

BURTON ALBION



Burton Albion fan Elyfn Parry was diagnosed with prostate cancer after a screening event at the Pirelli Stadium and has since had surgery and been given the all-clear.

# Club celebrates its community trust award

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The outstanding achievements of the Burton Albion Community Trust have been celebrated with the partners that helped make it happen and the community that benefits.

Earlier this week Burton Albion was named Midlands Checktrade Community Club of the Year as part of the 2017 English Football League (EFL) awards - thanks in the main to the work of the trust.

It was particularly commended for introducing prostate checks for fans in conjunction with Burton's Queen's Hospital, which ultimately led to 11 of the 130 fans tested being referred to hospital, diagnosed with prostate cancer and receiving treatment.

Staff from the hospital were invited to the Pirelli Stadium yesterday to join community members from the trust's Golden Goals programmes as a way of saying thanks for the support that has been given through their partnership.

The club also received credit for the new £1 million 3G pitch, which was officially opened by England manager Gareth Southgate and will provide opportunities for the entire community, both young and old.

Jyoti Shah, consultant urologist at Queen's Hospital, said it was "fantastic" to see the trust win the award, and that the collaboration between the hospital, the football club, and the Burton Mail, in promoting awareness of the prostate cancer screen-



Gareth Southgate officially opened the new BACT community pitch at the Pirelli stadium.

ings held at the Pirelli last year "just proved what can be achieved by working together."

She said: "What we achieved has set a real precedent and plans are in place to run more screenings at Burton Albion in the future."

"There's real appetite for it in the community now due to the awareness that has been raised."

"We set out to raise awareness in our community through the screening at the Pirelli - but off the back of that we have got people talking on a national scale. "We were taken by surprise by how big it has got - with the story appearing on BBC News and on The One Show - it's been unbelievable."

One of those to benefit from the collaboration was Elyfn Parry, who at the age of 73 signed up for the prostate screening after reading about it in the Burton Mail.

The tests revealed he had the illness, but following surgery he has been given the all-

clear. Mr Parry was at the Pirelli Stadium yesterday after being invited to join the celebration.

He said: "I'm delighted that the trust has won this award. Given they are such a small club they are making such a big difference."

"They do so much for the community and are doing more than clubs with a lot more money and staff than they have."

"I'd very much encourage anyone like me to attend future prostate screenings if they have the opportunity."

It was a proud day for all the around 40 staff employed by the trust. The club will now be joined alongside five other regional winners at the House of Commons.

John Jackson, chairman of the community trust, said: "Our staff are all so dedicated and they really deserve this recognition."

"We work with people aged from three right up to 93, and we have around 8,000 people engage with the trust in some way every week."

"The trust is giving people the opportunity to get the best out of themselves - and is also aiding health and fitness too."

"We're really punching above our weight and the support we get from the club itself is amazing - we're incredibly grateful."

The club will be presented with their award on Monday, March 6 in Parliament, with EFL chief executive Shaun Harvey, Communities Minister Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth and Andrew Griffiths MP all confirmed to speak at the event.

The overall national winner will be announced on Sunday, April 9.



Magnus Harrison, medical director at Queen's Hospital, Ben Robinson, chairman Burton Albion, Jyoti Shah, consultant, Aimee Hassett, nurse, Sarah Minns, nurse, Martin Abrams, change delivery manager of Prostate UK, Andy Taylor, from BACT and Matthew Lees of The One Show, after the prostate screenings were announced.



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