

## **CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD**

**It is again a great honour to be able to report on another eventful season as Chairman of the Essex County Schools' FA. I would like to begin by thanking the entire volunteer workforce who give up so much of their time for the benefit of schools football.**

There are few counties who are fortunate to have so many individuals prepared to give their time in support of the activities of our association. With the continued backing of our County FA, I hope that our association can continue to thrive and meet the challenges that the future of schools football will inevitably bring.

It is sad to report on the passing of two stalwarts of Essex Schools during the year - Bryon Coomer in August 2018 and, in April of this year, John Edwards. Bryon was a former Chairman of the association and Life Member. John was General Secretary and, later, a Life Member.

Both joined the Association in 1972 and were highly-respected gentlemen, so it is fitting that both have Essex individual competitions named after them.

### **Congratulations to the following:**

To all our competition finalists and winners.

To all boys and girls who represented their school, district and county during the season.

### **In national competitions:**

To the **Girls Under 14s** county side who were successful in winning the English Schools FA Inter-County Trophy at Stoke City FC, 4-3 on penalties against Lancashire following a 3-3 draw after normal time.

To **Shenfield School** on reaching three national finals. Their **Under 13s Girls** on winning their ESFA National Individual Girls Schools Trophy, 4-1 against the Crompton House Academy at The Hawthorns, West Bromwich Albion FC.

The **Under 12s Boys**, losing to Sandwell Academy 3-0, also at West Bromwich Albion FC, and the **Under 14s Girls**, losing 4-2 on penalties against Thomas Telford at Stoke City FC.

To **Barking Abbey Under 19s Girls**, reaching the national schools final again, this time losing out to Thomas Telford 2-0 at AFC Fylde. And to **USP (SEEVIC) Under 19s Girls** on reaching the national colleges final, losing to Tyne Coast College 7-1, also at AFC Fylde.

To **Havering District Boys Under 11s**, who were also successful in reaching the ESFA Under 11s Premier League District 7-a-Side Trophy Final at Liverpool FC Academy, losing 1-0 to Liverpool in the final, with **Chelmsford & Mid Essex District Boys** finishing third in the competition.

### **In SEESFA Competitions:**

To the **Under 15s Boys** county team in winning the South-East England (SEESFA) Trophy, beating Bedfordshire 3-2, and to the **Under 14s Girls** county team, who were losing finalists to Middlesex, 3-2.

Our 21 competition finals were all completed on time due, in part, to good weather but also to the excellent work of all our competition secretaries. I would like to thank **Simon Silva-Peake** for his work as Under 11s Competition Secretary as he steps down from the role.

Thanks also to **Andy Tickner** for his work organising SEESFA fixtures and **Dave Agass** for his work organising District Competitions.

A particular thanks to **Emma Burden** (Essex County FA) who organises the girls' increasingly successful programme. Once again, many thanks to all our **County Managers** for their time and expertise given throughout the season. It is pleasing to report a healthy number of managers in place for next season - a position many counties look on with envy.

One of the main factors in helping the ECSFA to maintain its success is the support of the staff at the County Office, so I would like to thank **Brendan Walshe** (Chief Executive), **Chris Evans** (Marketing & Communications), **Lukas Wood** and **George Lowe** (Referees), **Mark Wallis** (Competitions), **Rhys Elmer** (Under 11s Premier League Competition and Futsal) for their continued support.

A special thankyou goes to **Robert Craven** for his work in producing such informative and high-quality matchday programmes for the numerous county and individual schools finals during the season.

I would also like to thank our General Secretary, **Phil Sammons** for his work and support throughout the season. Few would be aware of the time involved in the role for an organisation of our size, and we are lucky to have someone with Phil's expertise and enthusiasm in post.

Thank you to the following for the use of their facilities for county matches and finals this season: London Marathon Playing Fields (Fairlop), Aveley FC, Brentwood School, Barking Abbey School, Len Forge Centre, Lakeside FC, Moulsham High School, Brampton Manor School, Melbourne Park, Forest Glade FC, Pegasus FC Corringham, Dagenham & Redbridge FC.

I wish you an enjoyable 2018/19 season ahead.

**Graham Hall**  
*Chairman*