









Welcome

Hello and welcome to the second edition of The 1878, the official E-Magazine of Cheshire FA.

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who read and enjoyed the inaugural edition and gave us some overwhelmingly positive feedback.

The aim of this magazine was to highlight some of the inspiring individuals across Cheshire who go above and beyond to better grassroots football for everyone, and in edition number two of The 1878, we have some really incredible tales to share.

Our featured story is all about Sands United FC Stockport, a football team set up to help dads and other bereaved family members to come together through a shared love of sport. We have also spoken to the mother and daughter on their Level 2 coaching journey together and the female referee determined to make it all the way to the top. There are also updates from our County Cups competitions and we take a closer look at some of the exciting events coming up across Cheshire.

We hope you enjoy reading and have a wonderful festive period!

VOLUNTEERING WITHIN FOOTBALL

Sport provides us with an opportunity to develop positive character traits, in turn allowing us to develop as positive and influential members of our clubs and social groups.

Football does this more effectively than any other sport. Life lasting character and moral principles are formed through fair play and commitment in football. Moreover, all of us who are actively engaged in football, irrespective of if we are players, referees, coaches, administrators, spectators or supporters - we can all become great role models for our communities, and can truly change lives for the better, as a result. Here at Cheshire FA, we work on the basis that football must be a totally safe activity and a very enjoyable one.

However, none of this is possible without the unwavering and critical support of volunteers across the county.

They are the unsung heroes, who against the odds and often in their own time and at their own expense, are the pulse, heartbeat and lifeblood of the 'Beautiful Game'.

Make no mistake, it is the volunteer who has become the 'Change Catalyst' in the development of the game at all levels. Without their input, devotion and courage, football would struggle – and

cease to be the participation phenomenon that it has become.

If you have read this piece up to this point - and you are not a volunteer in the game and you would like to consider becoming one - then please contact us.

The latest edition of the 1878 is filled with incredible stories about our wonderful volunteers across Cheshire. We hope you enjoy reading their tales and hopefully it encourages you to get involved with your local club. Finally, we would like to thank all volunteers within the grassroots game in Cheshire for your continued hard work in growing our great game.



HOT TOPICS

Here are some things you may have missed from the last quarter...



FIFA Referee joins Cheshire FA Womens Referee Development Group

Our Women's Referee Development
Group were joined by referee Cheryl
Foster for a special guest talk.
She discussed her own experiences and
offered advice on what they need to do to
progress up the officiating ladder.
Having been one of Liverpool Ladies'
longest-serving players, Cheryl started
training as a referee in 2013 following her
retirement from professional football.
Discussing her visit, she said:
"Opportunities like these are amazing. It's

"Opportunities like these are amazing. It's so rewarding to come and speak to girls who have the same love and passion for the game and want to become better."





FA Annual Health Check open until 31 January

Accredited clubs are proud to maintain high standards to make sure they are among the best places to play and enjoy football in England. The Annual Health Check ensures club's policies and people are up to date.

The latest window will run until the end of next month, and, upon completion of the Health Check, clubs can access a range of benefits, including promotional digital resources and equipment.



Minor adjustments to the FA WGS

The FA Have Made Some Minor Adjustments To The Whole Game System (WGS).

These changes will now speed up the DBS application process. On average, a clear DBS can take up to six weeks to be accepted on the WGS. With these

changes, they should take just 48 hours.

Now, the applicant will have to start their DBS on the WGS and then complete the rest on GBG Online as normal.

We kindly ask all clubs to start the new process as this will significantly enhance the efficiency.





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Whether you are a player, referee or coach, we are here to help you grow and develop as an individual.

Knights Grange Ground Survey Works

Plans to create a world class sports facility at the Knights Grange site in Winsford are progressing as Cheshire FA began ground survey works in October.

Over the past few months the association, along with its development partner ION Developments, has undertaken significant preliminary survey work for the unique venture.

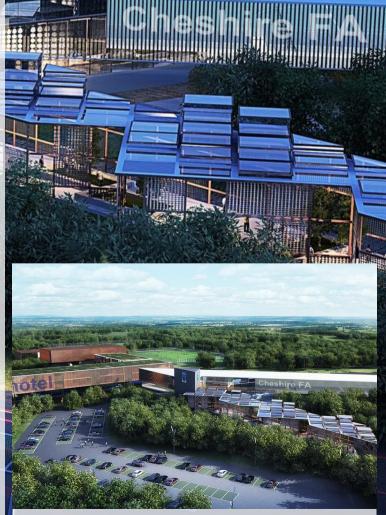
In order to progress the feasibility stage, Cheshire FA and its partners' Cheshire West and Chester Council and ION have given the green light for a significant ground survey to be completed.

The Partnership has engaged engineering contractor Curtins to undertake the works. Due to the nature of the ground, large-scale equipment will be brought on to site to investigate conditions below the surface. Stuart Manifould, Project Director said: "It has been a while since we provided a significant update on our proposed development, so I'm really excited that things are moving forward. "This ground information is critical if we are to formalise our plans and share them with this amazing community.

"I would ask that the community bear with us a little longer, and as soon as the results are shared with us, we will be able to disclose our final plans."

Rob Mason, Development Director at ION, said: "We have made excellent progress with the site at Knights Grange. The engineering survey will help complete the feasibility process, which is a major steppingstone to the delivery of this very exciting and important development for Cheshire."





The facility is scheduled to open in August 2021.









Black History Month 2019 Review

In October, we were delighted to hold our annual Black History Month event at Cheshire FA HQ.

The event was a celebration of the positive contribution that members of the BAME community have made in both football and wider society. We were delighted to be joined by a number of guest speakers who offered insight into their time within football. These included former Manchester United defender **Quinton Fortune. Kick it Out** Northern Grassroots Officer Arran Williams, ex-England U19s coach Noel Blake and Chester FC Coach Adam Ford. The evening also gave an opportunity for people to network and share their own personal experiences of the footballing landscape in Cheshire.

Speaking about the event, Quinton Fortune, who now runs his own football Academy, said: "[It's important] to remember people who have paved the way for us.

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We want to help them believe that anything is possible, regardless of the colour of their skin.

"It's a way to show respect, continue to carry on where they left off and inspire young people to get into the game. FA Regional Coach Mentor Officer Steve Smithies said: "Black History Month is an opportunity to reflect on the excellent achievements by the BAME community in all aspects of society, and the positive contributions that they've made.

"It's great that we have these events and people from all over the Cheshire community can celebrate not only Black History Month, but football as a whole and its wonderful contribution to our society."

Arran Williams, Kick it Out's Northern Grassroots Officer, added: "Growing up, I wasn't really shown many role models from the black and Asian community. It was very difficult to see role models who I could aspire to be like.

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Events like this really drive home the importance of making sure football is inclusive for all.

"The exposure it gives to black and Asian minority ethnics is massive."

Find out how to get involved with our BAME network below.

BAME Coaches Network!

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Rainbow Laces Campaign 2019

This month we are proud to support Stonewall's national campaign here in Cheshire.

The campaign ran from the 22nd of November to the 8th of December. During the campaign, we provided over 50 clubs and two leagues over 1,000 laces and over 70 LGBT captain's armbands.

We used several events and fixtures across the two weeks to further show our support for the campaign, including the Inspire League and the Cheshire Ability Counts League. Furthermore, the Cheshire Football League wore a one-off LGBT kit to show their support for the fight against homophobia in football during their inter-league fixture against the Yorkshire Amateur League at Hyde United.

4 in 10 LGBT people don't think sport is welcoming.

Sport has an amazing power to bring people together and this campaign is a perfect example of that, with many of our clubs getting involved to support the initiative over recent weeks.

Thank you to all who supported the campaign and helped show that football is FOR ALL.

Cheshire FA staff member Greg McLean shared his story with us, discussing coming out as a gay man in football.

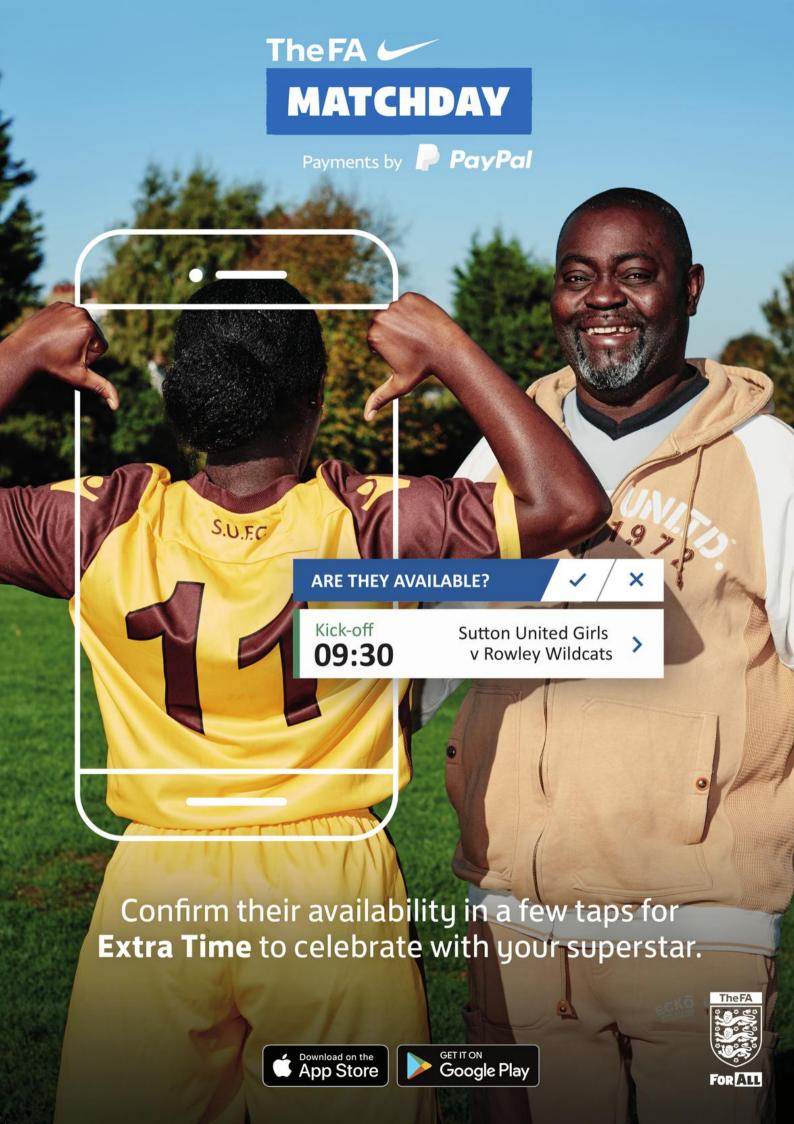














We were delighted to visit Sands United FC Stockport to meet some of the inspiring individuals behind the success of the team.

Founded in 2018, Sands (Stillbirth & neonatal death) United FC is a unique way for dads and other bereaved family members to come together through a shared love of sport and find a support network where they can feel at ease talking about their grief.

Sands United FC Stockport started out as a small group of individuals, but now regularly attract in excess of 15 individuals to Tuesday training sessions at Stockport Sports Village and matches on a Sunday.

Joel Kelly, Sands United FC

Stockport founder, said: "I came across it through another team in Northampton and I realised that there was nothing in Stockport for men, so I took it upon myself and set the team up – it's probably the best thing I've ever done.

It's massively important that these men know that they've got somewhere where they can come and be themselves.

"They aren't playing for another Sunday League team where everyone's judging them. Everyone has the same reason to be there; to remember their baby and try and move on with their life in a positive way.

"From the first session of six

people to having over 20 every week is amazing. People meet each other outside of football and it is just a massive community of people who came together through one sport.

"I've taken on and built [the session], but without all the dads and mum's coming down, it's nothing. I'm massively proud of where it's ended up because I never expected anything like this."

Born from grief

After Charlotte and Rob Allen's baby daughter Niamh died on 9 October 2017 at 39 weeks and 3 days, the couple vowed to do all they could to honour their daughter's memory. Rob's love of football led to him arranging a match



at Northampton Town in aid of Sands on 23 May 2018. After the success of the match, the bereaved dads, uncles and brothers decided to form Sands United FC in Northampton's Nene Valley League.

Daniel Whitehouse, Sands
United FC Stockport player,
said: "Football every Sunday
is what I look forward to, and
after having stillborn twins in
2015, I was looking for a
team to be involved with.
"I looked up Sands United
and saw there was one right
near where I lived. I spoke to
the manager and as soon as I
came down, I felt at home
and knew this was where I
needed to be playing football.

We're a big family now and everyone is always there for each other.

"It's something to look forward to and it takes your mind off everything."

Establishing normality

Sadly, the death of a baby is not a rare event and every 90 minutes in the UK – the length of a football match - a baby dies shortly before, during or soon after birth. Sands United FC allows bereaved parents and other relatives to use their love of sport to re-establish a sense of normality in such difficult times, providing access to a community of individuals who have been through similar experiences.

Greg Foster, Sands United FC Stockport player, said: It's something that I'd heard of when we lost our son about 12 months ago. I'd heard there were football teams [like this], but at that stage I wasn't thinking about football. "My friend saw the name in a local league [a few months later] and thought it might be of interest for me. That gave me the kickstart I needed;

I was ready to do something in memory of our son and get active again.

"We're obviously there for our love of football, but also well aware of the reasons why we're doing it.

It's probably been the most positive influence that I've done over these last 12 months.

"Being with people who've been through the same thing is the best thing you could do. "You understand that you're not alone and that too many people have been through the same thing.

"It's brought part of the old me back. I've always loved football, and remembering that passion of sport is the perfect therapy for me."

We produced an in-depth video with the Sands United Stockport football team.

Watch it Here!









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www.easyfundraising.org.uk/cheshire-fa







Georgia Lyons aiming to make it all the way to the top

On 14 August 2019, Stéphanie Frappart wrote her name into the history books.

By being selected as referee for the European Super Cup final between Liverpool and Chelsea, she became the first female official to officiate in a major men's European match. Her achievement is the latest in a string of achievements for female officials in football. Frappart's involvement in the final will certainly have helped inspire the next generation of female officials looking to make a name for themselves in professional football. Across Cheshire, there are a number of young female referees attempting to follow in the footsteps of Frappart and Sian Massey-Ellis - the first Englishwoman to officiate in a European fixture. One of those is Georgia

Lyons, who turned to refereeing little over 12 months ago.

Having enrolled on the course to gain a new qualification, she admits that being a female referee has impacted her far more than she ever could have imagined.

"I saw the course online and thought I'd give it a go," she said.

Every referee I've met, no matter what the level, have been humble, down to earth and genuine.

"I really enjoyed it and thought it'd be another good certificate and qualification to have.

"The main thing since doing the course is that I've made a lot of friends, male and female. Everyone is really supportive and they all have your back no matter what."

A head-on approach

Although admitting that she found it tough refereeing mini soccer fixtures when starting out, Georgia says that a move to older age groups helped her tackle the challenging nature of refereeing head-on.

Now, she believes that being a female official in Cheshire has been an overwhelmingly positive experience.

"You get your pre-match nerves and can get a bit anxious," Georgia admitted. "But when you make that first decision or bring out that first red or yellow card, people realise that you won't take any messing.

"When you get the 22 handshakes at the end, it is really rewarding. It's nice



when people say that, before the games, they had doubts about me being able to control the game, but I managed to prove them wrong - it feels really good."

The next generation

Last month, we ran our first ever female-only Referees Course at Cheshire FA HQ, helping 20 aspiring female referees take the first step on their officiating journey.

Georgia – who refereed last year's Cheshire FA U13 Girls Minor Cup and now officiates in the West Cheshire Division, amongst others – says she has no hesitation about encouraging other girls to follow a similar path.

For anyone looking to get into refereeing, I'd highly recommend doing the course.

"It's a bit of a cliché but it's probably the best thing I've ever done. My biggest regret



is not doing it earlier.
"The constant testing
[involved with refereeing] is
pushing me to be a better
person on and off the pitch,
and outside of football as
well."

Ed Duckworth, Cheshire FA Referee Development Officer, said: "Georgia is a prime example of a young, hungry female match official looking to grasp every available opportunity and progress up the refereeing pyramid.

"She is developing into a wonderful referee, and if any other match official can harvest the enthusiasm and determination that Georgia possesses, refereeing across Cheshire will be all the better for it."

Female Refereeing!







MARKETING PACKAGE

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We will design a website for your club that includes your club colours and branding. The design will be exclusive to Cheshire FA clubs only.

Additional Packages



Social Media Templates

We will create templates for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram which you can edit and share.



Club Newsletter

We will create an electronic template Newsletter for you to edit and send information to members of your club.

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Optional Extras

- Marketing Workshop
- Logo Adaptation
- Additional Bespoke Marketing
- Indoor & Outdoor Banners

Interested?
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Sam Turner - Sale United Powerchair Football

18-year-old Sam Turner recently completed his FA Level 1 coaching qualification at Sale Utd with Cheshire FA.

Sam was born with spinal muscular atrophy type two and is a powerchair user.

He has been playing powerchair football for eight years and represents Sale Utd in the West Midlands Regional League and the National Premiership.

Sam said: "I enjoyed the course and learnt lots of new practices that will help me develop as a coach.

"I am assisting my Dad to run my brothers team so I will be able to put some of the knowledge gained into practice."

Sam is also studying football coaching and management at UCFB in Manchester, and will use the knowledge gained on the course to supplement his academic studies. His ambition is to complete more coaching qualifications, coach abroad and to become the first disabled football manager.

Sam's mum Mandy said: "The course has given Sam extra confidence to go and achieve his ambition to coach.

"He has also met lots of new people which will help him develop a network of contacts for the future."

Cheshire FA Disability Football

Development Officer Dan Landstrom said:

"This is a great example of how Cheshire FA are providing accessible coach education courses for people in Cheshire.

"Sam is a great role model for others and this shows regardless of ability or mobility, football is accessible for everyone.

"Hopefully, Sam's story will inspire more people to undertake football qualifications."







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Liz & Amy Clark -Their coaching journey

Every year, thousands of coaches up and down the country embark on their coaching journey. But how many have taken the next step alongside their child?

That is exactly the case for Liz Clark, who signed up for the Level 2 in Coaching Football course alongside her daughter, Amy.

Liz, a Teaching Assistant in a local primary school, has been involved in a supporting role at Sandbach United for a number of years, helping to raise funds and organise events at the club where her daughter used to play. 18 months ago, Liz and Amy successfully ran a Wildcats programme at Sandbach United, with over 20 girls taking part in sessions, and although Liz admits that she worried about her technical know-how compared to her daughter at first, she says it was thoroughly enjoyable working alongside her as they developed their core coaching skills.

It encouraged the pair to run their own U9s teams at Sandbach, leading to the decision to do their Level 2 together.

Discussing the decision to complete their learning



together, Liz said: "The course has been great, with so many different people of various ages, abilities and coaching experience. As a group we all get on really well, helping each other out and having such good fun whilst doing it.

It has been great to see how Amy has developed as a coach and young adult. I have to say I was proud when I saw her coach on the course.

"On the other hand, I will have embarrassed her when it came to the practical side where we took part in being coached, but deep down, I know that she is proud of little old mum for getting involved!

"The course has made me grow as a person and a coach, making me realise what an important part of my life football has played from me being a youngster to now as Girls Football Development Officer at Sandbach United. "The FA 4 corner model has made me realise that you don't have to be an amazing footballer to become a good coach."

Inspired by her decision to further her coaching journey,



Looking to the future

Liz says that she is now looking at getting involved with coaching disabled footballers, promoting girls football in local primary schools and starting a ladies social football session, with the aim of getting a team in the Inspire League later this year. Meanwhile, Amy says it has given her confidence with her coaching both at the club and in schools, and it has led to her taking on a coaching role at the Holmes Chapel Hurricanes this season.

When asked about what it was like being on the same coach as her mum, Amy said: "It was a bit awkward at first, but we supported each other. The other youngsters saw her as mum of the course, as well as sweets and biscuit supplier!"

On top of the family's current



endeavours, Holly, younger sibling of Amy, has just completed her Level 1 in Coaching Football course

proving that football really is a family affair.

Start your journey!



BECOME A WILD CAUS GENURE!

WHATIS WILDGATS?



BEGINNER GIRLS



GIRLS ONLY



5-11 YEARS OLD



HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS



PLAY FOOTBALL



TURN UP AND PLAY

WHAT WILL I NEED?



MINIMUM OF 2 ADULTS 18+ BOTH HOLD IN DATE FA CRC



1 OF THE TWO ADULTS MUST HAVE AN FA LEVEL 1 FOOTBALL COACHING QUALIFICATION, IN DATE FA FIRST AID AND FA SAFEGUARDING





COMMUNITY SPACE FOR 30 GIRLS



HEALTH & SAFETY DOCUMENTS AND PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE



SAFGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

PEOPLE

PLACE

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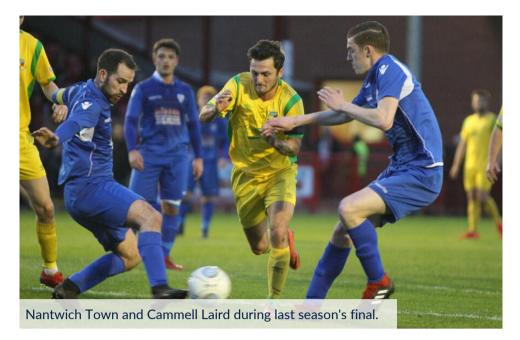


START DELIVERING



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.TheFA.com/Wildcats





The County Cups are really hotting up as we head into the latter stages of each of our nine competitions.

In the Senior Cup, there will be a repeat of last season's final as Nantwich Town and Cammell Laird 1907 face off at The Weaver Stadium.

Nantwich have reached the final of the competition for the last three years, and having toppled Laird 5-2 last season, they will be confident of retaining their trophy for another year.

The two highest-ranked sides left in the competition, Crewe Alexandra and Tranmere Rovers, have also been drawn to face each other at Prenton Park.

David Artell's side are currently sitting in the League 2 play off spots, one point behind leaders Forest Green Rovers, while Tranmere are sat 20th in the League 1 table with just 4 wins in 17 league games all season.

Following their comprehensive 7-0 win over Runcorn Town in the last round, Chester FC have been rewarded with a home tie against Stockport Town, while Warrington Town welcome Sandbach United to Cantilever Park.

Last year's beaten semifinalists Stockport County will travel to Wincham Park to go up against Northwich Victoria, while Winsford United welcome Hyde United to St Luke's Barton Stadium. Current NCWFL league leaders 1874 Northwich will be hoping to extend their excellent run of form as they host Cheadle Heath Nomads. In the final tie of the round, Vauxhall Motors travel to Bower Fold to face off with Stalybridge Celtic.

All dates, fixtures & results, rules and match report forms can be found on our website.

Find out More (S)

Selected Fixtures

Senior Cup Second Round

Warrington Town v Sandbach United; Northwich Victoria v Stockport County; Chester FC v Stockport Town; Nantwich Town v Cammell Laird 1907; Crewe Alexandra v Tranmere Rovers; 1874 Northwich v Cheadle Heath Nomads; Winsford United v Hyde United; Stalybridge Celtic v Vauxhall Motors

Ladies Cup Second Round

Chester Cty v Mersey Valley; West Kirby v Chester FC; Altrincham FC v Runcorn Linnets; Northwich Vixens v Macclesfield Town

Sunday Cup Quarter-Finals

Queens Park v Cale Green; Queens Bredbury v Willaston White Star; Bushell Athletic v Dock AFC; Great Float Sports and Social v Tarvin Rex

Amateur Cup Quarter-Finals

Altrincham FC Reserves v Upton AA; Broadheath Central v Vauxhall Motors; Heswall v Newton Athletic; Ellesmere Port Town v Lostock Gralam



Videos

@CheshireFA





Greg McLean: My Story

This year, Cheshire FA are proudly supporting the Stonewall Rainbow Laces Campaign. We sat down with Cheshire FA Executive Support Officer Greg McLean to discuss his experiences of coming out as a gay man in football.

Watch Now!





Cheryl Foster joins female referees for a guest talk

Cheshire FA's Women's Referee Development Group were delighted to be joined by FIFA referee Cheryl Foster for a special guest talk. She discussed her own experiences of refereeing around the globe.

Watch Now!





Black History Month 2019

We hosted our annual Black History Month event at Cheshire FA HQ. The event was a celebration of the positive contribution that members of the BAME community have made in both football and wider society.

Watch Now!





Sands United FC: Playing in memory of lost loved ones

Recently, we visited Sands United FC Stockport to meet some of the inspiring individuals behind the success of the team.

Watch Now!



WHAT'S COMING UP



Elevens League Launch

We are expecting to launch a brand new Elevens League in Crewe in January. Further details regarding the venue and fixture days/times will be announced very soon!



February Referee Courses

We will planning to run two FA Referee Courses in February, helping to develop the next wave of Cheshire FA match officials.



Inspire League Under 21s Festival

We have an Inspire League festival taking place in Cheshire very soon. Details regarding dates and times of the event will be released in due course.



FA and McDonalds Grassroots Awards

Nominations for the 2020 FA and McDonald's Grassroots Awards will be opening soon. This is the chance for you to recognise your unsung hero of grassroots football.

Visit our website to find out more!

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