

# #HERGAMETOO

Since the football season ended the campaign has progressed both locally and nationally.

We had our first EFL/HGT conference held at Walsall's Bescot Stadium where over 50 Her Game Too ambassadors and advocates attended the days activities. Our Jill was one of 8 ambassadors who had the opportunity to talk about the work they had done with their clubs and communities. This was a great opportunity to showcase the work that had been done around Hartlepool, not only at Pools, but with grassroots clubs and local organisations. Jill also met Sky Sport presenter Michelle Owen who described the abuse she has had to face whilst doing her job. She also backed the work Her Game Too was doing in fighting sexism and misogyny in sport. On the same weekend the Hart Of Our Club 1908 Youth Alliance funday was held with Advocate Bethan in attendance. Both boys and girls had the opportunity to play at the Suit Direct Stadium and the day was a great success.

The Her Game Too 2nd birthday video released to celebrate the occasion contained loads of action from our HUFc X HGT dedicated match back in March and was great to see our local grassroots teams being featured nationally.

Jill was also invited along to the Hartlepool Schools finals day held at the Suit Direct Stadium and awarded the successful girls team their trophies. It means a lot to see both boys and girls getting their opportunities to play football at school. Thanks to Ian Clark from Hartlepool College



of Further Education for the invitation.

The campaign has long wanted to develop work within schools, and we were delighted to announce the first school partnership in the country was right here in Hartlepool when Clavering Primary officially partnered up. A working relationship will be developed, and we hope to see more school actively get involved both locally and all over the UK. Education about the issues faced by girls in sport is a large part of our work. We hope to inspire girls to go on to work and play within the sporting world in a range of roles without the sexism and misogyny currently faced by many females.

One of the regions top womens clubs, Durham Women FC, have partnered with Her Game Too. Jill spoke with Mark Connolly, the clubs Operations and Marketing manager and Lee Sanders, First Team Manager, about how the campaign can work with the club alongside mutual partners,

the PFC Trust. This was a huge step forward to getting more top football clubs involved and we look forward to seeing the partnership develop.

More recently Sky Sports News has dedicated airtime to our campaign and to give exposure to the abuse many female football fans face whilst supporting their men's team. One of our directors (and Birmingham City Ambassador) Emily Drakerly went on the show to talk about the experiences women and girls have had and the work we are doing to improve the sporting environment. Our motto is 'football is a game for all' and we hope the future is a lot brighter for the next generation of football fans, club staff and players no matter who they are.

Pools Youth FC Just Play sessions specifically for 18+ women of any ability has been a huge success. Many have signed up and go along weekly to practice football drills and play games. There has been an

invitation to play in the Durham FA Women's Recreational League this coming season and work has begun to enter a team. Well done to Helen, Stevo and Anthony who organise and coach the sessions.

It's been a busy summer for Hartlepool's grassroots women's and girls' teams! Let's dive in and have a look at what's been going on...

Hartlepool United Women were the town's first official partner with Her Game Too. They have had a tremendous season, earning promotion back to the North East Regional Football League Premier Division at the first time of asking. Following their relegation, Craig Bage was appointed as head coach and he faced the task of rebuilding the squad, who faced an uncertain beginning to the preseason campaign. Craig's side scored a whopping 73 goals throughout the season and secured some impressive wins, their most notable being an opening day 3-0 win against fellow promotion winners Spennymoor Town Youth Ladies, a 9-0 win against Thornaby Ladies and a vital 4-3 win away from home against Norton and Stockton Ancients LFC Reserves. HUWFC are also developing an u23's side, who will be competing in the Durham FA Women's League One. They have made some great signings in preparation for their first season as a new team and have had an impressive start to their preseason. The club also have teams at U11, U16 and U18.

Seaton Carew Ladies FC are preparing for their first season in the Durham Development League since they formed earlier this year, partnering up with Her Game Too in the process. They have produced some amazing preseason friendly results up to now and are looking forward to what they're hoping is a promising and successful season. It is great for the children in the local community that Seaton Carew's increasing female

junior section have a pathway into adulthood football. They are firm supporters of Her Game Too and are fantastic partners.

Next up is St Francis Women's FC, who are also a newly formed team entering the Durham Development League. After they formed in May 2023, the club immediately became an official partner of Her Game Too and we are enjoying watching them grow. Their girls section is developing and going from strength to strength, most recently with the upcoming Under 8's girls' team, and they have increasing numbers of children joining the clubs football teams which is great to see.

Pools Youth Ladies FC enjoyed their first season in the North East Regional Women's Football League (Northern) after they were promoted at the end of the 2021/22 season following a league winning campaign. They ended the 2022/23 season sitting in a comfortable 8th place. Their junior section is hugely popular with new recruits required for their new U7 and U8's girls' teams. We are working on and hoping for Pools Youth FC to become an official partner with us this season, however we must recognise the amazing support that both u12 girls teams have for Her Game Too.

We'd also like to mention the hard work going on at both Greatham FC and Wolviston FC who are both starting up new girls teams this season. Greatham FC are developing an U11's Girls team to play in the Russell Foster league in the coming season. Wolviston FC's first female team will be an U9's team. The girls originally met at Wolviston FC's popular wildcat program and can't wait to start playing in matches.

It is so incredible to see how happy sport makes so many children across our local community and it is great to see so many of the teams and clubs wanting to partner up

with us and support us. The upcoming Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand will only increase the momentum already started by the Lionesses Euro success last summer. We would like to wish Jordan Nobbs and the rest of the Lionesses the best of luck as they compete in the competition. The talent on show can only inspire the girls and women back home.

The team at Her Game Too HUFC wish all of the women's and girls' teams across Hartlepool the best of luck for the upcoming season! We can't wait to see how you all get on!

Finally, we got to support Pools legend Ritchie Humphreys as he took part in his fundraising cycle ride in memory of his Dad John. Ritchie spent the evening talking to Pools fans in the 1908 bar after completing a section of his cycle route. Proceeds were donated to St Luke's Hospice in Sheffield.

Don't forget we are here for female supporters of the men's game as well. If you have any issues from your time following HUFC please get in touch and we can work to improve the matchday experience.

Jill, Bethan & Holly

