

VISION DUAL ON THE WINNING TEAM AT NEW £5 MILLION TRAINING COMPLEX



Our Vision Dual (VSD) line-interactive UPS scores a key role at a new £5 million football development hub aiming to inspire the next generation of players in Wales.

Founded in 1876, the Football Association of Wales (FAW) is the third oldest national organisation in the sport.

Building on the success of the national team's unprecedented run to the semi-finals of the Euro 2016 tournament, football in Wales is stronger than ever.

The FAW commits to increasing awareness, accessibility and participation in the game across all ages, abilities, genders and race. It aims to provide the very best facilities and experiences for both players and supporters, on and off the pitch.

The association continues to invest in high-quality facilities that will develop the game throughout the principality.

A key element of this strategy is the creation of a new National Development Centre in Wrexham, North Wales – where the FAW was actually established – to complement its well-established Dragon Park facility in Newport, South Wales.

The new £5 million elite complex at Colliers Park is based on the site of Gresford Colliery.

The project involved a comprehensive upgrade of the previous facilities, which were opened in 1997 by local professional team Wrexham AFC before ownership subsequently passed into the hands of Glyndŵr University.

At one point Colliers Park was regarded as one of the best training grounds outside of the Premier League. It even played host to superstar-packed squads including FC Barcelona and the England national team.

The huge investment by the FAW and its key partners, including the university, Welsh Government and Sport Wales, attempts to bring the site into the 21st century.

It wanted to offer facilities fit not just for elite footballers such as Wales internationals Gareth Bale and Aaron Ramsey, but also provide the perfect pathway for the next generation of players.

Lucy Scott, Head of Facilities at the site, says: “We have three pitches, two grass and one 3G, with pitch one having Wi-Fi coverage supporting player and coaching analysis. Inside we have a PlayerZone, an analysis room, lecture rooms and several meeting rooms that have large touchscreen facilities that can also be used for video conferencing.

“We also have treatment rooms, changing rooms and an activation warm-up area with gym equipment.

“We have students who analyse tactics through video streaming, whilst commercial users, FAW staff and visitors are all busy using the other facilities. Our reliance on networking and connectivity is huge, it’s quite a setup here in Wrexham!”

CHALLENGES TO TACKLE

The FAW uses the new facility, which officially opened in September 2019, to develop football across all levels and age groups. This spans grassroots youth teams through to the senior men’s and women’s international squads.

It also acts as a key tool in the FAW’s world-renowned coaching education programme. While Glyndŵr University students enjoy access to the amenities as part of their sports science degrees.

Evren Karaibrahimgil, ICT Manager for the FAW, explains: “We needed extensive Wi-Fi coverage across the site, and a new LAN network to serve the groups using the centre. Secure high-speed connectivity to our cloud services and links to the internet and our other sites were key.

“Our use of cloud-based services like Office 365 continues to grow. We also wanted to make greater use of collaboration services, like Microsoft Teams, to enable people to get together over video rather than travelling long distances for face-to-face meetings.”

To tackle these connectivity challenges head-on, the FAW identified Wrexham-based managed ICT services company Advatek – an authorised Riello UPS reseller – as the perfect project partner.

Advatek designed and installed an innovative, secure networking and connectivity solution spanning the entire complex.

Wireless access point placement was optimised across the site, enabling extensive Wi-Fi coverage with secure and segmented services for staff, players, students, and visiting guests. Wi-Fi extends to the pitches, where cameras on a gantry can capture and stream matches for live broadcasts as required.



WINNING SELECTION - VISION DUAL

Keeping the complex's IT systems and electrical equipment up and running was a non-negotiable goal. For that reason, Advatek also installed an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) to provide an all-important last line of defence in case of any disruption to the mains electricity.

Advatek recommended Riello UPS's Vision Dual VSD 2200 as the ideal choice to provide emergency backup. The versatile VSD can be used as a freestanding tower, but in this case was installed as a rackmount UPS in one of the IT network's server cabinets.

The 2200 VA UPS system provides battery autonomy of five minutes at full load. This offers ample time for the safe and secure shutdown of the site's ICT equipment in case of a mains failure.

In addition, the VSD is a line-interactive uninterruptible power supply equipped with advanced automatic voltage stabilisation technology which smooths out any blips in the mains supply, such as sags or surges.

This ensures the facility's full suite of services and systems remain operational whatever the quality of the mains supply.

Evren Karaibrahimgil, ICT Manager for the FAW, reveals: "We're delighted with the work done at Colliers Park. We've got a secure and resilient infrastructure capable of scaling with us as we continue to make advancements and grow the game in Wales."

