



Press Release

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Not all ex-professional footballers earned fortunes – some need help now and Xpro aims to provide just that

Xpro – the association of ex-professional footballers, says more must be done to support the health and welfare of professional players when their playing days are over.

There are more than 60,000 ex-professional footballers in the UK and Ireland. Careers in football management or coaching follow for a minority and a tiny number find success within the media, but for most life after football can be very difficult. All too often as a direct result of injuries sustained during their playing career, ex-professionals suffer long term health issues that restrict their ability to work and in turn affect even a basic quality of life.

Xpro Chief Executive, Geoff Scott explained:

“Professional footballers devoted the best years of their life to the game, directly contributing to the commercial and sporting success football enjoys today. But, it’s a sad reality that when players leave the game there isn’t enough practical help and support available. The situation is even more drastic for elderly ex-professionals – **the forgotten heroes of football** - many trapped in poverty and with severe health issues resulting from playing professional football.

“There is an undisputed need for Xpro, an association run by ex-professionals, dedicated to supporting ex-professionals, providing practical help on medical and health issues, financial assistance, legal representation and counseling, ALL FREE, as well as



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a full calendar of social and sporting events. The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) does some fantastic work for ex-professionals, but their remit is to look after current players. Xpro complements the work of the PFA and other national football bodies, providing continuity of support for ALL players after they leave the game."

Membership of Xpro and the associated benefits are free to ALL ex-professionals who held contracts in, what today is the Premiership, Championship, League One and League Two, players who plied their trade BEFORE football hit the jackpot.

Geoff Scott says, "It's great for the profile of Xpro that so many big names, who feel strongly about the cause, have recently become members, because it is the lesser known ex-professionals who are often in most need of our help. Xpro is a charitable organisation that, thus far, has been totally funded by the generosity of its founders and management team. We can only help yesterday's footballers if we get financial help from football today. We are embarking on a major fundraising campaign and are seeking donations and sponsorship from the world of football today, which evolved from the contribution of those we wish to help."

Xpro membership already includes high profile former players, Paul McGrath, Andy Gray, Jimmy Greenhoff and Lee Sharpe, to name just a few. Xpro member Steve Perryman MBE, former Spurs midfielder and England international said, "It's important that football today supports the great work of Xpro. The success of football today stands on foundations built by former players."

XPRO – A charity for ex-pros who don't want charity BUT deserve recognition and help.



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Xpro would like to hear from all ex-professional players. Membership is free and registration is easily completed over the phone on 0844 4120401 or online at www.xpro.org. A range of associate membership options are also available for a nominal annual fee to both individuals, sporting clubs, former players associations and corporate organisations that wish to support ex-professional footballers through the work of Xpro.