



#BBFA21FOR21

## DAISY CROKER

CLUB: MK DONS SET (COACH),  
LEVEL 3W REFEREE

### *How long have you been involved in Football for?*

4 Years (Coaching) & 5 Years (Refereeing)

### *Who is your Inspiration/Role Model and Why?*

My coaching role model is Emma Hayes. She is my role model because of her positive coaching approach. She's always looking to get the best out of her players and pushing them to be the best that they can be.

My biggest inspiration is FA Level 3 Referee Helen Conley. She's refereed for 17 years in 8 different countries and been involved in both the continental cup and FA Women's Cup on numerous occasions. She's inspired me to keep working hard and these are just some of the things I could achieve. I'm very lucky to have her as a close friend and coach who supports me both on and off the pitch.

### *What do you most enjoy about being involved in football?*

The thing I enjoy most about coaching is seeing young players grow in confidence and develop their game. This gives me a real sense of pride that I've helped that individual grow and enjoy their football. This season alone I've been lucky enough to referee at St. Georges Park, Leicester City training ground and Brighton training ground. I've been lucky enough to meet some of my closest friends through refereeing who all help me along my journey.

### *What have been your biggest achievements since the programme began?*

My biggest Coaching achievement since the programme began is getting onto a university course in football development. This is my biggest achievement because it's helped me to develop my coaching skills further and be given the opportunity to be involved in a professional club environment. Refereeing wise, getting promoted to FA Level 3W- WNL and WSL

Academy Referee, refereeing my first ever FA Womens Cup fixture in third round qualifying and being assistant referee for England WU17s at St. Georges Park.

### *What challenges have you experienced since the programme began and how did you overcome them?*

One of the biggest challenges I've had to face since the programme began has been always coaching in the boys game with older male coaches in the grassroots game and dealing with the parents. It was a difficult experience working with two male coaches who both had sons in the team. Sometimes dealing with the parents was tough too. It helped me to develop my confidence skills in situations out of my comfort zone that were challenging. Some of the dads didn't always understand why their son had a female coach. The main challenge I've had to face since the start of the programme is the pandemic. Not being able to referee or attend to face development or train with local refs was tough and had a massive impact on my mental health. Missing out on my referee promotion at the end of the 2019/2020 season because of it was a challenge to face as well. I overcome these challenges by training independently and attending as much online development as I could from the national FA and the county FA. By doing this I was preparing myself for having a successful 2020/21 season.

### *What are your aspirations/targets for the next year? How do you hope to get there?*

My aspirations and targets for the next year are to complete my foundation degree in community football coaching and development, complete my UEFA C license and to be in a paid coaching role within the MK Dons SET on the girls talent pathway. My refereeing targets for the next year are to keep progressing as a referee on the Women's National League and gain

my promotion to 2WAR at the start of the 2022/23 season to enable me to officiate as an assistant referee and fourth official on the Womens Championship.

### *What has been the most useful support you have accessed through the programme? (i.e., Equipment, Funding for Qualifications/Reg Fees)*

The funding of registration fees has been really useful as I've been able to claim back multiple registration fees for both refereeing and coaching throughout the season which has helped me massively especially as a uni student. The support from BBFA staff has been really good and the support has varied from a wide range of people depending on my needs.

### *How have you found the programme, including support from the BBFA?*

I've found the programme really inspiring. It's given me the opportunity to meet girls from Milton Keynes and the surrounding area who all share a passion for football. It's been really good to speak to different people about their roles within football. The support from BBFA has been fantastic and I've been provided with some really good opportunities across the two years. The coaches network has been really helpful as well. Engaging with experienced coaches and gaining some CPD to help develop me further.

### *Which WEuros games are you most looking forward to? Have you got tickets for any games?*

I'm most looking forward to watching England vs Northern Ireland in Southampton and I will also be attending the semifinal at stadium mk. I also have a ticket to watch one of the stadium mk group games with the rest of the 21 for 21 girls.