

sport

Youth Football

Levels FC startlet Davon Gbajumo has signed for Arsenal's academy after impressing this season.

The 10-year-old joined coach Terry Bobie Agyekum and his Newham-based side after making a brave decision to leave Barnet in July.

And the decision has paid off as seven months later he has found himself signing for Premier League side Arsenal.

After a successful start at Levels FC, helping the team earn promotion midway through the season, the young man attracted interest from several Premier League clubs with Arsenal leading the way to secure his signature.

Gbajumo's presence on and off the field was described as 'immense' and the youngster – who comes from a Ghanaian and Nigerian background – is left footed and can play anywhere in defence and is also renowned for his ability to play central midfield.

Having started his trial at Arsenal early in January 2019, participating in a Talent ID game, he was quickly identified as an elite player and immediately placed on an eight-week trial.

The youngster was recently given the man of the match award against local rivals Crystal Palace and has been working hard behind the scenes, taking part in extra sessions to stay sharp, fit and on top of his game.

Levels FC's Terry Bobie Agyekum said: "As a club we are extremely proud of Davon and we pray he goes on to be great.

"This is a great day for the young man and a great day for Levels FC. Hopefully Davon can be a shining light to all our players that they too can go onto to play at a high level if they believe and work hard."



Davon Gbajumo celebrates signing for Arsenal's academy.



Beagles youngsters smile for the cameras at Lee Valley on Saturday at the latest Minthon event.

Picture: NEB

Golden Minithon farewell for Beagles youngsters as they move up age group in style

For some it was the last ever Minithon before they move up to the next level, for other young Beagles it is the beginning of an exciting athletics career.

Coach Tim Mundle, as well as assistant Sonya Allman and a couple of helpers, took a Newham & Essex team of 25 to Lee Valley for the latest Minithon.

"It was a great day," said Mundle. "It was a beautiful day outside so we let the youngsters go out and have a little run between their events and they all had a good time."

That was the case on the track too as the youngsters collected plenty of medals.

For those saying goodbye to the event, it was a golden day.

Jonmark Nwosu, Christopher Thompson, Karis Wilson and Sarah Campbell all struck gold in their final event and will look for more success when they move up



Joe Pascall picked up two medals at the England Championships in Sheffield.

Athletics

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to the UK Youth Development League this summer.

In the year four/five age group, Omara Bailey was in stunning form for the boys as he took part in the 60m, long jump and 200m and managed personal bests in all of them to strike a fine gold.

The other boys in the age group all managed bronze medals, with Joshua Esho, Lewis Walters, Abel Daniel, Malachi Warren, Jeremiah Frank and Corey Browne putting in good performances.

For the girls in the same age group, Khadijah Daanwi managed a super gold medal, while there were silvers for Oyinlade Ogunule



Aaron Ashmead-Shoye earned a bronze medal at the England Championships.

and Grace Ring and Angel Alexander-Darko, Mya Warren and Amone Malais all came home with bronzes.

In the year six/seven age group, as well as gold for Nwosu and Thompson, Beagles Sanjay Saunders managed a silver, with bronzes for Jaydon Harley, Jeremiah Oham, Yoel Daniel, Ben Lane and Jeffrey Egbeobauwaye.

For the girls, Chenoa Acquah finally struck gold, while Agboola Salmon-Alarin managed an excellent bronze.

"These events are so well organised," said Mundle.

"There were 350 youngsters there in all, and some who couldn't compete as it was too full.

"It was great for the Beagles. We were hoping to have a club record of athletes there, and though we didn't quite manage that, it was an excellent turnout."

The Beagles certainly look to have a bright future in the sport.



Frank Baddick battled home in a best ever 14th at the National Cross-Country.

sport

Athletics

Newham & Essex Beagles made their mark at the England age group indoor championships in Sheffield at the weekend.

There was a stylish gold medal for Theo Fadayiro in the under-20 triple jump, where the young Beagle stormed to a new personal best of 14.88 metres to take first place.

Also in the same event was Andrew Adegbite, who finished seventh with 13.71m.

Triple jump seems to be a strong event for the Beagles at the moment as in the under-17s Aaron Ashmead-Shoye earned a fine bronze medal with a best of 13.55m.

Karl Johnson was one of the Beagles stars of last year as he won bronze in the European under-18 Championships over 400m hurdles in Hungary.

He has started the new year in impressive form too. Competing in the flat 400m, he eased through his heat in 49.03.

In the semis, he clocked 49.15 to again win the race, but he opted not to run in the final on the day.

Joel Pascall had an excellent weekend in two events.

In the under-17 200m, he won both heat and semi to make the final, where another fine run of 22.07 for a new personal best gave him the silver medal.

Earlier in the 60m sprint, he won his heat, was second in the semi and then earned the bronze medal in the final, clocking 6.98.

Dolita Shaw was disqualified in the semis of the under-20 60m after finishing second in her heat, while Zoe Thompson was fifth in the final of the under-20 200m, clocking 25.19.

Meanwhile, Frank Baddick was in the Beagles team for the National Cross-Country Championships in Leeds at the weekend.

He managed his best-ever finish of 14th on the day, clocking 37.46 over a tough course.

The Beagles team managed 23rd place with Edgars Sumskis in a fine 23rd, Dan Giles in 300th, Patrick Chesser finishing 377th and Wayne Bell 493rd.

Olivier Heaslip and John Gordon also ran in Beagles colours.

It was a decent performance from a Beagles team that have not been at their best in the muddy conditions this winter.

It is a time of transition for the club and hopefully they will fare better next year.