



WEST HAM UTD LADIES FC ACADEMY TO START AT HORNCHURCH

From September 2010, West Ham Utd Ladies FC will operate an academy for 16-19 year old females in partnership with Havering Sixth Form College, using training facilities at Hornchurch Sports Centre - an Everyone Active leisure facility - for two hours a week.

The West Ham Utd (WHU) Ladies Academy will provide young female players with the opportunity to combine academic studies with a structured programme of football training, performance and coaching.

The aim of the academy is to improve participation rates in women's football, develop those already involved and to provide a sustainable development pathway. The academy students will be provided with tangible qualifications that could potentially feed back into the academy and the local area.

Chris Spencer, the general manager at Hornchurch Sports Centre, in Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, said: "We are delighted to be able to support the academy with free hire of our facilities. Women's football is a growth sport and we are pleased to be involved in its development, particularly as the academy is targeting an age group that is traditionally difficult to engage in activity."

Ian Budge, Team Leader of Sport, Leisure and Tourism at the college in Wingletye Lane, Hornchurch, comments: "The support from the London Borough of Havering and Everyone Active has been and continues to be excellent and the

offer of products and services for free is fantastic for the academy and the local community. With their continued support we aim to create a successful and developmental academy. We want to improve participation rates in women's football, develop those already involved and to ultimately provide a sustainable development pathway."