

Worcestershire Girls Football; Review and Future Needs



Meeting Summary

Date: 14th April 2010

Time: 7pm

Attendees: S.Condon (Evesham Utd), L.Bradley (Evesham Utd), C.Philips (Persore Town), M.Harper (Ferndale), P.Lacy (Ferndale), V.Hyde (Ferndale), W.Brennan (Ferndale), R.Carter (Redditch Utd), N.Leroux (Redditch Utd), J.Glover (Droitwich Spa), S.Bradstock (Persore Town), R.Thomson (Persore Town), G.Abercrombie (Worcester City Girls), Brian Hewing (Bromsgrove Rovers), N.Jaye (Newtown Sports), C.Dedicoat (Newtown Sports), J.Evans (WVFC), A.White (WVFC), P.Elliott (WVFC), P.Tomlins (WVFC), R.Billingham (Kidderminster Lions), S.Charlwood (Westbury Celtic) R.Hood (Westbury Celtic), J.Williams (Welland)

Appologies: Pat Lewis (L&BB), Mark Edwards (Evesham Utd)

Positives from the 09/10 season:

- Droitwich Spa U14 County Tesco Cup Winners
- Warndon Villages U16 County Tesco Cup Winners
- Ferndale U10's League and Cup winners
- KHFC C of E Players progressed to ladies football
- New U10 and U13 teams at WVFC
- 2 new female L1 coaches WVFC
- 6 females on the L2 regional Mentoring program
- Number of girls teams in league
- Launch of HWWCFL
- Ted Grizzell delivered football to 653 girls in the last 8 months
- St Johns Primary won the U11's county schools competition
- A county schools team was created

Challenges from the 09/10 season:

- Facilities
 - Pitches for 9v9
 - Training – winter especially
 - Not all are appropriate for female players
- Injures / overplay
- Number of players / leagues / volunteers (especially females)
- Lack of opportunities to watch womens football and develop role models
 - Womens super league (will be shown on ESPN)
 - Offer from Worcester City Ladies to come and watch
 - Increase promotion of local high level games through WFA

- Getting in to schools to deliver sessions (access)
 - School club link programme
- Funding for kit
 - Grow the game
 - Tesco / Sainsburys
- Centre of Excellence & Academy – club clash
 - Proposed PDC format will allow players to play for club as well
- Parental support
- Retention of players

Open discussions:

- 6 a side at U10
 - Some teams found they had too many players to allow for sufficient match time, but not enough for two teams.
 - Others commented it was the right choice for the teams with smaller numbers
- Double age banding
 - Positives = Different groups each year, More players in leagues, more players to select from, supports player pathway
 - Negatives = Lose half a team each season
 - General Comments = Should have been done earlier in the league development, too late to do now? Could age bands change each year?
 - Overall a positive reaction from the room
- Two counties competitions
 - Positives = extra cup competition, different teams to play against, higher standard
 - Negatives = increased travel time although not frequently
 - Overall a positive reaction
- Season to be played in the summer
 - Positives = more facilities available, more suitable weather for girls football, reflects super league
 - Negatives = No school – so lack of consistency, people away on holiday
 - Overall the response was split 50/50 in the room
- Shorter leagues
 - Positives = maintain interest
 - Negatives = less football played, fewer matches
 - Overall a negative response
- Futsal
 - Positives = alternative format, more skill based, smaller amount of players, indoor – better conditions, more facilities in schools
 - Negatives = possible lack of awareness
 - Overall a very strong positive response
 - Suggested the venue could be rotated around the county and that exam times are considered, U11 and U15/16 age groups to consider.

School Club Link ideas:

- Festivals / competitions
 - At club outside of school hours / central venue for schools to attend
- Use players already at a school to influence and be an example to others
- Club coaches involved in sessions
- Invite parents to watch club matches
- Exhibition fixtures at schools
- Direct communication from coaches to parents
- Details of players involved in sessions given to clubs
 - Positives = emphasis on club to recruit, less effort needed from parents
 - Negatives = could be seen as 'too pushy', possible data protection issues
- Summer school
- Open day / public events
- Stands at parents evenings
- Educate parents on the structure of girls football
- Free training sessions / voucher scheme
- Scouts / girl guides etc tournaments
- Follow up process after the SCL has ended
- Incentive for schools eg equipment for amount of girls going to club

'Shelved' Topics (listed on white board to investigate further):

- Girls changing facilities at every fixture
- Raise Profile of local ladies fixtures
- Funding for ladies/girls kit/equipment/apparel
- Under 9's league?
- U11's futsal
- 5-10/mini kickers festival
- Get out to clubs, speak to parents
- Make schools aware of 9v9 so they can match up with leagues

Thank you all for your contribution and attendance, it was much appreciated. From the feedback forms that were filled out I will look to host another meeting at the beginning of next season. Date, time and venue to be confirmed, but I will pass on the information as soon as I have the details finalised.

Kind Regards

Laura Cowlshaw | Girls and Women's Football Development Officer

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