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Newsletter
VIV ANDERSON - CEO
December 2019

Welcome from Viv Anderson, CEO

We're working on deals with new and existing partners, setting up Q&A events for Ambassadors, signing up more Ambassadors and working with more partners on the app. We've had several of our Ambassadors involved in Harry's Heroes 2.

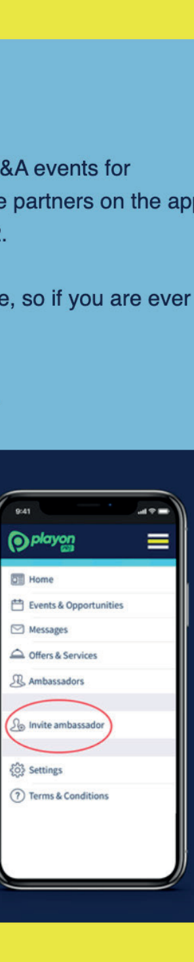
As always we love to see our Ambassadors and partners in the office, so if you are ever passing please call in to Media House, Bowdon.

Wishing all our partners and Ambassadors a very Happy Christmas.

500 AMBASSADORS

We now have over 500 Ambassadors on our exclusive playonpro app. We offer a warm welcome to our newest ambassadors Danny Bath, Joshua Tymon, Tom Edwards, Andy Wilkinson, Gordon Cowan, Terry Cooke, Chris Williams, David Lee, Nick Cushing and Bev Priestman.

Remember there is a bottle of champagne for any Ambassador successfully inviting 3 others through the invite Ambassador on the app.



SPORTING CLUB WITH REBECCA ADLINGTON

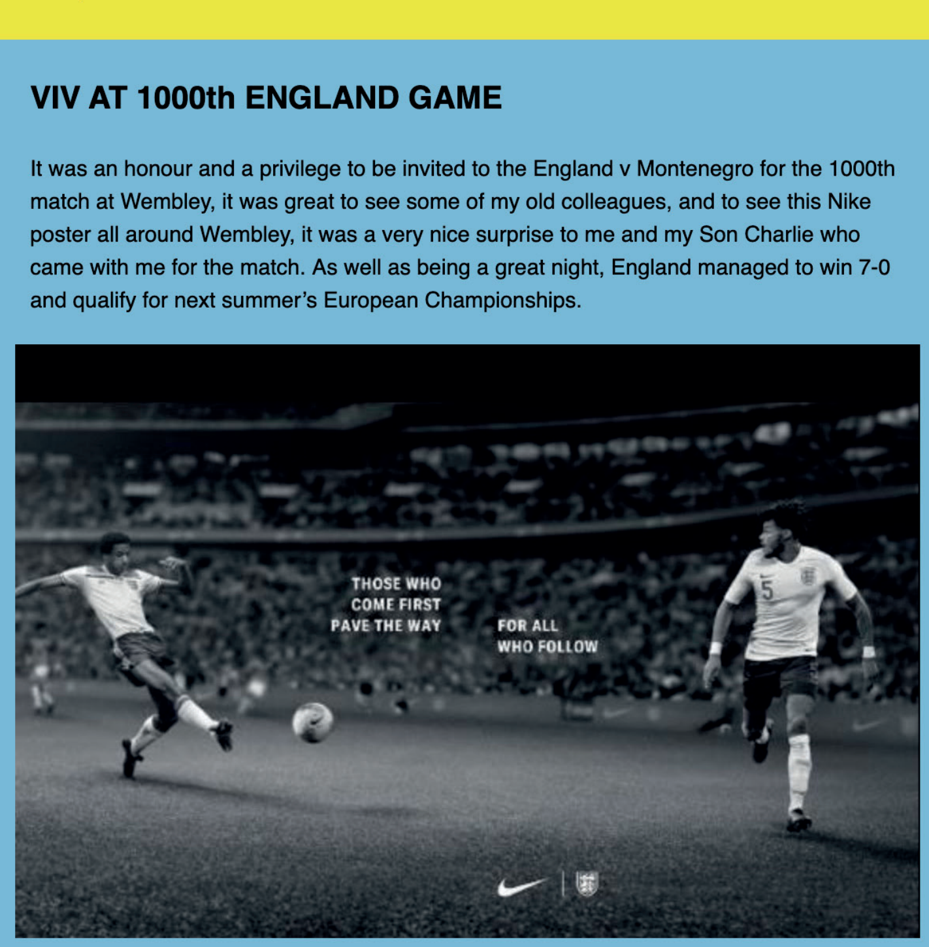
Playonpro were delighted to be invited to the The Sporting Club for brunch with Rebecca Adlington. As well as listening to her fascinating tales about her gold and bronze medals in two Olympics we heard about her 3 weeks in The Jungle – her I'm A Celebrity experience. Her top tip – and let's hope Ambassador Ian Wright got this – is you have to be prepared to be very, very bored!!

Which Ambassador will be in the jungle next year?

MANCHESTER SPORTING CLUB
MANCHESTER SPORTING CLUB

VIV AT 1000th ENGLAND GAME

It was an honour and a privilege to be invited to the England v Montenegro for the 1000th match at Wembley, it was great to see some of my old colleagues, and to see this Nike poster all around Wembley, it was a very nice surprise to me and my Son Charlie who came with me for the match. As well as being a great night, England managed to win 7-0 and qualify for next summer's European Championships.


THOSE WHO COME FIRST PAVE THE WAY
FOR ALL WHO FOLLOW

1000TH MEN'S INTERNATIONAL
1000

GOLF DAY AT MOTTRAM HALL

Mottram Hall invited us to take part in their "Golden Ticket Golf Day", so we joined up with PCH who provided glamour with a Lamborghini and our new partner Blade who quenched the players thirst with complimentary Heineken on the course and the half way hut.

Our Ambassadors Andy Ritchie, Darren Beckford, Micky Gray and Matt Jansen played with Ken Specter from Connexus and Tim Crutchley from Individual Restaurants.

FEATURE ON AMERICAN AMBASSADORS - BILLY GARTON

At playonpro we are always looking to broaden our horizons, with that in mind we are continuing to connect with our Ambassadors living outside of the UK. We do have quite a few scattered globally.

On my move back to San Diego, California, I'm focusing on linking our Ambassadors with the good work that we do at playonpro and the opportunities that we can offer them. This includes our Ambassadors outside the UK and especially for me those Ambassadors who now live in the United States.

It is a continued desire, that we embrace our Ambassadors abroad and keep them appraised with what we have going on with our playonpro venture in the UK.

This is the first of our "**Ambassadors abroad**" features and it allowed me the opportunity to catch up with a friend of mine in San Diego, Warren Barton, the former Wimbledon, Newcastle and England defender.

"It's tough to beat this part of the world" claimed Barton when asked about living in San Diego.

"I love the climate and the way of life, being close to the beach and the ocean is impossible to ignore"

Warren was a part of the original crazy gang at Wimbledon FC, learned his trade in the "craziness" that was the mantra at Wimbledon at that time and has the stories to back up his experience.

"Playing with the likes of Vinnie Jones, John Fashanu and Denis Wise, certainly shapes you as a player and a man. There was rarely a dull moment on and off the field, but it helped me greatly and I'll always be thankful for the time I spent there".

He then moved (or escaped) and headed North to play the majority of his career at Newcastle.

His time in Newcastle saw his career blossom and he managed to go on and play for England and was probably playing the best football of his career at that time. Warren played under a number of very famous and exceptional managers, including Sir Bobby Robson, Kevin Keegan, Ruud Gullit and Kenny Dalgleish

After retiring from the game Warren got his coaching licenses and also did some media and TV work in England, thinking he may step into the game as a coach or focus on the opportunity to be a pundit.

But the lore of the California sun was a big attraction to Warren and his family and in 2009 Warren made the exciting journey West, from London to San Diego, where he has settled with his family.

For a while Warren was the lead analyst on the Fox soccer channel covering the English Premier league games. His face was the dominant one on the main Soccer Shows in the US for a number of years .

In recent years Fox lost the rights to The EPL and that meant some restructuring and re-positioning for Warren.

He still works with Fox Soccer but is more involved in the MLS games and the Bundesliga these days.

Warren also continues to coach, working in youth soccer.

I gave him his first job when he first arrived in San Diego and he hasn't looked back since.

He currently works for a large competitive soccer Club in San Diego, called the Del Mar Sharks where he is the technical director and Head Coach of the Boys program.

Warren continues to explore opportunities in the professional game and has been a consultant for a number of semi pro and pro clubs trying to get traction in California.

Married to Candy, he has 3 Soccer playing sons, Milo, Kane and Tye.

"I'm excited to be an Ambassador for playonpro and think the concept is fantastic" said Barton

"I remember when I finished in the game and the phone suddenly stopped ringing. I'd gone from being somebody significant to becoming completely insignificant. It was the lack of connection and identity that really got to me. Playonpro is a good opportunity to reconnect and interact with former teammates, I really like the concept."

LANDMARK 120th ANNIVERSARY

Viv attended our partner The Landmark London's 120th Anniversary celebrations.

Viv is pictured here with Leini Reilik, Landmark Hotel Director Of Events Sales.

PETER BARNES, JOE CORRIGAN AND TOMMY BOOTH - delight guests at The Etihad with unexpected visit

We are looking forward to welcoming Tommy and Joe to playonpro and wish Peter Barnes a good and speedy recovery after his hip operation. As Clayton Blackmore commented, "It must be his left hip, the way he went in for tackles". Any comment?

AMBASSADOR AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

Matt Jansen has recently published his autobiography. We are working with Matt to promote his book. If any of our other Ambassadors have written books, please contact paul@playonpro.net especially as Paul hasn't been given a signed copy yet…

MATT JANSEN

MATT JANSEN BOOK REVIEW

As a life-long Blackburn Rovers supporter and a huge fan of Matt Jansen's instinctive skills and flamboyant approach to football, I was thrilled when a friend presented me with a signed copy of this autobiography. Having read the book in practically one sitting it's fair to say I was not disappointed, although I was surprised. This book is so much more than any football autobiography I have encountered in the past. Yes, there are certainly moments which describe the on-field genius, the breath taking goals and Matt's steady rise to stardom but the power of his story lies more poignantly in the fact that it was all too suddenly smashed apart following a fateful motor cycle accident in Rome.

From that moment the book is a totally absorbing exploration of those voices which dominate Matt's efforts to reignite his career and find himself again as he battles with depression and overwhelming anxieties. The voices of his family and amazing wife, Lucy, his fellow players, team managers, supporters and sports psychologists are all captured alongside a compelling and graphic record of the demons unleashed inside his head. Matt's story is both terrifying and inspirational. As Matt himself writes: *"I have lived, suffered and negotiated with the mind at its very worst. Now I can repackage the whole experience as something irresistibly positive."*

MACCABI MANCHESTER DERBY Q&A

Gary Owen and Clayton Blackmore delighted the 100 plus audience at Maccabi with their Manchester derby Q&A. Expertly hosted by Darryl Lee as interviewer the two were asked about their views on the upcoming derby as well as being asked to choose between X Factor or Strictly (Gary - none), Oasis or Blur (you know it…) Messi and Ronaldo, (Clayton - Ronaldo, Gary - Messi) Brexit or Brexin – (Clayton would have an opinion if he knew what was going on) and their thoughts on VAR and the lack of footballers who are openly gay. Clayton did however correctly predict the result of the derby!

A fabulous evening, and we've been asked to provide more Ambassadors on a regular basis.

If any of our partners would like our Ambassadors at an event please contact fiona@playonpro.net we'd be delighted to help.

Manchester City
MANCHESTER UNITED

ICONIC PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER

Voted first in our Iconic photo competition, and winner of a Lamborghini for the weekend, Frank Sinclair and The Legend that is Pele.

Donated by PRESTIGE CAR HIRE, Frank will get to drive a magnificent Lamborghini for the weekend.

We had some fantastic photos submitted from our Ambassadors and the playonpro staff voted on their top three and the most popular photo was this one of Frank and Pele.

Well done Frank.

After being notified of his win Frank commented, *"Wow thank you, there were some incredible photos so really chuffed I won with such a special memory of mine, to have the great man actually watch me play on the biggest occasion of my career lifting the FA Cup, what dreams are made of."*

Runners up in the competition were Emile Heskey with his photo of a celebration with David Beckham and David James' photo of the England team meeting Nelson Mandela.

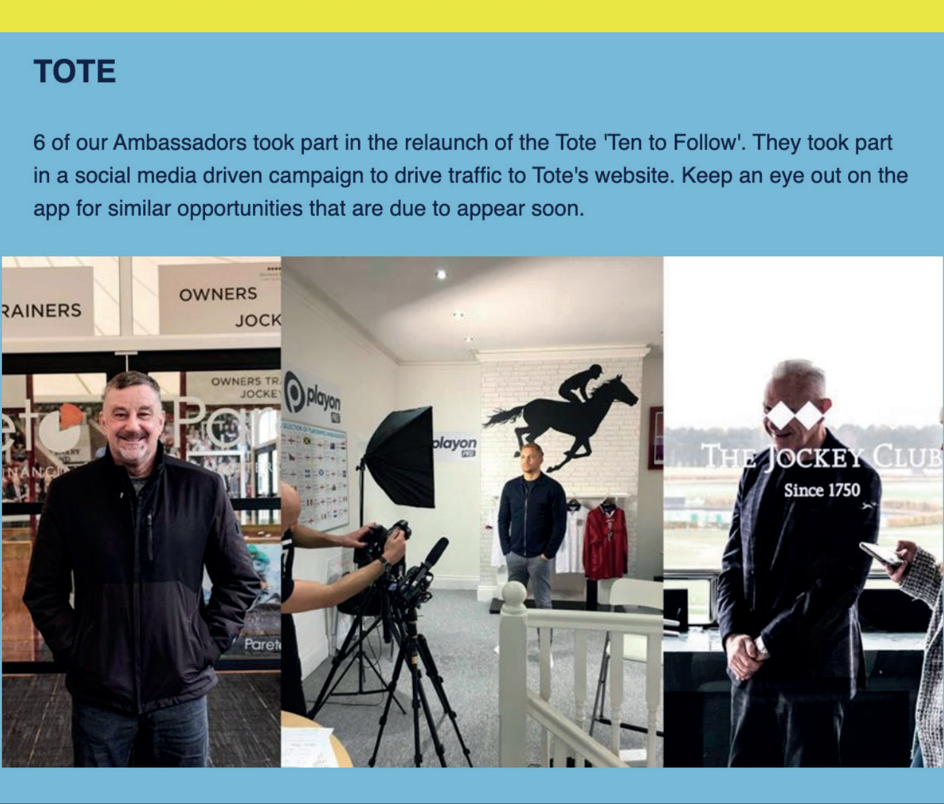
gettyimages

We will begin a second iconic photo competition immediately, please submit your photos of you in your playing/competing days or after you stopped, with iconic teammates or opponents or famous public figures.

Submit on the app or by email to billyg@playonpro.net

TOTE

6 of our Ambassadors took part in the relaunch of the Tote 'Ten to Follow'. They took part in a social media driven campaign to drive traffic to Tote's website. Keep an eye out on the app for similar opportunities that are due to appear soon.



BOB WILLIS - Former England captain and 1981 Headingley Ashes hero, dies aged 70

Like everyone else in the sporting world playonpro were devastated to hear the news of Bob Willis' death.

He captained England in 18 Tests and 29 one-day internationals before his retirement from all forms of cricket in 1984.

The pinnacle of Willis' international career was arguably the stunning 18-run victory against Australia in the third Test of the 1981 Ashes at Headingley.

England, trailing 1-0 in the series, were forced to follow on and needed Botham's spectacular 149 not out to force Australia to bat again, setting them 129 to win.

Willis produced a devastating spell, taking a Test-best 8-43 as Australia were dismissed for 111. England went on to win the series 3-1 and Willis finished with 29 wickets at 22.96 in six matches.

Our Ambassador Darren Gough said,

"He will be sadly missed. His passion for our sport was obvious to everyone, He was a straight talking bloke but a very funny man and great company especially over a glass of red.

As a cricketer and fellow fast bowler he was hugely admired and in the best XI of all time. He took 325 wickets in 90 Tests playing in the 70s and 80s without central contracts.

The 81 ashes 8 for 43 was his iconic performance and almost went unnoticed as beefy Botham took all the headlines.

Rest in peace Big Bad Bob, my thoughts and prayers to his friends and family."

NEW PARTNERS

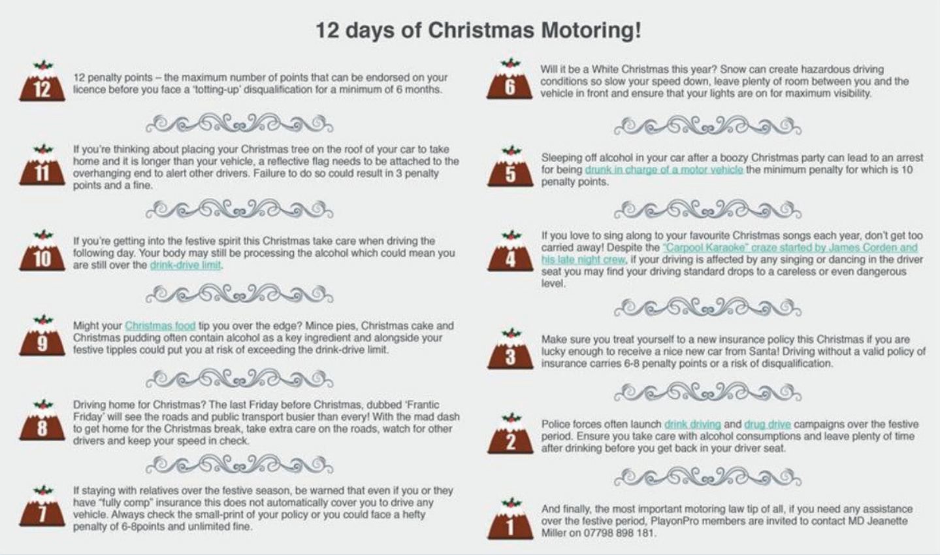
We are delighted to welcome our newest App partners on board, look out for our latest deals: AFEX, Reich, Blade, Geoffrey Miller Motor lawyers, Azat Mard and travel counsellor Leah - and her fabulous holidays.

Jeanette Miller from Geoffrey Miller Motor Lawyers

AZAT MARD
playon PRO

Matt Jansen in his Azat Mard cap

Christmas advice from our app partner Geoffrey Miller Motor Lawyers



12 days of Christmas Motoring!

12 12 penalty points – the maximum number of points that can be endorsed on your licence before you face a 'totting-up' disqualification for a minimum of 6 months.

11 If you're thinking about placing your Christmas tree on the roof of your car to take home and it is longer than your vehicle, a reflective flag needs to be attached to the overhanging end to alert other drivers. Failure to do so could result in 3 penalty points and a fine.

10 If you're getting into the festive spirit this Christmas take care when driving the following day. Your body may still be processing the alcohol which could mean you are still over the drink-drive limit.

9 Might your Christmas food tip you over the edge? Mince pies, Christmas cake and Christmas pudding often contain alcohol as a key ingredient and alongside your festive tipples could put you at risk of exceeding the drink-drive limit.

8 Driving home for Christmas? The last Friday before Christmas, dubbed 'Frantic Friday' will see the roads and public transport busier than every! With the mad dash to get home for the Christmas break, take extra care on the roads, watch for other drivers and keep your speed in check.

7 If staying with relatives over the festive season, be warned that even if you or they have "fully comp" insurance this does not automatically cover you to drive any vehicle. Always check the small-print of your policy or you could face a hefty penalty of 6-8points and unlimited fine.

6 Will it be a White Christmas this year? Snow can create hazardous driving conditions so slow your speed down, leave plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front and ensure that your lights are on for maximum visibility.

5 Sleeping off alcohol in your car after a boozy Christmas party can lead to an arrest for being drunk in charge of a motor vehicle the minimum penalty for which is 10 penalty points.

4 If you love to sing along to your favourite Christmas songs each year, don't get too carried away! Despite the "Carpool Karaoke" craze started by James Corden and his late night crew, if your driving is affected by any singing or dancing in the driver seat you may find your driving standard drops to a careless or even dangerous level.

3 Make sure you treat yourself to a new insurance policy this Christmas if you are lucky enough to receive a nice new car from Santa! Driving without a valid policy of insurance carries 6-8 penalty points or a risk of disqualification.

2 Police forces often launch drink driving and drug drive campaigns over the festive period. Ensure you take care with alcohol consumptions and leave plenty of time after drinking before you get back in your driver seat.

1 And finally, the most important motoring law tip of all, if you need any assistance over the festive period, PlayonPro members are invited to contact MD Jeanette Miller on 07798 898 181.

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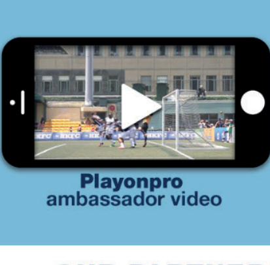

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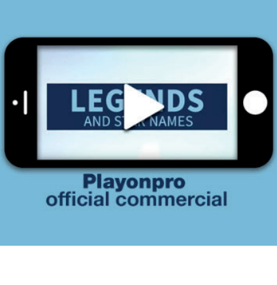

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