

Women's Report

2020 started off great with a large contingent of new and returning players coming along for pre-season training sessions. Unfortunately, the lock down resulted in several of these players not coming back to play at or changed circumstances resulting in them moving to other clubs. However, there were still plenty of keen female footballers and enough for us to enter two teams in the Capital Football women's division (one in Div 1 (a position earned in the 2019 season) and a brand new 2nd team starting out in Div 3) and again enter an U18s team.

The 1st team was an extremely strong side and we were thrilled to welcome back some former UHCF players who had played elsewhere in previous seasons along with a number of players from our 2019 team and a few brand new players, as well. Coached again by Pedro Garcias and despite a disrupted start of the season, the team found their stride and with only a single loss in the regular competition games, they topped the Div 1 table in both halves of the season, securing their promotion to the CF Premier Competition for the 2021 season. The only let down for the team was the elusive Executive Plate which they conceded to Victoria University in the final game of the competition. Considering the team was playing with a mix of 1st team and U18s players due to injuries and players being away, this was a fair result to the stronger Vic Uni side (who were also trying hard to finally get a win over our women). It was also great to see some of our U18s making their 1st team debut. Thanks to manager Emma Gameson for her support during the season.

The 2nd team was led by Callum Barlow-Groome and was a mix of players from the 2019 team and new players of a range of abilities, all looking to play some fun, relaxed, and moderately competitive football. A strong start saw the team finish 2nd in Div 3 in the first half of the season, earning promotion to Div 2. Division 2 proved to be a bit more of a challenge, but the team stayed positive and a lower mid-table finish allowed the team to retain their spot in Div 2 for the 2021 season. Although it was a challenge to have a different team week in and week out, the 35 different players who all took the field for the team worked well together and made for a fantastic team dynamic. Belinda Warrington did a good job managing and was greatly appreciated by coach and players alike.

Coached by Brent Windelburn, the U18s were back with a good contingent of new players stepping up from juniors to take the field in the growing CF U18s Youth competition. Keeping the 9-a-side format from the previous year, the competition has grown to six teams in the division and it was great to see all teams improve as the season progressed. Near the end of the season, the team welcomed some additional junior females to training and a couple of games and showed great potential for the future when some of the current U18s step up to play senior women's football full time. The team finished 2nd in the competition this season and is looking forward to growing even more in 2021.

Thanks to all of our supporters during the season – committee members, refs, coaches, bar/kitchen staff, and our fans who came and cheered us on. Go Orange!