

## African Vision Malawi (AVM) Partnership Visit 2017 with BJFF

In June 2017, 3 slightly bonkers ladies, and 15 very full suitcases, travelled to Malawi on behalf of African Vision Malawi. We have all been supporting the charity for ten years now, and the visit was part of our school partnership programme. Our trip was entirely self-funded.

This year, for the first time, we took footballs, bibs and replica kit donated by Bispham Junior Football Federation (BJFF) and their U13 Warriors team. We visited 20 schools and 8 pre-schools in 10 centres spread over 150sq KM, doing distributions, school partnership assemblies and drama at each.



Our first school, Chibwata - every school greeted us like this, in high numbers, with lots of noise and excitement. To know someone cares and wants to support them is invaluable.



All schools received equipment from their partner school and a football from BJFF (always the loudest cheer!). Other balls will go to schools we didn't get chance to visit in our 2000sq KM work area.

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Typical football scenes (including random cattle on the pitch)!



Julie wears a shirt donated by a Warriors player – she works for AVM and runs a female football team for vulnerable women in her free time.



Sarah showing why she doesn't play football...!



Wezie, Education Manager, helped re-inflate the balls for us before we took them out to the schools.



A contrast between balls Malawians use and what BJFF are more used to (Warriors now have their own Malawian football ('mpira') 😊

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Dickson, (10) had a broken leg, with the bone poking out through his shin..!! After we took him to hospital and had his bone cleaned and pinned he is now recovering.

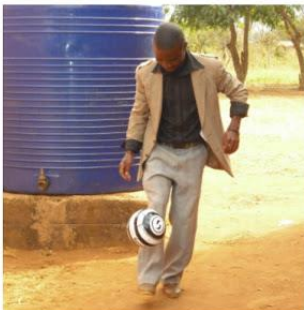


A donated kit from a Warrior and a blanket cheered him very much and he promised Sarah he would play football again, something he loves to do.



Kick-about with a local (non-bouncing) football.

Eileen, the school link officer (pink t-shirt) and Newcastle fan playing with a female student. School teams are often mixed in Malawi.



A teacher at Chitedze Primary School, showing off his silky ball skills.



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We took 15 suitcases each weighing around 23kg each. They contained a mix of knitted blankets, jumpers and hats; school uniform, equipment, partnership packs and stationery; training bibs and of course, footballs. (The cameras in this picture are for our team to use to document our projects and evidence progress).



The Three Amigos – Gaynor, Eileen and Sarah. Despite the tango'd look from the dust we love our work and really appreciated the added bonus of taking all the footballs out, which were hugely popular. We hope that by showing the difference and impact that these gifts made, BJFF will continue to support the partnership and help it grow. We have more goods to take out in 2018 and 2019, and would love to organise a football tournament. Any support will be very much appreciated!

Zikomo Kwambiri (thank you very much) from [www.africanvision.org.uk](http://www.africanvision.org.uk)