



Hertfordshire FA



Under 18 Girls Cup Final 2023
Watford Ladies Youth v Harvesters

Saturday 25th March 2023 2:30pm
The County Ground, Letchworth Garden City



Welcome to The County Ground



Our third County Cup Final of 2023

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to The County Ground, home of Hertfordshire FA for today's Under 18 Girls Cup Final.

Our congratulations go to the players and management of both Watford Ladies Youth and Harvesters on reaching the final. We wish you the very best of luck for the match and hope you have a memorable day. We also want to acknowledge both club's volunteers, whose hard work behind the scenes gives these players the opportunity to be part of the game.

Congratulations also to the match officials on your appointment to this game, you thoroughly deserve it and we hope you are able to enjoy the occasion.

While you are here visiting us be sure to make the most of the facilities, including our licensed cafe serving hot and cold drinks, food and snacks which is next to the main stand. Should you have a query our staff will be happy to help you.

Our goal is to create a friendly and welcoming environment for all and therefore ask that you show your appreciation during and after the game in a positive manner.

Tony Butler,
Chair, Competitions Committee

“ ***Congratulations to all involved in today's final, whatever the result you should take great pride in the achievement of reaching this stage*** ”

Hertfordshire FA Competitions Committee

Chair

Tony Butler

Secretary

Paddy Donovan

Committee Members and Representatives

Steve Trulock, Gary Hollingsworth, Peter Waller, Ken Coniam, Graham Phillips, Graham Martin, Richard Dowden

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Competition History



This is the first Final of the Hertfordshire FA
Under 18 Girls Cup

Hertfordshire FA introduced female youth competitions in the 1997-98 season, reflecting the growth in girls playing across the county. This was the first time there had been County Cups specifically for girls in Hertfordshire and included Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 competitions. Cups for the 'odd' age groups would follow from 2005-06.

While participation in younger age groups has continued to grow rapidly, keeping older girls in the game has proven more of a challenge. However as female football continues to push forward, with the advent of a fully professional league and more recently the impact of the Lionesses winning the Euros, the future of the game now looks stronger than ever.

It is fitting then that this is the year that we were finally able to introduce an Under 18 Girls Cup, with there now being a sufficient number of teams active at this age group to sustain a knockout cup competition. We're proud to champion equal access to the game and this is another step along the way to boys and girls having the same opportunities to play.

Today's match will be 45 minutes each way, with kicks from the penalty mark to decide the winner if necessary. Teams are permitted rolling substitutions.

Guest of Honour Gemma Smith



Hertfordshire FA Football Development Officer

Gemma loved football from a young age and was not deterred when at age 12 she was told by her teachers she needed to stop playing and take up netball instead. Not one to give up Gemma continued to follow her passion and continues to play regularly to this day.

Her desire to give the next generation of female players the opportunity she was denied saw her take up coaching, before becoming involved in club administration, eventually going on to be Chair at Hitchin Belles which is home to over 300 girls. Gemma has now achieved her UEFA B license and was also active as a match official for many years.

We are delighted to welcome Gemma to today's final where she will meet the teams before the game and also present the medals at the end of the match.

Club Profile

Watford Ladies Youth

Independent female football club based in Watford providing a full player pathway

Watford Ladies FC was established in 1970 and today provides a full female pathway from our Weetabix Wildcats Programme for young girls looking to get into football, through to development and elite youth programmes as well as an adult senior team.

The Club's mission is to provide football for women and girls at all levels and has had years of success developing players, some of whom have gone on to play internationally, thanks to our excellent UEFA B licensed and FA Level 2 coaches.

Our elite youth teams play in the Junior Premier League, competing against some of the best clubs in the country, while our development teams play in the Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League where we have sides competing in most age groups. The First Team plays in the London & South East Regional Women's League.

The Club is fully committed to the development of the whole person, combining football and education to maximise life outcomes for our girls.



League Season

Junior Premier League Warriors U17/18

As at 20/03/2023

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Ascot United Girls Youth	15	12	2	1	58	14	44	37
2	Millwall Lionesses	15	12	2	1	55	12	43	37
3	AFC Stoneham	14	10	3	1	52	21	31	31
4	Fulham FC Women	12	8	3	1	35	14	21	25
5	Watford Ladies Youth	14	7	7	0	50	32	18	21
6	XL Football	15	6	6	3	31	27	4	21
7	Nottingham Forest	16	5	11	0	22	94	-72	15
8	Wycombe Wanderers	15	3	9	3	23	37	-14	12
9	Notts County Women	17	2	13	2	22	56	-34	8
10	Worthing Town	11	1	10	0	12	53	-41	3

Give us your analysis of the season so far...

It has been an entertaining season of contrasting fortunes for the Warriors, with a few lows but plenty of highs. Our newly formed team hit the ground running, winning the opening two games against Nottingham Forest and Notts County.

A short run of defeats against the division's top three teams followed before the girls hit a purple patch, with six straight wins in the league.

Our main goal scorer was promoted to the first team, but this opened up opportunities for others to shine and we've been able to find a few more gems. Since Christmas we've suffered a lot of injuries and a loss of form, leading to another mini sequence of defeats.

Our coaching team love the spirit and determination of this ever-improving, hard-working squad. Their togetherness, their willingness to learn and the ability of the players to adapt and play different roles when asked means they've earned the respect of all their opponents in the Junior Premier League.

One constant through the season has been our excellent performances in the County Cup, and we are looking to continue the good run and get back to winning ways in today's Final.

Meet the Players

Watford Ladies Youth



Tells us about your squad....

Neve Mulrooney

Our parrying queen, Neve's impressive shot-stopping ability will be on display whenever there is danger in the box. A lovely personality but an intimidating presence in a one-on-one situation.

Bonnie Mander

With the technical ability of a midfielder and height of a bodyguard, Bonnie will look to stop any effort. Her wingspan allows her to be exceptional with aerial saves.

Alice Musgrove

Takes no prisoners as a full-back. A very strong player with a physical resilience to envy. As an ex-forward, Alice has retained all those attributes and combined these features with her powerful tackling.

Verity Misselbrook

The impermeable block, Verity's quick reaction to the closing down of space gives her an advantage to intercept or win a tackle. Uses her strong frame to cut out opponent passes or to block shots.

Grace Terrelonge

Our very own missile, once she has her sights locked on a target, it'd be better for the attacker to kindly offer her the ball. With a high rate of successful tackles, she retrieves the ball with speed and tenacity making her a very reliable centre-back.

Chloe Antippa

Our antivirus on the left side of defence. Chloe has the knack to respond and defend when danger arises to then convert it into an attacking opportunity for the team. Chloe could defend your entire house whilst you're away on holiday.



Erin Patterson

The midfielder in the centre-back position. Our ball-playing defender will bring a smile to your face with her positive football, even initiating a goal scoring phase of play with her eye for a pass. Keeps the team going with her voice, you'll hear her for yourself.

Summer Small

Much like her name, Summer's through balls raise the temperature of the game. Often splitting defenders when she breaks the line with her large passing range, Summer's presence will always be felt when she is on the pitch.

Jessie Poulter

Jessie will catch your eye with her flurry of attacks, whether it be initiating a through ball or dribbling past players to gain ground for her team. Team captain and role model for our standards at Watford Ladies.

Dhvani Patel

A very mobile and dynamic player. Dhvani is good at closing spaces and tending to dangerous areas quickly. Will no doubt make the pitch look small as she comes to the rescue at speed.

Katie Lemon

The deep-lying centurion who maintains the balance of the team. Our vice-captain will keep the ball moving with her short-range distribution and gift for picking up loose balls to resupply her teammates.

Savannah Lamont

The human IV drip, she continuously feeds the ball into the path of her teammates. A player with an evident mentality that it is indeed a team game. You'll see her desire to release the ball and bring others in.

Maria Toledo

A dangerous predator in a small package, Maria's footwork and sprint speed makes her a threat for any defence. With a familial connection to Brazil and Italy, Maria will surely impress today on the pitch.

Maya Shah

Our tricky gambit who has the foot speed to show her opponent the ball but quickly dribbles away all in one movement. Her fast feet and an eye for a pass can cause problems for all defenders.

Francesca Grazioli

Our natural dribbler. Fran weaves in and out of defenders effortlessly like a Dyson vacuum. You'll notice her close control, disguised passing as well as her refined and polished drag back skills to disrupt the defender's jockeying.

Charlotte Forster

The squad's very own ball-playing hornet! Charlotte has a formidable approach when pressing high up the pitch in the final third. She has a great gift of combining aggression with acceleration which will definitely come in handy in the match.

Mia Gregory

The terminator who is unforgiving and relentless. Mia's appetite to score or to retrieve the ball is similar to a bailiff with nothing to lose. An attacker with a force of nature, Mia is a threat to any defence.

Olivia Gilbert

The piston that propels the team forward, Olivia's athleticism will be evident as she breaks forward in wide areas, deep behind enemy lines. Keepers will have a difficult time assessing whether she decides to cross the ball or to score a goal.





Watford Ladies Youth

Currently 5th in
Junior Premier League Warriors U17/18
As at 20/03/2023

League Form

Games Won	14
Games Drawn	7
Games Lost	7
Goals Scored	50
Goals Conceded	32

Leading Scorers

22	Mia Gregory
8	Charlotte Forster
8	Safiya Dean
6	Maya Shah
5	Francesca Grazioli

Route to the Final

R1		BYE	
R2	Royston Town Youth	1 - 2	Watford Ladies Youth
QF	Watford Ladies Youth	4 - 0	Sarrat Rebels
SF	Garston Ladies Junior	2 - 6	Watford Ladies Youth



Harvesters

Currently 2nd in
Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League, Division 1
As at 20/03/2023

League Form

Games Won	6
Games Drawn	2
Games Lost	1
Goals Scored	44
Goals Conceded	12

Leading Scorers

31	Hollie Thornton
17	Katie Leigh
9	Mia Pullan
8	Grace Gavin
7	Eliza Telford

Route to the Final

R1		BYE	
R2	Bedwell Rangers	A - W	Harvesters
QF	Letchworth GC Eagles	2 - 4	Harvesters
SF	Harvesters	9 - 3	Hitchin Belles Youth

Meet the Players

Harvesters

Tells us about your squad....

Sophie Savery

Sophie joined us mid-season as goalkeeper having previously played in the Kent leagues. Has settled in quickly and made some important saves.

Ruby Evans

Versatile and reliable in any position on the pitch. Great crosses from the wing. Is also able to deputise in goal when required. Has been with Harvesters since starting with the Vixens from the age of 5 and now has over 150 appearances for the club.

Ida Sondergaard

Our captain and dependable defender. Opposition defences fear her at set pieces. Joined Harvesters at U10 and a popular choice as skipper. This will be her 150th appearance today.

Sophia Francisco

Consistent centre back who can mark a player out of the game but can also create opportunities. She has been playing since she was 7 and in the league since U13s and over the years has developed into a tough and reliable player.

Brooke Austen

Excellent right back who keeps control. Her set pieces are creative and productive. A bubbly character and team favourite who started playing at U12.



Amy Smith

Consistently reliable in the centre of defence resulting in the lack of goals against the team. Creates chances with long throw. Began youth football at U11 and combines it with Ladies football.

Rheilly Evans

Tenacious midfielder with the ability to split defences for strikers to receive her passes. Joined Harvesters at U12s and now has over 150 appearances for the club. Is known for her power shot sending fear into opposition keepers.



Mia Pullan

Energetic in midfield with the stamina to help out the defence and also push forward to assist the attackers. Joined Harvesters at U10 and has played over 150 matches. Has also played Ladies football this season.



Elisa Rajapakse

Exciting midfielder and recent joiner, coming to Harvesters from Ruislip's JPL side. Shows courage and strength and a good football brain. Still has a further two years of youth football to play.

Yasmin Howgego

Versatile player who is skilful on the ball, creating chances and maintaining possession. Is able to deputise in goal when required. Joined Harvesters on the final day of Vixens aged 8 and has since played over 150 matches for the club.

Annie Nesbitt

Lively midfielder with the ability to break up opposition attacks and then create chances for the team. Started her club football career at U12. Has developed into an important member of the squad.

Eliza Telford

Continues to bamboozle defenders with her mazy runs followed by crosses which have resulted in numerous goals. Joined Harvesters aged 6 coming through the Vixens. Has played over 150 times and also played Ladies football this season.

Katie Leigh

Strong winger with lightning pace who is able to hold off defenders and use the ball intelligently to either create or score goals. A real talent throughout youth football in the Hertfordshire Girls Partnership League joining Harvesters at U14.

Gracie Hickey-Carson

Winger with a great turn of pace and excellent at putting opponents under pressure. Joined at the end of U14 where her speed on the wings was used to great effect. Often used at full back too where she makes fantastic recovery runs.

Hollie Thornton

Goal machine with the pace and strength to beat defences but will also track back to win the ball back. Has been with Harvesters since the age of 5 coming through the Vixens. Never missed a match with approaching 200 appearances. Has also played Ladies football this season.

Grace Gavin

Striker with a great first touch and who looks to either bring the wingers into play or score goals. Has played in the Capital Girls League in addition to the HGFPL where she joined at U15.





Club Profile

Harvesters

Charity dedicated to creating opportunities for all in their community to play football



As a charity, Harvesters has a purpose and a sole duty to promote the game of football and provide playing opportunities in our community for all. Founded in 1987, Harvesters was born from a passion for the grassroots game and a desire to create a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment for children to play football.

It is a foundation which continues to permeate everything the club does today. At the heart of this is our all weather pitch which was built in 2003 thanks to a grant from the Football Foundation. With hard work and dedication from club volunteers, Harvesters have built a financially sustainable model, centred around their facility, to ensure the club's future. Since our initial grant, Harvesters FC have twice self-funded the replacement artificial surface so the local community can benefit from the highest standard of pitch.

Harvesters today has over 500 members, with more than 40 teams for boys and girls and weekly walking football sessions, all of which are delivered by experienced and qualified coaching staff for all ages and development.

League Season

Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League, Division 1

As at 20/03/2023

		P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Chesham United	9	7	1	1	22
2	Harvesters	9	6	2	1	20
3	Wormley Rovers Youth	10	5	2	3	17
4	St Albans City Youth	8	5	0	3	15
5	Letchworth GC Eagles Youth	10	3	2	5	11
6	Watford Ladies Youth Hornets	9	2	0	7	6
7	Kinja Youth	11	1	1	9	4

Give us your analysis of the season so far...

Having won Division 2 in the previous season it was unclear at the start just how this season would go. An early win was soon chalked off due to divisional restructuring and this was followed by a draw against the previous season's Division 1 winners.

Victories followed in both the league and County Cup and the girls were sitting top of the table at Christmas. The start of 2023 was blighted by postponements due to the weather or opposition teams struggling for numbers, so the girls went without a match for 6 weeks.

The time they next played was a defeat in the league but this was followed by a win in the County Cup semi final to make today's match. The girls are currently sitting second in the league table with an outside chance of going one better.

So plenty of football still to play and currently challenging for silverware in all 3 competitions entered having now reached the final of the Senior League Cup.

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Do You Know How to Help Keep Your Child Safe in Football?

Hertfordshire FA Designated Safeguarding Officer
Gemma Chaffey on how you can play your part



Safeguarding is about creating safe environments and preventing children from experiencing harm or abuse. Put simply, safeguarding refers to measures we take to protect our children - and keep them safe and well. Whether that's your kids, the opposing players or even the referee, every young person has the right to enjoy football.

The FA offer a short Safeguarding for Parents Course designed to help you to make an informed choice about the football setting you enrol your child in. It starts by explaining the importance of safeguarding in football and the child-centred approach the game takes.

It will then guide you through questions you should ask to ensure the club or venue where your children play has the correct safeguarding policies, people and practices in place. The course also highlights signs that should concern you – and how to report these concerns.

Together we can help make football safe for all. Take the free Safeguarding Awareness for Parents and Carers course today!



bit.ly/HFA-SAC

A Message From the Referee

Alfie Parkins is in the middle for today's game

I am delighted to have been appointed to this game. It's an honour to take a County Cup final and I hope everyone will enjoy their day. Best of luck to both teams, I look forward to an exciting contest.

This is my fourth season as a referee and have really enjoyed it. To date my duties have primarily been Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League U18s and in the Herts Senior County League.

Having been mentored and supported throughout by the late Norman Appleby, I'd like to take this opportunity to register my immense thanks for his hard work and dedication over the years.



If you have any unwanted kit, shirts, shorts, and boots please donate them to KitAid, a charity that sends kit to Africa, India, Eastern Europe and other developing countries.

Hertfordshire FA is delighted to partner KitAid. KitAid is a charity doing extraordinary work, you only have to see the faces of the people receiving the donated kit to know the impact they, along with their partner charities are having. We often forget how lucky we are in this country and Hertfordshire FA encourage all of our clubs to donate any old or unwanted kit and equipment to KitAid so that it can be reused by people around the world.

We welcome donations of adult and children's kit.

Thank you for your support!

If you would like to know more about KitAid log on to www.kitaid.net or www.kitaid.blogspot.com

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Hertfordshire FA

County Cup Finals 2023



Join us for more exciting action as our competitions reach their climax

Wednesday 15th March 7:45pm Intermediate Cup

Won by Hemel Hempstead Rovers

Wednesday 22 March 7:45pm Senior Centenary Trophy

Won by Ware Sports

Saturday 25 March 2:30pm U18 Girls Cup

Watford Ladies Youth v Harvesters

Wednesday 29 March 7:45pm* Senior Challenge Cup

Hitchin Town v Berkhamsted FC

Friday 7 April 2:30pm Junior Cup

Elizabeth Allen Old Boys v Sun Sports Rovers

Sunday 16 April 2:30pm Sunday Intermediate Cup

Brookmans Park v Little Heath

Sunday 23 April 10:30am U15 Boys Cup

Baldock Town v Colney Heath Youth

Sunday 23 April 2:30pm Women's Cup

Stevenage Women v Royston Town Women

Saturday 29 April 10:30am U16 Girls Cup

Watford FC CSE Trust v Knebworth Youth

Sunday 30 April 2:30pm Sunday Junior Cup

FC Emperors Head v Glenn Sports

Sunday 7th May 10:30am U16 Boys Cup

Ware FC Academy v Harpenden Town

Sunday 7th May 2:30pm U18 Boys Cup

Finalists to be confirmed

Saturday 20 May 10:30am U14 Girls Cup

Watford Ladies Youth v Bedwell Rangers

Saturday 20 May 2:30pm U15 Girls Cup

Finalists to be confirmed

Sunday 21 May 10:30am U14 Boys Cup

Ware FC Academy v Cheshunt Youth

Sunday 21 May 3:00pm Sunday Senior Cup

Finalists to be confirmed

* All finals to be played at The County Ground, Letchworth with the exception of the Senior Challenge Cup which is being held at Theobalds Lane, Cheshunt



V



Neve Mulrooney	99
Bonnie Mander	12
Alice Musgrove	20
Verity Misselbrook	23
Grace Terrelonge	5
Chloe Antippa	3
Erin Patterson	10
Summer Small	21
Jessie Poulter	8
Dhvani Patel	14
Katie Lemon	77
Savannah Lamont	55
Maria Toledo	19
Maya Shah	26
Francesca Grazioli	15
Charlotte Forster	25
Mia Gregory	22
Olivia Gilbert	11

Manager: Ian Beckford
Tunde Balogan

Colours: Yellow Shirt, Black Shorts,
Black Socks

1	Sophie Savery
2	Rheilly Evans
3	Ruby Evans
4	Mia Pullan
5	Elisa Rajapakse
6	Gracie Hickey-Carson
8	Yasmin Howgego
9	Eliza Telford
10	Hollie Thornton
11	Ida Sondergaard
12	Sophia Francisco
14	Katie Leigh
15	Annie Nesbitt
16	Brooke Austen
17	Grace Gavin
18	Amy Smith

Manager: Richard Thornton
Luke Owers

Colours: Blue Shirt, Blue Shorts,
Blue Socks

Referee:
Alfie Parkins

Assistants:
Alex Ingarfill, Xander Ruckley

Fourth Official:
Alistair Whiteford