



Hertfordshire FA



Under 15 Girls Challenge Cup Final 2024 **Royston Town Youth v Hitchin Belles Youth**

Saturday 23rd March 2024 2:30pm
The County Ground, Letchworth Garden City



Welcome to The County Ground



Our second County Cup Final of 2024

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to The County Ground, home of Hertfordshire FA for today's Under 15 Girls Cup Final.

Our congratulations go to the players and management of both Royston Town Youth and Hitchin Belles Youth on reaching the final. We wish you the very best of luck and hope you have a memorable day. We also want to acknowledge both club's volunteers, whose hard work behind the scenes gives these players the opportunity to be part of the game.

Congratulations also to the match officials on your appointment to this game, you thoroughly deserve it and we hope you are able to enjoy the occasion.

Finally we are delighted to welcome Mary Pacitti, Chair of our Women and Girls Committee as Guest of Honour for today's final where they will meet the teams before the game and also present the medals at the end of the match.

While you are here be sure to make the most of the facilities, including the Pitchside Cafe which is next to the main stand and will be serving hot and cold drinks, food and snacks throughout the day. Should you have a query, our staff will be happy to help you.

Our goal is to create a friendly and welcoming environment for all and therefore ask that you show your appreciation during and after the game in a positive manner.

Graham Phillips,
Chair, Hertfordshire FA

Hertfordshire FA Competitions Committee

Chair	Secretary	Committee Members and Representatives
Graham Phillips	Paddy Donovan	Steve Trulock, Graham Martin, Gary Hollingsworth, Peter Waller, Bob Spooner, Alan Wilson

WE'RE BACKING PLAY SAFE



Do you know how to help keep your child safe in football?

[TheFA.com/PlaySafe](https://www.thefa.com/play-safe)



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Competition History



This is the 14th Final of the Hertfordshire FA Under 15 Girls Cup

Hertfordshire FA introduced female youth competitions in the 1997-98 season, reflecting the growth in girls playing across the county. This was the first time there had been County Cups specifically for girls in Hertfordshire and included Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 competitions. Cups for the 'odd' age groups would follow from 2005-06.

With the advent of a fully professional Women's Super League and the impact of the Lionesses winning the Euros, female football continues to reach new heights and the future of the game looks stronger than ever. This continued growth has also led the addition of an Under 18 Girls County Cup in Hertfordshire for the first time in 2022-23.

Harvesters have been the most successful club in the U15 Cup, with three wins including the first two finals. After them come Garston Ladies, who secured back to back wins in 2017 and 2018. Hitchin Belles have previously lifted this cup in 2015 and were runners up last season, while Royston's best run in this competition saw them reach the final in 2022.

Today's match will be 40 minutes each way, with kicks from the penalty mark if necessary. Teams are permitted roll-on/roll-off substitutes.

Recent Finals

The COVID pandemic caused the 2019-20 season to be cut short, with that season's competition being declared void. The Under 15 Girls Cup was not run in the subsequent season before returning in 2021-22.

2012/13	Bury Rangers Youth	3 - 1	Garston Ladies Junior
2014/15	Hitchin Belles Youth	2 - 1	Watford Ladies Youth
2015/16	Kinja Youth	1 - 0	Garston Ladies Junior
2016/17	Garston Ladies Junior	4 - 0	Harvesters
2017/18	Garston Ladies Junior	5 - 1	Onslow St Audreys
2018/19	Stevenage Borough Juniors	2 - 0	Watford FC Girls
2021/22	Oaklands Wolves	1 - 0	Royston Town Youth
2022/23	Watford Ladies Youth	8 - 0	Hitchin Belles Youth

Club Profile

Royston Town Youth

Providing football and inspiration for players of all abilities in a fun environment



The club was originally formed in 1975 and fully amalgamated with Royston Town in 2008, with the club attaining the coveted FA Community Club status in 2009. The Royston Town Youth section of the club is run as a sub-committee of the Adult RTFC board with representation from both sections seen in both executive leaderships.

Today, Royston Town Youth is a Three Star England Football Accredited Club which provides football for almost 800 young players, across nineteen boys and nine girls teams. The Club also runs additional programmes including Wildcats for young girls, inclusive football sessions for children with disabilities and Mini Crows Fun Football for 3-6 year olds.

Royston Town Youth prides itself on being an inclusive club, enabling players of all abilities to thrive in a fun football environment. Everyone at the club are incredibly proud of the U15 Girls achievement reaching the final of the County Cup. We wish them luck and hope that the Coaches, Players and all spectators enjoy the day.



League Season

Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League, U15 Division 1

As at 18/03/2024

		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Broxbourne United Girls	15	7	4	4	6	25
2	Royston Town Youth	11	7	3	1	19	24
3	Hitchin Belles Youth	13	7	3	3	22	24
4	Bedwell Rangers Youth	12	6	2	4	7	20
5	Aylesbury United Women FC	13	6	2	5	6	20
6	Oaklands Wolves Youth	14	5	4	5	2	19
7	Harefield United Youth	12	4	3	5	-7	15
8	Sarratt Rebels	13	4	2	7	-15	14
9	St Albans City Youth	11	3	3	5	-8	12
10	Goffs Oak Girls	14	0	4	10	-32	4

Your analysis of the season so far...

So far the Under 15 Crows have played eleven games, winning seven, drawing three and only losing one, in a very competitive and even league. Our goal difference is very respectable with a number of different players contributing goals and assists.

At the time of writing this we are in second place, a point behind the league leaders, with four games in hand. This is a great achievement considering we have had a number of injuries this season, and on a few occasions, we've only been able to field eleven players.

The squad are looking forward to the County Cup Final, in the hope we can push for a league and cup double. We expect today's match to be a good contest, with our encounter in the league being a closely contested affair.

RAISING THE GAME

*It's the standards you set
that make the difference*



ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL



Royston Town Youth

Currently 2nd in the Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League U15 Division 1
As at 18/03/2024

League Form

Games Won	7
Games Drawn	3
Games Lost	1
Goals Scored	30
Goals Conceded	11

Leading Scorers

29	Lila-Belle Nacca
8	Jessica Darcy
6	Chloe Garner Smith
3	Mia Geldart
3	Madelaine Burling



Hitchin Belles Youth

Currently 3rd in the Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League U15 Division 1
As at 18/03/2024

League Form

Games Won	7
Games Drawn	3
Games Lost	3
Goals Scored	39
Goals Conceded	17

Leading Scorers

21	Olivia Thornton
11	Lydia Haslam
7	Ailsa Heal
6	Annabel Ferguson
5	Lily Bell

Route to the Final

R1	St Albans City Youth	0 - 9	Royston Town Youth
R2	Royston Town Youth	2 - 2 (4 - 3)P	BSC FC Youth
QF	Sarratt Rebels	0 - 1	Royston Town Youth
SF	Royston Town Youth	2 - 1	Oaklands Wolves

Route to the Final

R1	Stevenage Starlets	0 - 7	Hitchin Belles Youth
R2	Broxbourne Borough Youth	2 - 9	Hitchin Belles Youth
QF	Bedwell Rangers Youth	AW	Hitchin Belles Youth
SF	Goff Oak Girls	1 - 3	Hitchin Belles Youth

Club Profile

Hitchin Belles Youth

All female club has been at the forefront of growing the game for twenty-five years



The club was founded by Roger Spicer in 1999 with the acknowledgement of Hitchin needing a girls football club. Within the first decade the club grew organically and quickly became one of the largest all female football clubs in the county.

At Hitchin Belles we aim to provide a caring, family environment where girls can develop their skills and enjoy football. Players are encouraged to challenge themselves, as we play competitive football with enjoyment and development at the forefront.

To continue our high standards it is crucial that all of our parents, carers, and supporters buy into the club's ethos, as they continue to positively represent Hitchin Belles.

Hitchin Belles has continued to thrive over the years to grow the female pathway. With a home ground at The Priory School we have expanded to over 450 registered players across 30 teams, making us one of the largest all female football clubs in England.



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Your analysis of the season so far...

This year marks the third season for the girls playing 11v11 football, having spent the previous two seasons playing as an Under 14 team. The decision to play up a year paid off, with the girls winning both their Division and the League Shield that first year, and finishing close to the top of Division 1 last season.

The 2023-24 season saw the arrival of two new squad members bringing extra strength and depth to the team. We set our objectives high, determined to show the team performance level we know we can achieve and bring home some silverware this year.

The team have had a strong season so far bringing back some resounding and important wins and are currently in contention for the League title. Dropping the odd point occasionally, the team respond with resilience and team spirit.

We are particularly proud of the way that they play with strong team performances and a high number of scorers, with goals and assists coming from players all over the pitch. We're very much looking forward to today's game. Royston are a strong opposition, and past matches have always been good games so this should be an exciting contest.

Do You Know How to Help Keep Your Child Safe in Football?

Hertfordshire FA Designated Safeguarding Manager
Gemma Chaffey on how you can play your part



Safeguarding is about creating safe environments and preventing children from experiencing harm or abuse. Put simply, safeguarding refers to measures we take to protect our children - and keep them safe and well. Whether that's your kids, the opposing players or even the referee, every young person has the right to enjoy football.

The FA offer a short Safeguarding for Parents Course designed to help you to make an informed choice about the football setting you enrol your child in. It starts by explaining the importance of safeguarding in football and the child-centred approach the game takes.

It will then guide you through questions you should ask to ensure the club or venue where your children play has the correct safeguarding policies, people and practices in place. The course also highlights signs that should concern you – and how to report these concerns.

Together we can help make football safe for all. Take the free Safeguarding Awareness for Parents and Carers course today!



bit.ly/HFA-SAC

Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

Don't wait for someone else to do something about it

A child or young person may inform you directly that they are concerned about someone's behaviour towards them. Or you may become aware, through your own observations or through a third party, of possible abuse occurring. Either way you need to report it.

If you have a safeguarding concern you should raise it with your Club Welfare Officer, or alternatively contact our Designated Safeguarding Manager. Please call Gemma Chaffey on 07538 990836 or email safeguarding@hertfordshirefa.com.

If you cannot contact one of the above or you are worried about a child outside of football, you can also call Children Services 0300 123 4043 or the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000.

If you believe someone is in immediate danger of harm, always call the Police on 999

When it comes to concussion, don't take chances

IF IN DOUBT SIT THEM OUT

BE CONCUSSION AWARE



RECOGNISE

understand signs
and symptoms
of concussion



REMOVE

anyone with suspected
concussion must be
removed from play



REST

players must refrain
from exercise and start a
Graduated Return To Play



For additional free resources including
England Football Learning's online
concussion course and guidelines
englandfootball.com/concussion



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Years of Transforming Lives

1,000,000

One million items of kit donated since 1998

KitAid takes donations of once loved football kit and distributes it to some of the world's poorest countries, giving young people the opportunity to get involved in sport and helping partner charities to engage with the communities they work in.

To learn more about our work and how you can help with donations of kit visit our website.

www.kitaid.net

Reg Charity No. 1113968

Hertfordshire FA County Cup Finals 2024



Saturday 23rd March 10:00am
Under 14 Girls Challenge Cup
Hitchin Belles Youth vs Hertford Town Girls

Saturday 23rd March 2:30pm
Under 15 Girls Challenge Cup
Royston Town Youth vs Hitchin Belles Youth

Sunday 24th March 3:00pm
Women's Trophy
Colney Heath vs Stevenage FC Development

Wednesday 27th March 7:45pm
Senior Centenary Trophy
Royston Town U23 vs Hoddesdon Town

Friday 29th March 3:00pm
Junior Cup
Sarratt Res vs Bishop's Stortford Swifts Res

Wednesday 3rd April 7:45pm*
Senior Challenge Cup
Finalists and venue to be confirmed

Sunday 7th April 10:00am
Under 18 Boys Challenge Cup
Cheshunt Youth vs Harpenden Colts

Sunday 7th April 3:00pm
Sunday Intermediate Cup
Finalists to be confirmed

Wednesday 10th April 7:45pm
Charity Shield
Tring Athletic vs Oxhey Jets

Sunday 14th April 10:00am
Under 14 Boys Challenge Cup
Sun Sports Youth vs Kings Langley Youth

Sunday 14th April 3:00pm
Sunday Junior Cup
Hertford Club De Futbol vs Northaw Res

Sunday 21st April 10:00am
Under 15 Boys Challenge Cup
Finalists to be confirmed

Sunday 21st April 3:00pm
Women's Senior Challenge Cup
Royston Town vs Watford FC

Sunday 28th April 10:00am
Under 16 Boys Challenge Cup
Finalists to be confirmed

Sunday 28th April 3:00pm
Sunday Senior Cup
Finalists to be confirmed

Saturday 4th May 10:00am
Under 16 Girls Challenge Cup
Finalists to be confirmed

Saturday 4th May 3:00pm
Under 18 Girls Challenge Cup
Finalists to be confirmed

Date and venue to be confirmed*
Charity Cup
Potters Bar Town v St Albans City

Date to be confirmed
Intermediate Cup
Finalists to be confirmed

* All finals to be played at The County Ground, Letchworth, with the exception of the Senior Cup and Charity Cup



V



Grace Ballard

Lauren Caley

Charlotte Davidson

Chloe Garner Smith

Dilly Hasslehurst

Lila-Belle Nacca

Callie Sampson

Madelaine Burling

Jessica Darcy

Ryleigh English-Dent

Iris Flin

Mia Geldart

Shania Honey

Alice Parnwell

Lily Bell

Maisie Curtis

Bethany Davis Garcia

Annabel Ferguson

Elsie Gregson

Lydia Haslam

Ailsa Heal

Millie Lamont

Emily Logan

Maia Payton

Madison Smith

Summer Snell

Ellody Starkie

Olivia Thornton

Sophia Wade

Manager: Franco Nacca

Assistant: Glen Smith

Colours: White Shirts, Black Shorts,
Black Socks

Manager: Peter Haslam

Assistants: Ryan Brooke, Luke Gregson

Colours: Blue Shirts, Blue Shorts,
Blue Socks

Referee:
Ruby Lyne

Assistants:
Maria Loizou, Lara Boughton

Fourth Official:
Natasha Marsh