

HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

I am writing my annual report having just attended the county's final commitment of the 2018/19 season, that being the Girls Under 14s SEESFA Final at Rectory Park, Northolt on Saturday 15th June 2019.

This is nearly 13 months since the season started, when the competition entry forms were first circulated to the Primary and Secondary Schools of the County.

As in previous seasons it has been a very busy one for the volunteer members of the association, the players, the teachers and their family members. Participation has been provided for all, from ages ten through to 19, for both boys and girls and for those with disabilities.

School and District Competition Entries

Primary Comps		Secondary Comps		District Comps	
Parish	41	Aston	84	Finch	8
Smith	45	Chairman's	91	Birmingham	7
Girls	24	Wood	86	Welsh	7
		Cook	81	Clark	6
		Child	78	Johnson	4
		Pratt	39	Boys Under 11s 7v7	6
		Edwards	49	Girls Under 11s 7v7	5
		Cash	47		
		Winters	36		
	110		591		43

It is pleasing to report we were able to hold a District Finals Day on 11th May at Forest Glade FC. It was an excellent way to conclude the district programme. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Forest Glade FC for their support in this event.

The association were again involved in 45 county representative matches throughout the season and we thank Andy Tickner, Graham Hall and Emma Burden for their organisation of the county fixture programme, which is often very frustrating.

Following the Women's World Cup taking place in France it is pleasing to report the association ran a new Under 11s Girls Competition. There were 24 entries and we congratulate West Thurrock Academy on being the first winners of the trophy.

Congratulations

To all the competing schools/colleges, and to the County Cup winners.

To all the boys and girls who had the honour of representing their school, college, district and county.

To the Under 14s county girls, who beat Lancashire at Stoke City FC to become national champions.

To the Under 15s county boys on winning the SEESFA trophy and the Under 14s Girls, who narrowly lost to Middlesex in their SEESFA Final.

To the Under 14s county boys and Under 16s girls who were losing finalists in their respective SEESFA Semi-Finals.

To Newham SFA, winners of the Birmingham and Welsh Competitions, and Havering, winners of the Finch Shield and Johnson.

To Thurrock SFA, winners of the Clark, Under 11s Boys District 7s and sharing the Under 11s Girls District 7s, with Barking & Dagenham SFA and Chelmsford & Mid Essex SFA winners of the Finch Cup.

To Barking Abbey School Girls, who retained the Under 18s National Schools Trophy, beating Thomas Telford 2-0 at Notts County FC.

To USP (Seevic) Girls, who were national finalists in the Under 18s Colleges Trophy.

To Shenfield High School, who reached three national finals. The Under 13s Girls recorded a 4-1 victory whilst the Under 12s Boys and Under 14s Girls narrowly missed out on further success.

To Thurrock SFA and Loyola Prep School, who were semi-finalists in the ESFA Under 11s Danone Nations Cup.

To Woodlands School and Brentwood Ursuline School, who were both National Fives semi-finalists.

To Havering SFA, who were finalists in the U11 Premier League 9-a-Side, and Chelmsford & Mid Essex SFA who achieved joint third place.

Thank You

We are grateful to the goodwill of many people - too numerous to list - in order to carry out the ESCFA's activities, and we thank you all.

To the East Family, who have once again financially contributed to the association's activities.

To Graham Hall, our Chairman, who once again has dedicated many hours to the numerous duties he carries out. These range from representing the Schools Association on the Essex County FA Council, to arranging county fixtures, managing the Under 18s schools and youth teams, to planning the County Cup Final schedule and the administration of the Schools & Colleges Under 19s League.

To Emma Burden for her work with the Girls Under 14s and Under 16s county programme.

To Simon Silva-Peake for his work as the Under 11s Competition Secretary as he steps down from the role.

To all the Competition Secretaries, Team Managers and Physiotherapists who have done so much work during the course of the season.

To Robert Craven for the production of match programmes, James Lisher and Lukas Wood for the appointment of match officials and to Rhys Elmer and Danielle Warnes for their organisation of the small-sided and Futsal competitions.

To Brendan Walshe and all the staff at the Essex County FA for their help in so many ways during the course of the season.

To Dagenham & Redbridge FC, Aveley FC, Brentwood School, Chigwell School, Shenfield High School, Brampton Manor School, Kingsford School, Barking Abbey School, Moulsham School, Len

Forge Centre, Melbourne Park, London Marathon Playing Fields (Fairlop), Noak Hill Sports Complex, Forest Glade FC and Lakeside FC, who made their facilities available to us during the season.

Sad Loss

Sadly, we lost two stalwarts of Essex Schools football during the year - John Edwards (1925-2019) and Bryon Coomer (1925-2018).

AJD Edwards BA first became involved in the Schools Association when he was appointed General Secretary in 1972. He remained in post until 1994 when he moved to Vice-Chairman. In 1999 he was made a Life Member. In 2004 he became the Competition Secretary for the Jim Smith Trophy until his retirement in 2008.

In 2003, the Under 13s Individual Girls Competition was named in his honour. John was a true gentlemen who gave so much time, not only to schools football, but also to schools cricket.

TB Coomer joined the same season as John, becoming Vice-Chairman in 1972. This was a post he held until 1984, when he became Chairman. In 1999 he stepped down from the Chair and was made a Life Member for his services to the association. In 1996 the Under 19s Colleges Cup competition was named the Bryon Coomer Cup in honour of his services.

Conclusion

As you can see from this report, the Essex Schools FA continues to play its part in developing young players for the future of the game.

As many of you are aware, I look after the county archives and it is always pleasing to be able to produce information for parents of the boys and girls who now play for, or are involved in, county events when they themselves represented the county or played in county finals.

They all recall with great fondness their county schools experience, which is very rewarding for all those teachers who have provided this opportunity over many years.

Phil Sammons

Honorary General Secretary