



Hertfordshire FA



Women's Challenge Cup Final 2023
Stevenage FC Women v Royston Town Women

Sunday 23rd April 2023 2:30pm
The County Ground, Letchworth Garden City



Welcome to The County Ground



Our eighth County Cup Final of 2023

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

Our congratulations go to the players and management of both Stevenage FC Women and Royston Town Women 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 staff and 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 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	Secretary	Committee Members and Representatives
Tony Butler	Paddy Donovan	Steve Trulock, Gary Hollingsworth, Peter Waller, Ken Coniam, Graham Phillips, Graham Martin, Richard Dowden

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Competition History



This is the 22nd Final of the Hertfordshire FA Women's Challenge Cup

Our Women's Challenge Cup was introduced in the 1999/2000 season with the rise in Women's football, not only in this county but nationwide. Great effort has been put into the promotion of the Women's game over this time and in Hertfordshire we are proud to have been at the forefront of this progression with strong growth in female participation.

The first winners of this competition were Berkhamsted Town Ladies, defeating Welwyn Garden City Ladies 2-0. For the next decade Watford had something of a stranglehold on the cup, winning in eight seasons out of the next nine.

Arsenal's second-string then had a run of three successive victories, before Stevenage established their period of dominance in this competition, appearing in each of the last six finals to be played, winning four. Royston have featured in three previous finals and will be hoping to add their name to the trophy for the first time today.

Today's match will be 45 minutes each way, with kicks from the penalty mark if necessary.

Recent Finals

The COVID pandemic caused the 2019/20 season to be cut short, with winning semi finalists Stevenage and Watford declared to have shared the competition. The Women's Cup was not run in the 2020/21 season before returning last year.

2010/11	Arsenal Reserves	2-0	Watford
2011/12	Arsenal Reserves	6-0	Tring Athletic
2012/13	Arsenal Reserves	2-0	Watford
2013/14	Leverstock Green	3-1	Royston Town
2014/15	Stevenage	3-0	Hemel Hempstead Town
2015/16	Watford Development	2-0	Stevenage
2016/17	Stevenage	4-0	Royston Town
2017/18	Stevenage	8-0	Hoddesdon Town Owls
2018/19	Watford U23	4-0	Stevenage
2021/22	Stevenage	3-1	Colney Heath

Club Profile

Stevenage FC Women



Holders aiming to maintain their grip on this competition and lift the cup for a fifth time

Founded as Stevenage Boro Ladies in 2001 and in 2014 moved under the umbrella of Stevenage FC Foundation, we later dropped the 'Boro' in in line with the parent club to became Stevenage Ladies, before rebranding as Stevenage FC Women in 2019.

Over the years the women's squads have continued to grow and gone from strength to strength on the field. In 2009 we managed to create a reserve setup to help bring young players into adult football and through into the first team.

In our relatively short history both teams have been very successful, winning leagues and gaining promotions as well as lifting many cups, including the County Cup four times since 2015 as well as sharing it with Watford after the COVID outbreak.

Currently the first team are playing in the Eastern Region Women's Football League, Premier Division, while the Development setup play in the Women's National League Reserve South East and Central Division.



League Season

Eastern Region Women's Football League, Premier Division

As at 16/04/2023

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	AFC Sudbury	16	13	0	3	50	21	29	39
2	Stevenage FC	17	11	2	4	51	26	25	35
3	Needham Market	15	11	0	4	43	34	9	33
4	Luton Town	14	10	1	3	33	17	16	31
5	Haringey Borough	17	9	3	5	60	40	20	30
6	Bowers & Pitsea	17	7	0	10	39	44	-5	21
7	Royston Town	16	4	3	9	24	37	-13	15
8	Wroxham	14	5	0	9	26	47	-21	15
9	Colney Heath	13	3	2	8	15	29	-14	11
10	Kings Lynn Town	15	3	2	10	22	50	-28	11
11	Bedford	16	2	1	13	29	47	-18	7

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

The season started inconsistently for Boro. An opening day victory was followed by a defeat and then a draw in a landmark home game played at the Lamex Stadium. We then on a positive run that secured six wins out of the next eight games up to the Christmas break, whilst scoring an impressive 36 goals.

The New Year began in similar fashion, with two disappointing defeats, on the road, progression to the County Cup final, and a solitary league win in January.

However, a comeback victory at home to runaway leaders Luton Town was followed by three huge victories in the league that saw us top the table, albeit having played more games than those around them.

A defeat to Needham Market handed the momentum to the chasing pack, but a recent quarter final victory has set up a tasty semi final against the aforementioned Needham in the League Cup. Whilst the promotion hopes are out of the hands of Stevenage, the chance of a cup double is a salivating prospect for all of Boro's fans.

Meet the Players

Stevenage FC Women

Tells us about your squad....

Celine Ray

With nine appearances for us across all competitions and fifteen conceded, Celine has had a great first season with the club, keeping three clean sheets, including one in the County Cup run.

Nicole Farmer

A mainstay for the first team this season, Nicole has worked her socks off. With two fabulous free kick goals and an assist to her name we are seeing the benefit of a confident and hardworking player.

Lucy Webster

Club Captain and a diehard Stevenage fan who's writing her name into history as she leads us into our seventh successive County Cup Final. Her only goal of the season came against today's opponents.

Vicky Neal

Ever present for the club this season, a player who plays with passion and drive and a worthy Vice Captain of the team. With four goals and three assists, Vicky has been crucial in both attack and defence.

Kelsey Millen

A welcome new addition this season from Herts Vipers who comes with her own fan club! Her three goals and four assists in her twenty-one matches only tell half the story of this hardworking and skilful player.



Shianne Swarres

A talent for the ages with an eye for the sublime, Shianne has racked up three sensational goals this season. Can pick out a perfect pass or a silky skill with her excellent reading of the game.



Erin Price

The youngest regular starting member of the squad, which makes her exceptional talent even more exciting. Having notched four goals this season in her seventeen appearances, has the world at her feet.

Amy Makewell

A club legend who is the current top scorer both for the season, and in total from this side with thirty-nine goals in eighty-six appearances. Amy is now the third highest scorer of all time for Stevenage FC Women.

Anna Re

A new addition to our squad this season, Anna is a full blooded, tenacious full back. Unfortunately suffered a setback with an injury against Kings Lynn, but still made twelve appearances and assisted a goal.

Holly Greenwood

The club's joint second highest goalscorer of the current crop of players, most of her goals came in her award-winning season last year. Two goals and one assist this year added to her tally.

Jodie Bellinger

A no-nonsense forward who has tripled her number of club goals this season thanks in part to a stunning hat trick in the County Cup game against Wodson. Jodie has also contributed four assists to the cause.

Mia O'Brien

A new addition, Mia has grown in ability and confidence this season, making twelve senior appearances and maintaining four clean sheets. Also a key member of the development squad's league campaign.

Dionne Manning

Scorer of the first ever goal for Stevenage Women a competitive game at the Lamex, has written her name into club folklore. In a season abruptly curtailed by injury, her focus and intensity has been missed.

Jodie Southby

A season of few games for this tenacious and skilful player, but has still posted a goal in her five appearances, doubling her career tally at the club. Was also a member of last year's County Cup winning team.

Hannah Nebbitt

Nineteen appearances this season, with three of those in the County Cup where she got one of her three assists so far. Hannah possesses a mean left foot and accurate set pieces make her a dangerous player.



Amy Gooderham

Another player who's struggled with knocks this season but who has posted three goals and seven assists in her thirteen games. Amy's pace, quick thinking and footballing nous has been evident throughout.

Becky Shephard

Now in her second stint at the club, Becky began this season in imperious form notching up nine goals and four assists in her first nine games. Becky has an eye for the spectacular and the skill to pull it off.

Rosy Wodhams

A returning player with a handful of appearances this season, all of which she has shone in. Able to manipulate the ball into doing her bidding has made her an exciting addition to the squad.

Emily Schofield

A frequent choice for the team this season, contributing seven goals and two assists. Scored her first senior team goal in the County Cup Final last year. An outstanding player to watch out for.

Susan Uwaifo

Missed a vast amount of football this season but will look upon her match against Haringey as the start of her Boro career with a cameo performance that earned her Player of the Match.



Stevenage FC Women

**Currently 2nd in the Premier Division of the
Eastern Region Women's Football League**

As at 16/04/2023

League Form

Games Won	11
Games Drawn	2
Games Lost	4
Goals Scored	51
Goals Conceded	26

Leading Scorers

13	Amy Makewell
10	Becky Shephard
7	Emily Schofield
6	Jodie Bellinger
4	Vicky Neal, Erin Price



Royston Town Women

**Currently 7th in the Premier Division of the
Eastern Region Women's Football League**

As at 16/04/2023

League Form

Games Won	4
Games Drawn	3
Games Lost	9
Goals Scored	24
Goals Conceded	37

Leading Scorers

17	Poppy Smith
16	Gemma Croucher
11	Natalie Richardson
7	Emma Slater
6	Becky Charter, Ri Badal

Route to the Final

R1	Stevenage FC Women	5 - 0	Wormley Rovers Ladies
R2	Wodson Park Ladies	0 - 6	Stevenage FC Women
QF	Stevenage FC Women	H - W	Hitchin Town Women
SF	Stevenage FC Women	H - W	Stevenage FC Women Development

Route to the Final

Garston Ladies FC Development	0 - 7	Royston Town Women	R1
Wheathampstead Wanderers	0 - 15	Royston Town Women	R2
Watford FC Women U23	1 - 1 (4 - 5)P	Royston Town Women	QF
Watford Ladies Development	1 - 1 (2 - 4)P	Royston Town Women	SF

Meet the Players

Royston Town Women



Tells us about your squad....

Amy Martin

Very reliable goalkeeper at this level, but more than that a great personality to have around the squad. A solid shot stopper, she has a string of fine saves behind her that helped us get to this final

Eloise Page

First season at the club and has developed in all areas of her game. Eloise can play anywhere along the back line (and pretty much has) with her quick reactions and ball-winning challenges.

Amy Houghton

Amy is a consistent performer, and a real team player, giving her everything on the pitch, throughout every game. Dedication and commitment like this is what every coach wants in their squad.

Amy Cooper

Our skipper. Leads by example and is respected throughout the club. A whole-hearted player who demands the same of all around her. Unfortunately has not played much due to injury this season.

Mistie Fox-Baker

Another who has come through our youth programme. New to the team as she has just turned 16, but her ability has seen her training with the senior squad for over a year. Got Player of the Match on debut!

Hattie Bourne

Versatility and commitment personified. A genuine utility player who can be relied upon to give 100% no matter where she is asked to play, or whatever role she is given. Every team needs a Hattie

Annie Georgiou

Annie is a highly competitive player who doesn't let much get past her. As well as stopping the opposition, also has a wand of a left foot and can pull out a moment of magic when you least expect it!



Chloe Gunn

An educated, cultured player who reads the game so well that she just puts herself in the right place at the right time. Highly productive with the ball, her array of passing with either foot is to be revered.

Amy Josland

An invaluable player for us this season, Amy is an intelligent midfielder who leads by example. Having her as a role model has played a crucial part in the development of younger players in the squad.

Ailish Straver

This may only be her first season at the club, but Ailish has been a consistent top performer week in, week out for us. Has a great understanding of the game and plays her role very well.

Georgia Miller

Georgia is a tough, energetic, hardworking midfielder who relishes putting in the hard yards in the middle of the park. A player who we can always rely upon to give her all for the Crows.

Nicole Hendrick

Nicole has come into the squad for the second half of the season and has been a real asset, both with her tenacious tackling and excellent distribution from wide areas to create openings for the team.

Ri Badal

A refined player whose first touch and array of passing opens endless possibilities to progress play, plus she can score goals too. Another that we have greatly missed due to injury this season.

Charlotte South

Midfield player with a proper football brain and the benefit of experience (although she will hate that word). Her movement on and off the ball compliments her ability to link midfield to attack.

Poppy Smith

A goal scoring machine at youth level, who has continued in the same vein following her step up this season. Poppy is a real one to watch for the future although she really has to learn a proper goal celebration.

Laura Mills

Laura joined us in the second half of the season but has quickly had an impact. A quick, creative attacking midfielder with a great first touch. Has previously played at a higher level and it shows.

Gemma Croucher

Very hard working attacking player with a good eye for goal. Gemma has more assists than goals this season which shows both her creative quality and unselfish attitude.

Chloe Holt

Chloe has a great engine and is not afraid to use it. The 'Duracell Bunny' of the team, Chloe will run, and run, and run, and run throughout the 90 minutes, making her an absolute nightmare for any defender.

Becky Charter

Ever modest, her first words to us when she joined were "I am not sure if I am good enough for this level". Well she's certainly proved that wrong! Her pace and strength causes problems for all defenders.

Emma Slater

A real 'stand out player' who can positively contribute to the team from anywhere on the pitch. Unfortunately Emma has missed a lot of this season through injury.



Club Profile

Royston Town Women

Club look to add County Cup success to their many League and League Cup honours



The team began life in 1998/99 playing under the name of Heath Sports and were managed by Graham Phillips (who at the time was also Secretary of RTFC). Heath Sports changed their name and became part of Royston Town Football Club and over the years were consistent performers in the Eastern Region Women's Football League.

Current boss Lewis Endacott was appointed manager of the Women's team in 2013 and that season marked the start of a successful period where we finished runner up in the ERWFL Division 1, League Plate Winners, County Cup Runners Up. In the 2014/15 season we finished runners up in the league for the second season running, whilst retaining the League Plate and finishing runners up in the League Cup.

Whilst there was no cup success in 2015/16, we improved our league campaign by winning the ERWFL Division 1 and gaining promotion to the ERWFL Premier. Since then we have established ourselves as a competitive side in the division, finishing runners up in 2021/22, narrowly missing out on promotion. Other honours in this time include County Cup runners up 2016/17, ERWFL Challenge Cup Winners 2020/21.



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

This has been a season of ups and downs. After a slow start we then went on a eight match unbeaten run, which included reaching the first round proper of the FA Cup where we went out to higher level London Seaward after extra time.

We have been plagued with injuries this season to key members of the squad, most of which have been long term injuries and we wish them all a speedy recovery. A successful County Cup run has been the highlight of the second half of the season, with us beating some very good sides on the way to this Final.



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Guest of Honour

Gemma Chaffey

Hertfordshire FA Designated Safeguarding Officer



Gemma joined Hertfordshire FA in July 2022 as our Designated Safeguarding Officer, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role, having previously worked in safeguarding focused positions in local government over the last 15 years.

The Designated Safeguarding Officer reports directly to our Chief Executive and works to ensure Safeguarding standards are met and maintained across football in Hertfordshire, promoting The FA's policies and procedures and supporting the volunteer workforce throughout the county to deliver best practice.

The role is central to our handling of any safeguarding issues, acting as the first point of contact for those within the game, from parents and carers through to league and club Welfare Officers. They also work closely with agencies such as the Police, Children's Social Care and the NSPCC in reporting concerns and dealing with cases.

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.

Today's Match Officials

Mark Howard (Referee)

I am a massive supporter of women's and girls football having officiated female fixtures right from the beginning of my journey, starting out as a parent ref for my children's teams. This is only my second season in Hertfordshire and I'm grateful to have been appointed to this final.

Rhys Stewart (Assistant)

I am into my second season as a referee and grateful to be appointed to this Final alongside some great colleagues. Best of luck to both teams, this should be a fantastic game to be a part of.

Jude Keya (Assistant)

I started getting involved in taking games around 2015, initially as a parent referee. I enjoyed that and so took the course and became a qualified referee a few years later. I'm a Level 6 now, on the promotion scheme for Level 5. When not refereeing, I work as a Chartered Accountant.

Chris Geelan (Fourth Official)

Congratulations to the teams on reaching this final, both are a credit to the competition, which I am proud to be associated with as an official, and also to the rest of our team on being appointed.



This legend.
The Engine room.
The Decision maker.
A Football brain.
Just runs the show.

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What is SADA?

The SADA Domestic Abuse Service, which is a service for everyone, aims to signpost and support people experiencing domestic abuse



A domestic abuse liaison worker will signpost you to support to help with a number of areas:

- Fitting security features to your home
- Help with referral to other agencies
- Housing/tenancy support
- Support for access to legal advice
- Practical support for you and family members
- Emotional support
- Debt and benefit advice
- Friday morning virtual drop in support service



Contact details

Domestic Abuse Service
Community Safety Team
Daneshill House
Danestrete
Stevenage

☎ 01438 242666

✉ SADA@stevenage.gov.uk

In an emergency always call the Police on 999
To report a non-emergency call 101



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

Won by Watford Ladies Youth

Wednesday 29 March 7:45pm* Senior Challenge Cup

Won by Berkhamsted

Friday 7 April 2:30pm Junior Cup

Won by Sun Sports Rovers

Sunday 16 April 2:30pm Sunday Intermediate Cup

Won by Brookmans Park

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

Cheshunt v Hemel Hempstead Town

Saturday 20 May 10:30am U14 Girls Cup

Watford Ladies Youth v Bedwell Rangers

Saturday 20 May 2:30pm U15 Girls Cup

Watford Ladies Youth v Hitchin Belles Youth

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



Celine Ray

Nicole Farmer

Shianne Swarres

Lucy Webster

Vicky Neal

Kelsey Millen

Erin Price

Amy Makewell

Holly Greenwood

Jodie Bellinger

Anna Re

Mia O'Brien

Dionne Manning

Jodie Southby

Hannah Nebbitt

Becky Shephard

Amy Gooderham

Rosy Wodhams

Emily Schofield

Susan Uwaifo

Amy Martin

Eloise Page

Amy Houghton

Amy Cooper

Mistie Fox-Baker

Hattie Bourne

Annie Georgiou

Chloe Gunn

Amy Josland

Ailish Straver

Georgia Miller

Nicole Hendrick

Ri Badal

Charlotte South

Poppy Smith

Laura Mills

Gemma Croucher

Chloe Holt

Becky Charter

Emma Slater

Manager: David Perry

Assistant: Rishi Sodha

Colours: Red and Black Shirts, Red Shorts, Whiter Socks

Manager: Lewis Endacott

Assistants: Gemma Cruickshank, Grant Palmer

Colours: White Shirts, Black Shorts, White Socks

Referee:
Mark Howard

Assistants:
Rhys Stewart, Jude Keya

Fourth Official:
Chris Geelan