

OCTOBER 2025

HEREFORD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

October has been an incredible month for all our teams, and we're excited to share the progress and achievements with you. Traditionally, this time of year brings challenges – fixtures often fall victim to unpredictable weather – but this October was different. Every scheduled game went ahead, and that consistency has given us a fantastic platform for the rest of the season. We've seen highs and lows, but most importantly, we've witnessed real development across every squad. The commitment from players, coaches, and you – the parents – has been outstanding. Your support at training sessions and match days makes a huge difference, and we want to thank you for being part of this journey.

This edition focuses on the league we play in and why we believe our teams are performing exceptionally well.

As we move forward, let's keep the momentum going. The hard work, resilience, and team spirit we've seen so far will carry us through the season. Here's to more goals, more growth, and more great memories!

PLAYERS OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

October was our first full month of football with the added challenge of juggling half term. Our teams have had some great results and performances as the leagues start to take shape.

Well done to all our October players of the month voted by your coaches.



U12 - EDWARD

HARD WORK AND PRESSING FROM THE FRONT, HIS TIRELESS WORK RATE CREATED CHANCES FOR OTHERS AND SCORING 4 GOALS HIMSELF



U13 - OLLY

RECENTLY CHANGED POSITIONS, HE HAS BOUGHT FRESH ENERGY AND QUALITY TO OUR ATTACKING PLAY. A CONSTANT THREAT HE HAS SCORED 5 GOALS THIS MONTH



U14 - MONTY

HUGE IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH BECOMING ONE OF OUR MOST CONSISTENT PLAYERS. SOME EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES AT RIGHT BACK



U15 - JIMMY

PACE, POWER, WITH A NEVER SAY DIE ATTITUDE. HAPPY TO PLAY ANYWHERE FOR THE TEAM. GREAT PERFORMANCES IN GAMES AND IN TRAINING



U16 - KALEB

LEADING GOALSCORER FOR OCTOBER WITH EXCEPTIONAL WORKRATE ON AND OFF THE BALL

NEWS & UPDATES



KEY DATES

24TH & 27TH NOV - PLAYER REVIEWS

18TH DEC - LAST TRAINING 2025

20TH DEC - LAST GAME 2025

5TH JAN - FIRST TRAINING 2026

10TH JAN - FIRST GAME 2026

TEAM EVENTS

As we approach the festive season, our teams are starting to plan their Christmas events, and we'd love for parents to get involved! This year, we're doing things differently by giving each team the freedom to arrange their own celebrations – whether it's a fun activity, a meal out, or an awards evening, the choice is yours. Coaches will soon be reaching out to gather ideas, so please share any suggestions you have, and if you can spare some time, consider volunteering as an organiser. These events are a great way to strengthen team spirit, reward hard work, and create lasting memories for the players. Let's make this Christmas one to remember!

DISCIPLINE

The FA is continuing its drive to improve discipline across football, and this season we've seen an increase in fines across the league, particularly relating to sanctions E20 and E21.

For context:

- E20 applies to teams.
- E21 applies to spectators.

These sanctions carry fines of over £100 each time, and several have already been issued this season (none to HDC, which is great news!).

We're sharing this to make everyone aware that behaviour on match days matters. Overly animated reactions—especially towards referees—can bring the club into disrepute and result in penalties. Please continue to support the players positively and respect officials at all times. Together, we can maintain the great reputation we've built.



MIDLAND JUNIOR PREMIER LEAGUE

The Midland Junior Premier League (MJPL) is one of the leading youth football leagues in England, designed to provide talented young players with a competitive and developmental environment. Operating across the Midlands region, the MJPL is widely recognized for its high standards of coaching, facilities, and player development.

How the League Works

Fixtures are released every three weeks and are based on current league positions. This unique format ensures that games become more competitive as the season progresses, with teams playing others who have had similar results. With most divisions containing around 80 teams, there's always a chance to face sides further ahead in their development – these are the matches where we learn the most. We should always aspire to play at the highest level possible, and this structure allows us to challenge the best teams in the Midlands.

Our Approach

Most MJPL teams start at U8, but we choose to begin at U12 so it doesn't affect our Herefordshire Junior League and Saturday fixtures. While this can seem like a disadvantage against more established teams, our squads are competing superbly and showcasing the incredible talent we have across the city.

We're not even halfway through the season, and with so many games still to come, all our teams are proving they can compete in the top half of the table at every age group – a massive achievement in such a competitive league.

Team Progress So Far

- U12s – Outstanding start! Sitting in the top 10 and challenging for top spot in their first season together.
- U13s – Adjusting to the 11v11 format after a strong finish last season. We're confident they'll adapt and push on.
- U14s – Coming off a cup-winning season, they hit the ground running and are now facing strong opposition, improving every week.
- U15s – Excellent start but have faced narrow defeats in competitive games. Still proving they belong among the best.
- U16s – After a slow start (1 draw, 2 losses), they're now on a winning run, producing excellent performances.

Why MJPL Matters

The MJPL isn't just about results – it's about development, resilience, and challenging ourselves against the best. Every fixture is an opportunity to learn, grow, and showcase the talent within our squads.

TEAM FOCUS - UNDER 14S

The U14s have shown energy, resilience, and plenty of learning moments in an exciting start to the season. There have been standout wins and tough lessons, all shaping the team's development.

We've celebrated dominant performances, including a brilliant 3-0 win over Shrewsbury Town, where defensive shape and teamwork earned a clean sheet, and a commanding display against Redditch United, full of quick passing, wide play, and composed finishing. The boys also impressed in a 5-1 victory over Walsall, playing confident, attacking football.

There have been challenging fixtures too. A physical clash with Ercall Colts ended 2-5, exposing areas to improve on set-piece defending. Against Enville AFC, we drew 2-2 despite controlling the game, with Alfie scoring both goals. Matches against WBA, Solihull Moors, and Leamington FC tested our resilience, but the boys showed commitment and tactical discipline throughout. Monty's defensive work and Alfie's goals were highlights in these tough outings.

Key takeaways:

- Defensive structure is improving, with clean sheets showing progress.
- Set-piece defending remains a focus area.
- Team spirit and work rate are evident in every match.

The season is long, and the focus remains on development, learning, and building confidence. Plenty of positives and exciting times ahead! ❤️⚽



First  **Bus**



MEET THE COACH



Marcin started his coaching journey in 2013 with a Level 1 badge, he's since honed his expertise with the FA Youth Award in 2017 and a UEFA B license in 2020. His coaching career kicked off with a girls' U8's team, and in 2015, he transitioned to coaching a men's first team, achieving a notable 4th place finish in the County league and securing runners-up in a County Cup in 2017. He then joined Hereford FC Academy in the same year, and was responsible for nurturing talent across various age groups, focusing on developing local talent in the Herefordshire area. He is extremely committed to ensuring the delivery of high-quality, well-structured football and education programs.

Hereford Development Centre are thrilled to have Marcin on our team!

WANT TO BE PART OF THE TEAM

Success is built on the foundations of teamwork, and that includes the incredible support we receive from our volunteers. We're always looking for people who want to make a difference – whether it's helping to run a team event, taking on a role within the committee, or even starting your coaching journey. Every little bit of help makes a big impact, and together we can continue to create the best possible experience for our players.

Starting in January, we'll be introducing a new initiative: one volunteer from each age group to act as their team representative. This role is key to improving communication and ensuring every member has a voice in the centre. Team reps will attend committee meetings and act as a direct link between the committee and their team, helping us stay connected and responsive to everyone's needs.

If you're interested in volunteering – whether as a team rep, event organiser, or in any other capacity – please speak to your coach or contact us directly. Volunteering is a fantastic way to get involved and help shape the future of our football community.

hello@hereforddevelopmentcentre.co.uk

Let's keep building something special – together!



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