



SEASON REVIEW

2022/23

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CHAIR'S WELCOME



For my third year as Chair of Kent FA, the past 12 months have seen us return to 'normal' as far as playing football is concerned.

On the pitch, we have completed our 25 County Cup competitions, with the Finals being a great success. We had some great crowds, both in atmosphere and numbers, along with some very competitive games. With some clubs being promoted to the next step on their journey, some have been relegated and will regroup and move forward again. Congratulations to all the 'winners.'

As an association, we are moving steadily toward our plans around player pathways and have seen good growth in participation levels across all formats of the game. More importantly, we have been recognised by the FA for our Women and Girls growth this past season.

We have made some progress in our ambitions to structure Kent FA Council so it is representative of football in Kent and ensure it contributes to our game in a positive and positive way.

Directors, Kent FA staff and all of our members are contributing to this so we can ensure the organisation grows and changes as football does. We have strong pathways for our players and need to support our clubs and leagues to ensure they stay strong.

Denise Richmond, Chair of Kent FA

KENT FA BOARD

Chair - Denise Richmond

Vice-Chair - Kellie Discipline

CEO - Darryl Haden

Finance Director - Lee Dyson

Directors - Arnie Van Orsouw, Bill Stoneham

Independent Non-Executive Directors - Nicola Rabson, Natalie Benville, Daniel McCarthy

CEO'S FOREWARD



This past season has seen substantial progress against our key strategic objectives within our Play-Protect-Promote strategy.

We are in the middle of delivering this strategy, and work to achieve the targets continues at a pace. Through our strategy, we continue to support investment into grassroots football facilities across the county, grow participation across all areas of the game, and ensure that the game is safe, inclusive, and accessible for all. Our recertification of the Preliminary Level of the National Equality Standard for Sport has provided more focus on our work around Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, and we are working hard to create a game in Kent that is free from discrimination.

There are, of course, challenges, and unfortunately, we have seen an increase in unacceptable behaviour in grassroots football. This is something the Kent FA and the FA are proactively addressing through initiatives and campaigns to improve behaviour across the game.

Safeguarding remains central to everything we do, and we are working hard to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all who wish to play the game in Kent. Key to this is the work that our Club and League Welfare Officers undertake, and through their support, we are making great strides in ensuring that football in Kent is safe and enjoyable for our young people.

As we move into the 2023/24 season, our focus will be ensuring that we have the correct governance structure to drive the association forward. Key to this will be achieving the FA Code of Governance for County FA's, ensuring that we have effective governance across the association and enabling us to meet the Sport England Governance Code criteria, an important requirement moving forward.

The past season has seen the Kent FA make excellent progress in delivering our key strategic objectives and priorities, and I am proud of the team's achievements in supporting all areas of the game in Kent.

Darryl Haden, CEO

PARTICIPATION



ADULT FOOTBALL

In Kent, we have 24,281 male players in adult football enjoying veterans and open-age football, across 837 male teams (873 mixed teams).

This is a huge area of provision that involves working with various stakeholders, such as the 18 Adult leagues in Kent. During the season, a number of competitions were run for adult football throughout the County, such as the Community Cup, which targets organisations and businesses and gets people playing competitive 11-a-side football who might not be otherwise involved in the sport. Veterans and Walking Football provision has continued to grow, with 33 teams currently signed up for the Walking Football league next season.

We have also worked to set up more recreational football sessions, an example of this being the six sessions in collaboration with the organisation CALM. The CALM Kickabout at Three Hills, Folkestone, has had more than 40 individuals sign up, regularly having around 20 people participate in a session. Mental health-trained individuals support these sessions on Fridays from 12-1pm. They aim to give people a safe space to enjoy a free football session and chat afterwards (if they want to). Having seen the positive impact these sessions can have, we will be looking at increasing the provision of this programme by adding a couple more sessions in the new season. For next season, a priority will be to continue to work with and support the 18 Adult leagues with their challenges.



57,217 REGISTERED MALE PLAYERS

21.8% OVER TARGET

Includes youth and adult male players





WOMEN & GIRLS FOOTBALL

With thanks to the Women’s Euro legacy, we have seen a huge growth in the female game within Kent.

Across the 2022/23 season, 6,748 female players have been recorded playing affiliated football including 1,320 girls playing mixed football at youth level- which is amongst the highest in the country. This puts us 23% above our end-of-2023/24 season target.

This season, we successfully launched the Kent Girls Emerging Talent Centre which has 90 talented girls across U14 to U16s, supporting their development alongside their club football. The girls have enjoyed incredible experiences this season such as fitness testing, strength and conditioning, and sports science workshops such as psychology and nutrition. We would like to thank our partners Canterbury Christ Church University and Sports Lab for all their support and the opportunities they have helped provide for the girls!

We have seen growth from 332 to 381 female-only youth provisions across affiliated teams, Wildcats, and Squad girls this season, alongside 69 open-aged female teams. There has been incredible growth in our girls-only community provisions, seeing a rise from 64 to 77 Wildcats centres, exceeding our retention target by 12 centres. We have also gone from 4 to 24 Squad Girls centres in the county- 3 times the amount of our season target. To support this growth, we have put on programme-specific CPD events for our providers who have been incredibly engaged, with 60 centres across both programmes attending. Since the introduction of our Equal Game Ambassadors, we have 13 clubs receiving support to introduce a female provision for the first time or the 2023/24 season.



6,748

REGISTERED
FEMALE
PLAYERS

23% OVER THE TARGET



YOUTH AND MINI SOCCER

Participation in youth football has continued to grow, with 37,962 players registered for the 2022/23 season, an increase of 2,895 players.

We continue to work with our stakeholders to provide a fun, safe and enjoyable playing experience for all young players and explore opportunities to diversify our offering. This season we set up Kick About sessions in partnership with BAE Systems and Anchorians FC to provide opportunities for those who previously left the game or are from low socio-economic backgrounds to access regular football for free. We also reintroduced The FA Pokemon Futsal Youth Cup competition, ensuring over 500 male and female youth players could play in a competitive futsal competition for the first time.

IN KENT YOUTH FOOTBALL WE HAVE...

32,877
YOUTH PLAYERS IN MALE PATHWAY

4,721
YOUTH PLAYERS IN FEMALE PATHWAY

209
DISABILITY YOUTH PLAYERS



**The discrepancy between the figures is due to clubs not selecting a player pathway for their members at registration.*





DISABILITY FOOTBALL

Following recruitment changes, the back end of this season sees some exciting times ahead within disability football.

We have launched a new disability football programme, Ability First, with eight clubs from across Kent coming on board. As part of the programme, these clubs are setting up new disability recreational sessions at their clubs for a period of two ten-week blocks to help provide opportunities for disability football around Kent. These clubs are Bromley FC, Maidstone United, Dartford FC, Inclusive Sport, Herne Bay FC, Aylesford FC, Baypoint Fc and Ashford United.

It has been another hugely successful year for the Kent Disability Football League, seeing the growth and progress it is continuing to make, and that is a credit to the great volunteers making the League a success. As their County FA, we look forward to continuing to work closely with the League over the next coming season.

Our Disability Pathway Group has also enjoyed success this past season, with all group members proactively driving forward to make a difference for Disability Football within Kent.



741
REGISTERED
PLAYERS

6.3% UNDER TARGET

FACILITIES AND FUNDING

The past 12 months have seen several key investments across the county into improved facilities for football activity, with the total investment reaching £4.1m.

Two major grass pitch projects have been delivered at Mersham Sports Club FC and Tankerton FC delivering over £1m of value in the form of brand-new grass pitches thanks to funding from the Football Foundation. Tankerton's new facility includes a new changing pavilion as part of the development, which has been a priority project for several years.

A record £687,360 worth of Football Foundation grass pitch maintenance funding has been awarded towards total project costs exceeding £1m. This funding aims to improve the standard of the stock of grass pitches across the county. The 21 sites receiving this funding are using twice-yearly advice from the Grounds Management Association via the PitchPower app assessments to guide the works, which will improve a collective 84 pitches. This brings the total investment since the start of the pitch improvement project in 2019 to £2.1m across 241 pitches at 53 sites.

Aylesford FC's new 3G has been delivered thanks to a £907,360 grant from the Football Foundation and partnership funding, which took the total project cost over the £1m mark. The 3G is now delivering several wider community outcomes and facilitating training and matches for their 32 teams.



AWARDED GRANTS

SMALL GRANTS

Baypoint Sports CIC	Goalposts	£3,000.00
Betteshanger Welfare Youth FC	Goalposts	£3,960.00
Broadstairs Town FC	Goalposts	£1,440.00
Castle Colts FC	Goalposts	£3,600.00
Charing FC	Goalposts	£1,440.00
Chartham Sports Club	Goalposts and storage container	£5,705.00
Coney Hall Youth FC	Fencing	£22,303.00
Dawes Community Association	Fencing	£25,000.00
Dover Rangers Colts FC	Goalposts	£4,680.00
Faversham Strike Force FC	Goalposts	£723.00
Gillingham Rangers FC	Goalposts	£450.00
Grasshopper Juniors FC	Goalposts	£1,080.00
Greenways Aces FC	Goalposts	£2,160.00
Hayden Youth Association FC	Goalposts	£1,440.00
Hayes Primary School	Goalposts	£779.00
Herne Bay Harriers FC	Goalposts	£5,400.00
Hugin Vikings FC	Goalposts	£825.00
Kemsing United FC	Goalposts	£1,440.00
Kemsing United FC	Goalposts	£1,440.00
Kent Disability Football League	Storage containers	£1,223.00
Kilndown Millenium Green Trust	Goalposts	£712.00
Langley Athletic FC	Goalposts	£547.00
Lordswood Youth FC	Goalposts	£3,095.00
Margate Youth FC	Goalposts	£1,359.00
Metrogas Amateur Sports Association Limited	Fencing	£2,647.00
Metrogas Amateur Sports Association Limited ew	Maintenance machinery PP	£10,004.00
New Ash Green FC	Goalposts	£1,429.42
New Romney FC	Goalposts	£1,212.00
North Kent Sunday Football League	Goalposts	£2,823.00
NWK RANGERS FC	Goalposts	£693.00
Old Wilsonians Youth FC	Goalposts	£2,528.00
Orpington FC	Goalposts	£914.00
Pilgrims FC	Goalposts	£2,880.00
Punjab Utd Fc Gravesend	Goalposts	£3,353.25
Ramsgate FC	Goalposts	£825.00
Ramsgate FC	Goalposts - Southwood Stadium	£1,718.00
Ramsgate FC	Goalposts - Hartsdown Park	£1,718.00
Ramsgate Youth FC	Goalposts	£818.00
Rhinos FC	Goalposts	£1,080.00
Rising Stars Youth FC	Goalposts	£2,160.00
Riverview FC	Goalposts	£658.00
Rush Community Sports Club	Goalposts	£1,026.00
Sevenoaks Town Juniors FC	Goalposts	£1,440.00
Simon Langton Girls Grammar School	Goalposts	£2,100.00
Sittingbourne FC Woodstock	new mower	£9,000.00
Sittingbourne Ladies FC	Goalposts	£1,440.00
Smarden Juniors FC Portable	floodlights	£2,565.00
Snodland Town FC	Goalposts	£907.00
Swanscombe Tigers FC	Goalposts	£600.00
Swanscombe Tigers FC	Goalposts	£1,110.00
The Abbey School	Goalposts	£1,200.00
Upchurch Colts FC Mini Soccer	Goalposts	£472.00
Upchurch Colts FC	Goalposts	£1,076.00
Whitfield Juniors FC Portable	floodlights	£3,474.00
Whitstable Town Football Club Youth	Goalposts	£900.00
Woodcoombe Youth FC	Goalposts	£1,140.00
Wye Juniors FC Portable	floodlights	£5,130.00
		£164,841.67
		£272,969.33

GRASS PITCH MAINTENANCE FUNDING

Headcorn FC	£3,840.00
Westcourt Primary School	£7,680.00
Chartham Sports Club	£7,680.00
Borough Green Junior FC	£12,800.00
Chilham FC	£12,800.00
Chartham Sports Club	£12,800.00
FC Concept	£12,800.00
Borough Green Junior FC	£23,040.00
Chartham Sports Club	£25,600.00
Hoo vets FC	£25,600.00
Hamstreet District Sports and Leisure Association	£28,160.00
Punjab United FC	£30,720.00
Sittingbourne FC	£32,000.00
Chartham Sports Club	£35,840.00
Coney Hall Youth FC	£38,400.00
Ide Hill FC	£40,960.00
Baypoint Sports CIC	£44,800.00
Langton Green Community Sports Association Limited	£56,320.00
Lordswood Youth FC	£61,440.00
Kings Hill FC	£66,560.00
Tunbridge Wells Youth FC	£107,520.00
	£687,360.00
	£1,029,120.00

PREMIER LEAGUE STADIUM FUND

Dartford FC 1992 Ltd	New LED floodlights	£34,229.00
Tonbridge Angels FC Limited	LONGMEAD STADIUM New pitch perimeter barrier and dugouts	£34,308.00
Herne Bay FC	MBS STADIUM Refurbishment of clubhouse	£50,000.00
Larkfield And New Hythe Wanderers	FC LARKFIELD SPORTS CLUB Refurbishment of clubhouse	£66,709.00
Herne Bay FC	MBS STADIUM New pitch perimeter barrier and hard standing	£75,306.00
Maidstone United FC	THE GALLAGHER STADIUM New spectator toilets and security office	£80,036.00
		£360,588.00

FOOTBALL FOUNDATION – MAJOR PROJECTS

Mersham Sports Club	MERSHAM SPORTS CLUB Creation of new grass pitches	£467,708.00
Tankerton FC	TANKERTON FOOTBALL CLUB Creation of new grass pitches	£666,934.00
Aylesford Parish Council	AYLESFORD RECREATION GROUND New floodlit 3G FTP	£907,360.00
		£2,042,002.00



FOOTBALL WORKFORCE

The adoption of technological solutions across Kent continues to flourish with almost 60,000 player registrations completed, 750 leagues and clubs and over 4100 teams all processed during season 2022/23.

It is clear to see the positive impact the switch to digital solutions is having on grassroots football, and as we enter into 2023/24 season with the launch of Platform For Football we are aiming to reduce the workload of volunteers even further. The success of these transitions has been largely down to the amazing volunteers in clubs and leagues who have utilised the systems provided by the FA.



COACH DEVELOPMENT

This season has seen a significant enhancement to the support that we have provided our coaches with the opportunity to learn and develop within their coaching through face-to-face and online workshops and mentoring. A fundamental part of this increased support was the introduction of our Kent FA Coaches Club, which provides high-quality CPD opportunities and creates a collaborative network of coaches across the County.

In addition, we have also ensured that there was specific support for female coaches and coaches from diverse backgrounds through bespoke CPD sessions in association with Black History Month, World Day for Cultural Diversity, Ramadan and International Womens Day. Through all of these innovations and provisions, we have provided coaches in Kent with the opportunity to attend 40 events, resulting in 1164 incidences of CPD, with the plan to increase this further in the 2023/24 season.

This season we have run 28 workshops/ events (18 Face-To-Face & 10 Online), including CPD events within the Kent FA Club Coach Mentor Programme (x12) 40 workshops/events

- ✔ Youth Teams With A Qualified Coach – 87.3%
- ✔ Instances of CPD – 1164

In Kent, we continuously promote FA courses and are proud to announce the number of individuals who have completed the following coaching courses:

- ✔ Playmaker – 238
- ✔ I2CF (Level 1) – 1,116
- ✔ UEFA C (Level 2) – 24
- ✔ UEFA B – 12
- ✔ UEFA A – 3



YOUTH COUNCIL

This season saw one of our largest cohort of Youth Council ambassadors, comprising of 17 young people from across the county aged between 13 and 22yrs. The Youth Council allows our ambassadors to inspire, empower and provide a voice for all children and young people to influence change and develop a lasting legacy in football across Kent.

We have seen the awareness and influence of the Youth Council significantly enhance through providing volunteering opportunities across six events which included the Kent FA Girls ETC Trial Days, Kent FA Pokemon Futsal Tournament and Kent FA Female Volunteer Forum. Youth Council members also secured 11 positions on Kent FA working groups and committees, including:

- **Kent FA Council**
- **Kent FA Board Working Group**
- **Kent FA Pathways Working Group**
- **Kent FA EAG/IAG Group**
- **Kent FA Female Pathways Working Group**
- **Kent FA Male (Youth) Working Group**
- **Kent FA Coaches CPD Working Group**
- **Kent FA Football Development Committee**

To conclude an excellent finish to the season, we also saw 1 of our Youth Council ambassadors transition into a position within the Kent FA as Football Development Assistant.



DISCIPLINE

Season 2022/23 saw several changes to disciplinary processes, and these were reflected in the discipline responsibilities delivered across the county by the Kent FA.

We are working towards having a greater impact on negative behaviour with new sanctions aimed at repeat offenders. Although the existence of discipline is negative, it is important for the county FA to deliver and uphold robust rules and trusted regulations free from prejudice and conflicts of interest in a timely and transparent manner following thorough investigations.

The Kent FA's delivery of discipline is continually reviewed and assessed by the FA discipline department at Wembley, and Kent FA continues to be leaders in this area. We acknowledge that not every outcome in discipline is the outcome a club or individual want, but the Kent FA does commit to ensuring every instance is processed fairly and in line with FA regulations. Clubs and participants need to take responsibility for our game and protect it from abuse and violence to ensure a fun and safe environment can be enjoyed by all.



REFEREEING



The 2022/23 season has seen refereeing cultivated within the County. We have built on last season's success in numbers, with continual growth in affiliations, ending the current period with 1,990 affiliated match officials across all levels.

This has been supported by the delivery of 15 'Get into Refereeing' workshops (550 attendees), resulting in 496 new trainee referees (from 27 referee courses) supporting the grassroots game.

Equally pleasing was our positive move in scoring 90 on The FA's KPI platform, previously not hitting the scoreboard during the 2022/23 season. A key priority is to ensure we not only recruit and convert new referees into the game but also keep hold of our existing workforce. Off-field saw our Referee Academy reintroduced; a development platform supporting some of the next generation of match officials within the game. We also continue strengthening our collaborative partnerships as we link closely with the North Riding FA in our 'Exchange Programme.'

The end-of-season also saw us promote 58 match officials across all levels at grassroots (Level 7-6, 6-5, 5-4 and Y1-Y2, respectively). These numbers further support the 41 promoted at three previous junctures in November, January and March.

With the recruitment of Jack Fagg [Referee Development Assistant], we now have a greater opportunity to enhance further our offering in recruiting and retaining match officials.



RETAINED
1,990

13% OVER TARGET

SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE

The Kent FA Safeguarding team has continued providing advice and support to all clubs and leagues across the County to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.

Collaboration between the discipline, safeguarding and refereeing teams enables the poor practice and serious issues to be identified, reported and dealt with efficiently by the most appropriate team. We work closely with The FA and statutory agencies to address those serious safeguarding matters when needed. Across youth football, we provide advice and support to a network of 354 Club Welfare Officers, and we continue to work with these officers to ensure that clubs can deal with any incidents efficiently for the 23/24 season. This support will also be provided to the growing Adult Club Welfare Officers network.

In May 2023, the Kent FA was assessed by the NSPCC as “meeting the standard” for The FA’s 365 Safeguarding Standard- a standard we are proud to have maintained since the last assessment. The 2022/23 season has seen the introduction of the Welfare Hero Award to our annual County FA Awards evening. The Welfare Hero Award recognises and celebrates the achievements of our Club and League Welfare Officers in promoting effective safeguarding practice and highlights those that have gone above and beyond to develop a child-centered approach and provide an outstanding commitment and effort to protect young people/adults at risk across the County.



INCLUSION & EQUALITY

We are proud to have supported national campaigns, highlighting the importance of Rainbow Laces and FootballvHomophobia. Once again, we also ran a CPD workshop event around supporting players during Ramadan.

Kent FA's Board Equality Champion continues to sit within the Equality Advisory Group to ensure equality is embedded across the whole organisation. The Equality Advisory Group has grown and gained new members who are truly passionate about helping to drive equality and inclusion forward within Kent.



KENT COUNTY CUPS

2022-23

Another hugely successful season of Kent County Cups saw us complete 25 cups, allowing 1,198 teams to experience playing county cup football.

The Merit Group, a local family-run company, continued as the partner of our Youth Cups for another season. In total, 456 teams entered these competitions across the 12 youth cups, which increased by 121 teams from the previous season. We were delighted that DFDS sponsored our Adult Cups for the 2022/23 season. We had 674 men's teams enter the 11 adult men's cups, whilst 68 women's teams entered the two adult women's cups.

The first county cup match of the season was played on Friday, 16th September, as the Intermediate Challenge Shield and Intermediate Cups got underway, then 247 days later, the last County Cup final saw Littlebourne take on Orpington in the Kent Junior 'A' Cup Final. In total, 1,097 county cup fixtures were played throughout the season. Our cup finals saw over 9,500 people in attendance, an increase from the previous seasons.

We continued to film the cup draws from the last 16 stages onwards, and these were released through our social media channels as our digital engagement continued to increase; this feature has proved very popular with those teams remaining in the various cups.

OUR 2022/23 COUNTY CUP WINNERS ARE:

MERIT YOUTH CUPS

- U13 Boys Plate – **Folkestone Invicta Youth FC**
- U14 Boys Plate – **Danson Sports Yellow FC**
- U15 Boys Plate – **Wigmore Youth FC**
- U13 Boys Cup – **Sevenoaks Town FC**
- U14 Boys Cup – **Metrogas FC**
- U15 Boys Cup – **Bromley FC**
- U16 Boys Cup – **Bromley FC**
- U18 Boys Cup – **Chatham Town Youth FC**
- U13 Girls Cup – **Cray Wanderers Youth FC**
- U14 Girls Cup – **London City Lionesses FC**
- U15 Girls Cup – **VCD Athletic FC**
- U16 Girls Cup – **London City Lionesses FC**

DFDS ADULT CUPS

- Senior Cup – **Margate FC**
- Senior Trophy – **Punjab United FC**
- Intermediate Challenge Shield – **Red Velvet FC**
- Intermediate Cup – **Deal Town Reserves FC**
- Junior 'A' Cup – **Littlebourne FC**
- Junior 'B' Cup – **Kemsing United Reserves FC**
- Junior 'C' Cup – **Bocca Juniors FC**
- Sunday Premier Cup – **Market Hotel FC**
- Sunday Junior Cup – **Eastern Athletic FC**
- Sunday Junior Trophy – **AFC Wilgar FC**
- Veterans Cup – **Glebe Vets FC**
- DFDS Kent Women's Cup – **Gillingham Women FC**
- DFDS Kent Women's Plate – **Sittingbourne LadiesFC**



**The Merit U14 Boys Cup
Winners**
Metrogals FC



**The Merit U13 Girls Cup
Winners**
Cray Wanderers Youth FC



**The Merit U13 Boys Plate
Winners**
Folkestone Invicta Youth FC



**The Merit U13 Boys Cup
Winners**
Sevenoaks Town FC



**DFDS Senior Trophy
Winners**
Punjab United FC



**DFDS Senior Cup
Winners**
Margate FC



**DFDS Kent Junior C Cup
Winners**
Bocca Juniors FC



**DFDS Kent Junior B Cup
Winners**
Kensing United FC



**DFDS Kent Womens Plate
Winners**
Sittingbourne Ladies FC



**DFDS Kent Women's Cup
Winners**
Gillingham Women FC



**DFDS Kent Veterans Cup
Winners**
Glebe Vets FC



**DFDS Kent Sunday Premier
Cup Winners**
Market Hotel FC



**DFDS Kent Sunday Junior
Cup Winners**
Eastern Athletic FC



**DFDS Kent Junior Trophy
Winners**
AFC Wilgar FC



**DFDS Kent Junior A Cup
Winners**
Littlebourne FC



DFDS Kent Intermediate Challenge Shield Winners
Red Velvet FC



DFDS Kent Intermediate Cup Winners
Deal Town Reserves FC



The Merit U18 Boys Cup Final Winners
Chatham Town FC



The Merit U16 Girls Cup Final Winners
London City Lionesses FC



The Merit U16 Boys Cup Final Winners
Bromley FC



The Merit U15 Girls Cup Winners
VCD Athletic FC



The Merit U15 Boys Plate Winners
Wigmore Youth FC



The Merit U15 Boys Cup Winners
Bromley FC



The Merit U14 Girls Cup Final Winners
London City Lionesses FC



The Merit U14 Boys Plate Winners
Danson Sport Yellow FC

KENT REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

After a positive return to Representative football in season 2021/22, sadly, due to several unfortunate circumstances, no rep football was played in season 2022/23.

Plans are already in place to arrange meetings with the other competing Counties to get a competition running for season 2023/24 for both the U16 & U18 Boys teams and the open-aged Women's team. We are also exploring the possibility of introducing a U18 Girls team if this interests the other competing Counties.

Representative football has seen players go on to feature in the EFL Championship in recent seasons. It remains a key aspect of Kent football for season 2023/24.



THE KENT GRASSROOTS WORKFORCE AWARDS

On Thursday 29 September, we hosted the Kent FA Grassroots Workforce Awards 2022 at the Ashford International Hotel for a celebratory and inspiring evening.

Every year, we celebrate those people who make a positive difference to our football community. It's our way of celebrating the fantastic individuals who put their heart and soul into the grassroots game across Kent – and say a huge thank you to the incredible volunteers who inspire us all.

During the award ceremony, we announced our local winners for The FA and McDonalds Grassroots Football Awards as well as presented a number of lifetime services awards and referee service awards.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR
WINNERS FROM EVERYBODY
AT KENT FA!**



THE FA AND MCDONALD'S GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL AWARDS

- Coach of The Year (Adult) -
Jessica Bennett from Larkfield FC
- Coach of The Year (Youth) -
Luke Gibbons from New Ash Green JFC
- Grassroots Club of The Year –
Larkfield FC
- Grassroots League of the Year –
Kent Disability Football League
- Grassroots Volunteer of The Year –
Ant Tomlinson, Cranbrook Juniors FC
- Rising Star of the Year –
Sam Jones
- Grassroots Grounds Team of The Year –
Alan Philpott, Woodnesborough FC
- Grassroots Project of the Year –
Anchorians FC
- Grassroots Match Official of the Year –
Rashpal Shergill (*Highly commended – Harley Webster)
- The Spirit of Football Award –
Thanet Leg-Ends

KENT DEDICATED AWARDS

- The Colin Boswell Young Referee of the Year Award -
Charlie Sutton
- Digital Club of the Year, sponsored
by Sleeping Giant Media -
Faversham Strikeforce FC
- Long & Meritorious Service Award -
Colin Hall
- 40 Years Dedicated Service Award -
Keith McGinn
- The FA 50 Years Service Award -
Tony Newington



PARTNERS

It has been another exciting season as we continue developing existing and new partnerships with the Kent businesses community. As the season progressed, it became more apparent that businesses want to make a tangible difference in the communities in which they operate and believe in the power of football to do just that.



DFD - COUNTY CUPS PARTNER

A two-year partnership with award-winning ferry company DFDS as our Adult County Cups partner started in July 2022. The partnership continues to grow. We are positively engaging with our community through online competitions, networking events, video cup draws, prize donations at our annual awards, and supporting finalists at our finals.



THE MERIT GROUP - COUNTY CUPS PARTNER

The Merit Group, a family-run business, supported youth football in Kent by sponsoring all the Youth Cup Finals for a second season. Passionate about football, colleagues have featured in monthly video cup draws, supported finalists on matchdays and entered our B2B football tournament, the Kent FA Business Sixes.



BAE SYSTEMS - COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PARTNER

BAE Systems are passionate about supporting the people in the community in which they operate. So together, we set up kickabout sessions which remove barriers to play for 15-18-year-olds in Medway.



PLAYERDATA - GPS TRACKING & ANALYSIS PARTNER

PlayerData has joined the Kent FA family, providing GPS tracking and analysis to the Kent FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centre (ETC) and exclusive discounts to Kent FA's Coaching Club members.



DARENTH PRINT & DESIGN - PRINT PARTNER

Having a partner that understands both the needs of the association and our grassroots community is highly important to us. This partnership supports the association and our Kent grassroots community by offering a 10% discount on all printed materials.

We also continue to enjoy excellent partnerships with Sleeping Giant Media (Digital Media Partner), Technical Surfaces (3G Pitch Maintenance Partner), KoolPak (Official Medical Equipment Partner), MyClubPro (Club Website Partner), VEO (Camera Technology Partner), EasyFundraising (Online Retail Partner), UK Global (Insurance Partner), The Tommy Crush Foundation & CALM (Charity Partners).

A huge thank you to our partners and suppliers. We look forward to another outstanding season with you.



// A howden company





**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**

01622 791850
INFO@KENTFA.COM

WWW.KENTFA.COM

