

On Sunday, May 18th, the Hampshire & Isle of Wight (HIOW) women's football team played their first match in over five years against Hampshire Charity FC, a team comprising players from semi-professional and amateur clubs across the county. The event aimed to support various charities, including Crohn's & Colitis UK.

The day featured a double-header, with the women's match opening proceedings, followed by the Charity's men's team playing International Surrey Football afterwards, both matches aiming to raise awareness and funds for Crohn's & Colitis UK.

PSI Emma Hoggett led the HIOW team on a gorgeous sunny day at Romsey Town Football Club.

Prior to the match, everyone in attendance paused for a minute silence to remember Firefighters Jennie Logan, 30, and Martyn Sadler, 38, died in the line of duty the week prior.

With both teams consisting of players meeting for the first time, the opening stages were quite even, with chances at both ends. Hampshire Charity FC opened the scoring through Zoe Ridley around the half-hour mark.

HIOW regrouped and put pressure on their opponents. Their efforts were rewarded when Shannon Albuery won a penalty and converted from the spot, bringing the score to 1-1 at halftime.

HIOW started the second half stronger, scoring two goals to lead 3-1. The first came from DC Rebecca Deacon, who converted Albuery's corner, followed by Amelia Primmer's composed finish from inside the box.

Charity FC rallied and pulled one back through substitute Sophie Carpenter. Further pressure paid off when Lydia Moulding's attempted interception evaded the keeper and found the back of her own net, levelling the score.

Both teams pushed for the winner in what were sweltering conditions. Albuery coming closest, hitting the crossbar from a free kick but in the end, the match concluded with honours even, a fair outcome on the balance of play.

Captain, Emma Hoggett said, "It was a pleasure to lead this group. You wouldn't think that we'd never played together before. The experience was a lot of fun and looking forward, hopefully we can arrange matches on a more regular basis."

The team now prepare to take part on next month's PSUK seven a side tournament in Guildford.

If you are interested in getting involved, either playing or in a support/coaching role then please email Stuart Barker on stuart.barker@hampshire.police.uk or Emma Hoggett via emma.hoggett@hampshire.police.uk.