



Hertfordshire FA



**2018/19
Season Review**

Chair's Foreword



Outgoing President Eddie King with Chair Graham Phillips

When asked to contribute an introduction to this 2018/19 Season Review it was clear that the challenge would be fitting everything in.

This has been a significant year for the Association in so many ways and it is impressive to see documented many of the wide and varied activities undertaken in governing the game, developing football opportunities and safeguarding within the county.

We end the season with the home of Hertfordshire FA dramatically transformed. The County Ground is now a true football hub and it is fantastic to see the site playing host to a diverse range of football activity seven days a week.

This project has been a massive undertaking and its smooth delivery is testament to the hard work of all involved. This has been a real team effort, bringing together contributions from across our organisation, working in partnership with a range of stakeholders including the Letchworth Heritage Foundation and The Football Association. We are grateful for everyone's efforts in creating this exciting new facility that will deliver so much benefit to the community.

Special mention must of course go to my predecessor Brian Curtis, who as Chair over the last three years has skilfully steered the Association through a period of significant change. He leaves the role with Hertfordshire FA in a better place to deliver what is expected of a modern and responsive County FA and I hope in my tenure to be able to build on the foundations that he has laid.

This season also marked the end of an era, with Eddie King standing down as President. This draws to a close four decades of active involvement in the Association and his contribution must rank amongst the greatest in our long history. It has been a real pleasure to work alongside you for all these years and we wish you the very best in your retirement.

It was also a year that was tinged with great sadness, with the season seeing the untimely passing of John Turner, Stephen Hedley, Ken Headington and Denis Jackson. All were true football people who had each contributed so much to the game and their loss has been felt across Hertfordshire football.

When remembering such great servants of the game, it of course reminds us all that grassroots football would not exist without the hard work and dedication of those who give so much of themselves to help make it happen.

So on behalf of all of us at the Hertfordshire Football Association, I should like to acknowledge and thank all of you, who devote so much of your time, energy and effort to the furtherance of football at all levels of the game.

Your contribution is very much appreciated.

Graham Phillips
Chair, Hertfordshire Football Association

Board and Council 2019/20

President
A Willmott

Chair
G Phillips

Directors
G Phillips
T Butler
K Coniam
A Eden
P Mallett
C Spriggins
S Trulock

Independent External Directors
G Heaton
N Lucas

Treasurer
M Miller

Council

M Bayliss
L Bolino
J Burlison
R Cleverly
B Curtis
W Dance
B Day
B Dearman
P Donovan
E Dowber
R Dowden
D French
E Hand
K Hicks
J Hockney
T Izzard
E King
W O'Neill
B Spooner
C White
D Willacy
A Wilson
G Williams

Representatives

M Chandler
E Collie
L Crabtree
T Eden
R Hunt
G Martin
S Murless
S Pulandaran
B Stedman
P Waller
C Wilson
G Wilson

CEO's Introduction



CEO Karl Lingham with outgoing Chair Brian Curtis

Reflecting on the last season it is remarkable to see how much can change in such a short space of time. At this point last year we had only just broken ground on construction of our new artificial pitch and Community Football Centre.

One of our key goals is to increase the quality and quantity of pitches and facilities, working hard with our partners to deliver these for local communities across the county.

With the redevelopment of The County Ground complete we get to see first hand the benefits of these projects, with players from seven to seventy out enjoying taking part in the game here every week.

The importance of high quality places to play is vital for the development of football, and we are proud to say that ours is just one of four new artificial pitches opened in the county this season. This alongside investment in grass pitch improvements will give many more the chance to play regular football.

Creating a fun, safe and inclusive environment is also crucial to maintaining the enjoyment of all involved. The new Respect campaign highlights the impact of positive behaviour on the development of young players, while the introduction of Sin Bins has seen a dramatic reduction in dissent towards referees.

We continue to work to support participation across football and are encouraged by strong growth in many parts of the game. This year we have been able to offer targeted assistance and funding for Futsal, women and girls, disability and adult 11v11 to help ensure that football continues to be accessible for all.

Football can have a positive impact on people's lives on and off the pitch, with a recent report placing the economic and social value of adult grassroots football in Hertfordshire at over £300m. We are also proud to work closely with partners such as the Police to help use football to drive positive change in wider society.

Through our close relationships with local professional clubs Watford FC and Stevenage FC, and in particular the work done by their charity arms, we see further evidence of the tremendous impact that the support, energy and dedication that exists around football can have when brought to bear to help others.

It has been a pleasure to work closely with our Board, Council, Staff and stakeholders over the last year, improving standards and increasing opportunities in football throughout the county. I look forward to continuing this work as we strive to make Hertfordshire the best place to enjoy playing the game.

Karl Lingham
Chief Executive, Hertfordshire Football Association

Staff
2019/20

Chief Executive Officer
Karl Lingham

Football Development Team

Head of Football Development and Investment
Steve Maker

Football Development Officers

Hannah Bingham
Beth Dawes
Kieran Fox
Gemma Smith
Beatrice Thirkettle

Referee Development Officer
Phil Sharp

Coach Development Officer
Danielle Evans

Education Administrator
Matthew Reynolds

Designated Safeguarding Officer
Richard Drake

Football Services Team

Head of Football Services
Lauren Halsey

Football Services Officer
Joseph Karram

Football Services Administrator
Paul Musgrave

Operations Team

Head of Commercial and Operations
Rob Smith

Marketing and Communications Officer
Stuart Mugford

Finance Officer
Marianna Okoh

Community Football Centre Managers
Ayrton Armstrong
Michael Draper

Contents:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2. Chair's Foreword | 3. CEO's Introduction | 4. Football Development | 5. Coach Development |
| 9. Facility Development | 10. The County Ground | 12. Referee Development | 13. Football Services |
| 14. County Cups | 16. Grassroots Awards | 18. Safeguarding | 19. National Game Strategy |

Football Development

As the not-for-profit, governing body of football in Hertfordshire one of our key goals is to grow participation. We want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to play and develop their love of the game.

We do this by working to create an environment in which football can flourish, supporting the delivery of quality provision, promoting diversity and regulating the sport for everyone to enjoy.

We are proud to support football for all and are here to help the thousands of players and volunteers of all ages and backgrounds who make up the game across our county.



Did you know?

In our county there are...

46,259



Players

2,848



Teams

577



Clubs

Adult Male 11v11



Football's traditional format has long been the cornerstone of the grassroots game, but has increasingly come under pressure as participation has declined in recent years. As a fundamental part of our sport we're committed to ensuring the 11v11 adult game remains as strong, healthy and sustainable as possible, supporting a number of initiatives aimed at helping existing clubs to survive and thrive.

Stay in the Game

Stay in the Game is funded by The FA and delivered by the Football Foundation, offering clubs the opportunity to apply for grants of £750 to help cover the various associated costs of running a team.

Extra Time Fund

Hertfordshire FA's own retention funding scheme, the Extra Time Fund compliments the Stay in the Game funding by offering up to £500 for clubs who can demonstrate an existing team is at risk of folding for financial reasons.

£13,750

In retention funding to support Male 11v11 teams in Hertfordshire in 2018/19

Disability Football



Action from the FA People's Cup at the County Ground in February



Liam Dwyer and Tom Ward of St. Albans City Youth celebrate Special Olympic gold

The disability game continues to grow in Hertfordshire, with greater opportunities developing each season. Over 40 teams are now affiliated to us, while a number of recreational centres enable individuals of all ages and abilities to play football in an environment that suits them.

At Hertfordshire FA we now have a dedicated Football Development Officer with responsibility for supporting the provision of disability football throughout the county, while The County Ground was proud to host the first round matches in the disability competition of the FA People's Cup.

This year we have also worked with clubs to secure 'Grow the Game' funding worth £6,000, supporting the creation of new teams and providing more opportunities for disabled players to get into the game, have fun, make friends and enjoy the social activities that come from being part of a team.

We have also helped organise an England Talent ID day, aimed at spotting the future stars of the national disability teams. Hertfordshire boasts a wealth of talent, with local teams among some of the most successful in the country, while the gold medal winning Team GB side in the Special Olympics also featured a player and coach from our county, providing fantastic inspiration for young players.

The FA Disability Cup

The FA Disability Cup offers players within impairment-specific football the opportunity to battle it out against teams from all over the country for the chance to compete for glory and be crowned national champions at St George's Park, the home of English football.

It is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the players, coaches and volunteers involved and provides a platform for raising awareness of the opportunities that exist within disability football.

With partially sighted, blind, Cerebral Palsy, amputee and Powerchair formats, the competition gets bigger and better each season with the number of teams and the standard of play exceeding that of the previous years.

Hertfordshire based Aspire PFC have enjoyed great success in this competition, claiming victory in the Powerchair Cup Final for an incredible third time in four years. Congratulations on an amazing achievement!



Football Development

FA Charter Standard


The FA Charter Standard is a 'kitemark' awarded to clubs who are judged to be well run and sustainable. For a youth club, gaining Charter Standard status shows that they place child protection, quality coaching and safety as paramount.

Charter Standard youth clubs all feature a trained Welfare Officer, criminal records checked volunteers, Emergency Aid-trained volunteers linked to each team, Respect programme sign-up, a Level 1 qualified coach for each youth team, and appropriate club administration in place.

As such, parents looking for a club for their child will know that a Charter Standard club will offer a positive environment in which to play. Currently nearly three quarters of youth clubs in Hertfordshire achieve Charter Standard status.

We continue to work with all clubs to help them improve with a goal of reaching 100% coverage.



68%  **73%**
2017/18 2018/19

**Youth clubs in Hertfordshire
that are FA Charter Standard**

Women and Girls

As part of an ambitious goal to double female participation in football in the three years to 2020, we've been supporting a range of initiatives aimed at getting more women and girls playing the game.

The success of England's Lionesses in the World Cup in France this summer and the coverage this received has raised the profile of women's football even further and helped inspire a new generation of players to fall in love with the game.

With a growing number of Wildcats Centres offering young girls an opportunity to take their first steps in football and 'Grow the Game' funding that saw £21,000 invested in local clubs to help them start new teams, girls football in Hertfordshire is well placed to take advantage of this increasing demand.

This has been supplemented by our own '3 Lions' programme aimed at creating links between schools and clubs to offer girls football sessions. Last year this invested a further £2,000 in creating even more opportunities for girls to play.



Wildcats Girl's Football Centres

There are 21 SSE Wildcats Girl's Football Centres open across Hertfordshire in 2019, providing girls with opportunities to play football in a fun and engaging environment. Created exclusively for girls aged 5-11 they offer a chance to make friends, develop skills, learn new things and create the foundation for a lifelong love of football.



Futsal



ProFutsal London U14s celebrate winning the FA Futsal Cup in May

Futsal in Hertfordshire goes from strength to strength as more clubs and leagues look to include it in their offering, being seen as both an exciting alternative way to enjoy the game and a useful tool to improve the skills of young players.

We work closely with local leagues and clubs to further embed Futsal within the county, as well as running dedicated Coaching Futsal courses, helping coaches improve their skills and knowledge and take their next step on the coaching pathway.

Last year we also supported a number of successful applications for the Football Foundation Futsal Fund, aimed at creating new Futsal Leagues, with grants of £1,500 to use the towards associated costs such as facility hire, equipment and referees.

Hertfordshire FA Youth Futsal Cup

This event continues to grow, with 48 teams of boys and girls aged 8-16 competing this year. The winning teams in each age group progressed to the regional qualifiers, with 3 going on to qualify for the national finals of the FA Futsal Cup at St. George's Park. There one of our teams went all the way to become champions of England - congratulations to ProFutsal London's U14 on a fantastic achievement!



New League on the Right Track

The Railway Friendly Football League was created with the support of Hertfordshire FA after Great Northern Train Driver Michael D'Santos approached us for help and advice in getting a new league up and running so that railway workers could play regular organised football.

The new league is made up of train crews and staff across the network, with three Govia Thameslink Railway teams and one from South Western Railway, with each team playing one fixture a month. The league's first season kicked off at the beginning of March and will run until November.

Mike, who is coaching the Great Northern squad, says, "This is a tradition that our depot teams used to really enjoy taking part in so I was really keen to see if we could bring it back. Hertfordshire FA have been a fantastic support in helping to set up the league and fixtures.

We're excited to see how we can build on the league in the future and involve more people, including walking football for those with reduced mobility, 5-a-side mixed charity tournaments and gender-balanced teams."



Want to Set Up Your Own League?

We know there are many adults who want to be involved in football but struggle to find a team or fit games around work, so combining the two like this a great way to get them playing again.

It's easier than you'd think to set up and run a league, particularly with the online services we can offer, so we'd encourage anyone considering something similar to get in touch with us

Coach Development

The need to provide support to those people coaching players at all levels of the national game has long been recognised by The Football Association as key to the development of the game in this country.

The coach education programme has a huge impact on youth and grassroots playing opportunities.

Each year Hertfordshire FA runs a thorough coach education programme that gives the coaching community the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in coaching and other disciplines.



Our 2018/19 UEFA B Cohort

In 2018/19 Hertfordshire FA provided...

34
Football
Coaching
Courses

2
Goalkeeper
Coaching
Courses

3
Futsal
Coaching
Courses

45
Football
First Aid
Courses

43
Safeguarding
Children
Courses



Developing Female Coaches

This year we ran our first ever FA Level 1 in Coaching Football course specifically focused on the female game. While the course content and resulting qualification were exactly the same as any other Level 1, this was open exclusively to female coaches or those who were coaching women's or girl's football.

By offering courses aimed specifically at those involved in this area of the game, our aim is to help accelerate the recruitment of female coaches and support the development of girls' football.

"Feedback suggests that one of the barriers to more women seeking to gain a coaching qualification is a perception that they would feel out of place on a course where the significant majority of learners were male. We wanted to see if we could help change that by offering a Level 1 course focused on the female game and were pleased with the positive response from those taking part and we will look to offer more courses like this in future."

Danielle Evans, Hertfordshire FA



Facility Development

Hertfordshire FA aims to increase the quality and quantity of pitches and facilities across the county, providing more opportunities for all to enjoy the game. Our role is to support any facilities project by guiding clubs, schools and organisations through the funding opportunities that are available.

Working in partnership with Local Authorities, the Football Foundation, Sport England and other organisations, we recognise the importance of high quality facilities and strive to deliver these for local communities.

Football Foundation

Total investment
secured of **£1.92m**
in 2018/19



Roundwood Park School open their new artificial pitch in October 2018



Borehamwood Youth FC Grass Pitch Improvement works September 2018



Richard Hale School open their new artificial pitch in November 2018



Everett Rovers FC open their new pavilion in December 2018

On the 3G Pitch Register in Hertfordshire

Ashlyns School
Berkhamsted

Boreham Wood FC
Borehamwood

Cheshunt FC
Cheshunt

Cheshunt RFC
Cheshunt

Goffs School
Cheshunt

Harpenden RFC
Harpenden

Harvesters FC
St Albans

The Hemel Hempstead School
Hemel Hempstead

Hertfordshire FA
Letchworth

Meriden Community Centre
Watford

Monks Walk School
Welwyn Garden City

Nicholas Breakspear School
St Albans

Parmiters School
Watford

Richard Hale School
Hertford

Roundwood Park School
Harpenden

Samuel Ryder Academy
St. Albans

Sandringham High School
St. Albans

St. Joan of Arc School
Rickmansworth

Westfield Academy
Watford

Wodson Park Leisure Centre
Ware

The County Ground

Over the winter the home of Hertfordshire FA has been transformed into a modern community football hub

The new facility was officially opened by Greg Clarke, Chairman of The FA in April, and comprises a state of the art artificial grass pitch, along with extensive renovations to the existing clubhouse, adding two new changing rooms and a large function room suitable for hosting events and training courses.

This has replaced a grass pitch that was prone to waterlogging and rarely used outside of hosting County Cup finals at the end of each season. Last year many of these finals had to be postponed due to bad weather, while other uses had to be restricted so as to protect the surface for use at these showpiece events.

The new artificial pitch now allows the facility to be used week in week out throughout the year, including regular training for youth players, education courses, competitive matches and community sessions, without any concern of the surface being damaged.

As part of the project the existing clubhouse on the site has also been transformed, replacing the dark and dated space with an open modern venue that is much more welcoming and suitable for a wider variety of uses.

The new Community Football Centre and 3G pitch can now be used by Hertfordshire FA for coach, referee, first aid and safeguarding courses, as well as by a number of local clubs for training and matches. A partnership with local youth club Letchworth Garden City Eagles for example, sees the facility host weekly training for over 30 teams.

The Stevenage FC Foundation, the community charity of nearby League 2 club are another key partner, delivering a range of sessions at the site. These range from school holiday soccer camps for young players to adult 'get back into' sessions and walking football aimed at over 50s. Stevenage FC Women also use the venue for training and matches.



“ We can now look forward to an exciting new future for The County Ground where football activities take place here every day of the week ”





The upgrades to the clubhouse were also designed to encourage greater use of the existing grass pitches in the public park opposite the site, which currently do not have changing facilities of their own.

Investment in facilities across the county

Hertfordshire FA applied for and were awarded a £794,516 grant funding from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation towards the project, working alongside them to compile a five-year Football Development Plan - a vision of how sport will be played on site.

All projects seeking Football Foundation funding need to show how they will sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background, age, or ability, as well as helping them to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport.

Karl Lingham, Hertfordshire FA CEO said "One of our key goals is to increase the quality and quantity of football facilities, providing more opportunities for all to play the game.

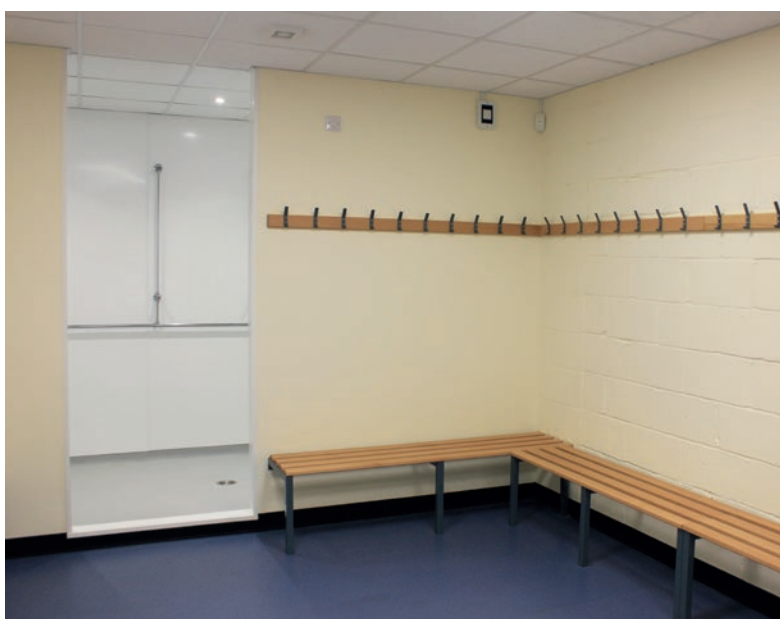
We work hard with our partners to see these developed across the county and are extremely proud to open our fantastic new facility here at The County Ground.

This is the fourth new all-weather pitch to open in Hertfordshire this season. These facilities will help to significantly increase the number of people who are able to play the game on a regular basis, delivering valuable benefits to local communities in terms of health and wellbeing for many years to come.

In the past our pitch could not be used as often as we would have liked, but we can now look forward to an exciting new future for The County Ground where activities take place here every day of the week".

We are here to help

If you are looking to improve your facilities (3G pitches, changing rooms, pavilions, clubhouses, grass pitch improvements or better indoor or outdoor spaces) and would like help and advice about the process of applying for funding, please get in touch with us.



Referee Development

Referee Courses

316 candidates have attended 15 FA Referee courses in 9 different locations around the county during the 2018/19 season



889

Hertfordshire FA
Registered
Referees

6.5%
are BAME

5.75%
are female

Qualified Referee Coverage

100%
of Adult
Saturday Games

99%
of Adult
Sunday Games

60%
of Youth
Games

New Mini Soccer Referee Course

We are always keen to explore ways to increase the number of referees available in the county. This year we offered the FA Mini Soccer Referee Course for the first time, allowing those with an interest in taking up the whistle the chance to take small sided games after a single day of instruction in theory and practice.

The course is designed to allow referees to start their refereeing career off in youth football, and gain valuable experience in a less pressured environment. After a period as a mini soccer referee, they would then have the option to convert to an 11v11 referee by taking the shorter Mini Soccer Referee Conversion Course.

Feedback from candidates suggested this was an effective way to welcome new referees into the game who would not otherwise commit to the full course. Having successfully completed a number of games and enjoying the role, many are now looking to take the next step and develop their refereeing further.



Football Services

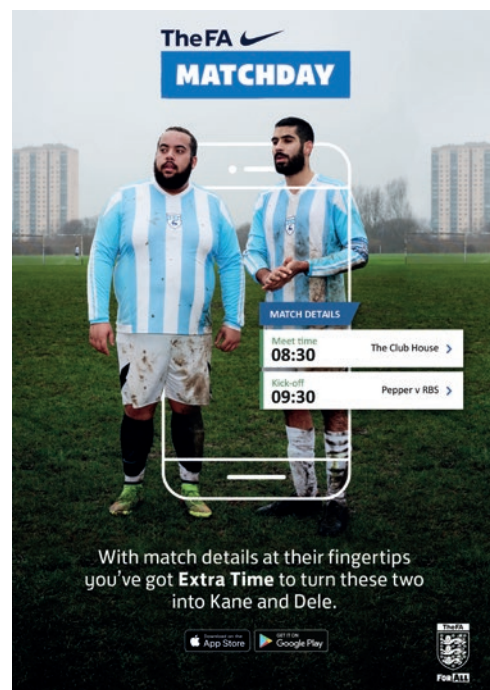
Supporting FA Technology

Online Player Registration through Whole Game System continues to grow steadily with further league recruitment over the last year. We now have 14 leagues in Hertfordshire that have gone live and are benefiting from simplified processes and a reduction in paperwork.

This has in turn helped drive a continued improvement in the overall quality of data held in Whole Game System, reducing errors and omissions and delivering a better experience for volunteers involved in the administration of the game across the county.

We continue to encourage our leagues and clubs to maximise the use of the key technology platforms as they not only help make administration easier but open up new opportunities for new developments.

The introduction of the FA Matchday app demonstrates the power of these systems working together, enabling club officials, players and parents to access details of their football activity on their mobile devices, delivering critical information whenever and wherever they need it.



Football Discipline Figures in Hertfordshire 2018/19

89

COMMISSIONS

9,637

DISCIPLINE CASES

45

DISCRIMINATION CASES

2,131

DISSENT CAUTIONS



330 ↓ 152 ↓ 120
2016/17 2017/18 2018/19

**Cautions for Dissent in the
Herts Senior County League**

Sin Bins a Success in Reducing Dissent

In March 2017 National Associations were given discretion to use Temporary Dismissals (known as Sin Bins) for selected cautions, with The FA approving a pilot for dissent cautions only.

The aim was to support the Respect programme, decrease dissent and improve the match experience. It has proven to be a great success, with reductions in the number of these offences recorded in local leagues trialling the scheme over the last two years. The Herts Senior County League for example saw dissent cautions halved in the first year and this fell to almost a third of the previous level in year two.

The introduction of Sin Bins has driven a marked improvement in player behaviour, creating a better environment for all to enjoy the game. As a side effect this means a dramatic reduction in the number of fines, reducing costs and administration for clubs.

With the rule becoming mandatory from season 2019-20 for Step 7 and below, we look forward to this being replicated throughout Hertfordshire and have been working to ensure leagues, clubs and referees are prepared, including holding 19 Sin Bin workshops across the county.

County Cup Competitions



Action from the Veterans Cup Final, the first to be played on our new pitch



Watford Ladies U23 celebrate after winning the Women's Cup

The Hertfordshire FA County Cups provide an opportunity for local clubs to put their skills to the test against clubs from across the county and experience the magic of a knock out competition.

At the start of the 2018/19 season **some 1,150 teams entered across 22 Hertfordshire FA competitions.** By the end almost 1,100 ties had been played culminating in a series of exciting Cup Finals to decide who would be crowned champions of Hertfordshire.

The Veterans Cup had the distinction of being the first final played on the new artificial surface at The County Ground, following an extensive modernisation of the site. The game was suitably entertaining, with penalties required to secure the win for **Garston Vets.**

Boreham Wood retained the Senior Cup with a 1-0 win over St. Albans City in closely contested final, while **London Lions** saw off Belstone FC to take the Senior Trophy for the second time in three years.

Holders **Hitchin Town** secured the Charity Cup with a 2-0 win against Hemel Hempstead Town, while **Colney Heath** produced an extra time winner to retain the Charity Shield.

Watford Ladies U23 secured the Women's Cup, with a strong performance in the final to deny Stevenage Ladies a third win in a row.

In the Sunday competitions, **Reed Rangers** added their name to the Sunday Senior Cup for the first time, whilst **Everett Rovers** followed their Junior Cup win the previous year with success in the Intermediate Cup.

The boys competitions produced one of the most exciting finals of the year, with **Garston Boys** securing the Under 18 Cup via a penalty shoot-out against Hitchin Town, having been tied 2-2 in normal time and 3-3 and extra time.

The girls competitions were dominated by **Watford FC Girls**, who reached all five finals across the age groups, winning three.



Reed Rangers celebrate after winning the Sunday Senior Cup



Action from the Under 16 Girls final between Watford FC Girls and St. Albans City Youth



London Colney Colts celebrate after winning the Under 13 Boys Cup

Hertfordshire FA County Cup

Winners 2018/19

Senior Cup
Boreham Wood FC

Senior Trophy
London Lions FC

Charity Cup
Hitchin Town FC

Charity Shield
Colney Heath FC

Intermediate Cup
Oxhey Jets FC Reserves

Junior Cup
Tring Athletic FC 'A'

Women's Cup
Watford Ladies FC U23

Sunday Senior Cup
Reed Rangers FC

Sunday Intermediate Cup
Everett Rovers FC

Sunday Junior Cup
AFC Cheshunt

Veterans Cup
Garston Veterans FC

Under 18 Boys Cup
Garston FC

Under 16 Boys Cup
Lemsford FC

Under 15 Boys Cup
Berkhamsted Youth FC

Under 14 Boys Cup
Oaklands Wolves

Under 13 Boys Cup
London Colney Colts FC

Under 12 Boys Cup
Berkhamsted Raiders FC

Under 16 Girls Cup
Watford FC Girls

Under 15 Girls Cup
Stevenage Boro Juniors

Under 14 Girls Cup
Watford FC Girls

Under 13 Girls Cup
Wodson Park Youth FC

Under 12 Girls Cup
Watford FC Girls

Grassroots Football Awards



Celebrating Hertfordshire's Grassroots Heroes

Our annual awards are an opportunity to highlight the fantastic work being done by the many unsung heroes across the county and give them the recognition they deserve.

Our inspirational winners include clubs working hard to bring football to everyone in their communities and create a positive playing environment for all, as well as a team that turned a personal tragedy into an opportunity to raise funds for a worthy cause.

Other awards recognised the efforts of dedicated volunteers that have given up huge amounts of time to create opportunities for others to enjoy the game, along with individuals whose dedication and perseverance have seen them deliver outstanding achievements.

Speaking at the event, Karl Lingham, Chief Executive of Hertfordshire FA, said:

“Our role at Hertfordshire FA is to deliver football for all and support the thousands of volunteers who make up the game across our county. We are always full of admiration for all those who give up their spare time for others, working hard to improve standards and increase opportunities in the game.

It’s an honour to have so many of them here tonight and to be able to thank for their efforts and celebrate their achievements. We’ve heard so many inspiring stories this evening, it really makes us proud to be part of such an amazing football community.”

Graham Phillips, Hertfordshire FA Chair added:

“It’s fantastic to hear about the great work being done by dedicated volunteers across Hertfordshire football and a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet some of the grassroots heroes who do so much to make the county a great place to play the game. Congratulations to all of tonight's winners.”





Andrew and Katherine Calvert of Hartham United FC collect the Grassroots Project of the Year award



Liam Dwyer and Tom Ward, player and coach from Team GB Special Olympics Gold Medal winning team



Freddie Cardy collects his Supporter of the Year award for his commentary on Hitchin Town games

The FA and McDonald's Grassroots Football Awards 2019

Hertfordshire Winners

Volunteer of the Year

Mary Pacitti
Berkhamsted Raiders CFC

Rising Star of the Year

Madeline Hurley
Lea Sports PSG

Match Official of the Year

Evelyn McGregor

The Respect Award

Chorleywood Common FC

Grounds Team of the Year

Fred Benning
Bovingdon FC

Grassroots Project of the Year

Hartham United FC

Coach of the Year

Liam Dwyer
St Albans City Youth, GB Special Olympics

Grassroots Club of the Year

Royston Town Youth FC

Grassroots League of the Year

Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League

Supporter of the Year

Freddie Cardy
Hitchin Town FC

Special Contribution to Hertfordshire Football

Ken Headington

Safeguarding

We are constantly working to make football a safe and enjoyable experience for all. Part of this is ensuring that key committee members of youth clubs complete an online safeguarding course, while all coaches active in the youth game must have attended a safeguarding workshop and have a valid up to date criminal records check.

Throughout the season we continue to check that clubs have the appropriate safeguards in place and carry out random validation visits to ensure they maintain standards. Each club also has a qualified Club Welfare Officer whose role is to act as a local point of contact for safeguarding issues and ensure best practice is followed.

Our Designated Safeguarding Officer Richard Drake provides help and support to this network of Child Welfare Officers along with further opportunities for them to enhance their knowledge through additional training to ensure they have the most up to date information.



We Only Do Positive

With almost 2,000 mini soccer and youth football teams playing week in week out across Hertfordshire it is important that we all play our part to ensure it is played in a fun, safe and inclusive environment.

The Respect campaign was launched in the 2008 as a response to a build-up of behavioural problems in the national game, highlighting the negative impact of poor behaviour and encouraging everyone involved to raise standards both on and off the pitch.

Following the success of Respect over the last decade, The FA wanted to spread the message of Respect even further across English football. The new campaign – ‘We Only Do Positive’ - which launched at the start of the season aims to do just that.

The new message highlights the importance of positive behaviour towards young footballers, specifically looking at the impact parents and coaches can have. The campaign is rooted in research that provides clear evidence of why positivity was so important in the youth game.

Lives Not Knives

We are proud to be supporting a new campaign that uses football to engage with young people and educate them about the dangers of knife crime

The 'Lives not Knives' campaign was launched by Hertfordshire Police and aims to encourage young people to make positive life choices and realise that success is possible through education and sport.

The initiative uses branded footballs to raise awareness of the issue, with clubs encouraged to share the message and 'Pass It On'. It is hoped that by encouraging conversations throughout grassroots football it will support the prevention of knife crime across the county.

Our ongoing partnership with Hertfordshire Police remains strong and we recently met with the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner David Lloyd at The County Ground to discuss ways that football can have an impact in improving lives and reducing crime.



"It's well known that being involved in football can create a positive environment for young people. With thousands of young players playing week in and week out, raising awareness of the dangers of knife crime and the devastating impact it can have on the lives of those affected is something the football community can play a key role in."

Richard Drake, Hertfordshire FA

National Game Strategy

The FA Vision is to **unite the game, inspire the nation**, working with stakeholders at national and local levels to lead the game and execute their plans. The FA's Mission is to **rebuild the FA as a world-class organisation**, working closely with County FAs to design and deliver world-class products and services to participants.

With these in mind the National Game Board developed a strategy from 2018 to 2021, based on the objective of **inspiring a lifelong journey in football for all**.

The Hertfordshire Football Association is responsible for delivering this strategy in our county and so we begin each season with a revised set of objectives and KPIs aimed at achieving this. These are spread across five main pillars which are at the core of everything we do as an organisation:

- **High Quality Introduction to Football**
- **Develop Clubs and Leagues**
- **Embrace All Formats, Engage All Participants**
- **Recruit, Develop and Support the Football Workforce**
- **Develop Sustainable Football Facilities**

From increasing participation across male, female, and disability football, driving initiatives like Respect and Charter Standard, and supporting more coaches and referees from all backgrounds to become qualified, these objectives highlight the key role we can play in helping to deliver a better game for all in Hertfordshire to enjoy in the years ahead.

88%

youth teams
with a Level 1
qualified coach

614

more female
players this year

70%

more Level 1
courses run

Adult Grassroots Football Shown to Contribute Over £300m in Social and Economic value to Hertfordshire

The Football Association has released a report that explores the social and economic value of adult grassroots football in England, setting out its contribution to the nation's economy and wellbeing.

The report found that regular grassroots football in England has a social wellbeing value of £8.7bn, with players reporting significantly higher levels of general health, confidence, motivation and trust compared with those who play other sports. Lower income groups in particular were found to experience some of the greatest quality-of-life benefits from football compared with higher income groups, specifically in their health and confidence levels.

In addition to social benefits, the direct economic value of grassroots football was found to be £2.1bn each year, while the report also found that the health benefits of playing regularly produces a cost saving of £43.5m per year to the NHS through reduced GP visits alone.

Adult grassroots football contributes a total of £10.8bn in social and economic value nationally, which equates to over £300m in Hertfordshire based on participation in the county.



"We know the power football has to change lives and the positive impact it can have on communities. However until now it's been hard to quantify its value. This report shows us that investment in football is money well spent, supporting a game that delivers considerable benefits to society"

Karl Lingham, Hertfordshire FA

Hertfordshire FA

The County Ground,
Baldock Road,
Letchworth,
Hertfordshire,
SG6 2EN

01462 677622

contactus@hertfordshirefa.com

@HertfordshireFA