

## **BEDWELL RANGERS F.C.**

Following a successful 2016/17, preparations for the new season are well underway for the girls teams of Bedwell Rangers FC.

With one of the largest girls sections in Hertfordshire, last season the Club provided football for nearly 200 girls in their 15 teams competing in the Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League

This season the club are likely to have more players than ever. As well as their Under 8 to Under 16 teams competing in the HFGPL, sessions for 5 and 6 year old girls will be on offer to introduce them to football and the club will have a Ladies team playing in the Beds & Herts Women's League.

As they continue to grow Bedwell Rangers are keen to hear from players and coaches interested in joining them, particularly girls of secondary school age for their Under 12 to 16 teams

Formed in 1959, Bedwell Rangers were the first youth football club to be founded in Stevenage. Although the Club's ethos includes an emphasis on the playing and enjoyment of the game rather than on the importance of a victory, last season did bring success for teams across the ages

The Under 8s won League's the Fairplay award for their age group and the Under 12 Comets won the Harpenden Colts Tournament. The Under 18s were Runners Up in their League, the Under 10 Reds were League Cup Finalists, the Under 9 Red Devils reached the final of the Aylesbury United Tournament and the Under 11 Comets were runners-up at the Ware Rangers Tournament.

Bedwell Rangers can offer players and parents alike the confidence that they are joining an FA Charter Standard Development Club with a priority of child protection, quality coaching and implementation of the FA Respect Programme. Recognition of this came in June when the Club were announced as Herts FA Charter Standard Development Club of the Year 2017.

Recognition of Bedwell Rangers being a leading player in the development of football for girls came when they were announced as one of just four Arsenal Ladies Platinum Sister Clubs and the only one that is based in North Herts.

This affiliation with Arsenal Ladies provides the club with an array of benefits that help give the players at Bedwell Rangers the best possible opportunities to develop and reach their full potential along with access to the Arsenal Ladies Player Pathway via recommendations to the Arsenal Ladies Player Development Programme.

Last season coaches from the Women's Super League club provided coaching sessions for the Stevenage based club and girls from Bedwell were twice mascots and flag bearers for the WSL giants

Bedwell Rangers also takes pride in the work it does in local schools.

The Stevenage based club was selected by Hertfordshire FA to deliver the 3 Lions Programme- FA qualified coaches from Bedwell Rangers delivered 20 taster sessions to 300 School Year 3 and 4 girls at Primary Schools throughout Stevenage. The taster sessions proved a great success with a number of girls attending further free coaching sessions with the club. These girls will play in newly formed Under 9 and 10 teams for the 2017/18 season.

Work with local schools isn't confined to Primary Schools. In partnership with Stevenage Borough Council, Herts Sports Partnership and Barclay School, the Bedwell Rangers Satellite Club for School Year 7, 8 and 9 girls goes from strength to strength. The Programme has already given a number of girls the opportunity to make the transition from school to club football. Close relations between the Club and Nobel School once again saw coaches from Bedwell Rangers delivering coaching sessions to Year 7 and 8 girls, which has seen more girls from the Chells based Secondary School join the club.

For more information visit the club website [www.bedwellrangersfc.co.uk](http://www.bedwellrangersfc.co.uk), e-mail [bedwellrangersfc@gmail.com](mailto:bedwellrangersfc@gmail.com) or ring Neil Finch, the Club's Girls Development Officer, on 07985 338356

**PHOTOS :-**

**Photo 1 - Bedwell Rangers Under 12 Comets after winning Harpenden Colts Tournament**



**Photo 2 – Girls taking part in the Clubs Under 9 & 10 Festival following the successful Primary School Programme**



**Photo 3 – Trustees of Bedwell Rangers receiving the Herts FA Charter Standard Development Club of the Year Award**



**Photo 4 – Q&A session with Arsenal's Alex Scott at a coaching session delivered by WSL coaches**

