

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I present my second annual report as Secretary of the Association, and it has been another eventful and successful season for Essex.

The county teams have had mixed fortunes this season, and a more detailed account of each team's campaign can be seen in their respective reports. I must congratulate all teams for their continued success, particularly the Under 18s Boys side, who beat Durham 2-1 (after extra time) in the English Schools FA Inter-County Trophy at the Ricoh Arena. The Under 16s Girls' squad also deserve a mention for their penalties victory against Bedfordshire in the SEESFA competition after drawing 2-2 in normal time.

Inter-District football saw six Primary District Associations and six Secondary District Associations taking part in our competitions. At Secondary level, despite some disruption in the weather, the leagues were completed in time for the semi-finals and finals to take place. Congratulations to all associations who won their respective leagues. The Primary Competitions continued following the successful format introduced during the previous season. The Finch Shield was won by Chelmsford & Mid-Essex and the cup competition was won by Thurrock.

Individual Schools' competitions again attracted huge numbers of teams taking part. Despite the enormous task of finding venues, all of the finals were completed before the end of the season. It is important to thank Graham Hall and all of those involved for their huge efforts in making this possible. This includes team managers, referees and competition secretaries. I am sure the competitions will be as popular next season. Finally, I would like to thank the following for their help during the season:

- Brentwood School, Chigwell School, Shenfield High School, Langdon School, Kingsford School, Barking Abbey School, Dagenham & Redbridge FC, Canvey Island FC, Thurrock FC, Bishop's Stortford FC, the Len Forge Centre, Grange Farm Trust and Lakeside FC. All of these have made their facilities available to us during the season
- all Competition Secretaries, team managers and physiotherapists who have done so much work during the course of the season
- James Lisher and Rhys Elmer for organising match officials throughout the season
- Phil Sammons, Brendan Walshe and all their staff at the Essex County FA for their help in so many ways during the course of the season
- Graham Hall (Chairman) and Jeff Saxton (Past Chairman) for their continued support

The most striking aspect about the Essex County Schools FA is the supportive and hardworking group of individuals who give up so much of their time to provide so many excellent footballing opportunities and experiences for the youngsters at the schools within the county. With a volunteer team of around 40 people fulfilling various roles, from committee members and team managers, through to Competition Secretaries, we continue to have one of the strongest county organisations in the country.

After fulfilling the role of County Schools Secretary for the past two seasons, I have made the reluctant decision to step down and give my full attention to my work and family commitments. I will remain involved with county schools football as Assistant Secretary, and wish the new Secretary, Phil Sammons, every success for the future.

Andy Dobson

Honorary General Secretary