remember and thank Gary Neville for his unhesitating largesse in handing over his hotels to the NHS. Neville did it because he possesses a social conscience, not for any PR, but the important thing was that he acted swiftly.

In a pleasing contrast to the inept handling of the situation by the Premier League, the clubs and the PFA, several footballers are acting personally to fill football's "moral vacuum" Liverpool's Jordan Henderson and Manchester United's Harry Maguire have been in talks with fellow Premier League captains to set up a fund to which all the players across the 20 top-flight clubs can make donations.

Warmly welcome this big-hearted decision from so many Premier League footballers to create #PlayersTogether to support NHS Charities. You are playing your part.

Deli Alli has stepped in to support Magic Breakfast, a charity providing free breakfasts to children.

It was in the charity's hour of need, and Alli told staff he wanted to raise awareness of their work, as well as more funds.

And so with many of his England generation: Trent Alexander-Arnold working for the life-changing An Hour For Others in Liverpool; Marcus Rashford providing meals through FareShare; and Raheem Sterling helping Football Beyond Borders reach those let down by mainstream education.

It is heartwarming to read about Gareth Southgate's attitude, Who famously operates the All Blacks' "no d*ckheads" policy. "Gareth expects us to be good people," Alli adds. "That's the way we've all been brought up."

As Dele Alli says: A lot of kids will listen to us and try to copy us. We can influence people.

With no football to play, Wales international goalkeeper Owain Fon Williams has turned to his other great talent, painting, to help his club Dunfermline Athletic who need to raise £40,000 to save the club.

The former Tranmere Rovers player has had his paintings displayed at galleries in Wales and Scotland, and he hopes his artistry can help Dunfermline in their hour of need.

RIP Peter Bonetti and Stirling Moss

Chelsea legend and former England goalkeeper Peter Bonetti has died at the age of 78 following a long illness, the club confirmed on Sunday.

Nicknamed 'The Cat' due to his quick reflexes, Bonetti made 729 appearances for Chelsea across two spells and was also part of the England squad that won the World Cup in 1966.

Stirling Moss who has died after a long illness aged 90, was a British Formula One driver who competed at the highest level from the mid-1950s until the early-1960s yet, notably, never won a world championship.

Moss was regarded as a motor racing all-rounder and racked up a total of 212 victories in all competitions. His love of fast cars, desire to race at the highest level and flamboyant, playboy lifestyle made him a household name

Moss continued to change cars and teams across the decade. He was a formidable competitor who won 16 of the 66 Formula One races he competed in from 1951 to 1961, finishing between 1955 and 1961 as championship runner-up four times and in third place three times.

Moss received an OBE for motor racing in 1959 and was named BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 1961. He was knighted in 2000 .

Our partners



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