

KENT FOOTBALL

APRIL 2023



Welcome to our April newsletter, where you will find the latest news and updates for the Kent grassroots community.



KENT COUNTY CUPS APRIL ROUND UP

April has been another busy month for the County Cups as the Merit Youth Cups and DFDS Adult Cups continue.

We had a fantastic day at Maidstone United on Sunday, 2nd April, as we held the Merit U13, U14 & U15 Girls Cup Finals. Congratulations to Cray Wanderers, London City Lionesses and VCD Athletic on their respective Cup successes. The Merit U16 Girls Final was held at Maidstone United on 16th April, and London City Lionesses added to their U14 Cup victory as they secured the U16 Cup.

Later the same day, we held the first DFDS Adult Cup as 1,853 people attended the Kent Senior Trophy Final at Maidstone United, which saw Punjab United record an impressive victory over Deal Town, the highest attendance for the Kent Senior Trophy in the last ten years. The DFDS Kent Women's Plate Final was a hugely entertaining match which saw a last-minute penalty from Sittingbourne Ladies secure them a 2-1 win against Sevenoaks Town.

The Merit Youth Finals concluded on 23rd April, where Bromley lifted the U16 Boys Cup & Chatham Town won the U18 Boys Cup at Whitstable Town. The month ends with the DFDS Kent Veterans Cup Final, which takes place on 28th April at Maidstone United.



RASHPAL SHERGILL MAKES KENT COUNTY CUP HISTORY

We are proud to announce that Rashpal Shergill, a level 7 referee, appointed to The Merit U13 Girls Cup Final on the 2nd of April, became the first-ever South Asian female to ever referee in a Kent County Cup Final.

Speaking of her experience Rashpal comments; *"I never dreamed that by helping out at my children's football games would ever lead me into refereeing, let alone making history! I am overwhelmed and very proud to hear that I am the first female South Asian female to referee at the Kent County Cup Finals. It means so much to me to represent females of colour in refereeing and I hope by sharing my story I can provide a visual role model for all females, inspire them to be brave and have a go, take up the whistle and start their magnificent journey in refereeing too. Let's let the world know, we ALL belong in refereeing."*



Nick Dunn, Referee Development Lead talks about Rashpal's journey and how she is inspiring more women into the game.

"The appointments to any of our County Cup Finals should always be recognised as a prestigious appointment; we are delighted that, this season, Rashpal has become our first female match official of South Asian heritage to officiate in these Finals. We recognise that match officials from historically under-represented communities may face challenges that the majority of our match officials do not encounter. Rashpal's appointment is a testament to her dedication, hard work, and support that she has shown over recent years to the grassroots game, as well as positive on-field performances."

"Equally, Rashpal's commitment in breaking down barriers is fully supported and embraced to ensure that being a match official is open, accessible, and supportive to all. We hope that this is the very start of a long and prosperous journey for Rashpal, and her peers."

If you are feeling inspired and want to find out more about becoming a referee, visit <https://www.kentfa.com/referees/get-into-refereeing> or email the Referee Department at Referees@KentFA.com.

AIDAN AINSLEY FACILITIES & INVESTMENT LEAD GOOD PITCHES UPDATE



Well done to Canterbury Christ Church University, who have been awarded our new good pitches wall plaque after achieving a performance quality standard of 'good' or above for all three of their grass football pitches at Stodmarsh, following their recent PitchPower assessment. They can now apply for Football Foundation funding to help them keep the pitches at this level. Fantastic news for the students of the University as well as the community club Canterbury Eagles FC who also use the site.

To get your pitches assessed and support with getting them up to 'good', please contact Aidan Ainsley, Facility & Investment Lead
Aidan.Ainsley@KentFA.com.





**COACHING
INTRODUCTION TO
FUTSAL CPD**

DATE: Friday 19 May 2023
 TIME: Registration: 6.00pm. CPD: 6.20 - 9.00pm
 VENUE: Canterbury Christ Church University,
 Pilgrims Way, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1SX
 COST: FREE

UPCOMING COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO FUTSAL – ENGLAND FUTSAL

Friday 19th May 2023 at 6:20-9:00 PM

Canterbury Christ Church University, Pilgrims Way,
Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1SX

FREE For All

This workshop is aimed at providing insight to those who are new to or interested in taking their first steps into futsal coaching, exploring the rules, formats and tactics led by England Futsal.

SUPPORTING YOUR PLAYERS IN THE OFF-SEASON

Thursday 25th May 2023 at 7:00-8:00 PM

Online via Microsoft Teams

FREE For All

This workshop aims to explore why rest is an important component for players at the end of a season, individual activities which can be done at home, how to maintain social connections and relationships and understanding aims, objectives and outcomes for the new season, led by David Webb.

To book onto these courses, contact
Development@Kent.FA.com

SAVE THE DATE KENT FEMALE VOLUNTEER FORUM FRIDAY 16 JUNE 2023

Join us for the last female volunteer of the season. More details to be confirmed shortly.



ABILITY FIRST IS COMING TO KENT

We are EXCITED to announce that we are starting a new programme for recreational disability football in Kent, called Ability First.

So far six clubs across Kent accepted into the programme; these clubs are Maidstone United, Dartford, Baypoint, Inclusive Sport, Aylesford and Bromley.

These clubs will be starting a disability provision and completing two ten-week blocks as we at Kent FA continue to create more opportunities for disability football.

**ABILITY
FIRST**



KENT FA PARTNER OFFERS

At the Kent FA, we have some fantastic partners who care about our football community as much as we do. To support your grassroots journeys, they have special offers for the Kent football community. All the offers can be found on our website partner page.

Discounted ferry travel with DFDS.

Discount rates for team and individual GPS player data analytics with PlayerData.

Discounted print costs for upcoming tournament materials with Darenth Print & Design.

Discounts on camera technology with VEO Camera with their new starter pack!

Discounted 3G maintenance and line marketing with Technical Surfaces.

Discounted first aid supplies with KoolPak.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND - THE BAE KICKABOUT SESSIONS FOR 15-18 YEARS

The BAE Kickabout sessions for **15-18-year-old boys and girls restart on Monday, 1 May, at Anchorians FC, 5 - 6 pm**. Funded by our Community Investment Partner, BAE Systems, and supported by Anchorians FC. These fun-filled FREE sessions are specifically for young people in Medway.

By providing these sessions free of charge, we are removing barriers to play whilst helping these young people to learn new skills, make new friends, and enjoy the beautiful game in a safe and inclusive environment.



Supported by BAE Systems and Anchorians FC



FREE FUNDING - NOW THATS UNEXPECTED!



easyfundraising want to see local clubs thrive, so they partner with over 7,000 brands so your club can earn free funding every time your club community shop online. Their everyday shopping can transform into a continual income stream your club can use to help fund running costs, new equipment, pitch fees, and more. Earn up to £200 over a year, just from one person doing their weekly food shop. To start your club earning free funding in unexpected ways, sign up to easyfundraising today. Head over to <https://www.kentfa.com/leagues-and-clubs/club-management/official-suppliers> to find out more.