

Wight Eagles Newsletter



WELCOME

WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN!

So, season 2024/25 is over, and what a fantastic year it has proved to be. Our Seniors consolidated their position in the Hampshire League's Women's Division 2 – no easy task after promotion last year. There were three promotions - our U15s and our U13s took the Championships in their respective age groups and League Divisions and our Under 11s were runners-up in theirs; while our lovely Under 13 Development team gained skills and experience in the IW Boys League, and are now ready to take their place playing Hampshire county-level football next season.

Welcome to our end of season newsletter for parents, guardians and carers which details all this and more. My thanks to you, and to our sponsors, our coaches and our club officers for all the support you have given, and to Sally Parkman, who has found time in a very busy life to edit this newsletter. Above all, my thanks to our players for always giving their best and playing with a smile on their faces whatever the score – you really are an inspiration to us all.

Below you can read about all that is happening in the club and what we are planning to do over the summer and next year. We are a community club, and we are always pleased to receive offers of help, whether on or off the field. We are keen to recruit more coaches, especially women coaches, and are happy to pay towards their training. And we are grateful for the help that parents can give to our teams on match-days. The Wight Eagles family is a large one and there is always lots to be done.

For now, there is the prospect of summer football – tournaments and friendly matches without the pressures of league and cup. Enjoy the break and come back ready for more action with the Island's only women's and girls' football club – nearly 100 strong and still growing.

Mike Ross

Chair

From the coaches - end of season team round up

Senior team

Our Ladies team had a great first season in Hampshire County Women's League Division 2. After promotion at the end of the 2023/24 season, they finished 8th, guaranteeing their place for a further year in the division. They reached the quarter-finals of the Cup, and among some great results recorded a record 12-2 away win over Southampton's Pace FC. What was especially gratifying was to see so many Academy players taking their first steps into Senior football and really making

their mark throughout the season. We are aiming to develop this trend further in the coming year, in addition to bringing in some fresh faces to the team.



U11s

The under 11s have had a very good 12 months, carrying on from their excellent start last year joining halfway through the 23/24 season.

We started in September with an 8-1 win away to New Milton and have continued in the same vein since then, only losing 3 games all season, even then only by the odd goal. Unfortunately, one of those games was the reverse fixture to New Milton losing 4-3 who eventually pipped us to the division title by the odd point.

We also had a very good run in the cup up to the semi-final, losing to the eventual winners a team we beat twice in the league!

The girls were frustrated not to have won the title this year, but coming runners up in our first full season is a pretty good start to their journey in the Hampshire League.

Tom Seymour



U13s

I am personally so proud of how well the girls adapted to playing 11 a side football this season. It's always a very tough transition when a new manager comes in and the girls listened and played the way I have wanted them to at the highest standards all season. They have been rewarded with the league title.

I would like to thank Flash for all his hard work this season. Without him, I don't think we could have been the close-knit team we've been this year! Also, a massive thanks to all the parents that have supported and helped this season.

Dean Attrill



U13s Development team

A Year of Growth, Grit, and Groundbreaking Moments

As our first season together draws to a close, we reflect with pride on the incredible journey of our U13s team. Entering a mixed U12 league as an all-girls side was never going to be easy—but this group of players met the challenge head-on with courage, determination, and heart.

While the results on paper may not tell the full story, the development we've seen—both individually and collectively—has been outstanding. Each player has grown in confidence, skill, and understanding of the game. Importantly, we've seen a clear reduction in score deficits as the season progressed, showing just how much the team has learned and improved. The progress made off the pitch in terms of teamwork, resilience, and spirit has been just as inspiring.

This team will be remembered not just for their determination, but for making history. They were part of the first all-girls match played within the mixed league and took part in a landmark game that saw not only two all-female squads go head-to-head, but also female officials—referee and assistants—take charge of the fixture. It was a proud moment for the team and a huge step forward for girls' football.

Every single player should be proud of what they've achieved this season. They've laid the foundations for something truly special, and their resilience and pioneering spirit will not be forgotten.

Well, done, girls—you are true trailblazers.

Phil Collinson



U15s

The U15s were the first team to enter the Hampshire League as U12s. The players have come a long way since starting their journey as a team. This season the players have trained hard and come out a lot stronger as the team that wanted to go out and win the title this year.

The players battled every game they played and have grown as a team this season to go on to be crowned as the league winners which all came down to the last game of the season against Ringwood who were also out to become League Champions.

Every player played with their heart and stuck together as a team and wanted it more than Ringwood.

Manager Scott Ronan said:

“They were outstanding and were a great advert for girls’ football on the Island.

“It’s been an incredible season, and the girls should be very proud.

“I would like to say thank you to Assassin Boxing Gym and Maximus for the hard work and sponsorship.

“Lastly, I want to thank Glen and everyone involved. Well, done girls, you truly deserved this.”

Scott Ronan



Under 10s group

We now have a new u9s/u10s group up and running which has been successful with a good number of girls that have joined. These girls will start off with just training to build them up to go on and play as a team in the Hampshire League . We would like to welcome all the new players that have already joined .

WIGHT EAGLES VISIT CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

A massive thank you to our sponsors Wightlink Isle of Wight Ferries, who gave eight of our academy players the opportunity to travel to Portsmouth Ladies to watch their game against Sunderland. The match took place on Sunday, 16 March. The girls had a great day out, with the club chipping in to ensure the girls had transport up to Fratton station and plenty to eat. The match ended with a 2-1 win for Portsmouth.

Wightlink give the Island's local talent so much support and we can't thank them enough.

Last but not least, thank you to Academy U11s manager Tom Seymour for taking the girls over to watch the game.



AWARDS EVENING – SATURDAY, 14 JUNE

Let's celebrate! Our Awards Evening this year will be bigger and better than ever. It will be held on Saturday, 14 June at the Island Riding Centre once again in Staplers Road, just outside Newport (PO30 2NB for your Satnav). It all starts at 2.30pm and will run until late with the usual disco. This year, the Hants FA officials have kindly agreed to come across the Solent to present their awards to our Championship-winning U15 and U13 teams, and to our U11s. That saves a long trek (and much expense) for our players, who can celebrate their achievements with the rest of the club. In addition, there will be the usual club and team awards for all our girls, including a new category of Chair's Awards for those special players who have been the engine-room of each team.

Everyone is being asked in due course to order food in advance, to make its delivery by the IRC kitchen staff easier, with payment on the day. Scott has put the links out to order food on Spond.

WIGHT EAGLES ON THE WEB

We hope by now you have had a chance to see and use our new website www.wighteagles.co.uk. It has handy links to the Hants FA website's fixtures, results and league tables – the quickest and most accurate way to keep up to date. You can also join the club from our online recruitment page, read the latest on our news page and access all the important policies and procedures that we use in running the club. There is also a link to our kit supplier for those who want to buy that fashionable Wight Eagles look online.

We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors PC Consultants for developing and setting up the site, and to parent Matt Jeffery (dad of Izzy in the U13s) from Brightbulb Design, who keeps the site up to date for us. Thanks, All!

CLUB DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Key to our forward planning is our Club Development Plan. It is a simple document which guides our strategy for the year. It is reviewed and revised throughout the season, and it is presented to Hampshire FA as evidence of our commitment to the future and to support any applications for their help. We will shortly be putting the 2025/26 Plan forward and it will appear on the website at [club-development-plan-2024-25-further-updated-0924.pdf](#). Meanwhile you can see the 2024/25 Plan, which as the hyperlink hints is currently on the site.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are always pleased to offer sponsorship opportunities to firms and individuals. You can sponsor anything that moves, and quite a lot that doesn't. In addition, parents, grandparents, other relatives and friends can sponsor our players. Some parents already have their firm's name on team shirts, and we are, as always, very grateful to them. Our coverage this season in the local press, most of it with accompanying pictures of our players in their kit, shows we can certainly offer the oxygen of publicity!

If you would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact our Director of Football, Dan Verstraeten at wighteaglesyouth@gmail.com.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM this year will be held on Wednesday, 9 July at 7pm at East Cowes Vics FC – next door to Queensgate School in Beatrice Avenue (turn right off Saunders Way, rather than left to the GKN ground). This is your chance to hear from and question the officers and committee, and to help elect or re-elect them for next season. Oh – and there is a bar!

We would like to say a big thank you to all the managers and committee members for all their hard work this season.

Also thank you to all the parents that have supported the girls this season and for helping with travel to games on the mainland or helping with setting up and packing away on match days.

We would also like to say a big thank you to those that have sponsored the club or have sponsored individual players this season. Especially Wightlink, Wight Fibre, Liz Earle and those that sponsored kits for the players,

Summer tournaments: - all teams will be playing in summer tournaments over the course of the summer. I will do a follow-up in the next newsletter on how all the team have done. We wish all the managers and players good luck.

We hope you all have a nice break and pre-season training starts back on the week of 7 July.