



Press Release
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For Immediate Release

Taunton Town FC Renamed Cygnet Health Care Stadium

A patient from a mental health hospital in Taunton had the opportunity to officially unveil the reopening of the new Taunton Town FC grounds after it was renamed the Cygnet Health Care stadium.

Cygnet Health Care's partnership with Taunton Town FC began in 2019, originally as stadium sponsors. Since then, the relationship has flourished with the aim of promoting the positive effect of sport on mental health and wellbeing.

The sponsorship of the Cygnet Health Care stadium represents not only how actively involved the hospital is with supporting the club via their community outreach programme, but also it highlights the ongoing commitment that the club has with regards to service users being involved with the sport.

Leonard is a patient from Redwood Ward, a care service for men with learning disabilities and mental health needs. He attended the official renaming ceremony.

He said: "It was a good feeling to be able to do this today. I've seen more Taunton Town football matches than my first choice club and I have to say the atmosphere has been great.

"The football has been exciting to watch and the staff at the club have been welcoming and supportive".

Dr Phil de Warren-Penny is the Medical Director & Consultant Psychiatrist at the hospital on Orchards Portman.

He added: "Having a strong connection with our local football team, Taunton Town, is of real value to our patients. The experience of those under our care who attend matches has been consistently positive and appreciated, and we are grateful for the opportunities our relationship brings.

"A key part of recovery is embracing the everyday experiences, and the ability for patients to do this in a meaningful way, often far from home, is not taken for granted. Thank you to all at Taunton Town FC for making this possible."

Nome Njini, Cygnet Hospital Taunton manager, said: "It is fantastic to be sponsoring Taunton town football club again this year and reflects on how the partnership has grown between Taunton Town Football Club and the hospital.

"We have worked closely with the football club over the past five years and together we have faced our share of challenges together and we are really excited for the future for the football club and look forward to continuing our partnership".

Stuart Hooper Head of Active Life at Cygnet Hospital Taunton, explained the benefits of a partnership with a sports club for patients with mental health difficulties.

He said: "We understand how challenging change can be for our patient so ensuring we have a therapy program with our patient input that fits with their everyday life is something we go out of our way to facilitate.

"We know from experience this supports better mental health care and for those patients who engage in programs like this, tell us how it hugely benefits them and their mental health by being active".

Karl Lindsay, Football Operations Manager at Taunton Town FC, said he was delighted to continue the relationship we have built with Cygnet Hospital Taunton.

"We are proud to be associated with Cygnet and are fully behind breaking down the barriers associated with mental illness," he added.

"It is fantastic to see patients come to the ground to watch a game and grow with confidence with each visit through social interaction and being able to work on their anxiety management, as well as the all-important support they give to the team.

"We are proud to continue the partnership with Cygnet Health Care."