

SPORT



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Trust duo take first steps on coaching ladder

TWO girls from Dover Athletic Community Trust's senior girls football group have achieved their Level 1 FA coaching badges.

Abbie Hopper and Lucy Morris are part of a group that train at Crabble every Saturday from 10am-11am.

They have both shown an interest in completing their coaching qualifications and, thanks to a grant from the National League Trust, have now taken the first step on their coaching pathway.

The group, for female players aged 12-16, are looking for more players. If you are interested in getting involved, either turn up at Crabble just before 10am on Saturdays or email pat@doverathleticcommunitytrust.org for further information.

The trust also run happy feet sessions for any player aged five to 16, as well as girls' only Wildcat sessions for girls aged five to 11. All are on Saturday mornings.

For further information on any of the trust's programmes visit www.doverathleticcommunitytrust.org.

Dover Athletic Community Trust's Abbie Hopper and Lucy Morris have achieved their Level 1 FA coaching badges

Race row fails to derail Dover

HESSENTHALER BEATS 'BOGEY TEAM' FOR SIXTH AWAY VICTORY

By **JAMES MARTIN**

DOVER Athletic manager Andy Hessenthaler asserted that his players "had their say on the pitch" in a 2-1 victory over Maidenhead United on Tuesday night, just three days after the racism scandal at Hartlepool.

Hessenthaler was prepared to walk his side off on Saturday when striker Inih Effiong was the subject of alleged racist chanting by a section of the Hartlepool support, but the team opted to play on and went on to win 2-0.

They secured another victory on their travels at York Road on Tuesday and Hessenthaler was delighted.

"Our preparations weren't really affected: the boys have been fantastic," he said.

"On the day they wanted to carry on playing and get on with it and let the football do the talking and they've done that again."

Nassim L'Ghoul scored the goal that proved decisive, curling a wonderful shot beyond Taye Ashby-Hammond in the Maidenhead goal.

Hessenthaler saw it coming. He said: "I'm not trying to be clever, but as soon as he got the ball I thought he was going to score."

"I've seen him do it in training - what he does playing on that right-hand side, he'll come on to his favoured foot and the keeper can't save that to be fair."

"I said on the bench to Darren [Hare] 'this is a goal' and it was."

"It was a great finish. It's what you need when you come to these types

of places, and that's six out of seven [away] now. The boys have been fantastic, the shift they're putting in at the moment is phenomenal."

It is a shift that has seen them notch up 23 points from their first 13 games, a tally that places them well inside the play-off positions.

Maidenhead had started the evening just two points behind the Whites, making victory all the sweeter for Hessenthaler.

He added: "They're a bogey team to be fair. When I was at Eastleigh we got beaten, and Al [Alan Devonshire] does a good job here."

"He's a fantastic manager. What he's achieved here is unbelievable. We always knew it was going to be tough. We had a few missing through injuries, so all in all to get three

points is an unbelievable effort."

Dover's away record reads six wins and one defeat in their seven games - an outstanding return.

But Hessenthaler knows performances at Crabble must be better. He joked about Saturday's Halifax game, which will be shown live on TV at 5.20pm, saying: "Well it's a different kick-off time, that might help us."

"Halifax are going to want to bounce back which doesn't make it any easier."

One thing which might improve the situation is a new striker, an area severely lacking in depth. Hessenthaler said that the club were "actively having a little look" for either a loan or a permanent deal, but are "not panicking".