Leon Holden – Official Club Statement

·[WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2019](https://www.facebook.com/notes/london-girls-development-academy-of-football/leon-holden-official-club-statement/2817611381600964/)·

London Girls Development Academy of Football would like to clarify that Leon Holden will be continuing in his role’s on the Club’s Board, and as the Official Child Welfare Officer.

Due to geographical reasons and current work commitments, Leon confirmed to the club that he would not be able to commit to a Coaching role for the forthcoming season. Instead, he would be working more locally and offering his services as a Coach to both Cambridge Utd and Norwich City for the 2019/2020 season. A decision that was fully supported by the Board at the LGDA under the circumstances and we are proud that those clubs wish to use the services of a valued member of our team.

Commenting on the season ahead, Leon stated “Whilst I would be continuing in my role as CWO to the club and remaining on the board, it does mean that a lot of my work would be done remotely from home. I looked at the situation with the Coaching staff at the club for the coming season, and both Kyle Hellina and Macy Diaz have shown that they are becoming fantastic and enthusiastic Coaches and are thriving in the clubs environment. We have also added Lee Warwick to the Coaching staff and Lee is another who will help the club to grow and develop and also continue to Coach young female footballers within the clubs ethos and beliefs.”

“We are also over the moon that Jack Cope has agreed to come back and coach the young female goalkeepers in the club, and there may well be more great news with regards to our goalkeeper coaching in September. It is not something that we can confirm as yet, until the details are finalised, but we are hoping to add further to the coaching experience for our goalkeepers, and this could be a very exciting time indeed for such a specialist position.”

“We have also brought in a Fitness, Strength and Conditioning Coach in Jordan Smith. I had many conversations with Jordan about coming on board and I’m delighted that he has quickly settled into the role. I also look forward to hearing from Jordan, about the progress that the players are making and his enthusiasm is something that many could learn and feed from.”

“Whilst I cannot be in attendance at the Club’s training week-in and week-out, I am always on-hand to help, guide and advise our coaches and I will always be available to speak to them on my visits to training. Should they need my help and advice (which I think may not be as necessary that they think themselves), I will always be ready to speak to them.”

“London Girls Development Academy of Football places our main focus on developing female players and helping them to achieve their dreams. But we have always believed in developing our Coaches as well. We see that happening in Kyle, Macy, Jack and Lee, and long may that continue. I know that they will continue to coach and develop fantastic footballers for this club”.

“So whilst it may seem that due to my regular absence from the club at training sessions, I am fully committed to what the Board are trying to achieve at the club and I continue to fully support everyone involved. I will be in regular contact with the board and I look forward to my visits down to meet all the new parents and players. I have heard a lot about the enthusiasm of the players in the various age groups and look forward to watching them and speaking with the Coaches about the players and team’s progression.”

So contrary to the parent, ex-player, coach & playground rumour mill, we are happy to clarify the situation that Leon will remain at the club in a more senior capacity and more in the background than in the previous two years.

We are also working very hard to replace the advertisement’s around Premier League grounds, overhead planes with banners, posters on boards around the country and also the business cards in phone boxes that state otherwise………………

Leon is still very much a part of this club that he helped to build, and should anyone ask him about a club in the Hertfordshire and London area that he thinks their daughter would be best suited to for their football development, education and support, it will of course be the London Girls Development Academy of Football.