



# Hertfordshire FA



## **Under 16 Girls Challenge Cup Final 2024** **Stevenage Starlets v Hitchin Belles Youth**

Saturday 4th May 2024 10:00am  
The County Ground, Letchworth Garden City



# Welcome to The County Ground



## Our sixteenth County Cup Final of 2024

Good morning and a warm welcome to The County Ground, home of Hertfordshire FA for today's Under 16 Girls Challenge Cup Final.

Our congratulations go to the players and management of both Stevenage Starlets 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 the volunteers of both clubs, 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 Michelle Chandler, who is a Director of Hertfordshire FA as Guest of Honour for today's final, who 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

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## 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)



In partnership with  
**NSPCC**

Supported by



## Competition History



### This is the 18th Final of the Hertfordshire FA Under 16 Girls Challenge Cup

The Hertfordshire FA Under 16 Girls Challenge Cup was introduced 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 was introduced alongside an Under 14 competition. Cups for the 'odd' age groups would follow in 2005-06.

The early years of the competition were dominated by Bushey Rangers, who won four of the first five titles and they remain the club that has won this trophy most times. There then followed a number of years when there were not enough teams for a viable competition. This reflects the fact that while the younger age groups thrived as female participation grew, there remained a challenge in keeping girls involved in the game through to adult.

More recently this situation has improved significantly and the competition has flourished, with an Under 18 Girls County Cup competition also being added in Hertfordshire for the first time last year. Although Hitchin Belles have previously enjoyed success in other age groups, both of today's clubs are appearing the final of this competition for the first time.

*Today's match will be 40 minutes each way, with kicks from the penalty mark if necessary to decide the winner. Teams are permitted rolling substitutions from a list of 7 named players.*

## Recent Finals

The COVID pandemic caused the 2019-20 season to be cut short, with winning semi-finalists Stevenage Boro Juniors and Wodson Park declared to have shared the competition. The Under 16 Girls Cup was not run in the subsequent season before returning in 2022.

<b>2011/12</b>	Hemel Hempstead Girls	6 - 0	Harvesters
<b>2013/14</b>	Watford Ladies Youth	3 - 1	Bury Rangers Youth
<b>2015/16</b>	Watford Ladies Youth	5 - 1	Harvesters
<b>2016/17</b>	BSCFC	5 - 1	St Albans City Youth
<b>2017/18</b>	Garston Ladies	3 - 2	Watford Ladies
<b>2018/19</b>	Watford Ladies Youth	1 - 1 (3 - 2)P	St Albans City Youth
<b>2021/22</b>	Meninas	1 - 0	Watford Ladies Youth
<b>2022/23</b>	Watford FC CSE Trust	7-0	Knebworth Youth

# Club Profile

## Stevenage Starlets



All girls club reaching its first County Cup Final after seven years of impressive growth

Starlets were founded in 2017 to give local girls the opportunity to play football in a fun and safe environment. While the game is changing, girls teams can sometimes feel like an afterthought in clubs focused on boys football. We didn't want our girls to feel second best, so we decided to start a club where their needs come first. A place where girls can feel comfortable and confident learning the game and enjoy developing their skills.

Having begun with just one team and twelve players, our approach turned out to be more popular than we could ever have expected and the club grew rapidly right from the start. Within five years we had grown to more than 175 players and the club had won several awards. Today we have fifteen teams offering football opportunities across all youth age groups and are proud to be recognised as an England Football Accredited Club.

Football is not only a fantastic way for children to improve their fitness and enhance their physical development, it can also be a way to learn vital life skills such as determination, discipline, resilience, and teamwork. As such we recognise that some of the most important lessons they will learn with us will help them not just on the pitch but in later life.

From developing a sense of fair play, to learning how to be humble in victory or gracious in defeat, football can have a significant positive impact on a child's personal development. So we think it's vital to create a culture where attitude is considered just as important as ability and our values (Integrity, Equality, Trust, Respect, Enjoyment, Teamwork, Loyalty and Sportsmanship) are lived in everything that we all do.



ACCREDITED  
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

# STRONGER TOGETHER

*Creating football opportunities  
for the whole community*

# League Season

## Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League, U16 Division 1

As at 29/04/2024

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 <b>Wormley Rovers Youth (Black)</b>	15	14	0	1	59	9	50	42
2 <b>Kings Langley Youth</b>	14	8	1	5	29	24	5	25
3 <b>Hitchin Belles Youth</b>	15	7	4	4	37	24	13	25
4 <b>St Albans City Youth</b>	14	7	2	5	43	37	6	23
5 <b>Stevenage Starlets</b>	15	6	2	7	28	25	3	20
6 <b>Evergreen Youth</b>	15	5	3	7	25	39	-14	18
7 <b>Hertford Town Girls</b>	16	5	2	9	30	49	-19	17
8 <b>Harpenden Colts</b>	14	3	2	9	15	26	-11	11
9 <b>Wormley Rovers Youth (Red)</b>	16	3	2	11	25	58	-33	11

## Your analysis of the season so far...

This is the fifth season that the core of this team has been together, with us adding adding a couple of new players this year who settled in straight away. The season started well with a wins at summer tournaments, which gave us a positive start going into the league.

We started well with three wins, two of which were clinched in the dying minutes. The girls have a never give up attitude and this shows throughout the season, especially where we have sometimes played with or minimal players due to injuries. The girls togetherness is something special to be a part of. The team have also confirmed a place in the League Cup Final vs Wormley and are in the running for a second place finish in the standings.

This is the first team to represent the Club in a County Cup Final which means a lot to us. This game will be the fourth meeting this season between ourselves and Hitchin Belles, with a win each and draw so far. This promises to be a closely contested final between two sides who know each other very well. Whatever happens on the day, we are extremely proud of this group and will enjoy this memorable moment.



# Stevenage Starlets

Currently 5th in the Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League, U16 Division 1

As at 29/04/2024

## League Form

Games Won	6
Games Drawn	2
Games Lost	7
Goals Scored	28
Goals Conceded	25

## Leading Scorers

7	Rosa Ray-Smith
6	Abigail Hunt
6	Aimee L'Honore
5	Lexie Beevor
4	Marie-Sara Bai



# Hitchin Belles Youth

Currently 3rd in the Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League, U16 Division 1

As at 29/04/2024

## League Form

Games Won	7
Games Drawn	4
Games Lost	4
Goals Scored	37
Goals Conceded	24

## Leading Scorers

11	Holly Nichol
9	Ella Bhalla
6	Lilly Woodliffe
4	Lara Boughton
3	Geva Hill

## Route to the Final

R1		BYE	
R2	Stevenage Starlets	4 - 0	St Albans City Youth (South)
QF	St Albans City Youth (Wildcats)	0 - 0 (2 - 4)P	Stevenage Starlets
SF	Evergreen Youth	0 - 3	Stevenage Starlets

## Route to the Final

R1	Hitchin Belles Youth	9 - 0	BSC FC Youth
R2	Hitchin Belles Youth	1 - 0	Garston Ladies Junior
QF	LGCE Youth	3 - 7	Hitchin Belles Youth
SF	Harpenden Colts	0 - 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.



# League Season

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As at 29/04/2024

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## Your analysis of the season so far...

Moving into the Under 16 competitions, the coaching team were ambitious to continue the success the team experienced in the 2022-23 season. A key aspect of this was recruiting new players to the squad where we welcomed Lara, Ruby and Ella to further build upon the strength and positive dynamic of the team.

Our campaign kicked off with mixed results, however the team was determined to collect their efforts and support one another on and off the pitch. Their play since has seen the team reach the Semi Final of the Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League Junior Cup and Hertfordshire FA County Cup Final.

Our team have demonstrated their togetherness and desire to succeed in times of challenge. As a coaching team we aim to develop the whole player through positive interactions in combination with personal challenges for each individual to excel.

We have enjoyed our County Cup run and we hope to continue this experience with a strong performance in the final with the encouragement from our club supporters.

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

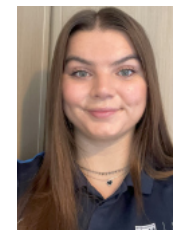
players must refrain from exercise and start a Graduated Return To Play



For additional free resources including England Football Learning's online concussion course and guidelines  
[englandfootball.com/concussion](http://englandfootball.com/concussion)



# Giving Young People a Voice in Local Grassroots Football



Hertfordshire FA Youth Council Chair Madeline Hurley on the impact the group is aiming to have

Created in the summer of 2023, the Hertfordshire FA Youth Council is a group of young leaders aged 16-24 which aims to inspire, empower, and provide a voice for all young people to influence change, and positively impact football in Hertfordshire.

The Youth Council has established five focus areas in support of Hertfordshire FA's wider strategy; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Women and Girls, Coaching, Refereeing, and Safeguarding. The Youth Council also assists in the organisation of the County Cup competitions as well as building its own social media presence on platforms.

Our Youth Councillors are paired with a member of Hertfordshire FA staff to be mentored and supported in their own development. This means that, while the whole Youth Council works collectively on a team project, each champion has the opportunity to pursue their own projects that they feel passionately about with the guidance of their mentor.

**Interested in being part of this group and supporting the development of local youth football? Contact [beth.dawes@hertfordshirefa.com](mailto:beth.dawes@hertfordshirefa.com) for further information**

## Getting Involved in Running Your Club

We are keen to support any club in starting a Youth Forum

Involving young people in making decisions that affect them is important. Not only does it mean that they are more likely to have a positive experience, but also it gives them a sense of ownership and the chance to learn new skills.

For football to continue thrive in the future we must encourage and embed an ethos of community volunteering in the younger generation and bring these young people through into leadership positions in the structures of clubs and leagues.

We are committed to ensuring young people are actively involved in the development of the game and have produced a guide to help any club interested in launching a Youth Forum to get started.



**Visit the Youth Zone pages on our website to find out more**

**[bit.ly/HFA-SYP](https://bit.ly/HFA-SYP)**

# KITaid



## 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](http://www.kitaid.net)

RegCharity No. 1113968

# Hertfordshire FA County Cup Finals 2024



**Saturday 23rd March 10:00am**  
**Under 14 Girls Challenge Cup**  
Won by Hertford Town Girls

**Saturday 23rd March 2:30pm**  
**Under 15 Girls Challenge Cup**  
Won by Hitchin Belles Youth

**Wednesday 27th March 7:45pm**  
**Senior Centenary Trophy**  
Won by Hoddesdon Town

**Friday 29th March 3:00pm**  
**Junior Cup**  
Won by Sarratt Reserves

**Sunday 7th April 10:00am**  
**Under 18 Boys Challenge Cup**  
Won by Cheshunt Youth

**Sunday 7th April 3:00pm**  
**Sunday Intermediate Cup**  
Won by Brewster Plumbing

**Tuesday 9th April 7:45pm\***  
**Senior Challenge Cup**  
Won by St Albans City

**Wednesday 10th April 7:45pm**  
**Charity Shield**  
Won by Tring Athletic

**Sunday 14th April 10:00am**  
**Under 14 Boys Challenge Cup**  
Won by Sun Sports Youth

**Sunday 14th April 3:00pm**  
**Sunday Junior Cup**  
Won by Northaw Reserves

**Sunday 21st April 10:00am**  
**Under 15 Boys Challenge Cup**  
Won by St Albans City Youth

**Sunday 21st April 3:00pm**  
**Women's Senior Challenge Cup**  
Won by Royston Town

**Sunday 28th April 10:00am**  
**Under 16 Boys Challenge Cup**  
Won by Sun Sports Youth

**Sunday 28th April 3:00pm**  
**Sunday Senior Cup**  
Won by Strafford Arms

**Saturday 4th May 10:00am**  
**Under 16 Girls Challenge Cup**  
Stevenage Starlets vs Hitchin Belles Youth

**Saturday 4th May 3:00pm**  
**Under 18 Girls Challenge Cup**  
Garston Ladies Junior vs Oaklands Wolves

**Sunday 26th May 10:30am**  
**Women's Trophy**  
Colney Heath vs Stevenage FC Development

**Date 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 which is to be played at Top Field in Hitchin and the Charity Cup for which the venue is still to be confirmed*





V



Glory Temiloa

Marie-Sara Bai

Lexie Beevor

Rebecca Bell

Amelie Davies

Emily Doherty

Katie Harrington-Pike

Abigail Hunt

Aimee L'Honore

Aoife Loriga

Jessica Preston

Rosa Ray-Smith

Serena Rodrigues Neto

Sophie Rowe

Ella Bhalla

Ellie Bond

Lara Boughton

Isabelle Collis

Ruby Day

Emme Flynn

Grace Hart

Grace Higgins

Geva Hill

Holly Nichol

Alice Turner Vincent

Lily Woodliffe

Amelia Jennifer Yardley

Poppy Jenkins

**Manager:** Craig Harrington Pike

**Assistant:** Clare Doherty

**Colours:** Navy Blue Shirt, Navy Blue Shorts, Navy Blue Socks

**Manager:** Jemma Fairey

**Assistant:** Martin Young, Ari Easton

**Colours:** White Shirt, Blue Shorts, Blue Socks

**Referee:**  
Michael Andrews

**Assistants:**  
Benjamin Forbes-Malone, Edward Partridge

**Fourth Official:**  
Angus Twidell