

WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of the Norfolk County FA bulletin and the final instalment of the 2022/23 season. We hope all Clubs have enjoyed their football as this season comes to a close. We hope everyone has a short but enjoyable break before pre-season starts for many Clubs and Teams in the new season.

NORFOLK'S GRASSROOTS AWARD WINNERS 2023

We are proud to announce Norfolk's winners of The FA Grassroots Football Awards 2023.

Without the commitment of our army of volunteers, clubs and leagues in Norfolk would struggle to survive and it is the dedication and enthusiasm of such individuals that makes the game so special.



After receiving over 130 nominations over a six week period, an independent judging panel selected winners and highly commended awards across eleven different categories and those in receipt of an award were recently informed via letter.

View the winners of this year's awards by [clicking here](#).

FA REFEREE PROMOTIONS

We are delighted to announce details of the referees who have achieved promotions from The FA in the 2022/23 season.



Last month referees were informed by The FA that they had been promoted and we would like to congratulate them all on their achievement. The promotions included referees on the men's and women's pathway as well as the futsal pathway.

You can view a full list of the Match Officials who are stepping up by [clicking here](#).

TAKE UP THE WHISTLE IN 2023/24

We are pleased to confirm the first set of dates for the 2023/24 season's FA Referee Courses.



Refereeing is a great way to keep fit, meet new people, stay involved in football, and earn a bit of additional income. Committed and talented Officials can be rewarded with County Cup Final appointments and Refereeing can even become a viable career opportunity for those progressing up the promotion pathway. To read more and book on a course, please [click here](#).

FEMALE ONLY REFEREE COURSE

With the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 taking place this Summer, one of the world's biggest ever women's sporting events is set to inspire the next generation of players, officials, coaches and fans.

And female officials will play a critical role in growing the women's and girls' game. Our aspiration is to increase the number of female referees in our area. One way we plan to achieve this is by running a female only referee course on Wednesday 30 August at The FDC, Bowthorpe.

[Click here](#) to find out more.

NORFOLK FA PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Through mutually beneficial collaborations, we as the not-for-profit governing body for football in Norfolk, aim to secure good to significant reinvestment back into the grassroots game in return for our marketing power of, and the local game's expenditure into, commercial businesses. [Click here](#) to find out more.



In return for support in key areas of our operations, we are pleased to offer partnership packages that support our partners' commercial business aims.

We are actively looking to expand our commercial partnership portfolio ahead of the 23/24 season and have a range of opportunities available. For more information, please email Rebecca.Burton@NorfolkFA.com.

NORFOLK FA REFEREES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCE ED&I AMBASSADORS

The Norfolk FA Referees' Department is very pleased to announce that Vincent Were, Anoushka Williamson and Tim Sadler have become Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Ambassadors.



The ambassadors are part of an ongoing commitment to improving the diversity and representativeness of the referee workforce.

Norfolk FA is very much committed to ensuring football and refereeing is fully diverse within the county. The ED&I Ambassadors will play an integral role in ensuring we continue to recruit from a diverse range of backgrounds, but also ensure these individuals have positive role models to be inspired by.

You can read more by [clicking here](#).

WOMEN'S WALKING FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

We are hosting a Women's Walking Tournament at The FDC on Saturday 22nd July. The England Women's team will be playing their first game of the Women's World Cup at 10.30am.

In order to make this event a big celebration of Women's football, we are inviting teams to watch the game at The FDC before taking part in a tournament with fixtures kicking off at 1pm.



*Saturday 22nd July
Watch the first Lionesses match in the World Cup – then play in the afternoon!
At The FDC, Bowthorpe, 5-a-side (max squad of 8), £30 per team, Refreshments provided during the Lionesses game*

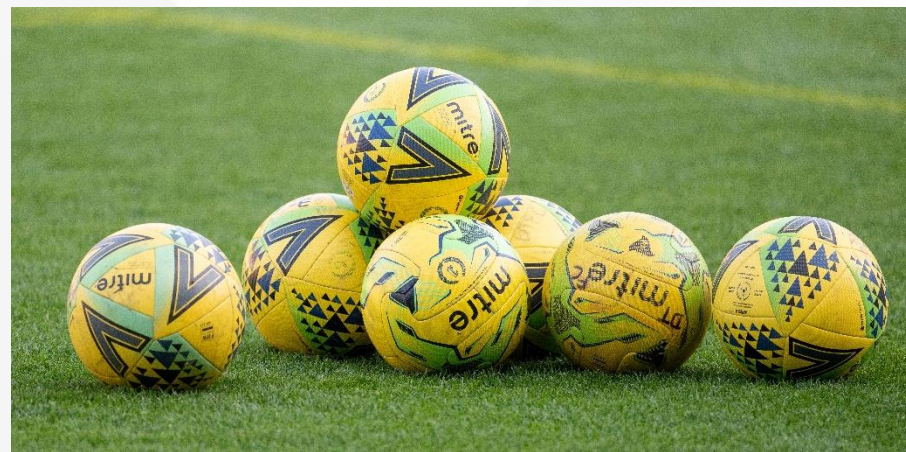
Details of the tournament are as follows:

- Saturday 22nd July
- 1pm-4pm
- 5-a-side (max squad of 8)
- £30 per team (will include some refreshments to enjoy during the England game)

To register your interest, please [click here](#).

CLUB AFFILIATION FOR THE 2023-24 SEASON

Norfolk County FA are pleased to announce that the Club Affiliation window for the 2023/24 Season opened and a lot of our Clubs have already affiliated for the new campaign.



For the first time, this season the Club Affiliation process is now on the Club Portal and like last season will be a team based model.

The FA have created guides on how to complete each specific step, both pre-affiliation and during the affiliation. These guides can be accessed through the Grassroots Technology page using this [link](#).

We would strongly encourage clubs to look at the Affiliation Checklist guide within the link which will outline the tasks needing to be completed before you can complete your Club's Affiliation.

You can read more by [clicking here](#).

SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS IN GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL

With the 2023/24 season quickly approaching, there are a number of new Safeguarding requirements which will have an impact on Club Affiliation. It is extremely important that Clubs begin to action these requirements now so that all elements are in place ready for the affiliation window opening.



For 2023/24 Club Affiliations ALL Clubs with Open Age/Adult teams, including Veterans and Walking Football teams, are required to have a named Club Welfare Officer at the point of affiliation. Affiliations will not be approved if they are submitted without this role being filled by a named official. These officials as of now, do not require any additional safeguarding qualifications or DBS check.

To read more, please [click here](#).

BIG FOOTBALL DAY 2023

It's time to get Women's World Cup excited and celebrate in style this summer. On Saturday 22nd July 2023, #LetGirlsPlay Big Football Day will be landing, and this is your official invite to be a part of it.



Celebrate England kicking off their Women's World Cup campaign by getting involved with your local Big Football Day event. From football taster sessions and coaching workshops, to watch parties to see the action unfold, plus so much more. To read more please [click here](#).

THE HARROD SPORT WOMEN'S & GIRLS' CUP

On Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June, The FDC hosted the Harrod Sport Women's & Girls' Cup that saw 87 teams across eight different age groups, including Women's, take part in a knock-out tournament.



Lead Organiser of the event, Nina Buckingham said: "This year's tournament was such a great weekend with a record 87 teams taking part! Seeing the growth of this event and female football in our County is so exciting. I'd like to thank all the teams for making the weekend such a success."

Norfolk FA Football Development Officer (Female Pathway), Anna Larkins, Added: "It was a fantastic celebration of women's and girls' football in Norfolk, which saw participation from those that have loved and played the game for many years to girls from Wildcats Centres playing in their first ever fixtures. We are looking forward to another big summer for Women's football and hopefully next year we will see even more teams taking part!"

You can view full albums of images from the weekend by [clicking here](#).

LONG STRATTON FC COMETS SESSIONS

Long Stratton FC will be starting a new weekly pan-disability session starting on Thursday 13 July 6-7pm at Long Stratton Leisure Centre.

Run by FA qualified coaches, these are recreational pan-disability sessions for 5-11-year-olds focused on helping disabled children have fun, build confidence, independence, and social relationships.



These sessions will be led by Paul Simmons, who you can contact using this e-mail: paulsimmons7@gmail.com.

You can read more about pan-disability football and the Comets programme by [clicking here](#).

NORFOLK FA YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Are you 14-18 years and interested in starting your coaching journey?

Do you want to be the next Premier League or Super League referee?



If you know of a young person aged 14-18, who is enthusiastic, an aspiring leader and would like to try something new, then the Youth Leadership Programme could be perfect!

Our aim is for the young people to learn new or build on existing skills to support them in their own grassroots environment.

To read more please [click here](#).

HARROD SPORT DISCOUNT FOR NORFOLK CLUBS

Harrod Sport, based in Lowestoft, provides equipment and goalposts to a multitude of Premier League Football Clubs, Wembley Stadium and St George's Park. In addition to the English game, the organisation also supplies European giants such as Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Paris St Germain.



Through our partnership, Norfolk FA affiliated Clubs can receive a 35% discount on full product range. The code required is NORFOLKFA-23! To view the full product range, please [click here](#).

THE NORFOLK FA COACHES CLUB

The Norfolk FA Coaches Club is free to join and aims to provide coaches with the appropriate support and knowledge to make them the best coaches they can be.



There are Coaching CPD sessions coming up in July and Norfolk FA Coaches Club members can attend these for free.

Insight to Disability Football

- **Date:** Wednesday 12th July 2023
- **Time:** 6pm-7pm
- **Venue:** The FDC, Bowthorpe - Tech Room
- **Hosts:** Darren Hunter (Disability Development Manager at Norwich CSF)

Norfolk FA Coaches Club New Formats CPD Workshop

- **Date:** Wednesday 12th July 2023
- **Time:** 7pm - 9pm
- **Venue:** The FDC, Bowthorpe - Tech Room
- **Hosts:** Nimesh Patel (FA Coach Development Officer) & James Buhlemann (Norfolk FA Football Development Officer)

You can read more and book on the above coaching events by [clicking here](#).

'TALK TO US' AT YOUR CLUB

There is a 'Talk to us' page on our website that can be [found here](#). This reporting method has proven to be very successful, and we are now asking Clubs in Norfolk to help us promote the 'Talk to us' service by linking to the page on our website, from your Club's website and to promote via your social media channels.



If your Club is displaying any 'Talk To Us' posters or information, make sure to tag us in any social media posts or alternatively send us photos of your Club supporting the initiative.

PLAY A PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOOTBALL IN NORFOLK

We are looking for a full-time member of staff to join our Football Development team to support the delivery of a wide range of projects planned for the upcoming season.

We are looking for an individual who has experience within Sports development and has an ability to develop and deliver innovative projects. We are looking for someone who can thrive in a team environment and work toward departmental targets, as well as having the initiative and discipline to work independently.



Please find the job pack for the new role, which contains further information, on our website by [clicking here](#).

AND FINALLY

As always, we will continue to do our best to offer support to all Clubs and Leagues as we prepare for the 2023/24 season.

Best wishes,
Norfolk County FA