



March 2022

Issue 3

JPL MONTHLY

The official newsletter of the Junior Premier League



KNOCKOUT STAGE IS UNDERWAY



The JPL regular season is now coming to an end for a large number of our clubs. Competitive fixtures will be continuing for teams involved in the National Pathway and those still in the JPL Cup.

Clubs not involved in either of these competitions, there is still plenty of opportunity to keep playing until the end of April.



Development fixtures have been scheduled for Central Venue teams (U8-U10) and for U11-U12s. These should be appearing now in your fixture list.

On page 12 there is a reminder on the rules for knockout games, this includes both JPL Cup and National Pathway matches.

For a full breakdown on the end of season format please [click here](#).

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 - **Chairman's Message**
- 3 - **Feature Article: King's Lynn Elite**
- 5 - **League Partner News**
- 7 - **"Keeping it in the Family"**
- 6 - **Academy Signings**
- 13 - **NERF Giveaway**





CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the third issue of our monthly newsletter.

The season is really hotting up for some teams, and sadly winding down for others. Although, a rest from the matches is often a welcome time too.

It is now the business end of the season when teams are trying to win their leagues and advance in our knockout competitions. It's a very busy time as we continue to plan for all of our final events in May, for those teams lucky enough to progress. I know there are going to be some great finals, and then the focus will firmly shift onto next season. It's always exciting to see who will be our National League Champions and also National Cup, Shield and Plate winners.



The JPL team are already planning for next season's big kick off, which will take place on the 10th September. We all look forward to welcoming you back then. We have had lots of great clubs apply to be a part of the JPL for next season and the competition will be bigger and better than ever.

I am delighted to share a focus on another of our great clubs this month, Kings Lynn Elite, who have been a part of the league for a long time now and are a great example of how to run a JPL club. I hope you enjoy reading all about them.

I am also proud to announce the launch of a new Regional Talent Centre in Sussex aimed at girls only. The league is not only committed to providing the best fixtures programme for clubs across the country; it's also committed to growing the game for everyone wherever they may live.

I hope you all enjoy the end of the season and I look forward to seeing many of you next season.

Yours in football,

Martin Brock
CEO





FEATURE ARTICLE

IN FOCUS: KINGS LYNN ELITE

Our latest 'In Focus' feature takes a look into King's Lynn Elite, with Football Development Officer Dan Buhlemann providing the inside knowledge.



Firstly, Dan gave us an insight into the driving force that powers King's Lynn Elite (KLE): "The mission of Alive King's Lynn Elite (Alive KLE), specifically in the Junior Premier League (JPL) squads is to offer a competitive games programme with our current football development provision. West Norfolk is not an area that is well populated with professional football clubs and Alive KLE began in 2002 to help bridge the gap between grassroots and academy football, an ethos that is shared with The Junior Premier League. We have players within the programme that train twice a week and represent Alive KLE in the JPL on a Saturday whilst maintaining their association with their local junior football team on a Sunday. Where possible, we showcase these players to professional clubs giving them opportunities to make the step up and when needed we are here to offer players a competitive environment should they drop out of the academy system."

Buhlemann continued: "We pride ourselves in offering a fun and safe environment for players to learn the game of football. Development of our players is key and at the heart of our decision making. By adding a competitive element for our JPL squads, we adhere to the structure of the JPL, making sure players have the required game time regardless of result. Whilst our philosophy is about developing individuals, it is about individuals knowing how to play within a team that has different formations, different patterns of play and giving them the ability to make good decisions based on the team. From experience, when joining open age football, players move into different levels and this is where developing teams can sometimes come undone."

KLE have been associated with the JPL for over six years now and, like many clubs, are thriving across various age groups: "We have been members of the JPL since 2016 and our first year was a tough challenge.

"The competition was strong, the travel was lengthy, but it was still enjoyable and something our players had not experienced before. As the League has grown, we too have established ourselves in the League at U13, U14, U15 and U16. We now play in the JPL One and having a club vs club programme means the League is similar to a professional academy games programme. This helps with admin and the teams who have a similar set up seem to be in it for the same reason."

Dan was also keen to share stories of players who have since gone into the professional game: "Across the last 6 years, we have also seen a number of players sign professional contracts since appearing in the JPL with Alive KLE, the most recent being **Joe Taylor** (pictured right) who made his debut for us in the JPL back in 2017 after his release from Norwich City Academy. He had 2 strong seasons we us before moving into steps 6 and 5 of the football pyramid. A prolific scoring record at King's Lynn Town and Wroxham FC enabled him to gain a place at Peterborough United U23's, in the past few weeks he made his first team debut away at Bournemouth FC. It was also during that week he returned to the 3G to catch some of our U15's play and surprised us with a signed PUFC shirt which we will show off with pride as one of the organisations that support Joe on his football journey."



IN FOCUS: KINGS LYNN ELITE



“The Junior Premier League has supported the growth of our club and we are looking forward to expanding as we move into 2022/23.”

Buhlemann also shared the recent success of the club, with staff members earning lucrative moves into the professional game: “It’s not just players who have made the transition into academy football, we have also supported a number of coaches in making the transition into the professional game, The most decorated of these being Matty Dye, who is now head of coaching at Peterborough United.”

King’s Lynn Elite have also demonstrated the importance of working alongside local institutions: “Since joining with local leisure operator Alive West Norfolk in October last year, we have been able to strengthen the foundations of our work. This includes delivering within schools and clubs, allowing children to have their first experience of football with us; starting to develop their love of the game, their ball mastery skills which in turn will allow us to have more technical players in our future JPL teams.”

You may have come across some of KLE’s match footage this season, with the club being very active on social media and engaging with our weekly highlights video. Buhlemann explained more on their relationship with technology: “We love investing in technology and, thanks to local company and kit sponsor ‘Double G Clothing’, all our JPL squads have access to a Veo camera every weekend so players can learn away from the training pitch. When our JPL teams are not using the veo cameras, our U7’s and above also have the opportunity to use them.

“Although we are always looking to develop our coaches, our players and our club, we are a community club that offers something for almost everyone. Whether you are 6 years old starting your journey in the development programme, a JPL player competing in a league, our eldest member at 81 yrs old in the Walking Football group, a player with special needs playing in the Ability Counts team or the Mental Health programme, we pride ourselves in having something for everyone to enjoy the beautiful game.

“The Junior Premier League has supported the growth of our club and we are looking forward to expanding as we move into 2022/23.”

Our thanks to Dan and King’s Lynn Elite for taking part in our ‘In Focus’ feature. If you would like your club to feature in our next newsletter please email james.tanner@junior-premier.co.uk.



LEAGUE PARTNER NEWS

SOCCER ASSIST ANNOUNCE LATEST TRIALS!

PROVIDING WORLD-CLASS SOCCER SCHOLARSHIP EXPERIENCES TO ASPIRING STUDENT-ATHLETES.



Men's Trials:

Manchester - Monday 11th April
Birmingham - Tuesday 12th April
London - Wednesday 13th April
Bristol - Monday 30th May

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



Women's Trials

Manchester - Monday 11th April
Bristol - Monday 30th May

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

SOCCER ASSIST SUMMER CAMP



Following a hugely successful residential training camp last summer, Soccer Assist have recently announced details for this year's event.

Soccer Assist are returning to the beautiful grounds of Stowe School in Buckinghamshire from Sunday 24th July to Friday 29th July 2022. And JPL players are invited!

The one week preparation camp mirrors the format and structure of the American Universities pre-season schedule to ensure our players either arrive physically in shape or stay in shape during the off-season.

To find out more, and to take advantage of a special offer for JPL players, please [click here](#).

JPL WARRIORS



JPL FUTURE LIONESSES EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ENGLAND FOOTBALL



We are delighted to announce our first Junior Premier League 'Future Lionesses' Events, which will be taking place in April 2022.

These brand new events are in partnership with England Football. The aim is to provide opportunities for U11s-U15s players from our Warriors League, girls playing in our boys/mixed leagues or girls playing in other boys/mixed leagues around the country to be in with a chance of being selected for the Women's England Talent Pathway.

Events are being held in:

- London (Middlesex FA) on 12th April**
- Bristol (Lockleaze Sport Centre) on 14th April.**

Further details on the format of the days will be communicated to players & parents after being referred to us. The referral process must be fully completed in order to confirm the referral of a player, please can coaches follow this process as detailed on our website. Parents of girls playing for boys/mixed teams may also refer players, information on how to do so is also available on our website.

We also must stress that the consideration of players for the Women's England Talent Pathway is extremely competitive and attendance at our Future Lionesses Events does not guarantee a place. We look forward to seeing our players at the events in April!

CLICK HERE FOR MORE

AFC BOURNEMOUTH: 'KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY'



PHOTO: AFC BOURNEMOUTH

Stuart Morgan fulfilled various roles at AFC Bournemouth – player, assistant manager and talent scout to name but three.

Now, his granddaughter Elin is continuing to fly the flag as a key member of the Cherries girls' academy under-16 team.

A versatile central midfielder, who like her grandad can also operate at the back, Elin is in her first season with the club having impressed during a trial in the summer.

She has been ever present and has netted ten goals, her exploits helping them reach the knockout stages of the Junior Premier League Cup and the final of the Hampshire Cup.

Elin, who attends Thomas Hardye School in Dorchester, has also been invited to link up with the FA Wales South Academy Regional squad.

She spent her formative years playing for Weymouth-based Redlands before being snapped up by the Cherries after showcasing her talents in front of women's boss Steve Cuss and his staff.

Twice a week, Elin's family will ferry her from her home in Weymouth to training at Slades Park and Canford Park Arena.

Home matchdays will see her make another trip to Bournemouth, while away games involve journeys to the likes of Leicester, West Ham, Millwall, Tottenham, Wimbledon and Crystal Palace.

"We take it in turns to do the driving," said grandad Stuart, who joined the Cherries in March 1975 having helped Colchester United win promotion from the Fourth Division under legendary manager Jim Smith in 1973/74.

"I love watching her play and it really makes my week-ends and evenings because I even watch them train. I just hope she gets to the next level because she is very keen and dedicated.

"She's quite a defensive player but she's excellent on the ball. She can sit in that midfield role which she likes doing but I wouldn't rule her out of playing at the back. She can't half head a ball – just like her grandad!

"She's got a good shot on her and has scored a few goals. She smashed home a great penalty with a lot of confidence in the Hampshire Cup semi-final against Eastleigh.

"She's got a good engine. I wouldn't like to say whether her best position is centre-half or midfield but, between the two, she will always do a good job."

Football runs in the family with Stuart's son Scott and Elin's mum Ceri both having played at a good level.

Scott was an apprentice at AFC Bournemouth before playing for Weymouth and Dorchester, while Ceri turned out for Okeford United and was named in the inaugural Dorset women's representative team and played for the South West region.

Stuart first crossed paths with Steve Cuss during his time as manager of Torquay United and says he has been hugely impressed with the women's set-up at Vitality Stadium.

"It's great for Elin to be involved with such a progressive club. She has made great strides in a short space of time and playing at a higher level has brought her on no end." said Stuart.

"She has made great strides in a short space of time and playing at a higher level has brought her on no end.

"She just needs to keep working hard at her game and see where it takes her. She's certainly at a club which is going places and we're all delighted to see her enjoying her football as much as she does."

[The full article is available to read at afcb.co.uk.](https://www.afcb.co.uk)

Our thanks to AFC Bournemouth for allowing us to share this article and the image.

ACADEMY SIGNINGS



Jayden (pictured above) has signed for QPR's Academy! Jayden was part of the London Elite Youth squad playing each weekend at our Springwest Central Venue.

Jayden was also selected for our London & South East Rep Team this season, having impressed across trials and training sessions.

Kully, Jayden's parent, commented: "We would like to thank all at the JPL for putting on such a fantastic and competitive competition which allowed Jayden to hone & improve his skills. The last 18 months playing at such a high level, plus the inclusion in the JPL Rep team, gave him confidence to make the step up. Honestly the job you guys do for all boys and girls, up & down the country is amazing. So a massive thank you from us!"

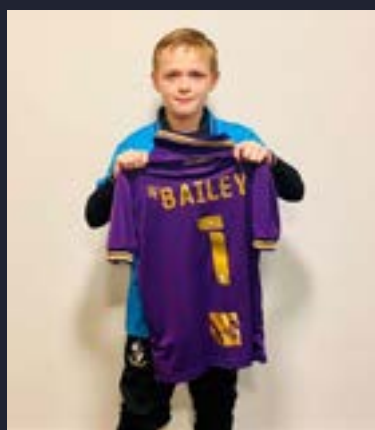
We would like to pass our best wishes on to Jayden in his next step in their footballing journey.



Reuben from Soccer Hub's U9s has been signed by Preston North End, after impressing this season at our Bradford Central Venue.

Reuben has been playing a year up in the JPL and was part of the Winter Cup Final winning squad back in January.

Congratulations Reuben!



Bailey from Stoke RTC has signed with Port Vale.

Bailey has been playing for Stoke RTC U9's this year.

He has impressed everyone with natural goalkeeping talent and attitude to improve.

Good luck Bailey!



Luke from Darlington FC was scouted whilst playing in the JPL, and subsequently went on trial at Newcastle United for eight weeks.

We are delighted to hear that after the successful trial period came to an end he was offered a contract with Newcastle United's Academy.

All the best Luke!

Share your stories with us, email james.tanner@junior-premier.co.uk



THE MESSAGE BOARD



SUSSEX GIRLS RTC ANNOUNCED!

We are delighted to announce a new Regional Talent Centre partnership between the Junior Premier League and Sussex Lionesses Football Club.

"Our Centres will focus on girls and girls alone. We will provide girls football in Sussex with its own identity."
– Alex Willis, Head Coach

Sussex Lionesses was setup in 2021 for girls-only football and will now become the Sussex Girls RTC. At the centre of its focus is to provide the opportunity for girls to become 'the best they can be' through experienced and dedicated coaches.

Two further centres will be announced shortly to provide access to this opportunity, running in conjunction with the current centre based in Lancing.

Sussex Girls RTC will be holding open trials for players within the U7 to U16 age groups in April 2022. Further details on the time and venue will be confirmed in due course, but we encourage you to register your place at the trial day using the form available via the link below.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE



END OF SEASON FORMAT & KNOCKOUT GAMES

We are now drawing to a close the JPL regular season for a number of our clubs.

Competitive fixtures will be continuing for teams involved in the National Pathway and those still in the JPL Cup.

Clubs not involved in either of these competitions, there is still plenty of opportunities to continue playing until the end of April.

Development fixtures have been scheduled for Central Venue teams (U8-U10) and for U11-U12s. These should be appearing now in your fixture list.

Teams at U13-U15 that do not have any fixtures showing you can request development fixtures by [clicking here](#).

U16 teams that would like further development fixtures, [please click here](#).

[For a full breakdown on the end of season format please click here.](#)



STAY CONNECTED

Remember to stay in touch with the JPL by connecting with our various social media channels!



@jpluk



@jnrpremierleague



/JuniorPremierLeague



JuniorPremierLeague



@JPL_WARRIORS



@jpl_warriors



/JPLWarriors



JPL MATCHDAY: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO



Send in your match footage to us to feature in our weekly highlights show - **JPL Matchday**.

Email your videos to james.tanner@junior-premier.co.uk along with your club name and goalscorer.

New episodes released every Friday, all previous episodes are available to watch on our website and YouTube channel.



LEAGUE PARTNERS

We are proud to work alongside a number of world-renowned organisations. These include Nerf, STATSports, Veo, Soccer Assist and Puma.



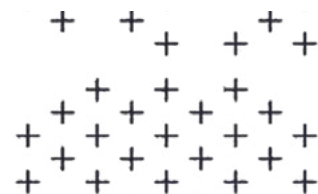


JUNIOR PREMIER LEAGUE CUP RULES



1. All knockout cup matches are played over 2 age appropriate periods (see table below).
2. Away team must change shirt colour if there is a clash.
3. No extra time is played. Games go straight to a penalty shootout.
4. Penalty shootouts for CVF teams are 3 penalties each then sudden death if required. For all other age groups it is standard 5 penalties each, then sudden death if necessary.
5. Failure to produce a team sheet will result in game being awarded to opponent. WGS Player IDs also required.
6. Both participating Clubs shall report the result of all cup matches.
7. A maximum of 7 subs are allowed but please remember that every player in your squad must play 50% of the match.
8. Players can only play for one team in a cup competition. Teams must check player registration to ensure individuals are not cup-tied.
9. Any team found to have fielded an ineligible player in a cup match will be removed from the competition and fined, with the tie awarded to the opposition.
10. For semi finals, the home team must source 2 assistant referees along with the referee. The costs of these are shared by both teams.
11. No player may play in the Semi-Final or Final unless they have played in at least 2 League or League Cup games in the competition, or were registered to the team prior to 1st October in the current playing season. In exceptional circumstances special permission may be obtained by the management committee to play an otherwise ineligible player. Applications for special permission must be submitted in writing to the League Secretary.
12. Finals will be held at a central venue (tbc) with the JPL providing three match officials.
13. The winners of each competition shall be presented with a trophy. If the individual competition rules dictate, up to a maximum of 18 winners and runners-up medals for 11v11 age groups, and 16 for 9v9 age groups will be presented.
14. The management committee may withhold a memento from a player dismissed from the field of play during a cup final.
15. Winning teams must return the trophy fully engraved by 1st February of the following season or will be invoiced for the cost of replacing the trophy.

| Age group | Game length |
|-----------|----------------|
| Under 11s | 2 x 30 minutes |
| Under 12s | 2 x 30 minutes |
| Under 13s | 2 x 35 minutes |
| Under 14s | 2 x 35 minutes |
| Under 15s | 2 x 40 minutes |
| Under 16s | 2 x 40 minutes |
| Under 18s | 2 x 45 minutes |



GIVEAWAY



Want to be in with a chance of winning a brand new Nerf Elite 2.0 Prospect QS-4 and Nerf Elite 2.0 Eaglepoint RD-8 blasters?

All you have to do is send an email to communications@junior-premier.co.uk with the full name of the player registered to the Junior Premier League, and the name of the JPL club you play for.

Entries close Friday 8th April, and a winner will be picked at random.

Good luck!





For more information on our application process for next season please click on the image above.



For previous editions of JPL Monthly please click below!

