



Hertfordshire FA



Women's Trophy Final 2025

Watford FC Development v Stevenage FC Development

Sunday 23rd March 2025 2:30pm
The County Ground, Letchworth Garden City



Welcome to The County Ground



Our seventh County Cup Final of 2025

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to The County Ground, home of Hertfordshire FA for today's Women's Trophy Final.

Our congratulations go to the players and management of both Watford FC Development and Stevenage FC Development on reaching the final. We wish you luck for the match and hope you have a memorable day. We also want to acknowledge those 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 Elaine Phillips 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. Elaine is a representative on the Hertfordshire FA Council and former Secretary of the Royston Crow Youth Football League, a position she held for more than 30 years.

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

Graham Phillips

Secretary

Paddy Donovan

Committee Members and Representatives

Steve Trulock, Graham Martin, Gary Hollingsworth,
Bob Spooner, Alan Wilson

**PLAY
SAFE**

**EVERYONE.
EVERYWHERE.
EVERYTIME.**

We all have a responsibility to protect young people



**Learn how you can help to
keep your child safe in football**
hertfordshirefa.com/safeguarding



In partnership with

NSPCC



Competition History



**This is the second Final of the Hertfordshire FA
Women's Trophy**

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 female players in Hertfordshire and included Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 competitions. Cups for the 'odd' age groups would follow from 2005-06.

In 2022-23 we were finally able to introduce an Under 18 Girls Cup, with the growth of the game meaning there was a sufficient number of teams active at this age group to sustain a knockout cup competition. We're proud to champion equal access to the game and this was another step along the way to boys and girls having the same opportunities to play.

In terms of adult competitions the Women's Cup was first played in the 1999-00 season and has grown steadily ever since, to the point where it became appropriate to split the competition. The Women's Trophy gives the lower teams their own opportunity to strive for cup glory, leaving the more senior teams to compete with those on a similar level.

The inaugural final last year was a thrilling contest, with the momentum changing several times over the course of the game and Stevenage Development eventually coming out on top by the odd goal out of five. We hope today's game will be similarly exciting.

Today's match will be 45 minutes each way, with kicks from the penalty mark to decide the winner if necessary. Teams are permitted rolling substitutions.



Club Profile

Watford FC Development

Young team looking to add cup success to an already impressive league season



Watford FC Women Development forms an integral part of the wider club and has a proud history of developing young players, many of which have later gone on to play first team football, either with Watford or at other clubs.

We bring players through from our Emerging Talent and Player Development Centres and they are given an opportunity to compete not only in the FA Women's National League Reserve Division, but also in County Cup competitions such as this one.

Watford as a club holds a proud history in the senior competition and has won it on several occasions, the last of which was won by the Development team in 2019. The Women's First Team currently plays in the Women's National League Southern Premier Division following a stint in the Women's Championship in the 2023-24 season.

We look to develop players not only on the pitch but as people off it too. We are a family club and pride ourselves on being inclusive and supportive to staff and players alike. The girls are approaching the final looking to showcase the togetherness, level of performance and talent that has got them a lot of success so far this season.

League Season

The FA Women's National League, Reserve South East and Central

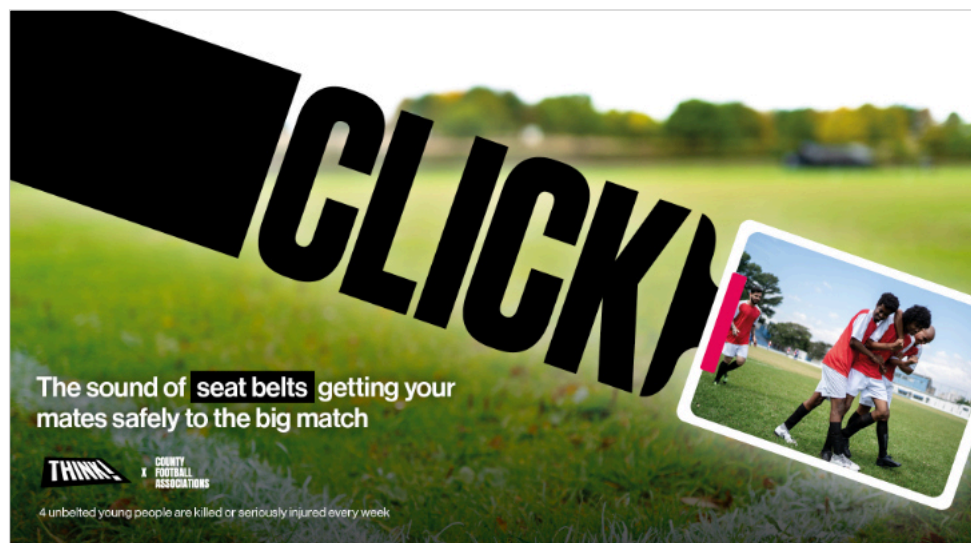
As at 17/03/2025

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Watford FC Development	12	12	0	0	78	5	73	36
2 Ipswich Town Development	12	7	3	2	34	22	12	24
3 Billericay Town Reserves	12	4	4	4	37	34	3	16
4 Queens Park Rangers Reserves	12	4	4	4	28	36	-8	16
5 MK Dons Development	12	4	2	6	28	38	-10	14
6 AFC Sudbury Reserves	12	2	1	9	10	43	-33	7
7 Maidenhead Utd Development	12	1	2	9	19	56	-37	5

Your analysis of the season so far...

This season was a transitional one for the girls, with a number of senior players moving on and a new coach arriving. Simply put, they have risen to every challenge they have faced so far and the most pleasing thing to see has been the togetherness and family dynamic that has been created in the group. This has led to a championship winning league campaign, the county cup final and an upcoming combined counties trophy semi final.

Despite having a young team with only one player older than 18 and a number of new faces, as a group they have produced a level of performance that has pushed them above the level of opposition in their league and seen success against established first team opponents. Every player has pushed each other to be even better and this has led to 3 players receiving senior debuts, a feat that no individual achieved last season.





Watford FC Development

Currently 1st in The FA Women's National League,
Reserve South East and Central Division
As at 17/03/2025

League Form

Games Won	12
Games Drawn	0
Games Lost	0
Goals Scored	78
Goals Conceded	5

Leading Scorers

17	Chloe Kabo
13	Jada Deane
10	Kayra Karakus
9	Saoirse Hourigan
9	Isabella Sturmey

Stevenage FC Development

Currently 8th in Eastern Region Women's Football League,
Division One North
As at 17/03/2025

League Form

Games Won	4
Games Drawn	4
Games Lost	10
Goals Scored	23
Goals Conceded	44

Leading Scorers

5	Eva Delaney
4	Stephanie Fausse
3	Ebba Taylor-Pugh
2	Katie Boyle
2	Chloe Gregory

Route to the Final

R1	Evergreen Eagles	AW	Watford FC Development
R2	Baldock Town	AW	Watford FC Development
QF	Berkhamsted FC	0 - 5	Watford FC Development
SF	Watford FC Development	14 - 0	Bury Rangers

Route to the Final

R1	Goffs Oak	1 - 9	Stevenage FC Development
R2	Stevenage FC Development	3 - 2	Oaklands Wolves
R3	Harpden Town Colts	1 - 4	Stevenage FC Development
R4	Ware United	2 - 3	Stevenage FC Development

Club Profile

Stevenage FC Development

Development side looking to retain the trophy they won last season



Since the 2009-10 season, Stevenage FC Women has maintained a reserve squad with some success. Their debut season was nothing short of remarkable, as they clinched the B&H Division 2 title, the League Cup, and earned promotion to Division 1. After three seasons in Division 1, they achieved promotion to the ERWFL.

Competing in the ERWFL, the team steadily found their rhythm. Their breakthrough came in 2017-18 when they won the Division 1 South title in dominant fashion. They went 11 games unbeaten, scoring 64 goals while conceding none. Although their streak ended in the 12th game, they still went on to win the league by an 11-point margin.

Following the promotion of the first team in 2016, the Development side were eventually placed in The FA Women's National League South East Reserve Division after the COVID-19 disruptions. They remained in that league until the 2022-23 season when they returned to the Eastern Region Division 1 North, where they continue to compete today.

One of the most memorable moments for the squad came last season when they reached the inaugural Hertfordshire FA Women's Trophy final. The original match had to be abandoned due to a medical emergency, but when the final was contested again, Stevenage FCW lifted the brand-new silverware, etching their name in history.



League Season

Eastern Region Women's Football League, Division One North

As at 17/03/2025

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Harpenden Town	16	13	1	2	60	13	47	40
2 AFC Dunstable	16	11	3	2	36	11	25	36
3 Newmarket Town	16	10	3	3	38	15	23	33
4 Histon	14	10	3	1	29	15	14	33
5 Thetford Town	16	8	1	7	26	26	0	25
6 Real Bedford Reserves	15	6	0	9	41	28	13	18
7 Wootton Blue Cross Lionesses	12	4	4	4	26	28	-2	16
8 Stevenage FC Development	18	4	4	10	23	44	-21	16
9 Mulbarton Wanderers	13	4	3	6	16	21	-5	15
10 Whittlesey Athletic	16	4	3	9	19	33	-14	15
11 Biggleswade United	14	2	1	11	11	27	-16	7
12 Kings Lynn Town	16	2	0	14	14	78	-64	6

Your analysis of the season so far...

The Development squad have so far shown a repeated trajectory of last season. Following a tough start to the campaign, a good win against Kings Lynn was followed by six defeats on the bounce, until victory against Biggleswade in October.

This was followed by the first win of the Cup campaign with a nine-one victory at Goffs Oak and a precious point in the league. A further three league defeat and an exit in the League Plate was mixed in with a thrilling win by the odd goal in five against Oaklands Wolves.

As last season though, the New Year saw new energy with Boro losing just one league game out of the five played and hauling themselves out of the relegation zone.

Coupled with five goal cup victories at Harpenden Town Colts and Ware United, Boro find themselves in the honourable position of having the chance to repeat their cup glory of twelve months ago against an incredibly tough opponent.

Inspiring Positive Change Through Football

Hertfordshire FA CEO Karl Lingham on the launch of our new Grassroots Strategy for the county



At the start of the season, Hertfordshire FA launched a new strategy for grassroots football, detailing how we plan to support the development of the game over the next four seasons. This followed an extensive consultation with stakeholders, drawing insight and inspiration from all those whose efforts make football happen across the county.

Our strategy for Hertfordshire also aligns closely with The FA's national strategy. Both share the same goal, to grow and develop grassroots football, with a clear focus on the biggest opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed. These are split across eight strategic priorities and drivers, which are key to achieving success:

- Improve playing choice and opportunity
- Deliver equal opportunities for women and girls to play
- Build more and improve existing facilities
- Tackle poor behaviour
- Develop a valued network of volunteers, coaches and referees
- Support thriving Community Clubs
- Connect and serve participants
- Progress the game's governance

We are extremely proud of the positive impact the game has in our communities and our role as governing body is to ensure this is spread as widely as possible. Grassroots football is uniquely positioned to change lives for the better, by bringing people together, creating opportunities and improving the health and wellbeing of those involved.

With this new Strategy, we have a detailed plan to help drive sustainable growth and maximise these benefits for the people of Hertfordshire. We look forward to working closely with everyone involved in the game locally to deliver it over the next four years. Together we can build a bigger, stronger and more inclusive game for everyone to enjoy.

The true value of football and why growing the game matters

It's not just for fun! Studies show that football not only benefits the mental and physical health of participants, but also builds confidence and a sense of community, helping to reduce crime and improving educational outcomes in young people.

By changing lives for the better and helping to take pressure off public services, grassroots football creates significant value both for wider society and the local economy. By the latest calculation, this is estimated to be more than £492m in Hertfordshire alone.

95% of children who play football say it helps them to be fitter and healthier

IMPROVE PLAYING CHOICE AND OPPORTUNITIES
Build on existing quality provision across the county by supporting new and varied playing opportunities giving everyone a chance to play the game in a way that suits them best

Football today is reflective of a modern and on-demand world - people want to play where and how they want and need more opportunities that give everyone the chance to play their way. This includes growing existing football, developing more seasonal football and continuing to improve the appeal of more traditional formats. We must also continue to develop and improve the youth game to offer children more enjoyable football formats that support that development. There is also more to be done in making the activity appealing to disabled people that has widened as a result of the pandemic.

Evolve the youth game

- Embed the 'Play More' philosophy for ages 6-8 and continue to support for Youth Football members
- Encourage development of appropriate provision for transitional stages of the game (e.g. youth to adult)
- Enable Clubs to provide local offers and work with Leagues to deliver adaptable youth formats

Improve team football for adult male players

- Work with Adult Committee representatives to maintain and grow adult League football offer
- Work with Leagues to increase uptake of England Football Accreditation, supporting the development of more inclusive and sustainable clubs
- Support following changes for the Open Age Football

Create more opportunities to play safe, inclusive, seasonal football

Support the disability game to grow

Success Measures

- Increase number of registered players to 420,000
- Increase number of disability players to 10,000
- Increase number of active Play centres

Grassroots Strategy 2024-28

VOLUNTEERS
While ensuring they all feel valued

13% more individuals, coaches and referees needed to support the growth of the game over the next 4 years

IMPROVE PLAYING CHOICE AND OPPORTUNITIES
Help the game continue to grow, without detracting from existing, high quality provision for volunteers. To work they do and ensure they have the training and development they need to effectively fulfil their roles.

Grow the number of people running the game

- Invest both The FA and other partners to highlight opportunities to attract new volunteers into football
- Use Club Review to support clubs to recruit volunteers with supporting encouragement of heart of promise
- Deliver FA Volunteer People Plan workshops with Hertfordshire Sports & Physical Activity Partnership

Support those running the game to learn and develop

- Utilise flexible workshops in collaboration with Hertfordshire Sports & Physical Activity Partnership
- Use online courses and digital Accredited Club Workshops to develop skills of volunteers
- Expand delivery of the Hertfordshire Young Leaders Award and Junior Coach Award

Improve the diversity of those running the game

- Continue to support Hertfordshire Football Clubs in developing their own football clubs
- Raise awareness and support opportunities for those from diverse backgrounds to get involved in football
- Use insight studies to create relevant and targeted campaigns with specific Local Authorities

Celebrate and reward those running the game

- Promote and support the England football family reward scheme for volunteers
- Local Delivery of the England Football Governors Awards and FA Active Recognition Awards
- Final additional steps to recognise and reward good practice e.g. Accredited Club Footballer

Success Measures

- Increase number of registered volunteers to 3,000
- Increase number of active Play centres to 400
- Increase number of active Play centres to 400

DELIVER EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS
Ensuring that every woman and girl who wants to play football has an opportunity to do so in a safe and enjoyable setting and in a way that suits their lifestyle

With the female game in recent years has been incredible. The amazing success of the Lionesses has changed the demand for women and girls to play and we have worked hard to meet it by providing more opportunities and programmes, supporting a 54% increase in players in our county since 2022.

Female football still only accounts for 14% of the total in Hertfordshire and women and girls still do not have equal opportunities to play in all our clubs and communities. Simply put, the girls' net isn't getting close. We need to ensure opportunities to connect and flourish female football and we must ensure that the environment in all is safe, welcoming and inclusive, removing barriers for women and girls to participate.

Gain and grow more playing opportunities in schools

With the coverage of BBC Sport's Girls Football and the success of the Lionesses, we have seen a growing demand for girls' football in schools. We need to ensure we have the resources and opportunities to support this growth.

Create more team playing opportunities

- Support England Football Accredited Clubs to deliver provision of club football activity
- Support Leagues and Clubs to offer varied playing opportunities and competition structure
- Deliver dedicated Female Football Hub created through facility development work

Deliver safe and inclusive environments for women and girls to thrive

- Increase opportunities for more females to be represented in all levels of the game
- Expand the provision of seasonal and walking football opportunities for the female game

Success Measures

- Increase number of registered female players to 50,000
- Increase number of active Play centres to 400

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



Hertfordshire FA

County Cup Finals 2025



Sunday 16th February 10:30am
Under 14 Boys Challenge Cup
Won by Cheshunt Youth

Sunday 16th February 2:30pm
Under 16 Boys Challenge Cup
Won by Ware FC Academy

Sunday 23rd February 10:30am
Under 15 Boys Challenge Cup
Won by Cheshunt Youth

Sunday 23rd February 2:30pm
Under 18 Boys Challenge Cup
Won by Hemel Hempstead Town

Saturday 22nd March 10:30am
Under 14 Girls Challenge Cup
St Albans City Youth v Berkhamsted Raiders Youth

Saturday 22nd March 2:30pm
Under 15 Girls Challenge Cup
Bengeo Tigers v Borehamwood 2000

Sunday 23rd March 2:30pm
Women's Trophy
Watford Dev. v Stevenage Dev.

Wednesday 26th March 7:45pm
Senior Centenary Trophy
Everett Rovers v Belstone

Sunday 30th March 10:30am
Under 15 Boys Trophy
Berkhamsted Raiders Youth v Sun Sports Youth

Sunday 30th March 2:30pm
Women's Senior Challenge Cup
Royston Town v Stevenage

Sunday 6th April 10:30am
Under 18 Boys Trophy
Chorleywood Common v FC Comets

Sunday 6th April 2:30pm
Sunday Intermediate Cup
BWSC v Classified

Sunday 13th April 10:30am
Under 14 Boys Trophy
Borehamwood Youth v Harvesters

Sunday 13th April 2:30pm
Sunday Junior Cup
Woodside FC v Hertfordshire Athletic

Friday 18th April 3:00pm
Junior Cup
Chipperfield Res. v Chorleywood Common

Tuesday 22nd April 7:45pm
Charity Shield
Wormley Rovers v Tring Athletic

Sunday 27th April 10:30am
Under 16 Boys Trophy
Finalists to be confirmed

Sunday 27th April 2:30pm
Sunday Senior Cup
North Watford v Northaw

Saturday 3rd May 10:30am
Under 16 Girls Cup
Finalists to be confirmed

Saturday 3rd May 2:30pm
Under 18 Girls Cup
Finalists to be confirmed

Final dates for the Senior Challenge Cup, Charity Cup and Intermediate Cup to be confirmed

All finals to be played at The County Ground, Letchworth unless otherwise stated



V



Bronte Young
Charlotte Byde
Chloe Kabo
Elsie Grant
Francesca Vigo
Georgia Brandon
Isabelle Doolan
Isabella O'Sullivan
Jada Deane
Kayra Karakus
Liana Sideras
Megan Guthrie
Rimini Lowe
Saoirse Hourigan
Tegan Gibbs
Tiana Mckenzie-David

Abigail Hunt
Amana Oguntuga
Ebba Taylor-Pugh
Ellie Merkis
Eva Delaney
Holly Southam
Isla Martin
Isobel Matfield
Jessica Preston
Jodie Bellinger
Katie Boyle
Kiera Mynott
Lilly Kelly
Lucy Fox
Mia Barnett
Neave Wilson
Remi Martin
Ruby Sellek
Sarah Payne
Shannon Alderman
Sophie Hendy
Stephanie Fausse

Manager: Marcus Brown
Assistant: Ruby Jager
Colours: Yellow Shirt, Black Shorts,
Black Socks

Manager: Toby Owen
Assistant: Chad Foster
Colours: Red and White Shirt,
Red Shorts, White Socks

Referee:
Richard Smith

Assistants:
Freddie Rouse, Paige Gowans-Smith

Fourth Official:
John Haynes