



# AFC HENLEY

## AFC HENLEY REPORT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 5 APRIL 2018

- *AFC Henley (formerly Henley Boys & Girls Football Club), is now in its 44th year.*
- *The club has around 400 members aged from U4 to U18 plus 80+ adult volunteers.*
- *Our large size and income means that we must apply all the disciplines required of a business, but we remain a 'not-for-profit' grass-roots community club operating as an Unincorporated Association.*
- *Except for our groundsmen and a small number of paid external coaches, we are, from the chairman downwards, unpaid volunteers.*
- *Part of our community policy is to offer our facilities to charities and local schools.*

### Teams

We are currently fielding 21 teams from U9 to U18 in the East Berks Football Alliance league. We are already one of the top dozen clubs in the league out of over 100 by number of teams registered.

### Facilities

We lease five pitches at Jubilee Park from Henley Town Council and the full-sized pitch in Harpsden from the John Hodges Trust for Harpsden Hall. We also use Henley YMCA and Henley Town FC as required. Mid-week training takes place on the astroturf at Jubilee Park and the artificial grass training area at Henley Rugby Club.

### Official link with Reading Football Club

Thanks to our close links with Reading Football Club, who are keener than ever to strengthen their brand locally, we are extremely fortunate to have the services of Reading FC Community Trust coaches to lead our specialist coaching activities, both on Saturday mornings and midweek. Promising young players are referred to Reading FC Academy.

### Coaching

Our Saturday Mini-Soccer Centre continues to provide skills training to over 70 boys and girls from age 4 - 8 and we offer a Junior Soccer Centre on Monday evenings and Midweek Mini Soccer on Wednesday evenings. On the remaining weekday evenings we run invitation-only Player Development Centres (PDC), including for goalkeepers. We also run five after-school clubs in state and private schools, holiday football camps and football parties.

### Henley Football Partnership (HFP)

The HFP brings ourselves, Henley Town Football Club and Henley YMCA together as a virtual club, designated by the FA as a Charter Standard Community Club, the highest level available. This enables us to offer football for all ages and abilities, from pre-school to adults, including those with learning difficulties. The HFP has twice been voted Oxfordshire FA Community Club of the Year. Henley Town FC and AFC Henley are working more closely than ever before, with AFCH acting as a feeder club. This means that, from next season, instead of finishing at U18, AFCH members will move automatically to adult football at HTFC, playing in the Thames Valley and Reading Saturday & Sunday leagues.



### **Twinning links with Leichlingen continue**

Our annual football exchange programme with SC Leichlingen is still active, having started back in the 1970s. An U13 squad from Leichlingen visits Henley every October and a return visit to Leichlingen takes place in the following spring, when we play in the annual Easter Tournament.

### **Child safeguarding**

We take safeguarding extremely seriously. All our managers, coaches and coaching assistants have in-date CRCs, as required by the Football Association. Most of our team managers are also qualified FA L1 coaches, some are L2 and one has the UEFA 'A' Licence. Our supervision policy is to have two adults at all coaching sessions and matches. To see our safeguarding policies, please go to [www.afchenley.com](http://www.afchenley.com).

### **Health & Safety**

Henley Round Table have generously paid for a defibrillator, which we will keep close to the pitches at Jubilee Park for easy access. We are grateful to Sarah Roberts and her Millie's Dream charity for the supply of a suitable device, which around 20 adult club members have now been trained to use.

### **Planned new facilities**

We are looking forward to a new clubhouse. AFC Henley and Henley Hockey Club are jointly negotiating with Henley Town Council and developer T. A. Fisher for the design of two new clubhouses plus changing rooms and parking on Jubilee Park to replace the existing clubhouses on the Council's site adjacent to Tesco. These will be demolished to make way for housing. Plans are progressing well, and we expect planning permission to be obtained in the next few months. It is possible that construction will begin before the end of the year.

### **Financial Support**

We are indebted to Invesco Perpetual, Stuart Turner and Ashford Developments for their generous financial donations over the last year and to SODC District Councillors and the Oxfordshire FA for contributing to the cost of a set of full-sized roll-on-roll-off goals.

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