

# Leverstock Green FC

## Club Newsletter



Issue 5  
6<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
<http://levgreenfc.co.uk>

### LGFC Under 18's



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Feedback and items for publishing welcome  
Respond to [tony.smart2@ntlworld.com](mailto:tony.smart2@ntlworld.com)

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# Annual General Meeting

As per the club rules, this email is hereby giving notice of the 2021

Leverstock Green Football Club Annual General Meeting.

The meeting will be held at Leverstock Green Football Club, 40 Pancake Lane,  
Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4NQ  
On Thursday 27th May 2021 at 8.00pm.

The formal notice, previous minutes and Chairman's Report will follow shortly.

Although the next phase of government COVID 19 restrictions are due to be in force with effect from Monday 17th May 2021, numbers inside the club may restrict attendees in person.

Therefore, please let me know ASAP whether or not you will be attending?

Also, if you are attending, please let me know if you wish to attend in person or via a zoom video meeting.

Kind regards

Dean Bradford  
Leverstock Green FC Club Secretary



# League Updates

## **Spartan South Midlands League**

### **First Team Update**

#### **Gladwish/SSML Spring Cup**

The tournament is now full flow; we have played three games out of the four scheduled. Matt Harding's team have played some good football and were unlucky to lose to Colney Heath.

LGFC vs. Colney Heath Lost 0-2

LGFC vs. Rayners Lane Won 2-1

Harefield vs. LGFC Lost 4-0

London Lions Away 8<sup>th</sup> May

There will be Semi Finals for the winners and runners up of each group and a Final on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League**

### **U18 Update**

#### **MERTON SHIELD**

Ross Bargent's Under 18's have played three games and played very well with the results not quite going for them.

Berkhamsted vs. LGFC Drew 2-2

LGFC vs. Hemel Hempstead Drew 2-2

Kings Langley vs. LGFC Lost 7-3

London Colney vs. LGFC Lost 3-1

## **Eastern Junior Alliance League Update**

### **EJA U16's**

Peter Clay's Under 16's are league leaders with 3 victories in a month.

LGFC vs. Codicote Wolves Won 6-1

LGFC Tring Athletic Won 5-0

LGFC vs. Ware Academy Won 5-2

St Albans Academy vs. LGFC Lost 6-5

### **EJA U14's**

Lee Robinson's Under 14's have provided some good football without getting the results and are currently 7<sup>th</sup> in the league table.

LGFC vs. Harlow Town Lost 5-1

LGFC vs. St Ives Town Won 3-2

Codicote Wolves vs. LGFC Lost 4-0

# Step 5/6 Restructure

## **The National League System (NLS) restructure at Steps 4-6.**

**The proposal**, 110 clubs would be upwardly moved within the pyramid at Steps 4-6 in order to facilitate the new divisions, protecting the integrity of the NLS whilst supporting clubs with a desire and ambition to progress, without undermining the stability of the system.

### **New leagues:**

One new division will be created at Step 4, to be administered by the Northern Premier League.

Two new divisions will be created at Step 5, to be administered by the Combined Counties League and the United Counties League.

The number of divisions at Step 6 will be reduced to 17.

### **Promoted clubs:**

110 clubs will be required to upwardly move within the pyramid at Steps 4-6.

- 20 clubs will move from Step 5 to Step 4.
- 60 clubs will move from Step 6 to Step 5 (20 to backfill those Clubs elevated to Step 4, and 40 to populate the two new divisions).
- 30 clubs will move from Regional NLS Feeder Leagues to Step 6 (to bring Step 6 divisions to their full quota, taking into account the reduced number of divisions going forwards).

### **How will promotions be decided into Step 4 and 5?**

Each club will be allocated an un-weighted points per game figure on the basis of its completed fixtures in both the 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons, i.e. the club's total points across both seasons will be added together and divided by the number of games it has played across both seasons (A club must have played in each of the two seasons (both at the same Step) in order to be eligible for upward movement via this process).

Clubs will then be ranked within their respective leagues on the basis of those calculations.

**Step 5** – The top 3 ranked clubs from each of the North West Counties League, Northern Counties East League and Northern League, along with the top ranked Club from the remaining eleven Step 5 divisions, will be considered eligible for upward movement to Step 4 and will be invited to make an application to do so.

Multiple clubs will be upwardly moved from these specific leagues, as per the previous ratification by FA Council, in order to address specific challenges with travelling distance and time, which exist at Step 4.

# Mark Mellor & HHRA Defibrillation Donation

You asked me what the motivation behind this fund raising was about and in short, it was about trying to put something practical back into the game that has given me so much pleasure, and so many memories, but sometimes at a personal cost that isn't always apparent to those nearest to you.



When I had my heart attack whilst refereeing a Spartan South Midlands Premier League game in March 2006, little did I realise what a journey I was about to embark on. The support I received from local clubs and referees became my driving force to make sure that I always gave my best in every game in which I officiated.

In the background meanwhile, I was totally oblivious to the torment that my family, and particularly my wife Linda, was going through. Every time I left the house she would be worried about me but continued to support and encourage me as I gained successive referee promotions and found myself becoming a linesman on the National Conference League.

In 2012 I was offered the opportunity to become an Assistant Referee on the Football League - something I would never have imagined happening in my wildest dreams. We discussed both the negative and positive sides of the proposal and she said, "go for it".

In August 2012 I ran the line at Northampton Town v Southend United with all my family watching from the stand and became the oldest match official in Football League history to make their debut, at the ripe old age of 52. I enjoyed 5 years on the League and officiated on over 100 games including 26 in the Championship and in 5 live Sky Sports televised games. Following my "retirement" from the EFL in 2017, I wanted to put my experiences to good use. As well as doing some presentations at Referee Association meetings, I also do coaching and mentoring of Referees from Level 7 up to Football League Select Group 2.

Whenever I have visited Pancake Lane irrespective of what level I was at, I always took the opportunity to discuss with the refereeing fraternity on your committee, the ins and outs of my performances on the basis that, if you don't ask questions you don't get answers - even if sometimes they are not the ones you want to hear!

Upon hearing of the sudden sad death of Graham following an England International at Wembley, my own thoughts were of the suffering that his family were going through and how close mine were, to those dark days. I always think of Graham when I walk through the gates at Leverstock Green FC and, particularly when I see Emma and the fact she is continuing the family legacy at the club, wished there was something I could do to show my support for you all. Words sometimes are simply not enough.

Recently, I was at LGFC for a friendly game and remembered that the now defunct Hemel Hempstead Referees Association, of which both Bill and myself are former Chairmen, had some funds left over after donations to both local and national Charities. I discussed with Bill the possibility of using that money as a base to purchasing a defibrillator in Grahams memory - the rest is history as they say.

The fact that so many local Referees supported the idea is a tremendous source of pride to me. Not everyone who contributed knew Graham, but still respected the Club enough to donate. You can all be absolutely delighted to see the respect and high esteem in which both Graham and LGFC are held by your match officials in this area. You may be interested to also know that three referees - independently - told me they would make up any shortfall in the target. We were never going to fail!!

Finally, this defibrillator will hopefully never be used but, irrespective of whether it is or not, the mere fact that it COULD one day help to save someone's life is a re-assuring factor and one that we should all treasure and give thanks for.

# 60 Seconds with Katy Bonner



Title - Student Physiotherapist

Joined LGFC in March 2021

Role Description - Preparing the players for matches with sports massage, strapping, advice on strengthening and flexibility, and lead the fitness component of training. I treat players with injuries they have obtained during training or match days and run on to pick them up when they are down on the pitch!

Favourite football team - Spurs... I won't be allowed home if I don't say that!

Nickname - Katy B

What would I want to do in the football world? - Be Harry Kane's physio.

Favourite person at LGFC - Lewis Collins - my best and most loyal customer for injury treatment

What is the best thing about LGFC? - I have only been here for a month and I feel so welcome and part of the team. The coaching team are always open to suggestions to improve players' performance.

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