



PRESS RELEASE **Southampton Football Club**



For Immediate Release

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St Mary's Training Centre celebrates success

The first candidates pass their SIA training and receive employment with the Club

A celebration of the first candidates to pass their Security Industry Authority (SIA) training and receive employment was held at Southampton Football Club's, St Mary's Stadium earlier this week. Each candidate was presented with a certificate and talked about their experience to a group of over 120 people at the event. Associated partners of the Training Centre, Fareham College, also attended the event along with Job Centre Plus and people seeking work in the local area.

St Mary's Training Centre was established just 18 months ago when the Head of Operations, Brendan McGlinchey and Training Manager, Margaret Sainsbury, noticed a gap in the market. Southampton Football Club already had an excellent reputation and credibility for the training of Safety Stewards and opening the Training Centre was the next logical step to help expand and develop the business. The centre offers various courses in Spectator Safety, Customer Services and SIA training amongst others.

"We offer a range of training at unique venues in the south coast. The difference with our training is that the candidates are able to gain valuable work experience on match days as well as learning the theory. We found that some people are intimidated about returning to college and feel more at ease at the venues we have" says Brendan.

St Mary's Training Centre are planning to market their courses in the coming year and although they already view themselves as a centre of excellence regionally they aspire to achieve this recognition nationally and become market leaders within the sport and security industry. Demand for the courses has already increased in the last 6 months and new staff have been employed to help support the existing staff.

The Training Centre has just teamed up with Job Centre Plus to help tackle the unemployment issue in the area by offering new training and the possibility of employment. The partnership with Fareham College has also evolved and they are working together to deliver Security Training for the 2012 Olympics, in conjunction with the Olympics 'Bridging The Gap Project'.

The Training Centre offers a fantastic opportunity for everyone to gain recognised qualifications in Security and Spectator Safety. The level of training offered is second to none and is already a market leader in the football industry.

