

# HEREFORD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

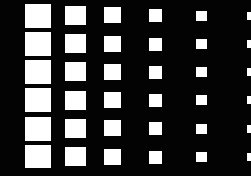


**Information evening**  
**2026/27 Season**

**9th April 2026**



**ACCREDITED  
CLUB**  
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL



# Who are we?

The centre was established in May 2024 to provide players from Hereford and the surrounding areas with the opportunity to compete at the next level. By playing in a more demanding Midlands league, our aim is to support and develop the wealth of talent within our city.

What we have created is not entirely new. Previously, HFC ran a successful Boys Development Centre in partnership with the HFA, with ambitions to take it even further. Unfortunately, in February 2024, it was decided that the BDC could no longer continue. This marked the beginning of what is now known as the HDC.

Learning from past experiences, our aim is to ensure that this is a fully sustainable development centre, where the sole focus is on providing a strong foundation for the talent we have in and around the city.

# Our Vision

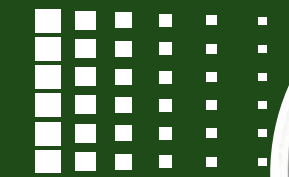
A key philosophy of the centre is that we do not place restrictions on our players. We are committed to ensuring we do not negatively impact the excellent grassroots clubs across the city or take players away from the HJFL. By not focusing on one specific grassroots club and instead welcoming players from all clubs into the HDC, we help ensure the HJFL remains competitive and continues to thrive.

While other Hereford clubs competing in the MJPL focus on internal pathways—which is a valuable approach—ours is slightly different. We aim to provide players with opportunities and experiences that encourage them to look beyond Step 5 football and broaden their ambitions.

When players leave us after U16s, we hope they do so with a strong foundation that prepares them for the next stage of their football journey. Nothing would make us prouder than seeing a player who has come through our pathway one day standing on the pitch wearing the bull of Hereford FC.



# What is a Development Centre



- A training environment designed to help young players improve their skills, understanding, and enjoyment of football in a structured environment.
- Acts as a pathway for players who want to progress further in football.
- A development centre provides a stepping stone, helping players improve and potentially get noticed.
- Serve as a bridge between grassroots football and academy level.
- Not an Academy
- Development Centres/Foundation are used to fund Academies or senior teams (not happening at the HDC)

# Pyramid System



Level 1 – Premier League

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Level 2 – Championship

Level 3 – League One

Level 4 – League Two

===== Step System Starts =====

Step 1 (Level 5) - National League

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Step 2 (Level 6) - National League North / South

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Step 3 (Level 7) - NPL Premier / Southern Prem / Isthmian Prem

.....

Step 4 (Level 8) - Regional Divisions

.....

Step 5-6 (Levels 9-10) - County Leagues (semi-pro/amateur)

.....

Step 7+ (Level 11↓) - Grassroots / Local / Sunday Leagues





## Herefordshire Junior League

The Herefordshire Junior Football League (HJFL) is vital to grassroots football, providing the foundation for young player development and requiring full club support. Step 5 and lower clubs should prioritise the HJFL within their internal pathways to nurture, develop, and retain local talent.

- The HDC offers valuable regional-level competition and enhances player progression
- The HDC fully supports the sustainability and growth of the county league by operating independently from local clubs.
- However, teams playing in both regional leagues and the HJFL risk:
  - Reducing competitiveness and balance within the HJFL.
  - Concentrating stronger players into fewer teams.
  - Limiting opportunities for wider participation.
- **Key Risk:** Potential long-term damage to the sustainability and integrity of the HJFL
- **Key Message:** Regional programmes should support—not undermine—the local league structure.

# Importance of grassroots





# Midland Junior Premier League

The Midlands Junior Premier League (MJPL) is one of the leading youth football leagues in England, particularly across the Midlands region.



## What it is

- A regional youth football league for higher-level grassroots teams
- Covers clubs across the Midlands and surrounding counties
- Designed to provide a more competitive standard than local county league

## Purpose

- Supports player development by exposing players to tougher opposition
- Acts as a bridge between:
  - Local leagues
  - Academy or elite pathway football

## Key characteristics

- Travel distances are greater than county leagues
- Attracts well-organised, competitive clubs
- Emphasis on development, but with a performance focus



# Why the HDC ?



## Income

All money generated is reinvested back into the players, unlike other local MJPL teams or foundations that use funds to support their senior teams or academy setups.

## Development

Two training sessions per week that won't impact grassroots clubs, providing additional training on a state-of-the-art pitch to support the development of all players.

## Offering more

We offer more than any other teams competing locally in the MJPL or JPL. Our program employs a dedicated strength and conditioning coach to enhance players' physical development. We also have a specialised goalkeeper coach who designs structured sessions to improve performance. Additionally, through detailed player reviews, our coaches can identify areas for improvement while also recognizing and reinforcing players' strengths.

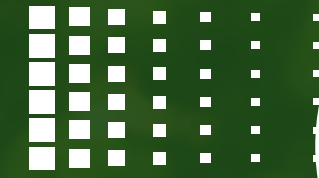
## Community

By building squads that draw players from all clubs, the HJFL will be able to thrive. Local clubs will ultimately benefit, as players gain the opportunity to compete and train at a higher level, developing skills and experience they can bring back to strengthen their home clubs.

## Opportunity

Increased scout presence within regional leagues expands reach and creates greater opportunities for players.

# Meet the team



Chairman  
**Simon**



Ops Director  
**Danny**



Welfare Officer  
**Katrina**



Secretary  
**Jo**



Development Officer  
**Ash**



Treasurer  
**Emma**



Kit Manager  
**Lucy**



S & G  
**Aaron**



U12s



U13s



U14s



U15s



U16s



GK



# 2026/27 season

## Striving for improvement

There are big shoes to fill, with our current U12s enjoying a superb season so far—reaching the cup semi-final and competing in the top 10 of a league consisting of 80 teams.

Ash and his coaching team will continue the excellent work they have already started with Minster Lions on Sundays, while now also bringing their experience and dedication to HDC.



# Trials



Over 250 players trialed across all age groups for the second year running, highlighting the strong drive within the community to support the next stage of their footballing journey.

## Early June

Registration link coming soon with dates being confirmed

## Open Sessions

Building on the improvements from last season, we are offering free open sessions for U12, U13, and U14 players, giving them the chance to see if this is the right environment for their footballing journey. More dates will be released leading up to June.



# Looking to the future



**Trials**

**Pre-season**

**2026/27 Season and beyond**

**Expansion and partnerships**

**Development and improvement**

# Questions

