



KENSINGTON PALACE

It gives me great pride to be President of The Football Association as it marks its 150th anniversary this weekend.

Up and down the country from the grassroots and park pitches through to the hugely successful Football League and Premier League, it is more than fitting that so many matches will be played exactly a century and a half since the rules codifying association football were formed in a pub in London in October 1863.

There is a lot of good that football can do in this country. The FA's Football for Everyone philosophy seeks to ensure that, where possible, facilities and coaching should be made available to anyone no matter where they come from or what they do.

Globally, football is a huge force for good and the love of the game, whether a quick kickabout or a top-flight professional game, crosses languages and cultures. There is not much else in our world that can do that, and we should feel very proud in our country of our pivotal role in starting all this off.

Good luck to everyone involved in games this weekend. Whatever your club and wherever your allegiance lies, I hope you will all be able to raise a glass to football on its big birthday.