

Hertfordshire Homeless World Cup

7th May 2022



Haven First, supported by their partner agency Sporting Inspirations CIC, organised the second ever Hertfordshire Homeless World Cup event by inviting 16 different partner agencies to take part in the tournament in support of the homeless in Hertfordshire. The event was in memory of Tony Willock who unexpectedly had sadly passed away last December. Tony had always supported projects that helped to transform the lives of young people and the homeless, with all the event donations going to Garden House Hospice Care.

The event was generously sponsored by Charles Willock, the father of professional footballers Joe, Chris and Matthew Willock who are Sporting Inspirations CIC's ambassadors. The free brand-new Nike football boots given out by Sporting Inspirations CIC were kindly donated by Goods For Good. Understandably they were all snapped up by the competitors!

We would like to thank Hitchin Town FC for allowing us to use their hallowed turf, as well as their wonderful radio team who provided the commentary throughout the tournament. Also, we are grateful to Saint John's Ambulance who were on hand for any first aid required. Additionally, a big thank you to our two professional referees who added extra value to the tournament!

The event was a huge success with the teams from each organisation allocated a country name, playing group and knockout matches before the finals. In what became a very competitive and fun tournament the winners by coincidence and no surprise represented Brazil! Nothing ever changes there! The event was supported by friends, families and supporters of the homeless that helped to contribute to create a fun atmosphere!

Big Shout out to our tournament winners:

- **1st Place Winners** - HIGH TOWN representing BRAZIL
- **2nd Place Winners** - HERTS YOUNG HOMELESS representing MEXICO
- **3rd Place Winners from PLAY OFFS** - FOOTBALL for FATHERS representing ENGLAND

Due to the popularity and feedback we intend to hold a third tournament in 2024 for the Euros and in build up towards the 2026 HHWC, plus some Champions League filler tournaments for the years in-between!

John Manitaro, CEO of Sporting Inspirations CIC...Quote: *"The tournament was a huge success and helped to raise awareness of mental health and poverty that was even further exasperated due to the pandemic and lockdowns. Marc Campbell was an absolute star throughout! We received so much wonderful and positive feedback that we are already planning to run a Champions League tournament for 2023, a HH Euros for 2024, another Champions League for 2025 and another HH World Cup in 2026! The secret to success was the partnership work between all involved that helped develop and make this happen by sharing resources and ideas...most of all it was FUN!!!"*

We successfully raised £500 for this year's chosen charity, Garden House Hospice Care.
Thank you very much to everyone who supported HHWC 2022!

Sporting Inspirations CIC _ 19th May 2022