



Hertfordshire Football Association

Representative Teams Report for Annual General Meeting 2018

Both our representative teams struck out for pastures new this season when they moved to the South East Counties competitions, the East Anglian Counties Under 18 section having folded.

The Under 18s season started with a logistical challenge when we were drawn away to Guernsey FA in the FA County Youth Cup. Superbly organised by Gemma Smith our new Football Services Administrator, we left Letchworth by coach at 8.00 am flew from Gatwick to St. Peter Port for a 5.00 kick off.

We raced into a 3-0 lead, missed a golden opportunity to make it 4-0 before Guernsey pulled one back. A tense finish played in driving rain however saw us hold on for a worthy 3-1 win.

Our next opponents were Northamptonshire in the 2nd Round played at Bishops Stortford where we lost a close encounter by the only goal.

Our league games didn't start until January with a visit to Sussex on their 3G pitch. Despite taking the lead we succumbed to a 2-1 defeat with a late goal. A 1-1 draw with the AFA played at Colney Heath was then followed by the return fixture with Sussex where another close encounter saw us lose to another late goal.

Sussex qualified for the final as group winners and went on to retain the championship with a win over Essex AET in the final.

Our last game against the AFA saw us lose narrowly 2-1 by with nine seventeen year olds making their debuts, it gives us hope for a promising campaign next season.

The Ladies team also entered the Southern Counties Cup Competition. With home fixtures against Essex and Middlesex and an away game at Kent, in truth they found it hard going against counties who had academy players to call on. Our last game away to the Army FA wasn't played.

The Herts FA has exciting plans for a pathway between girls and womens adult football which will hopefully lead to us being able to field stronger teams in the future.

We now have an Expression of Interest form on our website which has had a very good response. If any club has players that they think would be good enough to represent either team, please put them forward.

This is sometimes the highlight of a player's career, and one that they look back on with pride. We award a tie (Under 18) or polo shirt (Ladies) for first appearance, a medal for four appearances or a cap for seven.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ryan Brooke, Jeff Hutchison and Dan Foster for their work with the Under 18s, and to Jo Williams and Flo Morris for their work with the Ladies. Thanks also to Callum Riley, Ben Southby and Stuart Mugford for their help with the programmes.

Lastly, thanks to all of the members of the Representative Team Committee, and helpers for all their hard work throughout the season.

They are all very dedicated and without their help none of the games would be possible. Bill Dance, Terry Izzard, Graham Phillips, Malcolm Miller, Paul Mallett. Sue Mallett, Eddie Dowber, Chris Spriggins, Glen Williams, David Willacy.

Stephen Hedley
Chairman of the Representative Committee