



2021 COMES TO A CLOSE

15/12/2021



This week marks the close of first half of the 21/22 season of the Lincolnshire Co-op Women and Girls Football League and what a season it's been so far. Not without its challenges and we recognise that there may be plenty more to come but we have so much to celebrate, to share with all of those involved with the league and we look forward to 2022 with excitement.

Firstly, we must recognise and thank the volunteers, coaches, parents, officials, supporters and players involved in the league. It is a testament to the fantastic clubs and individuals involved in our leagues to ensure that fixtures could be completed and even where they couldn't be, the effort involved in getting as close as we could. We are thankful for all of your hard work and your dedication to get your players back out on the pitch doing what they love.

Our league's mission is simple, to provide opportunity for women and girls to play within one league structure in the most developmental and fit for purpose environment possible across our county. We have certainly seen great progress from our first year of delivery into this one; we now have over double the number of registered players playing league football in Lincolnshire than the 2020/21 season and the league looks to continue to grow into the second half of the season under our second entry window.

To recognise that this is only our second year in existence, to now have over 1200 females registered is something we can't let pass us by. From a standing start, in the middle of a global pandemic, this is something that we are very proud of. Although we do acknowledge that we are not the final article, we still have some way to go. Unfortunately, the female game faces consistent comparison with local mixed or male football. However, recognising that we have recently marked the 100 year anniversary of a Women's Football ban and only 50 seasons since it's return is really important to put our progress into perspective. Each of you involved are part of something much bigger and at the start of a special journey! I hope we will look back in 50 years time with disbelief about where we have come from!





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In an ideal world we would have much healthier numbers in all of our divisions, more consistent fixtures and multiple offers at every given age group. In addition we would love to offer vets, walking football and disability provision too. We have strategies in place to make this happen in the short and the long term future.

Currently we are hosting North and South divisions where possible. The reason that we do this is to ensure that all Lincolnshire registered female teams are able to play in our league. Without this provision in place, under FA ruling, due to the vast nature of our county, all of our teams that are based around the borders of Lincolnshire would be playing in external leagues. This would leave our Lincolnshire Women & Girls' League with much less teams at every age group and with no way to develop moving forwards. Combining the divisions at age groups would result in considerable drop off in competition.

This is just one example of the developmental strategies that we have in place and hope that we have the wholehearted trust of players, coaches, clubs and supporters of the league. There are no quick fixes in development and growth but we are always seeking feedback from those associated with the league and welcome any communication, positive or developmental moving forwards.

As we come to the close of the year we once again, thank those that have supported us, continue to do so and wish all the safest and most enjoyable festive period to those that are celebrating. We can't wait to see you again in the new year for another exciting time in the game.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

-LWGFL Committee-



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