

## **Moving ahead** **No Messin'! campaign – sports star ambassadors**



*Our No Messin'! campaign uses local young sports stars as ambassadors to discourage youngsters from trespassing on the railway.*

*Boxer Amir Khan and fast-rising badminton player Fontaine Chapman are just two of the British sports stars that have signed up to our 'No Messin'!' campaign.*

Both stars help out at the No Messin'! events held during school holidays and at other out-of-hours times, and use various opportunities to talk to young people about the dangers of messing about on the railway. Sports stars are inspirational to young people, particularly local young people who come from similar backgrounds, and so are ideal role models and advocates.

For example, we arranged for a number of young wrestlers from Tullibody Wrestling Club and Bowmar 'No Messin'! Gym, a Network Rail sponsored gym, to visit boxing star Amir Khan.

On arrival they spoke to members of Team Khan and took part in a training session devised by the gym staff. Amir and his nutritionist also had a question and answer session with the youngsters.

Twenty-year-old Fontaine Chapman is one of Britain's badminton Olympic hopefuls and we have sponsored her since 2006. She frequently trains in the sports facilities at our leadership development centre in Coventry, near her home.

"I'm from the same kind of background as a lot of the young people that mess about on the tracks, so hopefully they can look at what I'm doing, see what can be achieved with a lot of effort and become inspired to do something similar," says Fontaine. "It's certainly better than risking their safety on the tracks, and hopefully No Messin'! events will not only save lives, but change lives too."

Our No Messin'! events are attended by a number of No Messin'! scholars from different parts of the country. These are inspirational young people who act as ambassadors for other young people, and include six wrestlers, two boxers and a swimmer – all of whom are under the age of 16.

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