

THE 1878



MARCH 2020

CHESHIRE FUTSAL

*Flying the flag for
the county in the
FA National
Futsal Series*

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

MIKE ABBOTT

*Our 2019 Women &
Girls Award winner
discusses the growth
of female football!*

LEVI LLOYD

*We speak to the
volunteer changing
lives at Chester FC'S
Wellbeing session*

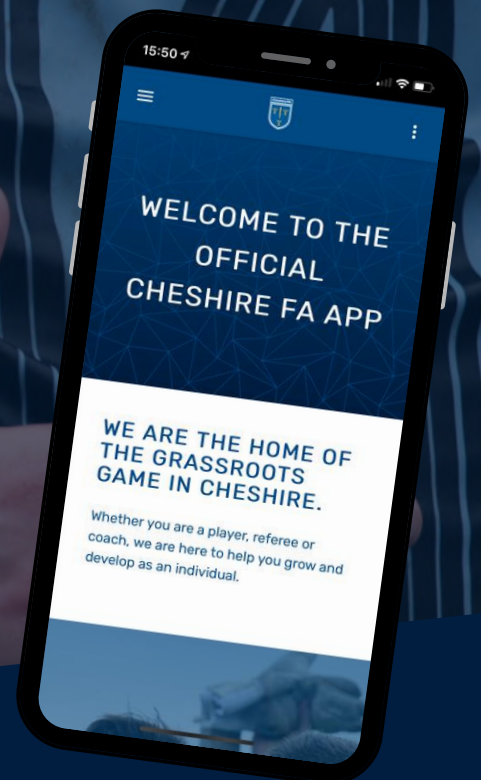
ANNUAL REPORT

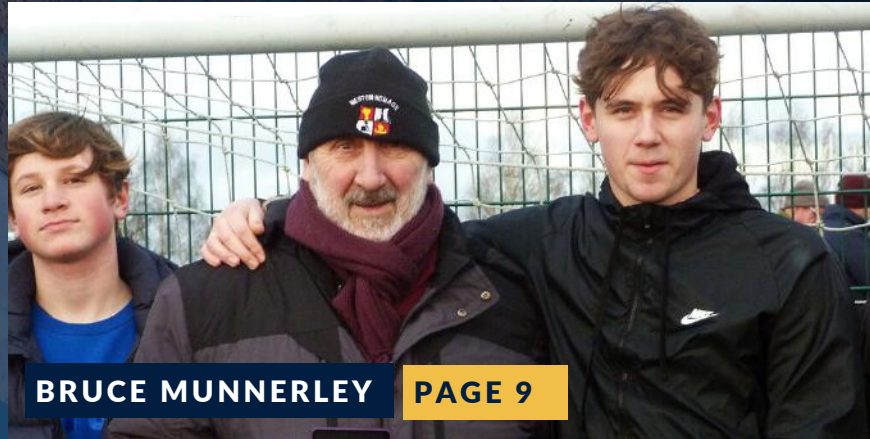
*Take a look at our
progress over the
last 12 months*

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BRUCE MUNNERLEY

PAGE 9



MIKE ABBOTT

PAGE 18



LEVI LLOYD

PAGE 20

Welcome

We are delighted to introduce the March Edition of The 1878, the official E-Magazine of Cheshire FA.

This is the first edition of 2020, and as we highlight some of your stories in greater detail than ever before, we arguably have our most diverse range of content to date.

Whether it be the growth of women's football, the impact disability sessions play in the lives of so many across the county, or the volunteer being recognised for 50 years in grassroots football, there is something for everyone to enjoy in the latest edition.

Our featured story is all about Cheshire Futsal, the team flying the flag for the county in the FA National Futsal Series. Led by head coach and co-founder Richie Jones, the club continue to go from strength-to-strength as they increase futsal provision across a range of age groups.

We also speak to Levi Lloyd, the man running Chester FC's Wellbeing Session, and find out more about the Neston Nomads Chairman recognised by the FA for his outstanding contribution to grassroots football.

As always, we hope you enjoy reading !

YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN

CHESHIRE FA 2020 AWARDS



Changing lives through football

COMING SOON...

HOT TOPICS

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



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

In January we released the 2020 Annual Report for Cheshire FA.

The report is designed to give you, our stakeholders, an update on the development of football provision over the last 12 months.

The report highlights key projects that have helped to improve football provision across the county. It provides a progress update on our Key Performance Indicators [KPIs] for this current strategy, which runs until 2021.

The report also looks at key investment areas for the business during this current strategy and the strategy moving forward.

[READ MORE](#)



CHESHIRE FA AWARDS 2020

We are delighted to reveal that the 2020 Cheshire FA Awards will be held on Friday 10 July at the Village Hotel, Warrington.

The event is a celebration of the fantastic work that is happening in grassroots football across the County. We will be revealing further details including nominations, tickets and special guests for the evening, in due course.

Take a look at last year's awards below.

[2019 AWARDS](#)



PAYPAL PLEDGE

Ahead of the 2020/21 season, PayPal, the official payments partner of The FA, are offering three lucky clubs the chance to win £10,000 towards their match fees.

The pledge further emphasises PayPal's commitment to grassroots football. To be in with a chance of winning this

amazing prize, all you need to do is download and register your team on The FA Matchday app and make a match payment by 31 March 2020.

The prize is open even if your club is already set up on The FA Matchday app, simply ensure your club makes a payment before the closing date.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



COVID-19 UPDATE



1878

Cheshire FA are continuing to monitor the situation regarding coronavirus and are following the advice provided by The Football Association and the Government.

Any decision to continue playing or to postpone respective competitions is a matter for each league as autonomous bodies within the game.

All County Cup Competitions will be postponed until the 3rd of April.

Can teams choose not to perform the RESPECT handshake before matches?

Yes. As a precautionary measure, we are **advising against handshaking**. Given the current situation, shaking hands is an unnecessary risk, and an easily avoidable one. Individuals can choose whether they want to shake hands or not. This is entirely at the discretion of each individual player. No player or collection of players can be forced, via regulation, or any other practice (i.e delayed Kick Off) to shake hands. Leagues and competitions may choose to issue a statement to all clubs advising that teams are not expected to shake hands at this time. Should teams or individual players decide not to shake

hands or opt for an alternative method this should be conveyed to the match referee by the team Manager and/or Captain before the teams enter the field of play.

What happens if a club is unable to field a team due to player's testing positive for coronavirus or having to self-isolate?

Clubs are advised to inform their respective league(s) or competition(s) as soon as they become aware of any of their players having to self-isolate or indeed contracting Coronavirus. The government guidelines for self-isolation should be followed. If any club or team that is

affected by the virus (i.e. has a player, coach, parent or significant other linked to the team have to go into self-isolation) can request a 7 day period of grace from the league on health grounds. It is then at the discretion of the league how this is managed. All relevant leagues and the CFA should be alerted at the earliest opportunity. It is up to Clubs / Teams if they wish to train or not. We recommend all clubs contact their training / playing facilities to find out if they are still open and operational. **Further updates regarding courses and other operations will be given in due course.**

GOVERNMENT ADVICE



Be **SMART** & inform yourself about #coronavirus



Follow accurate public health advice from WHO & your local health authority



Follow the news on latest coronavirus updates



To avoid spreading rumors, always check the source you are getting information from



Don't spread rumors

Learn more to Be **READY** for #COVID19:
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World Health Organization

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ICE PACKS



FIRST AID KITS



KOOL SPRAY

NOMADS CHAIRMAN RECOGNISED FOR SERVICES TO GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL IN CHESHIRE

Neston Nomads Chairman Bruce Munnerley has been recognised for his half-century involvement with grassroots football.

He recently received a letter from FA Chairman, Greg Clarke, and was presented with a medallion and lapel pin badge to celebrate the occasion.

Bruce started out as a player, moving between various clubs including Morgan FC, Gayton Athletic, Ellesmere Port Town and the Nomads.

At the end of his playing days, he hung up his boots and joined the Neston Nomads committee.

Like many grassroots volunteers, he turned his hand to a number of different tasks - coach, manager, secretary and then club chairman.

He has been instrumental in building the club up from just one team to now 29 junior



and four adult teams. Since 2015, the Nomads have also been a Charter Standard Community Club.

In the last two years, together with Club Secretary Keith Penny, he has also pioneered the creation of a 3G pitch in the heart of Neston.

Peter Leay, Neston Nomads Secretary, said: "Bruce has always had a good control of things. He is very communicative and always offers his support to people

within the club.

"He has created a legacy at Neston Nomads and is a big part of the local community.

"He has made some difficult decisions, but his hard work has put the club in an extremely good place."

Bruce epitomises everything that is great about a grassroots volunteer in Cheshire and fully deserves this recognition.

We would like to congratulate Bruce for his hard work!



CHESHIRE FUTSAL

In less than two years, Cheshire Futsal have established a pathway for young players, as well as competing superbly in the FA National Futsal Series. For head coach Richie Jones and club secretary Rob Goring, their journey is only just beginning...

FLYING THE FLAG...



Back in September, the National Futsal Series (NFS) was officially launched in England.

The competition takes place up and down the country and is the latest initiative designed to increase participation and raise awareness of the small-sided version of the beautiful game. There are currently 24 men's teams and 11 women's teams taking part across the NFS's five divisions.

Leading the way for our county is Cheshire Futsal Club, who have both a male and female side competing.

The team are spearheaded by Head Coach and Co-Founder Richie Jones, who only got involved with Futsal back in 2011. Having been injured playing football, Richie decided not to risk going back to playing the sport and instead chose to find out more about futsal.

Since getting involved, he has started a local adult futsal league in Wrexham – which he ran for five seasons – and now has the challenge of helping Cheshire Futsal develop their provision across several age groups.

Richie may have arrived from a footballing background, but he is clear about the benefits that futsal can provide.

“Futsal is fast and there are plenty of touches of the ball. As a coach, I think the

intensity is huge and people love that,” he said.

“**You can just see the enthusiasm, and the game is growing all the time.**”

“For the kids, I think they are starting to learn some of the benefits that come from playing futsal, including the decision-making aspect of the game.”

LEADING THE WAY IN THE NFS

Leading the way for Cheshire Futsal's provision are their adult male and female teams, who compete in the aforementioned NFS.

The men's team are top of the Tier 2 North table with five

wins and a draw from their opening six games - as well as a goal difference of +52 - while the women's team are second in their division with just one loss all season.

Despite the competition being in its infancy, the structure is clear. Each round of fixtures takes place at a different venue, from Chester's Northgate Arena to the University of Nottingham.

“**We have to explore every opportunity as our players need to be playing at the highest level. Hopefully we can push on in the summer.**”

Richie is confident that the format and structure of the competition is going a long way towards bringing new eyes to





**RICHIE
JONES**

**ALL OUR LADS WILL
SAY THEIR FOOTBALL
SKILLS HAVE
MASSIVELY IMPROVED
OFF THE BACK OF
PLAYING FUTSAL, SO
THE IMPACT CAN BE
MASSIVE.**



the sport.

He also hopes that it will allow Cheshire Futsal to play at the highest level for many years to come.

"I can actually see the benefits," he said. "We hosted on November 3, and I think we had around 100 fans there throughout the day."

”

We hope that in the next 5-10 years we will be competing for the higher honours nationally and eventually on the European stage. ”

"There's a lot of interest and I really see how the host days' work.

"The women's project has also been fantastic. We've been

really competitive even though we've been a little short on numbers, so it has been really pleasing."

MOVING FORWARD

So, after their successful start, what is next for the club?

"We're really proud of what we have achieved at the club in our first 18 months," said Rob Goring, Cheshire Futsal co-founder. "We set out with the ambition to compete at the highest level of the national league for both men and women.

"We knew when we formed the club that we had the core of squad that could compete, but we're pleased that we've been able to recruit both new players and players from

other clubs.

"Our philosophy is to bring young players through which is why starting our youth programme was really important to us. This was always our long-term plan." Richie Jones added: "We've also got our futsal leagues coming onboard. We've got four age group leagues and that's going to start soon. "We'll be running it for all the grassroots teams in the area, so that will be a massive step for the club.

"I'd like to see the women's team do well in the futsal series too. Maybe I'm being a bit too greedy with all of that, but we'll see what happens!"

NATIONAL FUTSAL SERIES





UNITED IN ORANGE

WEAR SOMETHING ORANGE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT DURING OUR **ORANGE WEEKENDER!**

4th & 5th of April 2020

[GET INVOLVED](#)

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UNITED IN ORANGE

Next month, we are showing our support for our charity partner **Once Upon a Smile** through our **Orange Weekender**.

On the 4th and 5th of April we want Cheshire to be **UNITED IN ORANGE** to show our support for Once Upon a Smile, and we need your help! The weekend has been created to raise awareness of the charity in Cheshire and to raise donations for Once Upon a Smile.

Once Upon a Smile provide emotional and practical support to bereaved families after it became apparent that there was a lack of support for families after the death of a loved one.

Once Upon a Smile is the only bereavement charity in the UK to offer a variety of support to families through such a difficult time.

Cheshire FA Marketing and Communications Officer Damon Traverse said "This is a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness of the support available from Once Upon a Smile for families that have suffered bereavement. "We want Cheshire to show its support for Once Upon a Smile and help to raise funds for the charity to support more families."

Once Upon a Smile Co-

Founder Dan Jillings said: "Once Upon a Smile are delighted to be teaming up with Cheshire FA for their United in Orange fundraising weekend. The money raised will help us to continue to support bereaved families at their time of need."

To help show your support, you can purchase **Orange Weekender wristbands, captain's armbands and laces** through us.

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CHESHIRE FA CORE WINTER TRAINING CAMP



Over 30 members of Cheshire FA's Centre of Refereeing Excellence (CORE) recently got together for their winter training camp at Ellesmere Port Sports Village.

Members of CORE get together for two training camps each year; once in the summer and once in the winter. They also meet up for several training and education meetings throughout the year at Cheshire FA HQ.

Camp attendees take part in a mixture of practical and theory-based sessions, all of which are designed to ensure that they are best prepared for refereeing games of football to the highest standard.

Nigel Freelove, Cheshire FA CORE Director, said:

"Refereeing selection is done very carefully. It's about helping people that

are trying to get onto the promotion ladder.

“**We look at their attitude towards fitness and nutrition, their lifestyle and availability.**”

"The technical sessions ensure quality and that all the referees are at the same standard.

"[The camps] are also knowledge based. We are very keen on the laws of the game in order to make sure that they have got the best knowledge out of all of the referees in the county."

In the morning session, CORE referees took part in endurance challenges, including the dreaded Yo-Yo test, before getting involved with a yoga session, led by Wirral Yoga instructor Lee Brogan.

In the afternoon, the referees analysed a range of matchday

scenarios, discussing what appropriate action should be taken.

Greg Nixon, Level 4 Advanced Group Referee, said: "Cheshire CORE gives us the opportunity to get together five or six times throughout the season.

“**We have the opportunity to gain valuable insights into what's going on in football across the county.**”

"It tests our knowledge on the laws of the game and allows us to work on developing our fitness too."

Ben Sutcliffe, Level 5 Foundation Group Referee, added: "It is definitely a good way to improve our refereeing. "Being able to learn from anyone is a really good experience, so being able to do that on and off the pitch is a great opportunity at my level."

CHESHIRE FA CORE



MIKE ABBOTT TALKS:

Oxton Ladies, the growth of female football & winning the Cheshire FA Women & Girls Award!



Sometimes, a person's love for sport can start with a simple leaflet from school.

In 2010, Erin, daughter of Oxton Ladies Chairman Mike Abbott, came home and pleaded with her parents to let her try football with her classmates.

Mike and his wife, Tracey, took their daughter to the school session, expecting her wish to play the beautiful game to be short-lived.

At the session, Mike was approached by Carl Cuthbert, worker at the school, who expressed a desire to start a girl's football team. For Mr Cuthbert, school was the perfect place for girls to try football in a pressure-free environment.

By September of that year, Carl had enough players to form a team. As his daughter continued to be involved with the team, Mike helped with the carrying of goal-posts, as

any parent would.

At the end of the season, the girls decided to stay together and train during the winter months.

This dedication and motivation gave Carl the impetus he needed to fulfill his ambition and create a club solely promoting the female game.

In 2011, Oxton Ladies were formed.

"We were established with a simple philosophy; to give every girl the opportunity to

participate in football," Mike said. "Oxton Ladies helps give [young girls] the opportunity to progress as far as they can in the female game.

“ **All our girls show a dedication to training and playing that we are incredibly proud of.** ”

"This has resulted in several players achieving places with Liverpool, Everton and Tranmere Rovers academies." Mike is now firmly involved





with girls' football in Cheshire, being the Secretary of the Cheshire Girls League Wirral Division, as well as Chairman and Child Welfare Officer at Oxton.

He has also taken over the running of his daughter's team from Carl, who decided to step away to focus more attention on the newly-established teams coming through at the club.

SOLO HONOURS

Mike was the proud recipient of the 2019 Women & Girls Award at last year's Cheshire FA Awards. Despite this recognition, Mike has continued to show unwavering dedication to help Oxton flourish, all in the hope of providing more opportunities for girls across Cheshire.

"The fact that someone had taken the time to nominate me made me incredibly



proud," he said. "I've watched the female game grow from a niche participation sport, having been often overlooked or even derided by many.

”

It's great to see female players at all levels being recognised for their progression and abilities. ”

"As for the growth of Oxton

Ladies, as long as we have the coaches available or parents willing to become qualified coaches, we will always look to increase participation.

"I cannot fail to be proud and impressed in equal measure that we in some small way contributing to the success of female football on the Wirral."

OXTON LADIES WEBSITE



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"I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT FOOTBALL IS A GREAT TOOL FOR ENGAGEMENT, NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE. THE SESSIONS ARE ALL ABOUT COMING ALONG AND ENJOYING FOOTBALL."



Chester FC mental health and wellbeing sessions provide weekly football at Northgate Arena.

This project helps to reduce the social isolation that people with mental health issues can experience, offering them the opportunity to make friends and keep fit in a safe environment. Participants are able to talk about their problems without

stigma, seek advice and access additional support.

Levi Lloyd has been involved with the project from the beginning and is responsible for managing the team and running the session.

The project initially ran to support homeless people but now operates as a mental health/disability session.

Levi works for ForFutures, who help support the session by providing funding for the facility hire.

“**We encourage them to forget about their issues for an hour and switch off.**”

"We have people with all sorts of disabilities and all different levels of learning difficulties," Levi said. "The sessions are about coming along and enjoying football. "We offer players the opportunity to play in the Cheshire

Ability Counts League, so it's a great pathway for anyone who

wants to play football." Evidence shows that regular exercise is beneficial for mental health and wellbeing, helping to reduce stress and anxiety, increase self-esteem and reduce the risk of depression. "I have seen the benefits that sport and exercise can have on my clients," he said. "I strongly believe that football is a great tool for engagement no matter what you have going on in your life."

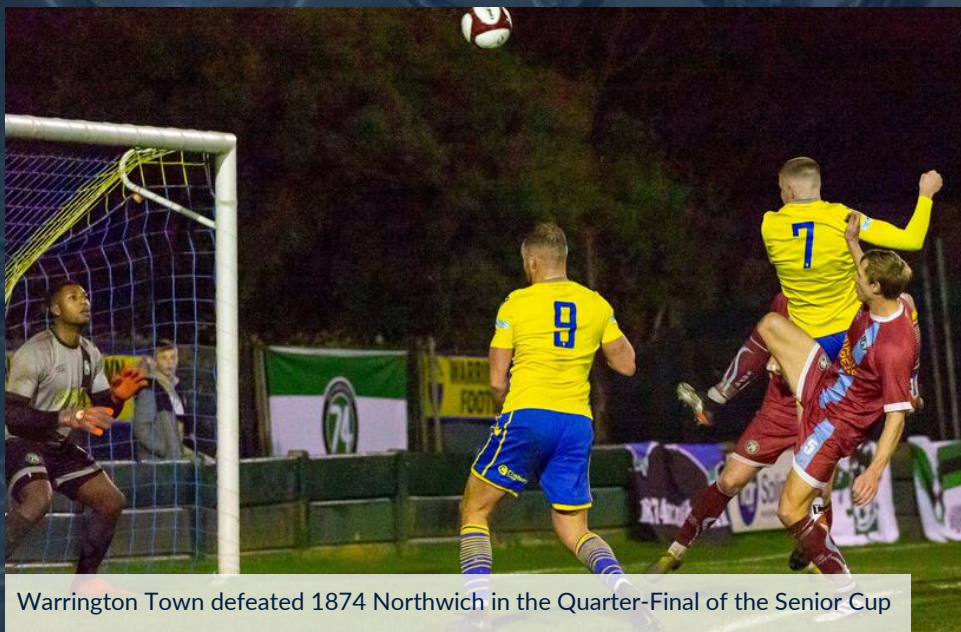
A team representing Chester FC competes in the Ability Counts League, with participants invited to attend matches as a reward for their involvement in the project. Furthermore, the Chester FC Community Trust won Best Health Project at the 2018 National League Trust Community Awards. Dave Yardley, who is also involved with the session on a weekly basis, said: "Levi is a great communicator.

“**Participants know that he is there for them when they come to the sessions.**”

"He makes them feel safe, included and supported. Participants join as people with struggles and leave as football champions."

COUNTY CUPS





Warrington Town defeated 1874 Northwich in the Quarter-Final of the Senior Cup

We are getting to the crunch stages of this year's County Cup competitions, with final places still up for grabs.

In the Senior Cup, Nantwich Town remain in with a chance of reaching the final for a fourth successive year. Having won back-to-back Senior Cup titles already, the Dabbers booked their place in this year's last four with a 3-0 victory over Northwich Victoria, courtesy of Joe Malkin's brace and a Callum Saunders strike. They have set up a meeting with Cheshire rivals Warrington Town. Paul Carden's side secured passage to the next round as Dave Raven's close-range finish ensured the Yellows beat 1874 Northwich 1-0. Chester FC, the highest-ranked side left in the competition, booked their place in the last four with a

1-0 victory over League 1 side Tranmere Rovers. Danny Elliott's first-half penalty - his sixth goal in this year's competition - proved to be the difference as the Seals provided the scalp of the quarter-finals. Their semi-final opponents will be Hyde United, who required penalties to knock out lower-league Vauxhall Motors at the Syncreon Arena. The visitors twice held the lead, but Mick McGraa's side battled back with goals in each half from Karl Noon and Michael Burkey. Nevertheless, Hyde progressed to the next round after winning 3-1 on penalties.

ALL County Cup Competitions are postponed until Saturday 4 April. Revised dates for all upcoming rounds will be announced in due course.

Find out More



Selected Fixtures

Senior Cup Semi-Finals

Chester FC vs Hyde United;
Nantwich Town vs Warrington Town

Ladies Cup Semi-Finals

Northwich Vixens vs Tranmere Rovers;
Stockport County vs Crewe Alexandra

Amateur Cup Final

Upton AA FC vs Heswall FC

Sunday Cup Final

Queens Bredbury vs Great Float

Youth Cup Final

West Kirby United vs Winsford Diamonds

Junior Cup Final

Wilmslow Sports vs Spurley Hey

Girls Junior Cup Final

Glenavon JFC Girls vs Oxtton Ladies

Minor Cup Final

Lymm Rovers vs Vauxhall Motors/Cheadle & Gatley

Girls Minor Cup Final

Oxtton Ladies vs Unicorn Athletic JFC

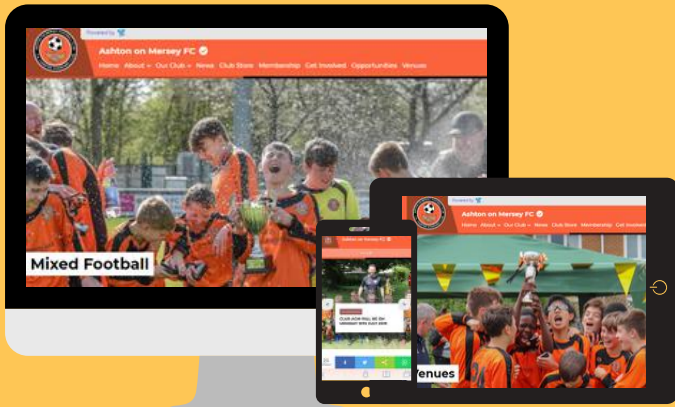


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- Marketing Workshop
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Interested?

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Cheshire FA Year in Review: 2019

2019 was a fantastic year for grassroots football in Cheshire. Take a look at some of the key events that took place over the last 12 months.

WATCH NOW



A closer look at the FA Referee Course

Take a closer look at what our FA Referee Course involves, including a chat with our Referee Development Officer Ed Duckworth, as well as some action shots from the course.

WATCH NOW



Impact Study: Levi Lloyd

Recently, we visited the Chester FC Wellbeing Session at Northgate Arena. We spoke to inspirational volunteer Levi Lloyd to find out how he first got involved and how the session is impacting the lives of those who attend.

WATCH NOW



The importance of Safeguarding Workshops

Take a closer look at what our FA Safeguarding Workshop involve, including a chat with one of our course tutors and some action shots from the course.

WATCH NOW



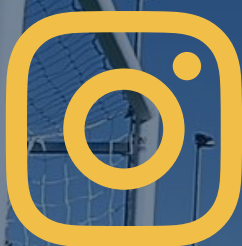
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Keep up to **date**

WHAT'S COMING UP



Cheshire FA Awards 2020

Our annual Cheshire FA Awards will be taking place on Friday 10 July at the Village Hotel, Warrington. Further details regarding nominations and how to secure tickets for the event will be released very soon.



Elevens League in Crewe

Our inaugural Crewe Elevens League is set to launch this June. Games are expected to be played on Friday evenings, and details will be added to our website once confirmed.



England Talent Day

We will be hosting our England Talent Day at Cheshire FA HQ later this month. If you would like to sign up for the event, you can do so until Friday 20 March.



FA and McDonalds Grassroots Awards

Nominations for the national 2020 FA and McDonald's Grassroots Awards are now open. This is the chance for you to recognise your unsung heroes of grassroots football. Click [HERE](#) to nominate now.

Visit our website to find out more!



THE 1878

MARCH 2020

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