

OCTOBER 2024

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE NEWSLETTER



WELCOME

Welcome to October's edition of the Harrogate Town Player Development Centre newsletter.

It has been a good month, with our games programme starting to get into full flow. We recently hosted York City's West Yorkshire Development Centre, Calcio, Pontefract Collieries and Scunthorpe School Boys for our boys APDC. Match nights always feel special, and it was brilliant to get a sense of the buzz and excitement from our players. You'll be able to catch a glimpse of the action from the matches later on in the newsletter in our highlights section. Our girls PDC are also gearing up for their first fixtures of the season towards the start of November, which promises to be a great evening of football.

The Under 16s started their JPL campaign with a 2-2 draw against Pontefract Collieries at home. The promotion to the top league will present the boys with a good level of challenge, and there will be no easy matches. Tom Hullock and Josh Falkingham are doing a fantastic job in preparing the boys for both this season and beyond. Having worked with both of them across a number of seasons, their passion for coaching and developing players continues to grow by the session, and we are very fortunate to be able to tap into their knowledge. We have a strong staff team within the PDC, and we are constantly looking to challenge and improve as coaches. Later on in this issue, we have the first of our coaches bio's, where we shine a light on some of our coaching staff.

It takes a village to raise a child, as the proverb goes, with many different people contributing to the development



of a player, on and off the pitch, past and present. It was a particularly poignant moment to reflect on this lesson this month, as Player Development Centre graduate, Oli Robinson, was handed his first senior start against Crewe in the EFL Trophy. A huge congratulations to Oli, and a well done to all those who have contributed to his development past and present.

Have a fantastic month, keep progressing and improving.

Ryan

Ryan Smith | Lead Youth Development Phase Coach

**HARROGATE
COLLEGE**

Find your place

Open Event, Wednesday 23 October, 5.30-7pm

- Find engaging courses - apprenticeships, T Levels, technical courses, adult courses
- Find expert teachers who go above and beyond to encourage you
- Find superb support should you need a helping hand

Find all this and more at Harrogate College

A member of Luminate Education Group



Book your ticket
harrogate-college.ac.uk/events



PDC NEWSLETTER

HTAFC Player Development Centre
is proudly sponsored by

**HARROGATE
COLLEGE**

ACADEMY UPDATE



Since my last notes we've managed to continue our unbeaten start to the season, welcoming Huddersfield in the cup and earning a 5-3 victory, as well as running out 4-1 winner at Rotherham, who were top of the league going into the game.

For 65 minutes of the game against Huddersfield we were excellent, I know it took until about the 33rd minute to get our first goal, but we'd created chances and not taken them leading up to that, and I'd much rather that than having not created any.

After 65 minutes we made changes, including Alfie Lumsden who had been out injured so it was great to see him come on and get some minutes, as well as Chester Gregory, Charley Parker and Reece Bellis.

I'm someone who doesn't like to use too many subs, but it was an ideal opportunity to do that at 5-0 up, however we caused ourselves a few problems and lost our way a little bit, but still managed to still come away with a good result.

Overall it's been a really good start to the season, I've been really pleased with how the lads have taken what they have been working on in training into games, working the ball into the box and expanding our game.

It was great to see Jack Bray get another two goals to his name and Jayden Obarotimi to get his first of the season, as well as Robbie Wilson and Oli Robinson, so there was lots and lots of positives to take

We think we're more than capable of getting goals with the way we play and the way we press, we like to get about teams, we've just got to make sure we're a bit better at the

back because we've conceded too many sloppy goals, but some of that may well be down to the way we play.

We followed the up with another good display at Rotherham, Marcus Etherington again getting on the scoresheet to give us an early lead. Lucas Barnes then added probably the pick of the goals with an absolute thunderbolt of an effort, that really showed to me the confidence these lads have at the moment, and that's great to see.

Oli Robinson's second half goal made sure there wouldn't be any comeback from the hosts, with Jack Bray getting his now customary goal in the 90th minute.

With the first team starting their Bristol Street Motors campaign this month it would be fantastic to see some of the Academy lads in and around the squad and hopefully given the chance to get on and show what they can do.

This competition can be a fantastic opportunity for young players to showcase their abilities against some of the country's most talented youngsters in the Liverpool team.

For us this month, we've got Grimsby who have started the season really strongly and Stockport to come to York St John, as well as two long away trips to Shrewsbury and Walsall, and we'll be looking to pick up as many points as possible and keeping our early momentum going.

Key Kevin Wilson, Academy Lead Professional Development Phase Coach



FIRST TEAM CALL-UPS

Congratulations to Academy Scholars, Oli Robinson, Jack Bray and Robbie Wilson who were all involved in our Bristol Street Motors Trophy clash away at Crewe Alexandra this month.



Fixtures & Results 2024/25

Date	Opposition	Comp	F-A	Scorers
AUGUST				
Sat 10	Notts County	A LGE	4-3	Barnes, Bray 2, Parker
Sat 17	Port Vale	H LGE	1-1	Etherington
Sat 24	Bradford City	A YAC	1-0	Bray
Sat 31	Preston North End	A LGE	2-2	Gregory, Bray
SEPTEMBER				
Sat 7	Rochdale	H LGE	2-2	Bray 2
Sat 14	Huddersfield Town	H YAC	5-3	Bray 2, Robinson, Obarotimi, Wilson
Sat 21	Rotherham United	A LGE	4-1	Bray 2, Barnes, Etherington
Sat 28	Salford City	H LGE	2-1	Hindle, Obarotimi
OCTOBER				
Wed 9	Grimsby Town	H YAC	1-2	Wilson
Sat 12	Shrewsbury Town	A LGE	2-2	Wilson, Barnes
Sat 19	Stockport County	H LGE	12:00	
Sat 26	Walsall	A LGE	12:00	
NOVEMBER				
Sat 9	Accrington Stanley	A LGE	12:00	
Sat 16	Blackpool	H LGE	12:00	
Sat 30	Bolton Wanderers	A LGE	12:00	
DECEMBER				
Sat 7	Doncaster Rovers	A LGE	12:00	
Sat 21	Bradford City	H LGE	12:00	
JANUARY				
Sat 11	Burton Albion	A LGE	12:00	
Sat 18	Carlisle United	H LGE	12:00	
FEBRUARY				
Sat 1	Chesterfield	A LGE	12:00	
Sat 15	Doncaster Rovers	H LGE	12:00	
MARCH				
Sat 8	Grimsby Town	A LGE	12:00	
Sat 15	Wrexham	H LGE	12:00	
Sat 22	Hartlepool United	H LGE	12:00	
Sat 29	Huddersfield Town	A LGE	12:00	
APRIL				
Sat 12	Lincoln City	H LGE	12:00	
Sat 26	Mansfield Town	A LGE	12:00	
MAY				
Sat 22	Morecambe	H LGE	12:00	

U18 Youth Alliance North

POS	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Bolton Wanderers	6	5	1	0	19	4	15	16
2	Wrexham	7	4	2	1	20	10	10	14
3	Lincoln City	7	4	2	1	15	6	9	14
4	Preston North End	7	4	1	2	20	13	7	13
5	Rotherham United	6	4	1	1	16	9	7	13
6	Morecambe	7	4	1	2	13	7	6	13
7	Harrogate Town	7	3	4	0	17	12	5	13
8	Rochdale	7	3	3	1	17	8	9	12
9	Burton Albion	6	3	1	2	16	11	5	10
10	Blackpool	6	3	1	2	12	9	3	10
11	Walsall	7	3	1	3	11	14	-3	10
12	Mansfield Town	7	3	1	3	10	13	-3	10
13	Shrewsbury Town	7	3	1	3	9	12	-3	10
14	Accrington Stanley	6	3	0	3	12	15	-3	9
15	Chesterfield	6	3	0	3	9	14	-5	9
16	Grimsby Town	7	2	2	3	13	13	0	8
17	Doncaster Rovers	7	2	2	3	12	14	-2	8
18	Stockport County	7	2	1	4	9	11	-2	7
19	Port Vale	7	2	1	4	11	16	-5	7
20	Notts County	7	2	1	4	10	19	-9	7
21	Bradford City	6	2	0	4	9	16	-7	6
22	Salford City	6	1	1	4	10	15	-5	4
23	Carlisle United	6	1	1	4	7	13	-6	4
24	Hartlepool United	5	1	1	3	6	14	-8	4
25	Huddersfield Town	7	0	0	7	7	22	-15	0



PDC NEWSLETTER

HTAFC Player Development Centre
is proudly sponsored by

**HARROGATE
COLLEGE**

AGE GROUP TIMINGS 2024-25



GIRLS

ROSSETT SPORTS
CENTRE

PDC

U8,U9,U10 Friday 5-6pm

U11,U12,U13 Tuesday 5-6pm
Friday 6-7pm

U14,U15,U16 Friday 7-8pm

APDC

U12 / U13 Friday 7-8pm

U14 / U15 Friday 7-8pm

JUNIOR

ROSSETT SPORTS
CENTRE

PDC

U5 - U8 Thursday 4-5pm

BOYS

ROSSETT SPORTS
CENTRE

PDC

U9/U10 Tuesday 4-5pm
Thursday 5-6pm

APDC

U10 Tuesday 6-7pm
Thursday 6-7pm

U11 Tuesday 6-7pm

GOAL KEEPING

ST JOHN FISHER
HIGH SCHOOL

U8-U12 Tuesday 5.45-6.45pm
Thursday 5.45-6.45pm

U13-U16 Monday 5.45-6.45pm
Wednesday 5.45-6.45pm

BOYS

ST JOHN FISHER
HIGH SCHOOL

PDC

U11/U12 Tuesday 5.45-6.45pm
Thursday 5.45-6.45pm

U13/U14 Monday 5.45-6.45pm
Wednesday 5.45-6.45pm

U15/U16 Monday 5.45-6.45pm
Wednesday 5.45-6.45pm

APDC

U11 Thursday 5.45-6.45pm

*Please note U11 APDC Tuesday training at Rossett Sports Centre

U12 Tuesday 5.45-6.45pm
Thursday 6.45-7.45pm

U13 Thursday 6.45-7.45pm
Friday 5.45-6.45pm

U14 Wednesday 6.45-7.45pm
Friday 5.45-6.45pm

U15 Monday 6.45-7.45pm
Wednesday 6.45-7.45pm

U16 Monday 6.45-7.45pm
Friday 5.45-6.45pm



PDC NEWSLETTER

HTAFC Player Development Centre
is proudly sponsored by

**HARROGATE
COLLEGE**

OLI IN FOCUS

On Tuesday 8th October, Academy Scholar Oli Robinson became just the second player to progress from our Player Development Centre and start a first team fixture, following in the footsteps of George Horbury.

Here's a closer look at his Bristol Street Motors Trophy appearance at Crewe Alexandra.

“

THE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IS WORKING AND I'M SURE THERE ARE GOING TO BE MORE PLAYERS THAT COME THROUGH THE SYSTEM IN YEARS TO COME.

"I KNOW AT YOUNGER LEVELS THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REALLY STRONG PLAYERS THAT ARE GOING TO KEEP ON PROGRESSING, THEY'VE GOT THE TALENT TO PUSH ON INTO THE FIRST TEAM AND THAT'S WHAT WE WANT FROM OUR PATHWAY."

SIMON WEAVER



HARROGATE COLLEGE

Take time for you

Our exciting and varied adult provision offers a wide range of professional and leisure courses.

Coming soon - perfect for the festive season:

- Special Occasion Party Makeup - Christmas season
- Wreath Making

To get started search 'adult learning' at Harrogate College and make time for you today



A member of Luminate Education Group



PDC NEWSLETTER

HTAFC Player Development Centre
is proudly sponsored by

**HARROGATE
COLLEGE**

MATCH ACTION

On Thursday 10th October our PDC U11s,U12s and U13s welcomed Calcio to Harrogate, here's the best of the pictures.

We've also picked out our top five goals from last month's PDC fixtures. Click the link at the bottom of the page to check them out!



GOALS OF THE MONTH



PDC NEWSLETTER

HTAFC Player Development Centre
is proudly sponsored by

**HARROGATE
COLLEGE**



SOCCER CAMP

AUTUMN
HALF TERM

MON 28TH TO
THU 31ST OCTOBER

For more information please email
daveriley@harrogatetownafc.com

SIGN UP
HERE!!!



£28
PER DAY



GIRLS PDC

We are looking forward to continuing work toward strengthening the girls and women's pathway, from the PDC through to the women's first team and are hopeful this will continue to increase the number of players progressing through the age categories and reaching first team football with us, such as our existing first team centre back Connie Parkin (pictured right), who has been with the club from the age of 11.

Over the past month we have been working to continue to improve the provisions in the women's section. The integration of Alex Jackson, an S&C and performance analysis intern has been a really positive addition to the team, with him leading on gym sessions and performance analysis on Thursday evening before time on the pitch. We have recently also interviewed for a physio position for the women's section, and hope to appoint shortly to support with injury management and pitch side support.

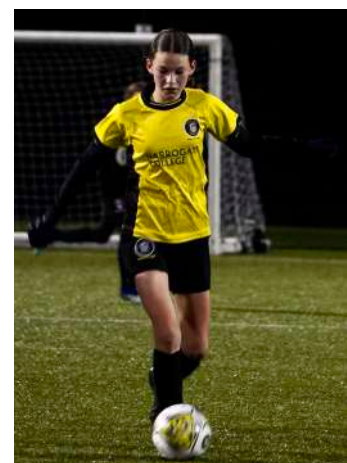
In terms of performances, the women's first team picked up their first league point in their second to last game away to Hull United, although this did feel like 2 points lost off the back of the performance. A difficult result in our recent fixture but we look to bounce back this week and have plenty of positives to build from and many points still to play for. We are still looking to strengthen in some areas of the pitch and have some experienced players training with us over the next couple of weeks with a view to potentially signing. The U23s continue to build off their positive start to the season, with respective 14-0, 8-2 and 5-0 wins in the league.

We have also continued work to strengthen the pathway from the PDC/APDC through to first team, having Tom Overton involved in the coaching of the women's first team this year has been great for this. I really enjoyed attending the girls' PDC/APDC training last Friday and leading on the delivery of some of the sessions. There is a massive amount of talent within the section which has got us incredibly excited for the future of not only the PDC/APDC but also the open age women's section, and it was great to talk to the players about how the first team set up to play, which Tom and Paul hope



to embed within the younger age groups. We will soon also integrate some first team players in the delivery of these sessions over the next few weeks.

It was amazing to have some of the girls as mascots for the first team's FA cup game recently (despite the result) and is something we would love to continue with for our home games. It would be great to see as many of the girls down at our first team games as possible, cheering the women on, and hopefully getting inspired to continue through to first team football with us.



PDC NEWSLETTER

HTAFC Player Development Centre
is proudly sponsored by

**HARROGATE
COLLEGE**



PDC KITS

AVAILABLE NOW
FROM THE CLUB SHOP

HARROGATE TOWN AFC CLUB SHOP

32 Commercial Street, Harrogate, HG1 1TY

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
12PM-4:30PM

Saturday*
11AM-3PM

**ON HOME MATCH DAYS
VISIT THE CLUB SHOP
AT THE EXERCISE STADIUM**

**CLICK
HERE TO
VISIT THE
ONLINE
SHOP!**

FULL KIT

ADULT JUNIOR

£55 £50

SHIRT

ADULT JUNIOR

£32 £30

SHORTS

ADULT JUNIOR

£17 £15

SOCKS

ADULT/JUNIOR

£8

UTILITA KIDS CUP

Our Community Foundation recently hosted local matches as part of the Utilita Kids Cup at Rossett Sports Centre.

A big well done to all the girls who took part.



PDC NEWSLETTER

HTAFC Player Development Centre
is proudly sponsored by

**HARROGATE
COLLEGE**

MEET THE PDC COACHES

Ian Watson

Ian has been coaching goalkeepers for 25 years, working with stoppers in Europe and North America.

Ian has coached young goalkeepers at development centre level for Manchester United, Middlesbrough and Leeds United. And while employed by Nike, he led workshops for teenage keepers from clubs like Barcelona, PSG, Inter Milan and Corinthians.

Having played for Town as a teenager, Ian began coaching keepers with the Player Development Centre in 2021. Ian is a very experienced and knowledgeable coach, and has raised the standard of youth goalkeeping at the club to a very high bar during his time with us. Ian also contributes to outfield coaching with our APDC squads, helping the lead coaches devise and implement our strategy for playing out from the back.



Tom Overton

Tom first started coaching in 2016 at Beckwithshaw Saints and has never looked back. Gaining experience across all age groups, he has worked from U5 up to U16.

Tom has been involved with the PDC since March 2023, he leads the U10 APDC boys group, and also works with U9/10 and U15/16 boys PDC groups. In addition to this, Tom also plays a big part in our Girls and Women's section, where he is an assistant coach in the women's first team, and coaches U8-15 at the Girls PDC.

An energetic coach and popular member of the coaching staff, Tom's enthusiasm shines through in every session and interaction he has with his players.

"I'm from Harrogate and have a big passion for the club and feel very lucky to have the opportunity to coach so many players from the local area and help them become the best they can be regardless of their ability level."



SAFEGUARDING MANAGER DAVE RILEY

e. daveriley@harrogatetownafc.com
t. 07712 787505

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING OFFICER JESS HEPWORTH

e. jesshepworth@harrogatetownafc.com



PDC NEWSLETTER

HTAFC Player Development Centre
is proudly sponsored by

**HARROGATE
COLLEGE**



JUNIOR PDC

OUR JUNIOR PDC IS DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE YOUNG LOCAL FOOTBALLERS AGED 5 TO 8 INTO THE WORLD OF FOOTBALL, WHILST ENCOURAGING FRIENDSHIP AND ENJOYMENT.

OUR COACHING TEAM AIMS TO INSPIRE YOUR CHILD TO FIND THEIR OWN PERSONAL PATHWAY IN SPORT AND FOOTBALL AND WELCOME BOYS AND GIRLS OF ALL ABILITIES TO JOIN AND PARTICIPATE.

**U5S-U8S
ROSSETT SPORTS CENTRE
THURSDAYS 4-5PM**

proudly sponsored by
**HARROGATE
COLLEGE**

SIGN UP HERE

£33
PER MONTH

Young Fans Voice Group



12-17 year old's have your say!

Benefits for the young people:

- ✓ Excellent opportunity to add to your CV
- ✓ Experience in sharing your opinions
- ✓ Chance to get involved in activities on a match day
- ✓ Help drive the club forward with fan groups around equality, diversity & inclusion



Brought to you by...



HARROGATE TOWN AFC

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

To register your interest, please scan the QR Code
or email community@harrogetownafc.com
for further information.



Premier League
Fans Fund