



**MIDDLESEX FA SEASON
REVIEW 2017-18**



ABOUT MIDDLESEX FA

Middlesex FA is the not-for-profit governing body of football in Middlesex.

Established in 1883, we are responsible for clubs, players, coaches, leagues, volunteers and referees in one of the most densely populated areas of the country, which also boasts the most diverse football community in England.

Our vision? To ensure each and every person in Middlesex has the opportunity to be involved in football. To reach this vision we have four

simple values that staff, Council and Committee members here at the Association lives and breathes – to be committed, to be creative, to be collaborative and to be connected. With these values, we'll continue to move football forwards, creating an environment where regardless of age, ability, faith, gender, sexuality or background, people in Middlesex are able to enjoy the beautiful game.

OUR FOOTBALL FAMILY

13
Leagues

410
Clubs

2,045
Teams

662*
Coaches

598
Referees

Over
7,000
Volunteers

34,900
Players

**Licensed coaches club members*

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CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION



As the 2017-18 season ends, it is time to reflect on what has been a momentous 12 months for the Middlesex Football Association.

Of course, a lot of attention has been focused on developing our new headquarters at Rectory Park in Northolt, but we have also made great strides in modernising and restructuring the Association to ensure we are able to successfully perform our role as a modern County FA.

Events nationally have brought Safeguarding to the forefront of our thoughts. The Football Association's reaction to emerging cases of non-recent abuse has required us to review our own processes and procedures in this critical area. We have undergone a rigorous external assessment to ensure that we conform to The FA's Safeguarding Operating Standards. Mike Heavey has taken the lead for Safeguarding with the Board and has worked tirelessly with the Chief Executive and Staff to ensure that participants can be safe when playing football in our County.

Leigh O'Connor has completed his first full season as our Chief Executive. He has highlighted many of the initiatives he has been involved in later in this report. However, I will mention one of Leigh's key tasks this season, which was to restructure our staff to properly reflect our aims and objectives and to deliver our work programmes. Leigh's team is now complete with a new Senior Management Team ready to face the challenges of the future. I am sure that we will start to feel the full benefit of the work done by our staff in the next 12 months.

The staff restructure has inevitably meant that there have been changes in our line-up with valued colleagues leaving the Association. We thank these for their efforts on our behalf.

There has also been a change to our constitution with Middlesex FA Ltd being granted the status of a registered charity, a move that will provide great benefits to the Association.

We have re-branded with a new Middlesex FA badge and corporate identity and greatly improved our social media platforms.

The construction phase at Rectory Park project is now complete and subject to the completion

of various legal agreements we shall be moving into our new home shortly. Rectory Park includes two full-size artificial football pitches and associated facilities, social and educational space, meeting rooms and, of course, our new headquarters.

We shall be responsible for operating the facilities, which is a new departure for the Association but one we are relishing immensely. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the incredible work of my colleagues Stuart Allen and Colin Stupack and the other members of the Project Board in bringing the project to this stage.

Rectory Park will help us to achieve one of my main aims as Chairman and that is bringing Middlesex Football Association into the heart of the community that we serve. We must be focused on being reflective of that community and supporting those who play football, in its many forms, throughout the length and breadth of the County of Middlesex.

As part of our commitment to our community we will be refreshing our focus groups to ensure that we are reflective of the needs of our stakeholders. Key amongst these is our Inclusion Advisory Group which will be relaunching this summer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues from the Board and Council of Middlesex FA for undertaking their demanding work and giving support during the season and to the members of Committees and Sub Committees for their efforts.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers responsible for running Leagues, Clubs and Teams in the various formats, for their challenging work in providing the means for players to enjoy our wonderful sport.

The football landscape is changing rapidly in our country. Everyone at Middlesex FA is looking forward to working with all our stakeholders to meet the challenges that will present themselves in the future.

John Taylor
Chairman, Middlesex FA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S FOREWORD



My first full year as Chief Executive has been one of change for the Association.

This season, we have achieved a number of key milestones (listed below). We are also on the verge of moving to new Headquarters at Rectory Park, which will enable us to develop and grow the game in Middlesex further.

- Rebranded
- Developed a set of core values for the Association
- Reviewed staffing levels and service
- Became a registered charity
- Grown the female game
- Distributed £13,000 worth of coaching bursaries
- Supported Walking Football across the County
- Referee promotions
- Developed the adult game to halt participation decline
- Delivered a player-centered Cup Final experience
- Supported a number of facility projects

A number of the successes above are highlighted within this review but I wanted to further expand on some specific areas.

We launched our new badge in September 2017, which was designed to develop a strong brand identity for Middlesex FA and to showcase our vision and values. We also wanted to ensure that our brand evolves with modern technology and is relevant to our participants.

These values are integrated into all of our programmes and initiatives and there are some case studies in this review which highlight our impact in the community.

We launched our new badge at the same time as we launched our new website and we hope you have found a more user-friendly experience when visiting the site. We've also increased our social media activity and launched a number of new platforms to ensure we are actively engaging with our football community each and every day.

With the impending move to Rectory Park and following the recruitment of a new Senior Management Team, we had the opportunity to review

and restructure the existing workforce to ensure that Middlesex FA is fit for purpose as we move to the next stage of the Association's history. The aim of the review was to ensure we had the structure, skills and experiences amongst our staff to deliver our business plan and The FA National Game Strategy whilst also putting us in a position to be able to generate our own income and be less reliant on grant funding.

Safeguarding young people in football continues to be our number one priority and we have been supporting The FA's "Making Football Safe and Enjoyable" safeguarding strategy by:

- Implementing preventative safeguarding measures and creating a fun and safe football environment
- Make the reporting of concerns as easy as possible
- Ensuring safeguarding concerns are investigated swiftly and thoroughly

We have also been supporting clubs and leagues to:

- Ensure children are listened to and have the opportunity to say how they are feeling.
- Keep the Whole Game System up to date, with all managers and coaches listed against the teams they are working with whilst ensuring the appropriate qualifications and checks are in place.
- Promote League and Club welfare officers

We have carried out a number of unannounced Safeguarding visits this year to check club compliance, but more importantly to support clubs in managing safeguarding. These visits have been well received and we plan to do more next season.

I want to finish by thanking you all for the support and energy you give to football in Middlesex. I hope you enjoy reading about our work over the past year and share my enthusiasm for all the exciting opportunities that awaits Middlesex football in the 2018-19 season.

Leigh O'Connor
Chief Executive, Middlesex FA

PARTICIPATION

Coach Education

Coaching can be one of the most rewarding roles in football.

Here at Middlesex FA, our Middlesex *Learning* team are committed to ensuring that support is available not only for our community of existing coaches but also for every aspiring coach in the County. From the moment you make your first enquiry to the moment you give up that trusty tactics board, we're here to make sure you become the best coach that you can be.

This season, our coach education programme has gone from strength to strength, supporting a number of coaches through their qualifications and helping ensure football in Middlesex continues to be passed from generation to generation by some of the best teacher's available!

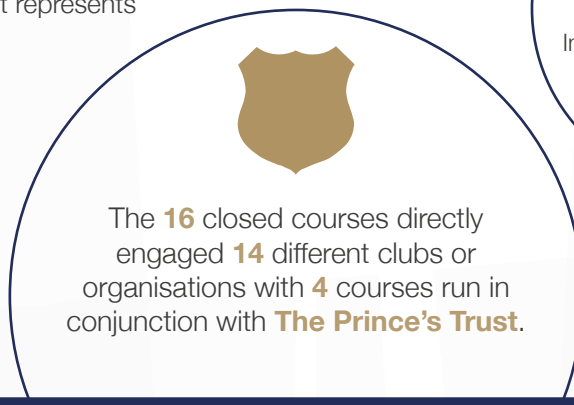
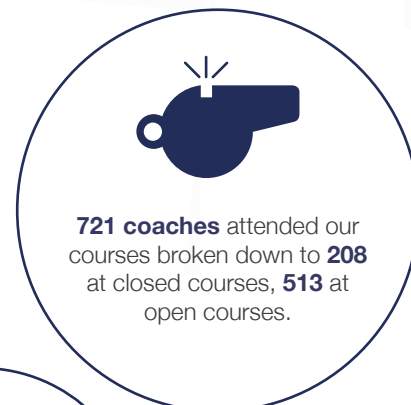
Futsal

The Middlesex FA continues to run the Middlesex Schools Girls Futsal competitions, these run in Middlesex boroughs with the winner per borough coming to the County Finals. We have had great numbers across the boroughs running U10, U12, U14 and U16 age groups.

The winners from this year's event are as follows:

- U10s – Weston Park (Haringey)
- U12s – Alexandra Park (Haringey)
- U14s – Haydon (Hillingdon)
- U16s – Gumley House (Hounslow)

The 2018 Middlesex Futsal Cup runs at the end of April with U10-U16 age groups with both male and female, the winner of each event represents Middlesex at regionals in May.



Disability Football

Turn Up & Play Centre sessions

- 152 session hours
- 15% female participation
- 5 new Turn Up & Play Centre sessions started this season
- 41 years old is the average age
- Before starting the session 34% of participants 'never played football before' or 'no longer plays football'
- 73% of participants recognise themselves as having a physical or mental health condition, illnesses or impairments
- 60% of participants are from BAME communities
- Partnerships with Hendon FC, Mandeville School and North Greenford United FC, Wingate & Finchley FC, Swaggalicious, Kinja FC and Wembley National Stadium Trust

Middlesex PAN Disability League

- Over 6,000 minutes of football played in the PAN disability league
- 4 divisions, 21 teams, 765 goals scored
- 211 registered players taking part in the league

North West London Mental Health League

- 7 affiliated teams
- 72 league matches played
- Over 1,000 minutes of football played
- 138 goals scored
- 191 points won

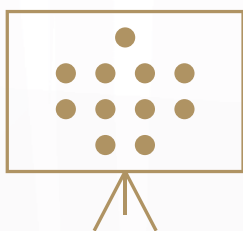
Development Apprentice

In February 2018, we welcomed Byron Down, an England Deaf senior team player in both Futsal and 11-a-side. Byron joined us on a Football Development Apprenticeship programme funded by The FA and Middlesex FA with training support from StreetGames and helps support our Disability Football programmes and initiatives.



“I am a typical 19-year-old, mad about football. The only difference is that I was born profoundly deaf which means I can't hear like everyone around me. Now, I not only represent England in playing the game, but have the opportunity to help develop other players like me through my work with Middlesex FA.”

Byron Down, 19



Middlesex Learning have run a total of **49 Level 1 courses** between 1 July '17 and 30 April '18.



We have provided **£12,980** worth of bursaries against the Level 2 and 3 courses for **133 coaches**.



WOMEN'S AND GIRLS'

Women's and Girls' Football continues to be the Number 1 female team sport in England, with just shy of 3 million people currently playing some form of the game. Over the course of the last season, Women's and Girls' football in Middlesex has continued to grow and there are now more opportunities than ever for girls to get involved with the game. Here are some of our highlights...

Wildcats

Launched by The FA and SSE in 2017, SSE Wildcats was designed to inspire girls aged between 5 and 11 to be involved in the sport. SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Centres provide girls with regular opportunities to play football and take part in organised sessions in a fun and engaging environment created exclusively for girls. In spring 2018, we announced details of a host of new SSE Wildcats Centres set to open across the County and boost girls football even further. Since February 2018, we have:

- Launched 19 new SSE Wildcats Centres
- Provided each centre with £900 and training equipment
- Opened centres across nine county boroughs
- Engaged with 570 new girls*

** projected numbers based on 30 players at each session*

Capital Girls' League

The Capital Girls' League was initially launched in 2011 as a joint venture between the Middlesex, Amateur and London FAs with the aim of increasing the number of young females playing football across the capital. The league has grown dramatically since its launch and this season we've recorded some fantastic numbers.

- 75 teams
- 61% of clubs are based in Middlesex
- Serving girls aged U9 to U16
- The majority of Committee members are volunteers including the League Chair
- 1,039 registered players (and counting)
- The league reaches girls from Ickenham to Limehouse

Capital Girls' League Futsal

- 84% of CGL teams entered
- Over 400 girls attended
- 3 penalty shootouts decided knockout matches

Did you know?

As well as activities for girls, Wildcats Centres provide opportunities for attending parents, carers, and siblings to engage with the sport through "Family Sessions" including Soccercise and Walking Football.

RECREATIONAL FOOTBALL

Recreational football covers Walking Football, Just Play sessions and Small-Sided football. It's the most flexible format of the game and offers participants the chance to play the type of football they want, when they want to play it. This year, Middlesex FA have run:

- 19 active Just Play and Walking Football sessions
- 12 Walking Football sessions
- 7 just play sessions
- 1 with Stroke Association
- 1 female-only
- 3 linked with local clubs
- 1200 participants have taken part in a recreation session

Did you know?

In July 2017, 12 Walking Football teams from the surrounding area came together at Powerleague Barnet for our Walking Football Festival in aid of The FA's official charity partner, The Bobby Moore Fund for Cancer Research UK. In all, 80 participants took part and were joined by former England and Watford Striker, Luther Blissett. In total, £605 was raised from the event and donated directly to the fund.

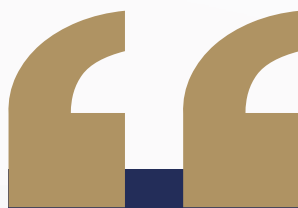
CASE STUDY

Walking Football gets an extra boost from Middlesex FA

Middlesex FA has invested £3,000 into a number of Walking Football and Just Play Football sessions across the County, helping keep 200 footballers active through the grant. As part of our FA Sport England investment, we are providing 10 venues with funding to use towards ensuring their Walking Football or Just Play session can continue for the long term.

The sessions have been awarded grants of £300 which will help them cover coaching fees, venue costs, coach education and new equipment.

Since we launched Walking Football in 2014, we have had over 300 players take part in the sport and now run over 20 sessions on a weekly basis. A popular and growing format of the game.



“This is an exciting time for girls’ football in Middlesex. We now have 19 new SSE Wildcats Centres in the County that will provide new opportunities for girls to play football. The Centre’s themselves are a great way for girls to get involved in the game away from school without a club commitment.”

**Middlesex FA Football Development Officer,
Craig Nicholson.**





“

“This was a new opportunity for me to work with people that might face challenges in their everyday lives, but on a football pitch it’s really the beauty of the game that brings people together. Positivity, enjoyment, communication, teamwork and the social side as well - it’s massive (for them).”

Session coach, Nico Poole Williams-Fraser

WE ARE COLLABORATIVE

Launched in the summer of 2017 by Hendon FC, this mental health and football project, funded by the Wembley National Stadium Trust, uses football as a way to improve people's mental health and wellbeing - something the project has done to great success so far.

Delivered by mental health services in Brent and by Hendon FC, both organisations are now working alongside Middlesex FA to ensure the sessions can be sustained for years to come.

Initially launching with just four participants, the session now boasts an impressive 27 players and members now take part in the North West London Mental Health League run by Middlesex FA.

Participants have reported increased motivation, stamina and energy. There's been a reduction in mental health symptoms, they have been sleeping more and have become more compliant with medication.

Having a football group to attend every week allows for creation of structure to the week for service users and provides a sense of purpose and ownership. The project has so far delivered on all objectives it set out to achieve and most importantly, participants and families say, they feel a sense of belonging, the opportunity to socialise, share common interest with regards to how mental health has impacted on their lives, increased self-esteem and a reduced stigma linked to mental health.

Middlesex FA continues to support the project and is looking at opportunities for expansion over the coming months.



“Since coming here, some of the boys have started working, going back to university and three or four have done their Level 1 Coaching qualifications. It's about engaging service-users in ways in which they want to be engaged and giving something back in terms of what football can bring to them.

With work and support a lot of things can happen and a lot of things can change in our community for people with mental health problems.”

**Richard Hay, Support Worker
for Brent Mental Health Services**

WE ARE COMMITTED

We are committed to offering football opportunities for all regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexuality, faith, ability or disability.

Hillingdon Stroke Association

Initially set up in March 2017, this year has seen our Hillingdon Stroke Association Walking Football sessions go from strength-to-strength. Not only have the sessions grown in numbers, but it's also attracted national recognition from The FA with members of the session enjoying some fantastic benefits.

One member, John, a retired taxi driver, shared with us his story of how walking football had given him a new lease of life.

John suffered a stroke just months after he retired and having previously being very active, was majorly affected by the limitations his stroke had put upon him.

A keen golfer, cyclist, badminton and table tennis player, John had to give up his driving licence and lost all his independence.

He heard about the walking football session through the Hillingdon Stroke Association and has been involved ever since. Walking Football is now one of the highlights of his week and has become a great physical workout. In March 2018, the session was taken over by coaches from local National League South team, Wealdstone FC.



“It’s a good workout, I learned to walk and balance on my own again, but I haven’t got the movement I used to have – I can’t ride a bicycle or even get on a bicycle – things like that. But something like this, I can partake and really enjoy it – you have a lot of fun and a laugh and no one takes it too seriously.

You compare yourself to the guy next door – I feel quite fortunate in a way compared to some of the other guys, even though I can’t do the things I used to do.

It’s all a bit of fun and nothing too demanding. I’ve really enjoyed getting back and getting active with walking football.”

John Lovegrove, Retired Taxi Driver



INVESTMENT/ FACILITIES



RECTORY PARK

Rectory Park is truly unique. The hub has been designed to benefit the community (it is not a football club) with pitches, community space and changing facilities created to give the sense that you are in a true footballing environment.

All available for community hire

Middlesex FA Office space

110 car parking spaces

Club training and fixtures facility

125 year lease

1 first aid room

£5M
INVESTMENT

Core delivery of coach education

44 solar panels

Funded by – Football Foundation (FA, Premier League and DCMS), London Marathon Trust and Ealing Council. Middlesex FA contribution funded through sale of current headquarters (Roxborough Road).

10 electrical car charging points



100,000 visitors per year*



6 changing rooms

165 square metres of community space (equivalent to two large classrooms)

Open from 9am-11pm, 7 days a week

Spectator viewing area with 150 seats

998 square metres of building

Café/Licensed Bar

2 referee rooms

2 full-sized 3G pitches – converting to 18 small sided pitches to cover all formats of the game from 5v5 to 11v11

*expected

Funding

Working in partnership with the Football Foundation, Sport England, Local Authorities and partner organisations, we help clubs secure the funds they need to invest in their future. From buying kit and equipment to starting new teams, here's how we've invested some of the money available to us this season.

Total funding given to clubs: **£13,870**

Made up of:

- Wembley National Stadium Trust – **£1,100**
- Community Shield Grant – **£5,000**
- FA SE Club Grants – **£4,770**
- Just Play Grant – **£3,000**

Facility Investment

- Total investment secured 2017/18 - £6,448,000
- Supported development of 5 full size artificial pitches and changing facilities
- £4,322,000 provided by Football Foundation grants

Case study

Middlesex FA club, Stanmore Jaffery's became one of two clubs across the County to be awarded a £2,500 FA Community Shield Grant by The FA back in February.

A Sh'ia Muslim community group that formed their football arm just two years ago, the Stanmore Jaffery's has grown significantly over the past 12 months and now boasts an impressive set-up featuring 300 boys' and girls' across 11 age groups.

As part of the grant agreement, the club committed to using the funding to continue to engage with their community and attract new participants, provide players with competitive playing opportunities and continue to upskill their volunteer workforce. 30 volunteers completed FA Level 1.

Did you know?

5,000 tons of carbon will be saved through the use of solar energy at Rectory Park. That's enough to power two three-bedroom houses for a year.

“

We really value the funding; it's great to see the coaches go through the course and come back and apply their knowledge to the group.”

Stanmore Jaffery's Chairman, Mohammed Valji



FOOTBALL SERVICES

Referees

The past season has seen numbers registered similar to previous seasons and in the areas of assisting leagues and minority areas our Committee are seeking to move forward positively.

Areas that do warrant recording are the personal achievements of our Referees. Congratulations to those promoted:

To Level 5

Anthony Cox, Sobastian Frazer, Dani Mansour, Fadi Mansour, Dylan Ossei, Satyam Toki, Colin Wordsworth.

To Level 6

Silvio Fernandes, Matt Garrett, Kieran Hickey, Hitesh Jansari, Ali Matour, Sachin Patel, Michael Plumridge, Chaolun Tan.

We have one nominee, Fernando Costache, for Level 4. Alan Cresswell and Paul Andrews have been invited to become Level 3.

Long service of over 20 years was achieved and recorded by David Belbin and Robert Harris – fine examples of service to MFA.

Dan Simpson was rewarded with a FA appointment as Assistant on The FA County Youth Cup Final, Mike Heavey with an appointment as Assistant on the Southern League Cup Final and Andrew Hickman a line on one of the Bostik League play-off finals.

Congratulations to them and all those appointed to MFA and other competition cup finals.

Looking ahead, we hope to hold a general Development Day at our new home of Rectory Park as near to the end of the season as possible, giving Referees an introduction to the facility.

Development is recognised as a very important element by Referees, as we learned from critical comments in The FA's "Grass Roots Survey" – a lesson to us that we hope to deal with. We want to assist referees at all levels and have restructured the referee department, with Daniel May joining Football Services as Football Services Administrator and Katie Phillipson joining the Participation and Development team as Workforce Development Officer. They will be working on a number of initiatives to recruit, develop and deploy more referees, including female and BAME initiatives.

Player Registration

As part of our commitment to improve the administration experience for grassroots football volunteers, online player registration functionality has been introduced into the Whole Game System (WGS).

As the season comes to an end, we have:

- 4 Leagues using Player Registration through the Whole Game System
- 4,232 Players Registered in Middlesex through the Whole Game System

Safeguarding

The Middlesex FA offers a range of safeguarding services and training to help create a safe and enjoyable football experience for everyone. This season, we've improved the way we handle reported concerns, support our existing welfare officers, improved our policies and procedures and have expanded our dedicated safeguarding team to help deal with safeguarding and welfare concerns.

Earlier this year, we started a series of random safeguarding visits to training sessions of clubs across the County, ensuring all named coaches were present with up-to-date qualifications. So far, 22 Safeguarding Club visits have been carried out and we've engaged with 133 Teams, 157 Coaches and 182 Parents/Guardians. Clubs were also provided with action plans, where appropriate, to provide guidance and direction on how to provide a safer environment.

93 safeguarding workshops delivered

279 hours of safeguarding training

1,600 learners engaged



COUNTY CUPS



Over
50,000

minutes of County Cup football was played this season.

Total entries:
709 teams



Age Range:
U12 through to Veterans



246 days

between the first and last game of this season's County Cup campaign.



Total goals scored:
3,616



Games played:

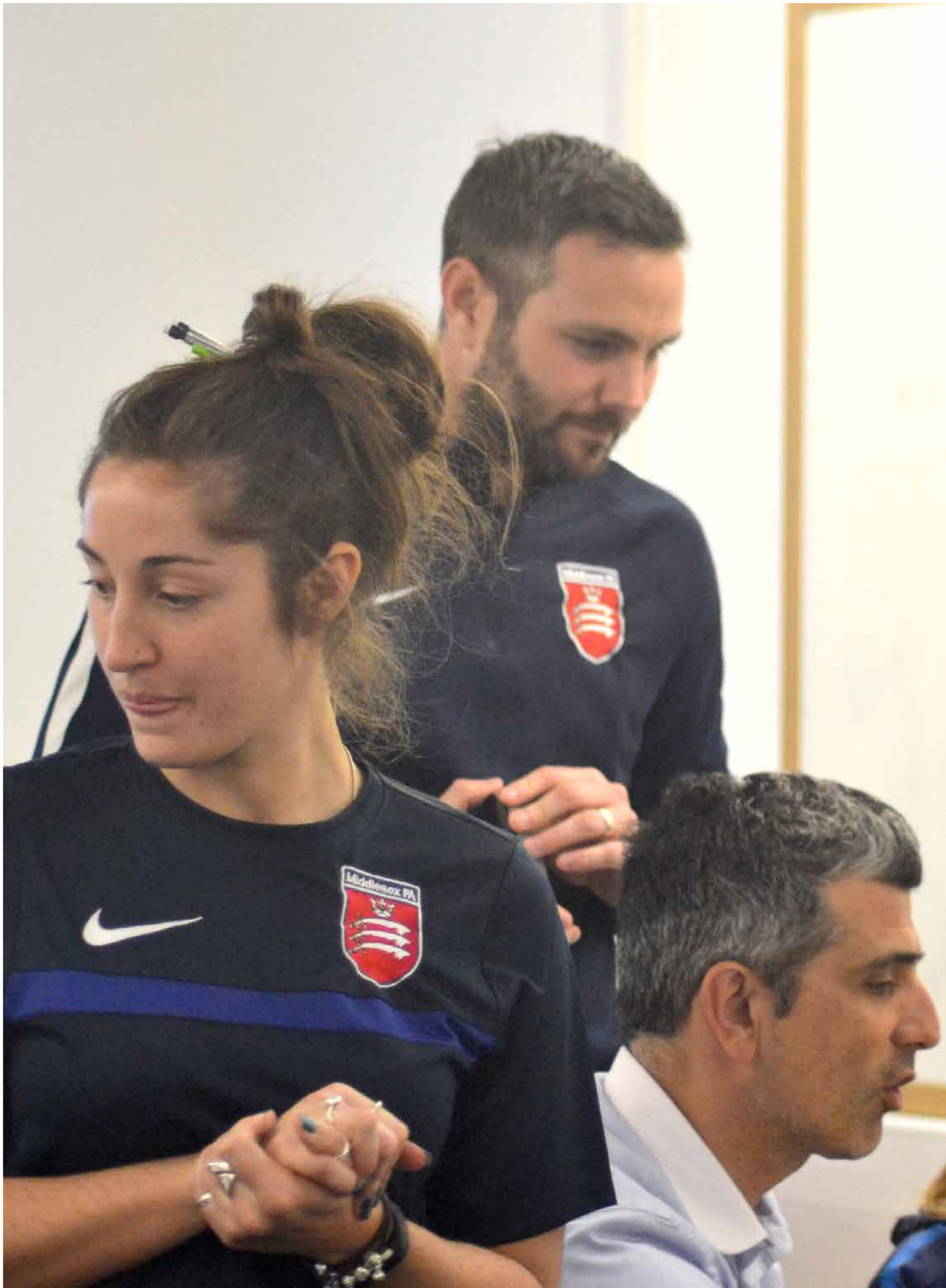
592

Did you know?

The Capital Girls' and Women's Cups involve over 120 different teams affiliated to either Middlesex, London, Surrey or Amateur FA.

Did you know?

The Middlesex FA Senior Challenge Cup Final was broadcast live to over 3000 fans watching the game on Facebook.



WE ARE CONNECTED

We are connected to the community we serve, implementing a customer-focussed approach that puts the participant at the heart of what we do.

Investing into our team

In early 2018, after a thorough workforce review, we announced a new staff structure implemented based on stakeholder feedback and aimed at helping us better serve our football community.

The aim of the changed structure is to provide more support to local partners and deliver a more effective and efficient service to the wider football community. We have implemented a number of role changes in response to constructive feedback we have received especially around Referee Development and Football Services.

The new structure sees a change in the roles of a number of existing staff members whilst we also welcome new faces. Through this process we are investing more into our staff, increasing the size of the organisation and ensuring that we meet our mission to support, develop and govern the game of football in Middlesex.

The safeguarding and welfare of our participants is our top priority and we have also invested more resource into our safeguarding team. This move

will ensure safeguarding is at the front of mind in all Middlesex FA operations and has enhanced the development of Middlesex FA's safeguarding delivery.

A new regionalised football development team was formed and as well as the addition of a football development apprentice, we also added a Workforce Development Officer to support for coach and volunteer recruitment, deployment and retention.

Investing into our community

In December 2017, we launched two brand new grants to help support clubs in completing the Charter Standard Accreditation.

For new Charter Standard clubs we offered any new applicants discount on the qualifications team officials need to be able to complete the accreditation.

FA Safeguarding and Emergency Aid Courses we offered at £10 per person.

Existing Charter Standard clubs we offered grants of up to £250 per club to retain Charter Standard Accreditation or grow their club. Funding was available for retrospective courses completed for 2017/18 annual health checks, towards courses for 2018/19 annual health checks, courses to grow teams or recruiting new participants.

In all, 12 clubs were awarded grants totalling over £5,000.

WE ARE CREATIVE

We are creative. Adopting creative solutions to ensure we stay ahead of the game and meet the needs of our football community. We focus on the future and learn from the past.

Partnerships

This season has seen us partner with a number of businesses to ensure we're meeting the needs of our football community and offering something different to those that interact with us.

On the back of our rebranding in October (which saw us launch a new logo), we announced a partnership with national teamwear, leisurewear, clothing and equipment retailer, Kitlocker.com. The new partnership enabled us to offer a number of new benefits to our clubs including online store access, bundle offers on equipment and balls, access to discounted Nike footwear and competitions for tickets and Nike experience opportunities.

Did you know?

In October 2017, we became the fourth County in the country to launch a redesigned website. The new website was the result of months of consultation and testing and aims to give users a better site experience.

Did you know?

The Senior Challenge Cup Final was watched by fans from America, Sweden, Jamaica and Australia.

In March 2018, we teamed up with two companies. First, we scored a deal with the leading grassroots sports search and booking portal – My local pitch. The intuitive platform helps people around London to find and book pitches which they can now do via the Middlesex FA website. The My Local Pitch platform captures vast data records from searches, enquiries and bookings and will assist Middlesex to identify and deliver several participation schemes, including SSE Wildcats and Just Play Football. Local football clubs will be able to list their pitches on the MyLocalPitch platform giving them access to increased bookings and revenues.

Just a few days after this announcement we agreed a deal with national sports filming company, Film My Match. The company use the latest technology to capture the excitement and passion of live sporting events and have filmed all Middlesex FA Cup Finals this season. In a first for the Association, Film My Match also live streamed the Senior Challenge Cup directly to the Middlesex FA Facebook page and the final was watched by over 3,000 spectators online.

COMMUNICATIONS **SNAPSHOT**

8,000

email newsletter subscribers

150k

people have visited our website

8,000

twitter followers

2.5m

twitter reach



HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from across our football community...

David Reader – Bedford sports

David Reader, Chairman of Bedford Sports Football Club, won the BBC Get Inspired Unsung Hero Award for London this season. David has devoted his life to football as a volunteer, coach and manager of children's football teams.

More recently as chairman, he has helped raise more than £2.5m for the club which has seen the club's facility Hatton Road blossom into the envy of many clubs in the county. The club run 29 teams and the first team are on the brink of promotion to Step 4 of the National Pyramid for the first time in their history.

Promotion contenders

A number of other Middlesex clubs have been fighting for promotion within the National League Pyramid. Hampton & Richmond Borough have reached the National League South Play-Off Final while Hendon suffered the heartbreak of a penalty shootout defeat in the Isthmian League Premier Division Play-Off Final.

Bedford Sports will play at Step 4 for the first time in their history as they achieved promotion from the Combined Counties League. Southall won the

Spartan South Midlands League Division 1 title and will play at Step 5 next season. In Division 2 of the Spartan South Midlands League, Park View claimed the title while in the Middlesex County League, British Airways finished top and both clubs will play at Step 6 for the first time in their histories next season.

In the Women's Pyramid London Bees have continued to consolidate their position in WSL 2 and have submitted an application for a Tier 2 place in the revised professional game set-up. In the Greater London Women's FL Premier Division, Queens Park Rangers Development claimed runners-up position. In Division 1, New London Lionesses won the title having already produced an excellent run in this season's SSE Women's FA Cup. Denham United Development also won Division 3 North of the GLWFL.

Cup success

Wealdstone also deserve a special mention having reached the semi-final of the FA Trophy for the second time in just five years. Unfortunately they were unable to reach the final losing narrowly to Brackley Town. Broadfields United of the Spartan South Midlands League also won the League's Challenge Cup Trophy, a great achievement as it includes clubs from Step 5.

Representative team

Representative football in Middlesex has a long and rich history. It's an important part of football in the County and it's no small honour to be called up to play. Here at the Middlesex FA, we run four representative teams: Ladies, Men's, Under 18 boys and Under 16 boys. Here's a little snapshot of how each team has got on this season:

Ladies

Final league position: 2nd (of 7).

Highlight: Middlesex FA Ladies remained unbeaten across the four games played and scored a total of 17 goals – including six against Hertfordshire FA.

Men

The Men's team played just one match this season, losing 5-0 to Royal Navy FA. Players from North Greenford United FC, Bedford Sports FC, Cockfosters FC and Hayes & Yeading United FC were all represented.

Under 18 boys

Final league position: 3rd (of 4).

FA County Youth Cup: 3rd round (Isle of Man 4-3 Middlesex a.e.t).

Highlight of the season: An 8-0 win over London FA at Uxbridge FC in January.

Most appearances: Alex Hadjithemistou, Jack Roper, Simeon Olarein and Malachy McGovern (all 5).

Under 16 boys

Final league position: 4th (of 6).

Highlight of the season: A 2-0 home win against Essex FA in the South East Counties Youth Championship.

Most appearances: Damien Pawlak, Joe Mills and Felix Amoah (all 6).

LOOKING AHEAD



As we continue to respond to the needs of our football community and the ever-evolving national game priorities, moving forwards we will be developing a new three-year business strategy, which will include a focus on the following areas:

- Male, female and disability Pathways
- Developing clubs and leagues
- Improving 175 grass pitches
- Writing a 10-year facility investment plan for every local authority
- Working with The FA on the mini-pitch programme
- Female workforce initiatives
- Entry-level referee initiatives
- Ensuring 100% of our youth clubs achieve FA Charter Standard Accreditation
- Ensuring at least 50% of our adult clubs achieve FA Charter Standard Accreditation
- Engaging with our football community through effective marketing and communications
- Modernising the Association
- Supporting and developing our workforce



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