

FEBRUARY 2026

HEREFORD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

NEWSLETTER



As February comes to a close, the season continues to gather pace across the centre. With January's return now firmly behind us, teams have settled into a consistent rhythm of training and matches. The focus remains on development, maintaining high standards, and building on the strong foundations laid at the start of the year. We feel this a fitting time to remind ourselves why the HDC is here.

The centre was created to give players from Hereford and the surrounding areas 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 we have here in the city.

As we move into our third year, we are always looking at ways to improve and offer more in order to meet that objective. While results are not the priority, they can be a useful indicator of development and progress. It's fantastic to see all of our teams performing strongly in leagues of 80+ teams, with most competing in the top third and some pushing towards the top 10.

Win, lose or draw, it's always a pleasure to watch our players testing themselves against teams from across the Midlands.

A key philosophy of the centre is that we do not want to negatively impact the excellent grassroots clubs across the city or take players away from the HJFL. Other Hereford clubs competing in the MJPL focus on internal pathways, which is great. Our approach is slightly different – we aim to provide players with opportunities and experiences that allow them to look beyond Step 5 football.

When players leave us after U16s, we hope they do so with a strong foundation to take the next step in their football journey. Nothing would make us more proud than seeing someone who has come through our pathway one day standing on the pitch wearing the bull of Hereford FC.



PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

This month's players of the month have been recognised for their talent, hard work, and their ability to take on board the direction given to them by their coaches. See who has been singled out from each team below!



UNDER 12

Tai - Tai has been a consistent defensive performer this season but his performances in February have helped navigate some difficult situations. A popular member of the squad, Tai can often be seen getting him stuck in to some big tackles. Tai has taken on his areas for improvement from his mid-season review and used them to his advantage. Keep up the good work Tai



UNDER 13

Noah - Another player that has been singled out for his consistency, Noah has shone both in and out of possession this month and has been the stand out performer in the U13 team with his reliable play, scoring and assisting as well as his defending. Great work Noah!



UNDER 14



Ollie - Ollie has had an excellent month, performing very well and showing his great potential with his dribbling, passing skills, strength and finishing. Along the way he has been awarded MOTM twice in Feb meaning he was the stand out choice for this month's player of the month. Well deserved recognition Ollie!

UNDER 15



Freddie - Freddie has been in a real purple patch since Christmas, impressing both HDC and his grassroots club. He has had some valuable contributions with the highlight being a MOTM performance in the cup quarter final which saw him chip in with 2 goals and an assist. Freddie has shown his qualities throughout the month and continues to work hard to improve further. Well done Freddie!



UNDER 16



Taylor - Taylor has taken on board the feedback and instructions given to him and has worked hard to apply them in both training and matches.

He has also demonstrated a clear understanding of the team's tactical objectives, particularly in how we look to regain possession of the ball. His awareness and willingness to carry out these responsibilities have been a positive contribution to the team.

Well done Taylor!



SEASON REVIEW - UNDER 16'S

The U16s have had a competitive and encouraging season, showing excellent development, resilience and teamwork across a number of challenging fixtures. The boys have demonstrated strong character throughout the campaign, producing some impressive performances and results along the way.



Early Season Fixtures

The season began with a narrow 1–0 defeat away at Hollyfields in a game that the team will feel they should have taken something from. It was a tight contest throughout, but hesitation from the goalkeeper when coming off his line allowed the opposition to capitalise and score the decisive goal.

The boys responded brilliantly in the following fixtures. A strong 3–0 victory against West Bromwich Albion saw an excellent all-round team performance. The side kept a solid shape throughout the match, controlled the game well and secured a deserved clean sheet.

Another impressive result followed with a 6–0 win away at Bilston, where the team delivered a dominant display and showed their attacking quality in what was a superb all-round performance.



Strong Performances and Key Results

One of the standout results of the season came in a 6–0 victory over Randlay Colts, where the team started with high intensity and took an early lead. From that point on the boys dominated the majority of the game, playing some excellent football and working tirelessly with a high press. It was a fantastic way to close out the year and strengthened their position in both the league and cup competitions.

Another highlight came in a convincing 3–0 win over Lichfield City. The boys kept excellent shape throughout the game and worked extremely hard both on and off the ball, going into halftime with a two-goal advantage before maintaining control in the second half to secure a well-earned victory.

The team also secured a 2–1 win against Pegasus after controlling large spells of the match. Fletch opened the scoring with a brilliant finish into the top corner before Ollie doubled the lead following a superb cross from Noah on the break. Pegasus managed a late goal from a corner scramble, but the boys saw the game out to claim the win.



Hard-Fought Battles

There were several closely contested fixtures throughout the season. A 2–2 draw away at Oldbury saw the boys battle hard in what is always a difficult match.

Another competitive game came against Randlay Colts, finishing 1–1. After a slow start on a difficult pitch, the team improved significantly in the second half. Kaleb gave Hereford the lead with a well-taken strike from outside the box, but Randlay managed to equalise with the last kick of the game following a goalmouth scramble.

A disciplined performance against CS Colts resulted in a 1–0 victory. The opposition enjoyed more possession early on but struggled to break down a resilient Hereford defence. As the game progressed the boys grew into the match and eventually scored the decisive goal following a superb counter-attacking move.



Narrow Defeats Against Strong Opposition

The season also included tough matches against strong teams. A 1–3 defeat to Walsall, who are pushing for the league title, didn't reflect the overall performance. Hereford started strongly and took the lead through H, who headed home from a Max assist. Despite defending well and holding their shape for most of the game, three late deflected goals turned the match in Walsall's favour.

Another frustrating result came in a 2–1 defeat to Romulus. After weathering early pressure, the boys finished the first half strongly and came out well in the second half. Noah equalised with a neat finish after the team fell behind, but Romulus eventually scored a late winner from a set piece.

The return fixture against Walsall proved difficult. After a positive start, the team conceded two quick goals after fifteen minutes and struggled to regain control. George managed to pull one back in the second half with a tidy finish.



Season Summary

Overall, the season has been full of positives for the U16s. The team has shown clear improvement in their discipline, shape, pressing and ability to compete with strong sides. Several matches were decided by fine margins, but the effort, attitude and commitment from the squad have been outstanding throughout.

With strong teamwork and continued development across the group, the boys have built a solid platform and can be proud of the progress made this season.



NEW FACES



Some of you will have already seen Aaron when we welcomed him in to the fold in early March and he put the teams through their paces. If you didn't see it then you will have probably heard the groans from the players when they woke the next day with aching legs!

Aaron's approach combines structured strength work, movement quality, conditioning and age appropriate athletic development to support long term progress, not just short term results. His goal is to help players unlock their full potential and perform at their highest level when it matters most.

Keep an eye out for more updates from Aaron and his S&C sessions.



NEW SEASON APPROACHING

Even though there is still plenty of football to be played this season, we are already looking ahead to the next. As always, this means we will soon see our current U16s move on from the centre after another strong campaign.

The centre recently explored the possibility of entering a U18 team into the Midland Junior Premier League (MJPL). However, after careful consideration, we decided this would not be the best step for the centre at this stage, particularly within the wider city football structure.

The main U18 pathway remains with Hereford FC, who compete in the Midland Junior Floodlit League. It has been fantastic to see so many of our 2024/25 U16s making regular appearances there, with a few of our current U16s also representing the side.

MJPL Teams for 2026/27

Next season we will once again be entering five teams into the Midland Junior Premier League. The continued growth and competitiveness of our teams across the age groups shows the strength of the development pathway we are building within the centre.



CONTINUING THE GROWTH

New U12 Coaching Team



We are also pleased to announce the appointment of a new coaching team who will take charge of our U12s next season. There was a lot of interest in this role, and careful consideration was taken to ensure the right coaches were appointed—individuals who share and value our development objectives within the centre. We didn't want to rush this decision, as this age group is key to laying the foundations for players progressing through our pathway.

We would like to warmly welcome Ash, Chris, and Jack from Minster Lions to the team. We are excited to have you on board and look forward to seeing you lead our U12s next season.

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.

Over the coming months, the new coaching team will begin building their squad for the upcoming season as we look ahead to trials scheduled for early June. Keep an eye out on social media for important dates.

There are exciting times ahead for the centre. When you look at how well all our teams have performed this season, it's clear that something special is continuing to grow here in the city

NEWS & UPDATES

Information Evening - 9th April

Please help spread the word! More details will be shared on social media, so keep an eye out and share where you can.

On 9th April, we'll be hosting an information evening in a town hall-style format. Meet the team, hear our plans for next season, and be introduced to our new U12 coaching team.

The main focus will be showcasing what HDC has to offer for new members looking to be part of our great centre.

There'll also be time to ask questions and learn more.

Volunteers still required

We are still in search of a few more volunteers to complete our team. If you feel like you could assist with any of the roles below or wish to see what they entail, please get in touch.



HEREFORD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

BE PART OF THE TEAM

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

The role will create, manage, and deliver engaging digital content that reflects the values, success, and activities of the HDC. Focusing on promoting the HDC, showcasing player achievements, and ensuring clear, consistent communication across all social media platforms. You'll play a key part in strengthening community engagement and maintaining a professional public presence for the Centre.

- ★ MANAGE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS
- ★ PRODUCE THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
- ★ KEEP THE WEBSITE UP TO DATE
- ★ BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE

✉ Hello@hereforddevelopmentcentre.co.uk



HEREFORD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

BE PART OF THE TEAM

MATCHDAY SECRETARY

Join the team at the HDC and help deliver positive, well-organised matchdays. The Matchday Secretary monitors fixtures and ensures referees are appointed for all home games. A vital role required to ensure games run smoothly and safely

- ★ CAN YOU SPARE A FEW HOURS A WEEK?
- ★ YOU WILL WORK ALONG SIDE THE HDC SECRETARY
- ★ BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE

✉ Hello@hereforddevelopmentcentre.co.uk

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship Opportunities

We're currently looking for sponsors for the upcoming season! If you or someone you know would be interested in supporting a local team, we'd love to hear from you.

We're specifically seeking sponsorship for our U15s and U16s squads, but other sponsorship opportunities are also available. Please get in touch for more information or to discuss how you can get involved.

If you have any general enquiries, issues or concerns please reach out.

SECRETARY - hello@hereforddevelopmentcentre.co.uk

WELFARE - hereforddcwelfare@gmail.com

You can also reach out on our [Facebook](#) page or Website

www.hereforddevelopmentcentre.com

