

Tommy Jackson

My name is Tommy Jackson, I'm 16 years' old, live in Milton Keynes and attend Mary Hare school in Newbury where I board during the week.

I first started playing football as a young boy with my brother and the boys next door and played my 1st competitive games in local U-7 mainstream football.

At 14 I was contacted by Derek Rowley, manager of the MK Dons men's' deaf team and quickly agreed to join them. Playing in Deaf football for the first time I soon realised the communication between players was much easier than in hearing games and with a management team that was also deaf the tactical side of the game was much easier to understand. This helped my game improve much quicker, though I always had confidence in my own ability making the switch to deaf football made me even more determined to succeed and with the added challenge of playing in Men's football it helped my game become stronger.

At 15 I was invited to join the East of England deaf Futsall squad while in 11-aside I moved from MK Dons to Reading Deaf FC. This led to the opportunity to join up with the GB squad last spring which has been massive for me and now with the possibility of playing in Poland I know I must work even harder through the spring & summer.

Before this is possible though the GB squad need to raise enough money to fund the trip. Fund raising is a new challenge for me as it's not something I been involved with before but knowing that going to Poland depends on it means I'll be trying my hardest to raise as much money as I can. Hopefully, once the money is raised the hard work will be rewarded by going, and winning the tournament - knowing most of the other boys as I do they, like me, will not want to return from Poland disappointed.