

#HERGAMETOO

This week we welcome Emma Martin, one of our new Her Game Too HUFC advocates.

Emma is part of the Pools Youth Just Play team who take part in the Durham County FA Recreational League. She has now undertaken her coaching training and helps her daughters side PYFC U10's Girls Whites.

“Being asked to become an advocate for HGT is a pleasure and an honour. I believe there is a constant, evolving battle for women to be treated fairly and equally in every aspect of life. Sexism and misogyny has no place in the world I want my children to live in, so any part I can play in eradicating this I will do so. We are a group of ladies of different ages with a vast array of experiences to bring to the table and I feel part of something very special and supportive. Unfortunately I have experienced sexism an awful lot throughout my life and witnessed my daughters experience it too. From a sports perspective I was a 90's teen. Girls were not offered football as an option to take part in through school, Dad's didn't



tend to take their daughters to matches and until I discovered Just Play I had not seen anything for ladies that are beginners. The comments and memes that circulate the internet about women in sport and football are very ignorant and I think it is still seen as “banter” socially, when in fact they have a negative impact on those it targets. I am relatively new to football from a playing/coaching perspective. I enjoyed playing as a child until my primary school said that

girls had to do netball and only the boys could play football. I remember watching Man U win the treble and my little brothers face!! I see my daughter's face when we watch Pools play. Pure Joy!! The same look is on my face watching my little girl play and being part of this as a coach, helping the other girls on the team, as well as my own is a pleasure. Empowering, inspiring and supporting my daughter is the reason I now help to coach her team. She is the

reason! The reason I want to see change, the reason I play also. I have a chronic illness and struggled with my fitness, but my daughter wanted me to play football with her. I heard about the Just Play sessions and went along. It has been hard to develop my fitness but I have loved every minute of it. The social aspect has been amazing, my anxiety is lifting and I have met an amazing group of ladies, signed for a team and found my way to the Her Game Too family. I would love to see more Dads at their daughter's matches, less teasing and abuse aimed at women and girls who play football and more respect for the ladies game overall. Sport is good for the mind, body and soul no matter what gender you are. The proudest moment in this journey is seeing my daughter follow my lead and become an ambassador for a women's and girl's empowerment charity. Watching the impact of what we do trickle down to the next generation and how we can inspire them is something to be proud of and leaves you hungrier for change than ever."

Emma's passion is clear to see as you read her story. She will be huge asset to our amazing group of women. Welcome to the team!

As we plan the next Her Game Too dedicated fixture,

we are raising funds to help make it a great day for everyone and champion the females within the game.

Our very own Sarah Rowntree (SLO and Retail/Ticket manager at Pools) has kindly offered us the first ever HUFC Victoria cuddly toy as a prize in our fundraising raffle. Tickets are available now at the HUFC club shop, by contacting us via social media or from our ambassador/advocates on match days. They are £1 per strip. The raffle will be drawn live in December.

We can be found on
Facebook: Hergametoo HUFC
X: @HUFC_HGT
Instagram:
 @hgt_hartlepoolunited
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Finally a huge thank you to everyone that voted for us in the recent TK Access Solutions Community Fund Vote 2023 and for all the shares. The results will be known very soon!

