



SEASON REVIEW 2023/24

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CHAIR'S WELCOME



This past season has seen our member clubs battle with the wet weather more than ever before and adds rationale to the movement for more 3G pitches.

Despite a few hiccups along the way, 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. We have seen Bromley FC promoted to the promoted to EFL League Two for the first time in their history and we can now claim two professional clubs affiliated with Kent—many congratulations to them.

Every season, clubs progress and develop and take the next step in their journey. While not everyone can achieve their ambitions, they have made steps closer, becoming stronger clubs along the way.

As an association, we are making steady progress towards a change in our Governance, aligning with the FA's and Sport England's requirements. This change is crucial to ensure our Council is truly representative of football in Kent, and it will play a pivotal role in supporting our ambitions for the continued growth of our game in a positive and inclusive way. The growth in player pathways and participation levels across all formats of the game is a testament to our collective efforts.

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 need to support our clubs and leagues to grow and develop in a sustainable way.

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, Jenny Coggeer

CEO'S FOREWARD



The 2023-2024 season was the last of our 2021-2024 Play, Protect, Promote Strategy, which has seen us meeting and exceeding many of the targets within that strategy. Over the past three years, we have supported grassroots football facilities through £11.34 million of investment, grown participation across all areas of the game with significant growth in the female game and continued to provide trusted and transparent regulation.

One key success has been the growth of commercial partnerships; we now have a variety of Kent-based and national businesses that have partnered with us. All of our partners have enabled us to positively impact Kent football through a variety of initiatives and workshops and work continues to ensure that we develop further these relationships.

We were delighted and proud to win the FA County FA Recognition Award for Brand Engagement for the Kent Football Show back in November. The show is the first of its kind across the County FA network and provides a fantastic opportunity for Kent clubs, leagues and volunteers to showcase all the great work that they do.

Delivery of our work against these targets has been driven by a highly motivated staff, and over the past season, we have been able to increase our headcount to ensure that we are servicing the needs of Kent football. We have a talented and motivated team at Kent FA who are dedicated to supporting the growth and development of the game, supporting the network of club and league volunteers and ensuring that the game is administered in line with FA regulations.

As we end this current strategy period work has already begun to develop our strategy for the next four years. Through this, we will continue to focus on tackling poor behaviour within the game, addressing the number and quality of football pitches and facilities, continuing to grow all formats of the game ensuring that there is access to casual football opportunities and we will use education to raise standards and awareness across the game.

Key to our new strategy will be our work around safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, our work around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and making the game more accessible and free from discrimination, developing our workforce and volunteers and maximising our commercial opportunities. These will act as the golden threads that run through all that we do.

Across the past season, we also began the consultation with our members for a new structure of the Kent FA Council. The proposed structure is one that we feel will better represent the Kent football community, and will assist us in achieving the FA Code of Governance for County FA's. This code will ensure that we have effective governance across the association and enable us to meet the Sport England Governance Code criteria, an important requirement moving forward.

To ensure that we have an effective governance structure our Board of Directors undertook an internal and external review, undertaken by Independent Audit Limited. This reviewed the makeup of the Board of Directors, understanding the skill sets, identifying any skill gaps and reviewing how the Board operates. As a result of this work the Board identified the need for additional Independent Non-executive Directors and a recruitment process was delivered off the back of this review. We recruited Jenny Cogger into the HR & People Development Independent Non-Executive Director position and David Rainford into the Independent Chair of the Equality Advisory group which also serves as an Independent Non-Executive Director. These are great appointments and will allow the Board to continue to drive the strategic direction of the Kent FA.

On the pitch, there have been some successful moments for Kent clubs. Congratulations must go to Bromley FC for winning the National League Play-Off final against Solihull Moors on penalties at Wembley Stadium. This win means that Bromley FC are now promoted to the English Football League and will participate alongside Gillingham FC in League 2. Congratulations also go to Maidstone United FC who reached the fifth round of the FA Cup losing to Coventry City., and to Deal Town FC for winning the Southern Counties East Football League Premier Division and being promoted to the Isthmian League. There were also strong campaigns from Maidstone United FC, Chatham Town FC, Ramsgate FC and Sittingbourne FC who all narrowly missed out on promotion from their respective leagues.

The past season has seen the Kent FA deliver against our key strategic objectives and priorities, meeting and exceeding the targets that have been set and I am proud of the team's achievements in supporting all areas of the game in Kent.

Darryl Haden, CEO

PARTICIPATION

ADULT FOOTBALL

A primary KPI we had for the season was to have 46,984 players in the male pathway, we currently have 60,776

In the adult male game, there are currently 26,254 players, 1,251 teams and 19 Kent FA-sanctioned leagues. There has been a huge growth in Veterans, Masters, and Walking Football, with the inaugural season taking place for the Kent Masters League with 8 teams. The Walking Football League saw a new committee support the league, growing from 25 to 34 teams. We have also hosted 50+ and 60+ tournaments for 10 and 12 teams respectively, that were both a huge success and supported by St John's volunteers.

There has also been a big push to support recreational football in the County. We have gone from having three to nine CALM Kickabouts. These are sessions that have been provided funding with the aim to support the mental health of the participants. To compliment this area, we have developed our partnership with CALM to provide a CPD event for CALM Kickabout leads and Club Mental Health Champions.

The Kent FA Community Cup has taken place this season with 10 organisations/ charities represented. This has been a competition aimed at giving organisations and players who may not be involved in regular football an opportunity to play in a competition with a flexible format.



60,776

REGISTERED MALE PLAYERS

Includes youth and adult male players





WOMEN & GIRLS FOOTBALL

Throughout the 2023/24 season, 7,720 females have been recorded as playing affiliated football, an increase of over 1,000 players from last season. .

The current figures indicate we have 1,791 Women (16+), 5,581 Girls and 952 girls playing mixed football putting us 45.4% above our strategy target. This season, we have seen growth from 381 to 480 female-only youth provisions across affiliated teams, Wildcats and Squad Girls, supplemented by 78 open-aged female teams. Excitingly, we have enjoyed remarkable growth in our female recreational community provisions, seeing a rise from 77 to 89 Wildcats centres- exceeding our target by 24 centres. We have also increased opportunities for girls to attend a Squad Girls centre from 24 providers to 34, so we now have coverage county-wide.

Due to the overwhelming success, demand and interest for the Girls Emerging Talent Centre (ETC), we introduced an additional age group, the U13s, which saw the recruitment from 90 to 120 players for the season. The players have engaged in two rounds of fitness testing along with strength and conditioning and engagement with psychology and nutrition workshops. This season, the fixtures programme saw the girls engage in various in-house and external games against teams such as Crystal Palace in multiple formats.

In the women's space, we have seen the addition of six Just Play centres—3 of which are walking football! The season also saw the introduction of Kent's first Women's Over 30s league, which has seen eight teams join. The league plays bi-weekly 7v7 fixtures on Sunday evenings. The league currently has 163 players registered, with the average age being 43.6 years!

Finally, the 2023/24 season saw the addition of the #OnePitchOneGame: Empower Her Game campaign. This has reached over 400 people to understand why women and girls play football, their experience in clubs and how we can support the grassroots community to be more inclusive and to support females in the game further.

One aspect of this is that we teamed up with Lil-Lets UK to provide free period packs to all of our U11 all-girls and mixed teams to ensure that all of our young players have access to period products so they can play free of fear and break the stigma of the topic! On top of this, we set some classroom activities for schools around the biggest-ever football day, as well as club and league visits to better understand the football experience from those playing the game.



7,720 REGISTERED
FEMALE
PLAYERS
45% OVER THE TARGET





YOUTH AND MINI SOCCER

Participation in the youth game has seen further growth, with 41,601 players playing the youth affiliated game across 2023/2024, an increase of over 3,000 players.

This season has seen 3,340 youth football teams affiliate to Kent FA, the majority of whom have played in one of the 11 affiliated leagues that offer youth football in the county. We again ran the England Futsal Youth Cup competition, with 150 male and female youth players at the U14 age group having an opportunity to take part in the competition.

As a County, we have played an active role in providing our stakeholders with a unique opportunity to understand, check and challenge the upcoming proposed changes as part of the FA's Future of Youth Football review.

We continue to work with all stakeholders to provide inclusive, safe and diverse youth football playing opportunities across Kent.

IN KENT FOOTBALL WE HAVE...

35,717

**YOUTH PLAYERS IN
MALE PATHWAY**

5,581

**YOUTH PLAYERS IN
FEMALE PATHWAY**

303

**DISABILITY
YOUTH PLAYERS**





DISABILITY FOOTBALL

Disability football has seen rapid growth this season, with 976 registered players—an increase of 235 from last season.

Our newly formed pan-disability program, Ability First, has been hugely successful. This season, it has provided a range of new opportunities for participants who are just starting out in disability football. We aim to continue this progression next season, with phase two of the Ability First program open for 2* & 3* accredited clubs.

Additionally, we successfully launched disability football sessions within Broomhill Bank SEN schools. Over 30 pupils attend these sessions weekly, and several participants go on to attend Ability First sessions. This transition between education and recreational football is promising, and we hope it will progress next season.

The Kent Disability League has had another hugely successful season. With over 50 small-sided teams regularly participating, it is one of the largest County disability leagues in the country. We look forward to continuing our close collaboration with the league in the upcoming season and supporting their progress.



976

REGISTERED PLAYERS

4.7% UNDER TARGET

FACILITIES AND FUNDING

This season, we are proud to announce that over £1m of Football Foundation funding has been invested in Kent football.

This, combined with partnership funding, has brought the total investment to an impressive £2.1m. This significant investment is a testament to our shared commitment to improving the quality and quantity of facilities that serve our beloved game.

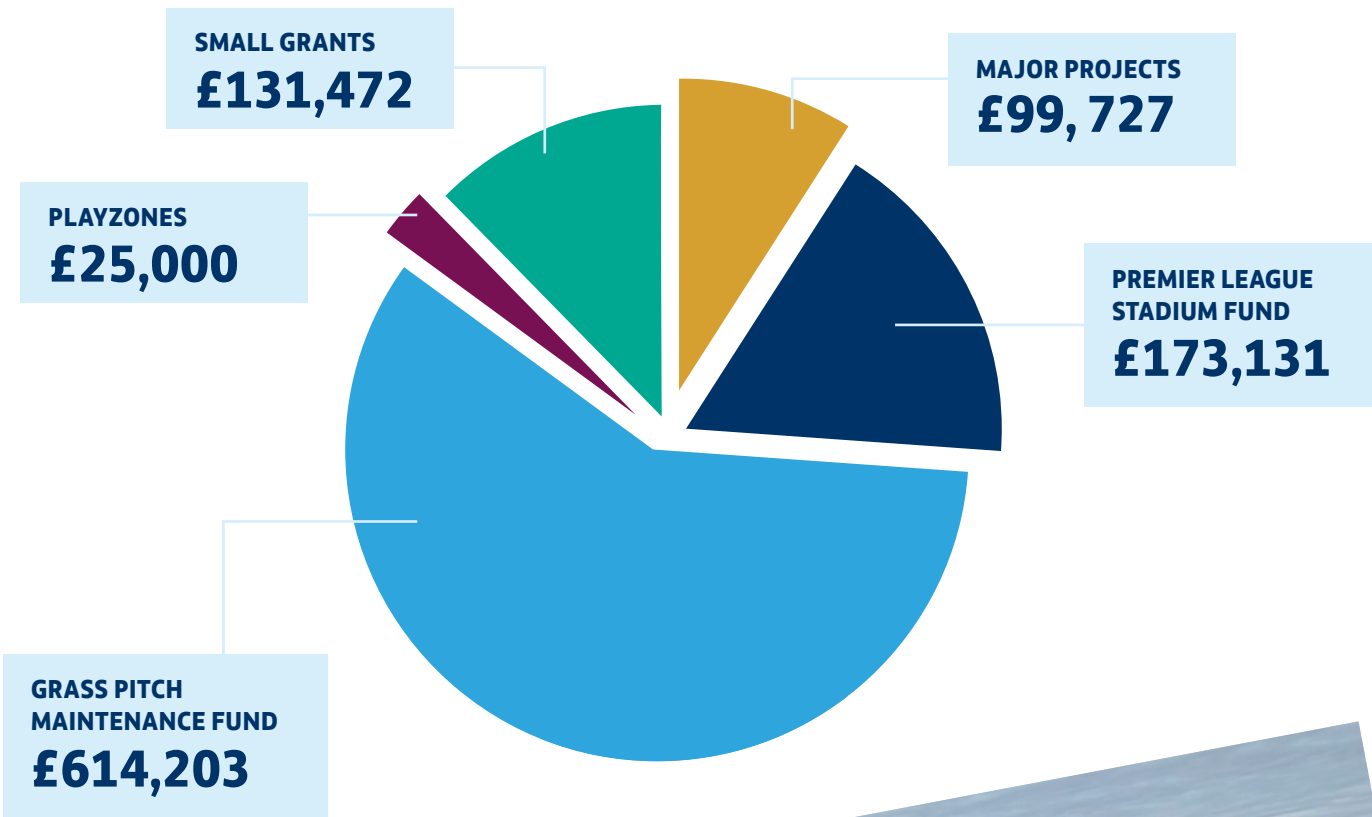
This year's headline grant was awarded to Kennington Juniors Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund project, in which the club was awarded £102,400 to improve their pitches at Ashford Hockey Club over the coming six years. With the club's applicant contribution, the total project value sits at over £153,000. This is already making a huge difference, with all ten pitches at the site being regraded from basic to advanced following their most recent PitchPower assessment. A further 21 grants have been awarded this funding, bringing the grants awarded to £614,000 and the total investment into grass pitches, including applicant contribution, to over £907,000. This will improve a total of 68 pitches across 22 sites. So far, 298 pitches have reached a good standard or above.

The small grants scheme has had 55 successful applications, the vast majority for new goalposts, but some storage containers and portable floodlights to assist with evening training, too. Total grants from this scheme were over £131,000, with a total of £212,803 going into these projects once applicant contributions are factored in.



The Premier League Stadium Fund enabled Faversham Town to complete their 3G pitch conversion. The grant of £100,000 went towards new LED floodlights, pitch perimeter fencing and hardstanding, with the total project cost reaching £757,545. The fund also supported the improvement of four other stadiums across the county, with a total of £173,131 being awarded.

This year’s major facility development project was refurbishing the small-sided 3G pitch and fencing at King Georges Playing Field in Faversham which services Faversham Strike Force’s youth teams. The work this year progresses a number of 3G projects across the county, which sets 2024-25 up to be a blockbuster year with potentially the biggest volume of investment ever.



KENT FA IN NUMBERS

2023/24

As we conclude our Play- Protect- Promote strategy for 2021 - 2024, a lesser-known strategy that shapes our financial management is the pillars of Measure- Manage- Maximise.

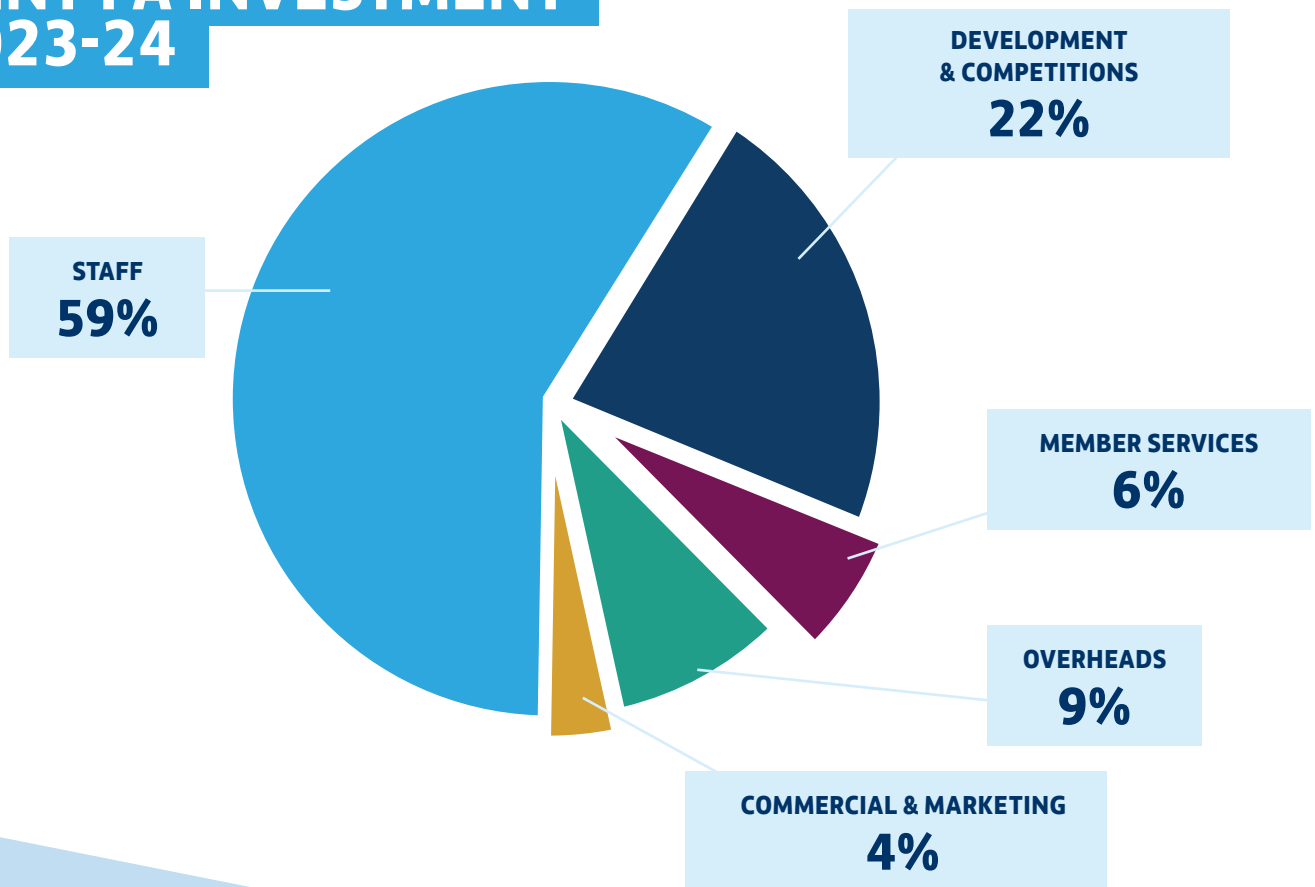
In short, this means ensuring that we have robust procedures to identify areas of spend and investment, have great reporting processes in place to support decision-making, and ultimately ensure we offer the best value for our participants and invest as much as possible into the game. And we have!

In 2023/24, we have achieved our aims and significantly contributed to the growth of football in Kent. However, our work doesn't stop here. We are committed to fostering a culture of continuous improvement in this area, which should reassure our stakeholders about the future growth and financial stability of football in Kent.

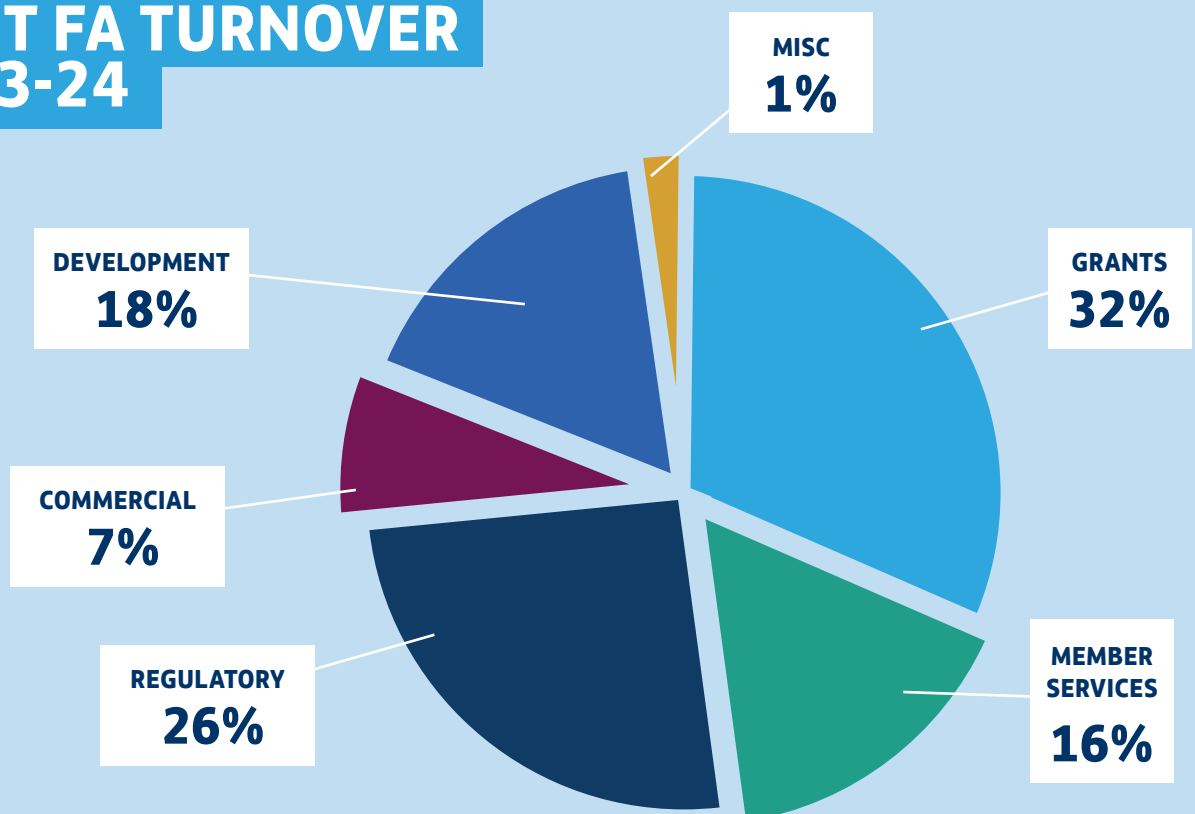
As a business, we operate around the £1.5m turnover mark, with a split of our income coming primarily from Grant Funding, Member services, regulatory income, and commercial activity. The areas in which we invest as a service-based business striving for customer service excellence are predominantly our dedicated staff team. This is supplemented by significant investment into development initiatives, and we also incur the overhead and business expenditure that every business does. As part of our Measure- Manage- Maximise financial strategy, however, we try to keep these as lean as possible to maximise the investment in our team and the wider game in Kent.



KENT FA INVESTMENT 2023-24



KENT FA TURNOVER 2023-24



ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITATION

We continue to strive to raise standards and increase playing opportunities within our clubs through England Football Accreditation.

There are now 239 Accredited Clubs with youth teams within the county, an increase of 26 clubs and all 213 clubs required to renew their England Football Accreditation successfully did so during this season's renewal window, maintaining the 100% eligible renewal rate achieved last season. 95.18% of all youth teams in the county play within an accredited club, which surpasses the 90% target set by the FA at the start of this strategy cycle and is a testament to the hard work of our clubs and leagues in ensuring their teams and volunteers have both the correct and most up to date qualifications in place.

In the adult game, we saw 100% of eligible clubs achieve their renewal for the season and 43 newly accredited adult teams in the 2023/2024 season. This saw the percentage climb from 58% to 66.48% of teams in Kent being England Football Accredited.



COACHES & VOLUNTEERS

This season, we have made significant strides to ensure relevant and appropriate learning and development opportunities for all coaches and volunteers across Kent's grassroots football community through face-to-face and online workshops, conference events and mentoring.

Coaches

The thread that has connected all these opportunities and grown our coaching community is our Kent FA Coaches Club, which provides high-quality CPD opportunities and creates a collaborative network of coaches across the county. This community has allowed us to ensure we are providing bespoke opportunities for members, such as The Kent FA Club Coach Mentor Programme, a programme which brings free support for England Accredited Clubs across a six-week block of mentoring support, The Kent FA Goalkeeper Coach Mentoring Programme, which enrolls 10x Introduction To Coaching Football and above coaches with insight, learning and development around supporting goalkeepers.

These innovations and provisions have allowed coaches in Kent to attend 65 events, resulting in 2,143 incidences of CPD, with the plan to strengthen these provisions further in the 2024/25 season.

Ensuring inclusive opportunities has been a big priority for us this season, demonstrated by our specific support for female coaches and coaches from historically underrepresented backgrounds.



Volunteers

We have also hosted Beyond The Pitch workshops, supported by Kent FA partners to upskill volunteers within their club and league roles such as:

Digital Marketing Workshop in November 2023
Led by our partner, Sleeping Giant Media, so volunteers have the skills and confidence to fulfil their roles to their fullest.

Sun-Guarding Working May 2024
Led by Melanoma Fund, to ensure youth clubs are sun-safety aware for summer tournaments, training sessions, matches, and soccer schools.

Club & League Accounting Workshop, June 2024
Supported by Shapes to upskill clubs and leagues on effective accounting practices to ensure transparency and efficiency.

Through our Kent Female Volunteer Forum, which has had over 100 different females come together with other likeminded female volunteers across four forum events and awareness sessions in association with Black History Month, International Day of Persons with Disability, Ramadan and International Women’s Day.



YOUTH COUNCIL

The Kent FA Youth Council has continued to thrive throughout the 2023/2024 season.

The group, comprising 12 members, four new for this season, has been expertly led by Chair Erin and Vice-Chair Lorenzo. They have played a pivotal role in ensuring the voice of young people has been heard across the organisation and beyond. The group have met four times across the season, using their meetings to discuss key issues and focus on individual and collective development, which has seen the group undertake an internal public speaking workshop.

Their reach and impact has extended far beyond their meetings, with individuals from the group playing an active role across the organisation, with members ensuring the views of young people are considered and heard by sitting on and attending various working groups and committees. These include the Board Working Group, Youth Male Pathway Working Group, Female Pathway Working Group, Disability Pathway Working Group, Referee Development Committee, Coaching Working Group and the Football Development Committee. Their work on these and the vital feedback they have contributed to the next Kent FA strategy mean they continue to positively impact and influence the decisions that directly affect young people playing football in Kent.

The group have also made a concerted effort to increase its visibility so young people in Kent football know they have a voice. This has included youth council members playing an active role in attending and supporting events such as the Kent Female Volunteer Forum and the Futsal Youth Cup local qualifying competition, as well as developing a series of videos to explain who they are and what they do, which were passionately crafted by Youth Council member Alex. We can't wait to see what the group do next season!



FOOTBALL SERVICES

DISCIPLINE & DISCRIMINATION

Season 23/24 resulted in more than 20,000 discipline cases being reported and processed across the county. The Kent FA continues to offer trusted, accessible, and efficient reporting processes for match officials and those who need to report disciplinary matters, ensuring all reported disciplinary matters are thoroughly investigated and charged where appropriate.

The FA and Kent FA are tackling discrimination and serious offences head-on with increased sanctions, robust education, and, more recently, the use of point deductions.

Although the existence of discipline is negative, it is important for the county FA to deliver and uphold robust rules and trusted regulation free from prejudice and conflicts of interest in a timely and transparent manner following thorough investigations.

The Kent FA's delivery of discipline is consistently reviewed and assessed by the FA discipline department at Wembley, and the Kent FA is recognized as a leader in this area. We understand that not every disciplinary outcome may align with the desires of a club or individual, but the Kent FA is committed to ensuring every instance is processed fairly and in accordance with FA regulations. It is crucial for clubs and participants to take responsibility for our game, protecting it from abuse and violence and ensuring a fun and safe environment for all.



AFFILIATION / PLAYER REGISTRATION

Following the successful launch of online player registration, which now sees approximately 70,000 play registrations completed efficiently online, season 23/24 saw the launch of the new affiliation process for clubs. This new affiliation system provided a more efficient process for the 700+ clubs to affiliate their 4,300 teams directly with the Kent FA, streamlining the process and saving our volunteers valuable time.

The adoption of technological solutions across Kent to manage and administer the game is thriving, with nearly 15,000 player registrations exceeding our target in season 23/24. This is a clear testament to the positive impact of digital solutions on grassroots football, and we are excited to continue this journey into the future.

It is evident that the transition to digital solutions has significantly improved grassroots football. As we step into season 24/25 and continue to develop the platform for football, including league sanction for our 32 leagues and discipline for over 20,000 cases, our aim is to reduce the workload of volunteers and create even more efficient solutions. The success of these transitions is a testament to the incredible volunteers in clubs and leagues who have embraced and utilized the systems provided by the FA, playing a crucial role in this digital transformation.



REFEREEING

The 2023/2024 season has seen refereeing cultivate within the County.

We have built on last season's success in numbers, with continual growth in registrations, ending the current period with 2,063 affiliated match officials across all levels. This has been supported by the delivery of our 'Get into Refereeing' workshops, which resulted in 526 new trainee referees coming in to support the grassroots game.

Equally pleasing was our positive move in scoring 92 on The FA's KPI platform; previously, we did not hit the scoreboard during the 21/22 season and then at 90 for the 22/23 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. Retaining 1,418 match officials from the 22/23 season has been a fantastic achievement for us.

Our Referee Academy has continued to thrive, offering a wide range of educational and personal development opportunities for our young, next-generation of match officials. We are also proud of our strong collaborative partnerships, particularly our close association with the North Riding FA in our 'Exchange Programme'. This season, we introduced 'For All' sessions, providing further development opportunities in the form of face-to-face, online and remote training workshops, as well as bi-monthly Laws of the Game quizzes. A key highlight was the Christmas event, which saw an impressive turnout of almost 300 attendees, with keynote speaker Bobby Madley.



Our female support group was re-launched, with several opportunities presented to our female refereeing workforce throughout the season and recruitment of our ED&I Referee Champions; work in this area is progressive, and we hope for greater impact in season 2024/2025.

The end-of-season also saw us promote 95 match officials across all levels of grassroots (Level 7-6, 6-5, 5-4 and Y1-Y2, respectively) throughout the entire season. This number was complimented by further Level 4 promotions being confirmed at the end of May 2024.

Our first Referee Development Assistant was recruited ahead of the 2023/2024 season; Jack Fagg came in to further enhance our offering in recruiting and retaining match officials, but sadly left the organisation towards the end of the season. His sterling work in his field helped support the achievement of our recruitment and conversion KPIs.



**RECRUITED &
RETAINED**
1,764
(LEVEL 1 TO Y)
MATCH OFFICIALS



SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE



The Kent FA Safeguarding team has continued advising and supporting all clubs and leagues across the County to help them fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.

This includes supporting 324 club Welfare Officers across the youth game, 556 club Welfare Officers across the adult game, 23 club Welfare Officers across disability football and 20 League-specific Welfare Officers. Closely working with The FA and our statutory agency partners ensures that serious safeguarding matters are addressed and dealt with promptly. Collaboration continues between the discipline, safeguarding and refereeing teams in Kent FA, ensuring that poor practice and lower-level concerns are handled efficiently by the most appropriate team. CPD is a growing area of focus for the team, and this season, bespoke training for clubs and leagues has been introduced alongside our wider safeguarding CPD for the whole grassroots network.

The 23/24 season sees the second season of the Welfare Hero Award. This award recognises and celebrates the achievements of our youth and adult Clubs and Leagues' Welfare officers who are promoting effective safeguarding practice and highlights those who have gone above and beyond to develop a child-centred approach and provide an outstanding commitment and effort to protect young people/adults at risk across the County.

**Kent FA stakeholders
who have completed a FA
Safeguarding Course**

**YOUTH
TEAM
OFFICIALS**
5171

**YOUTH
CLUB WELFARE
OFFICERS**
307

**OPEN AGE
OFFICIALS**
394

**YOUTH
CLUB WELFARE
OFFICERS**
307

**OPEN AGE
WELFARE
OFFICERS**
98

**LEAGUE
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**
59

INCLUSION & EQUALITY

We were very proud to support several national EDI calendar events across the season.

For instance, we supported the Rainbow Laces Campaign with a 1-minute video, featuring various clubs across Kent showing their support. The campaign is a way for everyone involved in sport to show their support for LGBT+ equality and inclusivity. Kent FA is proud to support this initiative and this campaign spans all aspects of the game, including the Male Pathway, Female Pathway, and Disability Pathway.

We also hosted a CPD session during Football v Homophobia month, working alongside Charlton Invicta—the first LGBTQI+ friendly team affiliated with a professional club's community trust.

This season also marked Kent FA's inaugural Celebrating Diversity in Football Conference, held in association with Black History Month. We were honoured to be joined by George Elokobi and Craig Fagan, (Manager and Assistant Manager at Maidstone United Football Club.) We were also joined by Anwar Uddin (Diversity & Inclusion Manager at the FA) and Troy Townsend (Head of Player Engagement at Kick It Out). These guests were truly superb, each sharing inspirational stories of how hard work and dedication shaped who they are today.

This season, we met quarterly with our Equality Advisory group. The group has made significant progress, with all members genuinely passionate about driving equality and inclusion forward within Kent's football community and we hope that continues and progresses further next season with the introduction of the Diversity Inclusion action plan.



KENT COUNTY CUPS

2023-24

The Kent County Cups went from strength to strength as we enjoyed another very successful season, which saw over 1,150 teams experience playing county cup football.

Thanks to the continued support of our partners, The Merit Group and DFDS, the county cups saw a significant increase in team participation. The Merit Group, our youth cups partner, saw 486 teams enter across the 12 youth cups, a notable increase of 30 teams from the previous season. DFDS, the sponsor of the adult cups, witnessed 606 men's teams and 61 women's teams enter the respective cups, a testament to the growing popularity of the event.

The county cups began on Saturday, 2 September 2023, when Sittingbourne defeated Ashford United 2-1 in the DFDS Kent Senior Cup, and they concluded 260 days later when Aylesford lifted the DFDS Kent Junior 'A' Cup.

The season culminated in our thrilling cup finals, which were a testament to the passion and skill of the participating teams. With 1,120 cup fixtures across the season and over 6,500 people in attendance at our finals, our cup finals were a grand celebration of the football in Kent, marking our third-highest figure in the past ten seasons. We continued to film the cup draws from the last 16 stages onwards, which were then released on our website and social media channels. This feature has proved to be a popular addition to the county cup programme and will continue to be a part of next season, too.

OUR 2023/24 COUNTY CUP WINNERS ARE:

MERIT YOUTH CUPS

- U13 Boys Plate** – AFC Worthing Atoms
- U14 Boys Plate** – Ebbsfleet United Youth
- U15 Boys Plate** – Ebbsfleet United Youth
- U13 Boys Cup** – Metrogas
- U14 Boys Cup** – Maidstone United Youth
- U15 Boys Cup** – Ashford United
- U16 Boys Cup** – Maidstone United Youth
- U18 Boys Cup** – Rusthall
- U13 Girls Cup** – Langton Green
- U14 Girls Cup** – Cray Wanderers Youth
- U15 Girls Cup** – Kings Hill
- U16 Girls Cup** – Herne Bay Youth Rangers

DFDS ADULT CUPS

- Senior Cup** – Maidstone United
- Senior Trophy** – Erith Town
- Intermediate Challenge Shield** – Minster
- Intermediate Cup** – Deal Town Reserves
- Junior 'A' Cup** – Aylesford
- Junior 'B' Cup** – Tunbridge Wells Foresters
- Junior 'C' Cup** – Streatham
- Sunday Premier Cup** – Market Hotel
- Sunday Junior Cup** – Barnehurst
- Sunday Junior Trophy** – Brewmaster High Halden
- Veterans Cup** – The Charcoal Veterans
- Women's Cup** – Dartford Women
- Women's Plate** – Tunbridge Wells Foresters



**Intermediate Cup
Winners**
Deal Town Reserves



**DFDS Kent Challenge
Intermediate Shield**
Minster FC



DFDS Kent Junior B Cup,
TW Foresters FC



DFDS Kent Junior Cup
Barnehurst FC



**DFDS Kent Junior
Trophy**
Brewmasters High Haden FC



DFDS Kent Senior Cup
Maidstone United



DFDS Kent Senior Trophy
Erith Town FC



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



DFDS Kent Vets Cup
The Charcaol Vets FC



DFDS Kent Women's Cup
Dartford FC



DFDS Kent Women's Plate
Tunbridge Wells Foresters FC



The Merit U13 Boys Cup
Metrogas FC



The Merit U13 Girls Cup
Langton Green FC



The Merit U14 Boys Plate
Ebbfleet United FC



The Merit U14 Girls Cup
Cray Wanderers FC



The Merit U15 Boys Cup
Ashford United FC



The Merit U15 Girls
Kings Hill FC



The Merit U16 Girls Cup
Herne Bay Youth Rangers FC



The Merit U18 Boys Cup
Rusthall FC



KENT REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

The Women's Representative team played their first matches since before COVID-19 as they returned to action in the Southern Counties Competition.

Players from over ten different clubs featured for the county throughout the season. The matches were played against the Middlesex FA, Army FA, Essex FA, and Jersey FA.

The season started with a much-changed side who had previously represented the county, and it took some time for the players to gel; defeats against Middlesex FA and Army FA were followed up by a victory against Jersey FA and a draw against Essex FA.

We secured an exciting partnership with High5 Sports Nutrition, which will continue next season. Work continues between the counties to try and arrange a competition for the boys, either at U16 or U18 level, but this is proving more complex than first imagined bringing to fruition. Kent FA remains committed to providing representative football for youth and adult age groups and will be a key part of season 2024/25.



THE KENT GRASSROOTS WORKFORCE AWARDS

On Thursday, the 6th of July, we hosted the Kent FA Grassroots Workforce Awards 2023 at the Ashford International Hotel for a celebratory and inspiring evening.

We celebrate those who make a positive difference to our football community every year. Presented by friend of Kent FA, Charlotte Richardson, these awards are 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. This year, Bellway Kent, a local housing developer, sponsored the awards.

Mark Harrop, Sales Director at Bellway Kent, comments:

“Bellway has a proud track record for delivering the highest quality of new housing across the Kent County. We are very committed to our local community within Kent, not only to support the need for new homes but to enhance local areas and communities in the right way. We appreciate how important grassroots football is to so many across the county.”

During the award ceremony, we announced our local winners for The FA Grassroots Football Awards, three local awards and lifetime services awards.

THE FA GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL AWARDS

- **Coach of the Year (Female Player Pathway) –**
Josh Harrowell, Headcorn FC
- **Coach of the Year (Male Player Pathway) –**
Paul Francis, Anchorians FC
- **Highly Commended –**
Mark Faulkner, Yalding & Laddingford FC
- **Coach of the Year (Disability Player Pathway) –**
Scott Mann, Kings Hill
- **Club of the Year –**
Kings Hill FC
- **Grounds Team of the Year –**
Kevin Stevens, Bearsted FC
- **League of the Year –**
Kent Girls & Ladies Football League
Highly Commended –
East Kent Youth Football League
- **Match Official of the Year –**
Phil Matthews
Highly Commended – Chris Bright
- **Young Volunteer of the Year –**
Archie Suter
Highly Commended – Luci Levett and Ruan Liscoe
- **New Volunteer of the Year –**
Lesley Stevens, Bearsted FC
- **Positive Football Environment Award –**
Ryan Abrahall

KENT LOCAL AWARDS

- **The Colin Boswell Young Referee of the Year Award –**
Jack Smith
- **Digital Club of the Year, sponsored by**
Sleeping Giant Media –
Rising Stars FC
- **Welfare Hero Award –**
Beverley Latham

KENT DEDICATED AWARDS

- **Kent County Football League**
- **Barrie Ivens, Castle Colts FC**



PARTNERS

Kent FA partners stand as a dedicated and passionate network of businesses that, together, help shape and deliver tangible impact into our football community. With a diverse array of brands, organisations, charities and not-for-profit organisations, our network enriches all aspects of the Kent game. From innovative technology to educational services, each partner contributes unique expertise and resources to propel the Kent game. Together, we amplify football's reach across the County, upskill the dedicated volunteer network and foster a sense of community.

Season Highlights

KENT FOOTBALL SHOW

Kent Reliance came back to the Kent FA family in November 2023 as our Kent Football Show sponsor for the next two seasons. Following the pilot at the end of the 2022/23 season, the show's success in 2023/24 continues to grow, with the YouTube show regularly reaching 4,200 views per show. The show also won national recognition at The FA Recognition Award in November 2023, winning the Brand Engagement award.

KENT FEMALE VOLUNTEER FORUM

BAE Systems continue to support the Kent game by supporting the Kent Female Volunteer Forum to empower and uplift female volunteers across the County. This strategic joint work aims to foster a supportive community where women and girls can thrive and make a positive impact in the Kent football community.

KENT GREEN UNITED

We are profoundly aware of our duty to support the playing environments of our Kent clubs and their communities. We understand football clubs' immense societal influence, so we have leveraged that power to protect our planet by creating Kent Green United, to uniting football clubs across the County. By joining Kent Green United, clubs have demonstrated their commitment to environmental responsibility by carrying out simple, fun, and regular activities within their communities to make a positive difference in their local environment. Supported by Veolia, Kent Resource Partnership and DFDS, much more is to come for the 2024//24 season.

#ONEPITCHONEGAME: EMPOWER HER GAME WITH LIL-LETS UK

In a bid to break down barriers and foster inclusivity in Kent football, #OnePitchOneGame – Empower Her Game, was launched to educate, unite, and promote female involvement in football across our County, both on and off the pitch. This was kick-started by working with Lil-Lets UK to support young female footballers in U11 girls and mixed teams across Kent by providing free sanitary packs for their coaches' kit bags.

MEET OUR PARTNERS



**DFDS - KENT COUNTY CUP PARTNER (ADULT)
AND KENT GREEN UNITED PARTNER**



**THE MERIT GROUP -
KENT COUNTY CUP PARTNER (YOUTH)**

BAE SYSTEMS

**BAE SYSTEMS - KENT FEMALE
VOLUNTEER FORUM SPONSOR**

UKGLOBAL

// A howden company

**UK GLOBAL -
INSURANCE PARTNER**



**AFORD AWARDS -
TROPHY PARTNER**



**VEO -
VIDEO TECHNOLOGY PARTNER**



**KOOLPAK -
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PARTNER**



**SPORTS LABS -
3G PITCH TESTING PARTNER**

KentReliance

**KENT RELIANCE -
KENT FOOTBALL SHOW SPONSOR**



**DARENTH PRINT & DESIGN -
PRINT PARTNER**



**PLAYERDATA -
SPORTS DATA PARTNER**



**SLEEPING GIANT MEDIA -
DIGITAL MEDIA PARTNER**



**TECHNICAL SURFACES -
3G MAINTENANCE PARTNER**



**A & H INTERNATIONAL -
REFEREE EQUIPMENT PARTNER**



**HIGH5 -
KENT WOMEN'S REP TEAM SPONSOR**



**A & H INTERNATIONAL -
REFEREE EQUIPMENT PARTNER**



**VEOLIA -
KENT GREEN UNITED PARTNER**



**KENT RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP -
KENT GREEN UNITED PARTNER**



**SHAPES -
ACCOUNTING PARTNER**

**A huge thank you to our partners for a fantastic season.
We look forward to another outstanding season with you.**





**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**

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