

# KENT FOOTBALL

MARCH 2023



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



## THE FA POKEMON FUTSAL YOUTH CUP, LOCAL QUALIFIERS

Earlier this month, we hosted the second FA Pokemon Futsal Youth Cup local qualifiers with the U10 and U12 Girls' age groups at Medway Park. Teams from Langton Green CSA, Sittingbourne Ladies, East Kent FC, Gillingham Women, Anchorians and Canterbury Eagles competed in their respective age groups for a chance to progress to the regionals.

In the U10 Girls age group, Gillingham Women won the category after a closely contested final with Langton Green CSA. The U12 final saw Anchorian Halos and Gillingham Women go head to head, but Gillingham Women edged ahead to win the age group.

It was an incredible day of girls' futsal. Once again, the standard of futsal played was remarkable, with acknowledgement to the level of goalkeeping at the competition!

We wish the finalists all the best of luck as they progress to the regional event.

## KENT OVER 60s REP TEAM TAKE ON ENGLAND OVER 65s

England got off to the perfect start as they took the lead within the opening two minutes, Rob Beel was fouled in the box and dusted himself off to slot the resulting penalty into the bottom corner. With the wind and slope in their favour, Kent were on the front foot for the next ten minutes and drew level when Det Hoffman heading home from a delightful cross. With the half drawing to a close the hosts took the lead through Bob Wiggins who finished superbly from just outside the box. A hat trick from Trevor George saw England Veterans Over 65's come from 2-1 down to defeat Kent FA Over 60's 4-2 in a very entertaining match.



## REDUCE YOUR CHANGING PAVILION RUNNING COSTS WITH AN ENERGY SUPPORT GRANT

The Football Foundation's latest initiative is The Energy Fund which aims to support clubs and organisations to implement energy-saving measures for their clubhouses and pavilions. The way the project works is that an independent energy-saving consultant will visit your site, undertake a survey of the pavilion, and build a report giving recommendations for improvements that will result in energy saving and therefore cost saving. The club or organisation will then be able to apply for up to 75% of the costs of the recommendations in the report up to a maximum of £25,000, with the applicant needing to provide the remaining 25%.

If you are eligible, the first step will be to complete an expression of interest form found by visiting [www.footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/energy-support-programme](http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/energy-support-programme). The deadline for expressions of interest is Thursday, the 13th of April. To find out more, please get in touch with Aidan Ainsley, Facility & Investment Lead on [Aidan.Ainsley@KentFA.com](mailto:Aidan.Ainsley@KentFA.com)



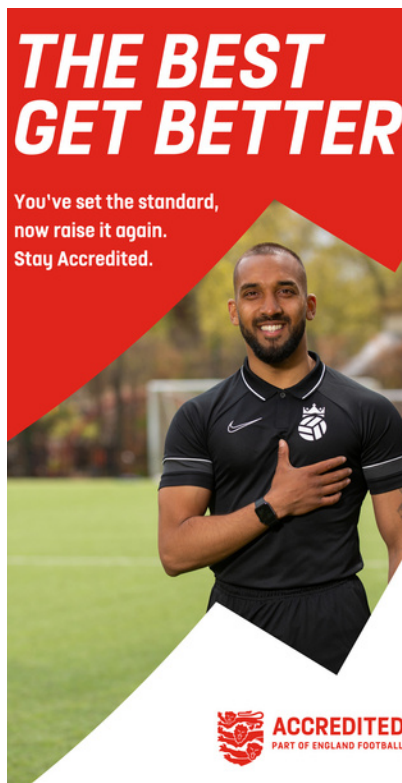
## ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITATION RENEWALS REMINDER

The 30th of April deadline to renew your club's England Football Accreditation for the season is approaching, with less than one month to go! If you have questions about qualifications, club development plans or pathways, we are here to help. A huge thank you to all the clubs that have renewed before the deadline. If you have any questions about accreditation renewals, please contact:

Toby Elgar (youth teams) – [Toby.Elgar@KentFA.com](mailto:Toby.Elgar@KentFA.com).

Harry Burgess (adult-only teams) – [Harry.Burgess@KentFA.com](mailto:Harry.Burgess@KentFA.com)

Don't leave it until the last minute to get your clubs renewal over the line!



## MATT DIXON COMPETITIONS OFFICER COUNTY CUPS UPDATE



This season's 25 County Cup Finals got underway these past two weekends. Sheppey United hosted the U13, U14 & U15 Merit Boys Plate Finals on Sunday the 19th of March and the U13, U14 & U15 Merit Boys Cup Finals on Sunday the 26th of March.

Folkestone Invicta Youth defeated Orpington Colts in a seven-goal thriller after extra time to lift the U13 Boys Plate. Prince Esanga scored four goals for Danson Sports Yellow. They defeated Danson Sports Green to win the U14 Boys Plate, while Wigmore Youth defeated Vinters Rangers to win the U15 Boys Plate.

In the U13 Boys Cup Final, Sevenoaks Town beat Long Lane Juniors 2-0, and Metrogas were also 2-0 winners as they defeated Bromley to win the U14 Boys Cup. Extra time was needed in the U15 Boys Cup Final, where Bromley scored twice, late on, to beat Maidstone United 2-0.

This Sunday, the attention turns to the Girls as we head to Maidstone United for the Merit U13, U14 & U15 Girls Cup Finals; kick-offs are at 10.00, 12.00 and 2.30, respectively. Good luck to all the Finalists.



## SIX YEARS OF GRASS PITCH MAINTENANCE FUNDING AVAILABLE

We've now reached over 500 grass football pitches across Kent which have had a PitchPower assessment on them. Over 200 of these are now in receipt of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Funding, a six-year revenue grant aimed at supporting the improvement of pitches and currently totals £1.1m of investment since the project started. A condition of the funding is that they must carry out PitchPower assessments twice a season. This means that twice a season, a report is received on the standard of the pitch with up-to-date advice on what works to carry out to improve the pitches. Whilst this is fantastic, there is much work left to do to get the 300 pitches that have started the process to apply for the funding and start investing in improving them. Whether you have already had a PitchPower assessment or have not started on the programme yet, contact our Facility & Investment Lead, Aidan Ainsley (Aidan.Ainsley@KentFA.com), who can guide you through the process to improve your grass pitches.



## MONTHLY SHOUT OUT

Congratulations to Canterbury Eagles FC Manager Jamie Hollingsbee, who is pictured here with his two sons, Sol and Taylor. Jamie has been the Canterbury Eagles Manager since his sons played in their U8s. All those years of hard work and dedication paid off recently when they won their first trophy - The Herne Bay and Whitstable Sunday League Division 2.

What a fantastic journey they have been on! Congratulations to the team on their success and a big thank you to Jamie, a grassroots hero, for his dedicated support of grassroots football in Kent.



## EPISODE TWO OF THE KENT FOOTBALL SHOW COMING SOON

Did you catch the first episode of the Kent Football Show? The second episode goes live on Thursday, the 6th of April and our Kent grassroots communities are the stars of the show. There are lots of ways to get involved:

- Enter our crossbar challenge
- Share your club or league news

To find out more, head over to <https://www.kentfa.com/Home/about/kent-football-show#ws>





## HAVE YOU NOMINATED YOUR GRASSROOTS HEROES?

# NOMINATE YOUR HEROES NOW

Coach of the Year - Female Pathway  
Coach of the Year - Male Pathway  
Coach of the Year - Disability Pathway  
Grounds Team of the Year  
Club of the Year  
League of the Year  
Match official of the Year  
Young Volunteer of the Year  
New Volunteer of the Year  
The Lioness Award  
Positive Football Environment Award

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The Grassroots Football Awards are an opportunity to celebrate the people who make grassroots football great for everyone! They're for the people who make a positive difference, and it's our way to recognise the fantastic people who put their heart and soul into football across our County FA and England.

This season, our volunteers have worked hard to show the true power of football in connecting people, building communities and enabling more players to enjoy playing our beautiful game.

Let's show them how much we appreciate their effort, commitment and impact.

Make your nominations by the 19th of April at [www.EnglandFootball.com/participate/Grassroots-Football-Awards](http://www.EnglandFootball.com/participate/Grassroots-Football-Awards).

## DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH CREATING SESSION PLANS?

On Wednesday 12th of April 2023 from 7:00-8:00 pm, we are hosting a FREE virtual workshop for Kent coaches.

The workshop will show coaches how to review plans as a fundamental part of session planning, set learning outcomes and objectives, prepare the structure for a session, explore how the session looks and the plan, do, review, process led by David Webb.

To sign up for this free event, head to <https://www.kentfa.com/coaches/kent-cpd>



## DO YOU COACH PLAYERS WITH DISABILITIES?

On Monday, the 17th of April from 7:00-9:00 pm at Kent FA headquarters, we are delivering an exciting new workshop.

This workshop aims to understand how to manage behaviour, Identify specific impairments, explore the STEP principle and its use and demonstrate how to adapt your sessions through delivering a practical session led by Jeff Davis.

To sign up for this free event, head to <https://www.kentfa.com/coaches/kent-cpd>



# REFEREES APPOINTED TO CUP FINALS

On the 8th of March, we hosted a celebration evening to recognise the 100 match officials appointed to our 25 County Cup finals. Opened by Denise Richmond, the event saw all appointments gradually released through the evening before FIFA Referee Darren England delivered a development session.

Nick Dunn, Referee Development Lead, comments: "This is a fantastic opportunity for us to reward match officials of all levels, experience and backgrounds, and our way of saying thank you for their commitments throughout the season".



## 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 tournaments 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.



## 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.

## KEY DATES



### The Merit U13, U14 & U15 Cups

Maidstone United  
Sunday, 2nd of April

### Equal Game Workshop

Canterbury Christ Church University  
Monday, 3rd of April

### Equal Game Workshop

Kent FA HQ  
Monday, 11th of April

### CPD: Creating Session Plans

Virtual  
Wednesday, 12th of April

### The Merit U16 Girls Cup DFDS Kent Senior Trophy

Maidstone United  
Sunday, 16th of April

### CPD: Disability Awareness Event For Coaches

Kent FA Headquarters  
Monday, 17th of April

### DFDS Kent Women's Plate

Maidstone United  
Thursday, 20th of April

### The Merit U16 & U18 Boys Cup

Whitstable Town FC  
Sunday, 23rd of April

### DFDS Kent Veterans Cup

Maidstone United  
Friday, 28th of April