

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

ISSUE 33 **MAGAZINE** JANUARY 2020



2019 REVIEW

We look back on a memorable year including the Women's World Cup, our favourite interviews, the best moments from all the leagues and cups and look ahead to what is in store for 2020 including the Tokyo Olympics and the qualifying road to the Euro 2021.

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



@thewomensfootiemag



@womensfootiemag



@womensfootiemag

Welcome

CONTRIBUTORS

Editor: Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Writers: Ammo Curtis

Jessica Chandok

Hannah Clarke

Bridget Lockwood

Allie Coker

Marissa Thomas

Hannah Clarke

Reagan Foy

Georgia Stevens

Photography: joerdeli

@GOTB

Website designer: Will Ibbetson

Graphic designer: Phil Brooke

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter: @womensfootiemag

Facebook:

thewomensfootiemag

Instagram:

Thewomensfootballmagazine

The views and comments expressed in this magazine are personal views and comments of the individual writers and not necessarily those of The Women's Football Magazine. Every effort has been made to trace the source of information and to ensure that copyright has not been infringed.



Hello and welcome to Issue 33!

Hello everyone, welcome to issue 33 and Happy New Year. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2020.

It's been a quiet month on the live women's matches front but we already have some exciting signings in the WSL and Championship.

In this issue we look back on 2019 and look ahead to 2020. There is so much coming up this year and we look at all that could happen going forward for the sport.

Thank you to everyone who voted in the 2019 TWFM Awards, there were lots of votes and we are really looking forward to getting some exclusive interviews with our winners in the upcoming months.

Don't forget to get your hands on one of our calendars—they are selling like hotcakes and just £5.

We hope you all have a wonderful festive period, and see you in 2020!

Enjoy the issue!

Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Editor-in-Chief

@helenrw11

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

CALENDAR 2020



DARE TO SHINE

**THE WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**
CALENDAR 2020



£5 + P&P

ORDER NOW FROM:

www.thewomensfootballmagazine.com



Contents

WSL

7-8 Match of the Month

9-10 'Hemp is a consistent threat'

11 Jamie-Lee Napier

12 Lauren Hemp

13-15 The Year of West Ham Women

16 Injury updates

17 Lauren James

18-22 WSL round-up

23 Head's Up campaign

24 Ammo's Antics

CHAMPIONSHIP

27 Palace changes

28-32 Championship round-up

33-34 TWFM Awards 2019

PREMIER LEAGUE

36-37 Slipping under the radar

38-39 Premier Division News

40-41 Fylde's Play

GRASSROOTS

43-44 Lilah: How playing football helped

CUPS

46-47 Champions League

48-49 FA Cup

50-52 Conti Cup

HOME NATIONS

54-57 Lionesses review

58-61 Phil Neville out?

62 A view from the other side

63 Phil Neville: Fan's view

64 Scotland review

66-67 Shelley Kerr receives honorary doctorate

68 Celtic Women

69 Maired Fulton

70 Wales Review

71 Llandudno Ladies

72 FA Wales Women's Cup

74 Northern Ireland review

75-77 2021 Championship chatter

79 World Cup Watch

80-84 10 Best World Cup moments

AROUND THE WORLD

87-88 News from around the world

89 What's to come in 2020?

90 New children's book

**THE WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**



WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE



Match of the Month:

Manchester City 5-0 Brighton



By Ali Rampling

Manchester City bounced back from their defeat to fellow WSL title chasers Chelsea in style with a 5-0 win over Brighton at the Academy Stadium.

Goals from Steph Houghton, Ellen White, Lauren Hemp, Georgia Stanway and Pauline Bremer wrapped up the comprehensive victory for Nick Cushing's side, who moved up to second in the table after Chelsea were held at Liverpool.

City took the lead within three minutes. Georgia Stanway intercepted a loose ball in the middle of the park and played in Janine Beckie. The Canadian's shot was well saved by Sophie Harris, but the Brighton keeper, who had been brought into the side in place of regular number one Megan Walsh, was

then judged to have picked up Matilde Lundorf's back pass as the defender followed up the rebound. The subsequent indirect free kick was fired into the bottom corner by captain Steph Houghton.

The hosts doubled their lead after a quarter of an hour. Houghton released Beckie down the right hand side, and the full back's driven cross was spectacularly volleyed home by Ellen White for her third WSL goal in City colours.

After enduring a first 15 minute onslaught, Brighton could have crumbled, but instead the visitor's grew into the game. Aileen Whelan called Ellie Roebuck into action with a long range strike, which was comfortably held by the City keeper, before Ini Umotong's well worked opportunity was deflected wide.

However, the Seagulls failed to make the most of their spell of possession, and as the first period drew to a close, the home side began to assert their dominance.

Stanway played in an unmarked White, but keeper Harris was quick to close down the City striker and divert her shot wide, White normally so prolific from that sort of position.

From the resulting corner, Stanway's delivery was headed back across the face of goal by Houghton, and Lauren Hemp was on hand to glance the ball home.

The first 45 finished with City firmly in control and well deserving of their three goal advantage. Hemp and Beckie had been a menace down either flank, with Nick Cushing quick to praise the pair at full time.

Despite City's first half dominance, it was the visitors who had the ball in the back of the net first in the second half. Whelan's cross was fumbled into her own goal by Roebuck under pressure from Umotong. However, the Brighton forward was judged to have fouled the City keeper.

The Seagulls continued to search for a way back into the game, but failed to create any clear cut chances. Fliss Gibbons and Lea Le Garrec both tried their luck from range, but Roebuck remained untroubled in the City goal.

Much like the first half, as the game reached the closing stages, it was the hosts who finished strongest. Walsh played a delicate through ball to Caroline Weir, but Harris produced another fine save to deny the Scotland midfielder her fourth league goal of the season. The Brighton keeper was quickly called into action once more, getting down well to keep out Hemp's header from Weir's cross.

City eventually grabbed their fourth 11 minutes from time. Walsh carved open the Brighton defence with a fabulous pass for Stanway, who coolly rounded Harris and rolled the ball into the empty net.

Stanway was left aggrieved six minutes later after not being awarded a penalty when she appeared to be bundled over in the box. However, those protests quickly turned into celebrations as Beckie's delivery was guided home by substitute Pauline Bremer, the German international grabbing her fifth of the season and City's fifth of the game, as Nick Cushing's side finish 2019 with a real statement of intent.

Disappointment for Brighton meanwhile who, having already drawn with Chelsea in the league and Arsenal in the Continental Cup, would perhaps have been expected to offer greater resilience.

It is now four league games without a victory for Hope Powell's side. The Seagulls face a crucial match with Liverpool in their first fixture back following the Christmas break; the side one place and three points below them in the league.

Manchester City: Ellie Roebuck, Megan Campbell, Gemma Bonner, Steph Houghton, Janine Beckie, Keira Walsh, Caroline Weir, Jill Scott (Laura Coombs, 66), Lauren Hemp (Lee Geum-min, 76), Georgia Stanway, Ellen White (Pauline Bremer, 80)

Brighton: Sophie Harris, Fliss Gibbons, Matilde Lundorf, Victoria Williams, Emily Simpkins, Aileen Whelan, Dani Bowman (Maya Le Tissier, 67), Danique Kerkdijk, Lea Le Garrec, Kayleigh Green, Ini Umotong



“Hemp is a consistent threat whoever she plays against”



By Ali Rampling

Manchester City kept up the pressure on Chelsea and Arsenal at the summit of the WSL as they emphatically dispatched of Brighton at the Academy Stadium.

Manager Nick Cushing was delighted with the result and the performance, as his team produced the perfect response following their defeat to Chelsea.

Speaking at full time, Cushing said: “I’ve said in the six seasons I’ve been here that losing is really difficult and it hurts and it’s frustrating, but the only way to deal with it

is you win the next game.

“You start to lose games back to back or you draw after a loss then it starts to affect confidence and affect your chances of winning trophies, so to win today was imperative but to win and to score five and keep a clean sheet is almost the perfect game for us.”

Cushing gave a glowing assessment of Lauren Hemp and Janine Beckie, after the pair put in fine displays down either flank.

The latter has been deputising in an unfamiliar right back role in the absence of the injured Aoife Mannion, in what appears to be an inspired tactical move from Cushing.

Speaking about the Canadian’s adaptation to her new position, the City boss said: “The good thing about Janine is that she wants to learn.

“We asked her to do a role for the team and almost play a bit defensive, play as a right back instead of a right winger, but we would adjust the tactics to make sure that she had the ability to be offensive and if the team dominates the game and pushes the team back then we get her playing almost like a winger, and if we don’t we have to hope that she can do a job at fullback.

“The best thing about Janine is she’s willing to do it: to work hard, and I thought today she was excellent. She is someone that I thoroughly enjoy working with.”

Talking about the impressive Hemp’s performance, Cushing added: “I think she’s a consistent threat whoever she plays against.

“Her ability to get the ball back for us and her work rate and her aggression to help the team defensively was the best it’s been all season.

“She’s going to be one hell of a player for England and for ourselves and we’ve just got to push her hard to make sure she realises that potential.”

It has been a fantastic end of the year for Hemp, who earned her first international call up in October after a selection of dazzling WSL performances.

Speaking at full time, the 19-year-old said: “I was really proud of the performance, especially of the whole group. We pushed for the result off the back of the defeat last week, so we were really looking to push on and I think that proved through the goals and the performance today.”

Hemp signed a new long term contract in December, and sees Manchester City as the ideal club for her to hone her talents.

“It’s definitely the best place to be at because obviously I’m still improving, still developing and I think being here is what’s going to get the best out of me with the coaches and players around me,” Hemp added.

“At the moment I’m loving the football that I’m playing and I’m enjoying it each week and hopefully I can carry that on throughout the season.”

For Brighton meanwhile, defeat leaves them just three points above the relegation zone. Manager Hope Powell felt the awarding of the indirect free kick during the opening exchanges proved pivotal.

Powell said: “What really killed us was the decision in the first three minutes. It was a free kick given for a back pass, and I don’t agree with that. It put us on the back foot. From then we were chasing the game and it becomes an uphill battle against one of the best teams in the country.

Despite the defeat, the Seagulls’ boss was proud of her players efforts.

“I was pleased with how we stuck to the game plan: trying to pass through Manchester City, trying to get bodies higher,” Powell added. “We just lacked that little bit of quality.”

Although Brighton find themselves getting dragged into the relegation battle, Powell is not concerned by her sides lowly league position.

“So far I’m pleased. We are higher up the table than at this stage last season, so we should be pleased with that.

“Today shows that, although we conceded the five, we are progressing. We are trying to play. I was looking for a performance and at times we did perform. It just wasn’t the result we wanted.”



Jamie-Lee Napier signs for Chelsea



Chelsea Women have announced the signing of Jamie-Lee Napier.

The 19-year-old Scotland international joins the WSL side from Hibernian Ladies and will join the club after the Christmas break.

The contract sees Napier join the club until 2021.

Napier was recently named the Scottish Women's Premier League 1 Player of the Year having scored 22 times in 33 games.

Upon signing for Chelsea Women, Napier told the official website:

“It feels amazing to be a Chelsea player and I’m delighted to have signed my first professional contract.

“From a young girl it’s been a dream and an aspiration of mine so I’m delighted that I’ve finally done it with such a successful club like Chelsea.”

Hayes added: “I’m delighted to have signed Jamie.

“She is a really bright prospect coming from Scotland. Her personality, her hard-working spirit and quality will add something to our squad.

“It’s important that we keep developing younger players and she is one we have identified for the future.”

Lauren Hemp signs new contract

England forward Lauren Hemp has signed a new contract with WSL side Manchester City.

The 19-year-old joined the club in 2018 and has signed a 'multi-year' extension although City have chosen not to give details.

Hemp told the official website: "Since I joined the club, I've loved every minute and I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds."

"I'm really excited to be extending my contract. It's something I've wanted to do for a while and it was definitely an easy decision."

Manager Cushing added: "It was imperative. I think she's been exceptional this season; she's really shown her offensive ability and she will get better."

"The future is bright for Lauren. We have to keep playing her and keep pushing, and we'll both benefit from that."



The Year of West Ham Women: *A slightly biased review*



By Allie Coker

Where do you even start? What a year it's been for those girls in Claret and Blue. We came into 2019 with a good run of form, having won every game in December comfortably, securing our place in the league for the 2019/2020 game. We could focus on the cup runs in hand.

However we started the year rather badly, mirroring our male counterparts in losing all games played in January, which included heavy defeats to Man City, Arsenal and being knocked out of the Continental Cup by Manchester United.

The transfer window on the other hand brought us some gold in Canadian superstar Adriana Leon and South Korean

captain Cho So-Hyun. Both would be pivotal in the months to come for the Hammers.

February proved to be the return to our winning ways as well as starting our FA Cup run, with wins over Blackburn Rovers and an extraordinary win over Huddersfield town. We were looking good for the quarter-finals of our first run. As for the league, an Alisha Lehman brace over Reading helped us rebound in the league in front of a healthy crowd of over 2000 at the Madjeski.

March brought mixed fortunes with a loss to Everton under the lights. An unfortunate back pass to keeper Anna Moorehouse was intercepted by Everton striker Hannah Cain in the 88th minute which led to the late

goal. However, it was rather entertaining to see the crowd influence the referee to give Everton keeper Kristie Levell a yellow card for time-wasting.

Our FA cup run was another story, with a hard-fought trip to St Michael's to play championship side Aston Villa. Just the one goal separated us from the other girls in Claret and the Blue. It was a nervy wait for the other quarter-finals to finish. Mainly the Reading vs Manchester United one as we would not want to face Manchester United in another knock out competition. With some spotty internet coverage in a clubhouse in the middle of Boldmere, we cheered as Reading scored the last-minute winner, knowing that if we get them, we stand a good chance as we had already beaten them this season.

March ended on an unexpected draw with Chelsea with a brilliant Gilly Flaherty header which nullified Beth England's goal earlier in the first half. It was also a surprising match for me to be at since it was Mother's day (I have a very understanding mum) and also miraculous that I survived it (sat in the middle of a lot of Chelsea fans and yes I did jump up and scream when we equalized.)

April was a nervy month for the team with our FA Cup semi-final and personally with my ability to keep missing transport back home. A trip to Reading was on the cards hopefully as a via point to Wembley. Reading took the lead early on in the second half thanks to Rachel Furness header but we came back with a low strike by Alisha Lehman and held on for a nail-biting 120 minutes to penalties. After some uncharacteristic misses from Reading we managed to get to our first FA Cup final. The extra I had not factored in so bye-bye coach ticket, hello expensive train ticket.

In the league, we had mixed results with a loss to Birmingham, which resulted in another missed coach as I waited for an Ellen White selfie. I felt it was worth it, my parents not so much. We also took a win at Bristol, which put us in good stead for the final.



© GOTB 2019



© GOTB 2019

May saw the big trip to Wembley, taking on league giants Man City. Despite holding our nerve in the first half, we crumpled under the crushing pressure of the Blues. However, to get to the final in the first season is something we can all be proud of. It was at least a good after-party.

Our final match of the season ended a bit of a damp squib with a 4-0 drubbing from Brighton. A little cup-drunk one thinks. The only joy to come out of that match was being the recipient of Gilly's FA Cup shirt which left me rather awestruck.

The summer brought a lot of movement over at Rush Green with us losing seven players for various reasons including fan favourite Briana Visalli who departed for the Midlands. We also acquired some new talent including two Germans, two Americans and the biggest name in woman's football – Jacynta Galabadaarachchi.

The start of our season saw mixed fortunes with losses in our pre-season and season opener to London rivals Tottenham and Arsenal respectively. A win against Birmingham got us off the mark albeit with a scrappy performance, followed again by two 2-0 losses to more London teams, this time it was Chelsea and Tottenham (again!!).

Our October started a little better with us taking the three points on the South Coast but we could only muster a draw in our next

continental cup again against Spurs (seriously can we beat them next time, my East London heart cannot take it anymore.) November did not look any sparkier with a 5-0 drubbing from Man City and a loss at the hands Reading despite going 2-0 up. The only bright spot was beating Lewes for our third Continental cup match.

This brings us up to date with one of the most thrilling games of West Ham's season; the 3-2 victory over Man United. Even though we went behind twice, with our steely East End grit we managed to pull off a quite shocking victory. None more shocked than the Manchester contingent who had gone in as prime favourites after our recent form. This has kicked off a resurgence with a draw against Liverpool and a 7-0 thrashing of Crystal Palace.

This past year West Ham has established itself as a club that is willing and able to compete. Our start to this season has been rocky but with our old favourite the FA Cup starting I would say a good cup run is on the cards. Getting to the finals last season shows a real statement of intent.

As for next year with key players coming back from long-term injuries, we look forward to having more than two subs and a goalkeeper on the bench. There is no telling what mountains we can climb. I reckon next season we will be chasing Champions League places. West Ham in Europe. I like the sound of that.



Visalli ruled out until New Year

Birmingham City midfielder Brianna Visalli has been ruled out of action until the new year, The 24-year-old has undergone surgery on a medical condition and has missed the last five games of the season.

Visalli joins Kerys Harrop, Sarah Mayling and Heidi Logan on the sidelines for the Blues.

She took to social media saying: “Obviously gutted and it’s never what anyone has in mind, but so thankful for my health and a club that has been very understanding and helpful throughout this whole process.

“Thank you to everyone who has reached out—I’m on the mend and focused on my return to play.”

Beth Mead injury not as bad as first feared

Arsenal have provided an update for Beth Mead after she was taken off on a stretcher during their WSL game against Everton in December.

The statement said: “Beth Mead is currently receiving treatment for bruising to her lower leg, sustained by a tackle in our fixture against Everton last weekend.

“An X-ray confirmed that there is no fracture and she will begin rehabilitation work to get her back to full fitness as soon as possible.”



Lauren James signs professional contract



Lauren James has signed her first professional contract with Manchester United Women.

The England U19 international has made 39 appearances scoring 24 goals since joining in July 2018 when the club formed.

Manager Casey Stoney said: “Lauren is an exceptional talent. She is one of the most technically gifted players I have worked with.

“It’s great to see her sign her first professional contract at the club and I have no doubt that if she continues to work hard she will have a bright future ahead of her.

James added: “I’m really happy to have signed a professional contract at United, it’s a really proud moment for me and my family.

“I’m still young and learning all the time under Casey and the coaching staff and I hope I can continue my development here for years to come.”

WSL December review

By Bridget Lockwood



TheFA Women's
Super League



Arsenal

Position: 1st

Results:

Arsenal Women 11 – 1 Bristol City Women

Reading Women 0 – 3 Arsenal Women

Everton 1 – 3 Arsenal Women

Arsenal started the month with a record-breaking victory thrashing 11 – 1 against Bristol. Miedema created the first two goals from pinpoint crosses, before scoring a hat-trick which put Arsenal 5 – 0 up before half time. The second half saw Miedema get her second hat-trick with Nobbs, Evans, Williamson and Mitchell all scoring as well. Yana Daniels scored a small consolation goal for Bristol after her penalty was saved but she ensured that the rebound went into the back of the net. In their second game of the season Arsenal faced Reading, an easy win saw Miedema and Little scoring for the Gunners as they continued their winning streak. Arsenal dominated play against Everton Scoring three, inform Miedema scoring the first and last with Kim Little's penalty doubling the lead. Despite the win Arsenal looked worried when a late tackle on Beth Mead forced her to leave the field on a stretcher.

Birmingham City

Position: 9th

Results:

Birmingham City Women 1 – 1 Tottenham Hotspur Women

Bristol 0 – 2 Birmingham City Women

The Blues ended their run of successive defeats in all competitions as they drew with Tottenham. Abbi Grant scored the only goal for the Blues as she headed home a cross from Lucy Staniforth. But Birmingham couldn't hold onto the lead, Kit Graham scored the equaliser for Spurs to put them level in Solihull. Birmingham were dominant in their game against Bristol, scoring a single goal in both halves. Lucy Whipp scoring the first with her effort bending inside the top corner after latching onto a clever cutback from Walker. In the second half Bristol had a few chances as former Blue Charlie Wellings free kick was saved by Hampton. However, Grant finished the game by scoring Birmingham's second, squeezing the ball past Baggaley in the Bristol goal. Birmingham's last match of the month against Manchester United was cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch.





Brighton & Hove Albion

Position: 10th

Results:

Tottenham Hotspur Women 1 – 0 Brighton & Hove Albion Women

Manchester City Women 5 – 0 Brighton & Hove Albion Women

An unlucky own goal from Victoria Williams saw Brighton loses 1 – 0 against Tottenham in a game of few chances. Their next game was against Nick Cushing's Manchester City, Brighton had a very unlucky start as with only two minutes played, they were penalised for a pass back. City's captain Steph Houghton step up and fired it into the bottom corner. The day didn't get better for the Seagulls with wonderful goals Ellen White and Lauren Hemp meaning Brighton went into half time 3 – 0 down. Despite some valiant defending in the second half Brighton couldn't stop City from netting more, a perfect through ball put Stanway in front of goal with just the keeper to beat with substitute Bremer coming on and scoring to finish.

Bristol City

Position: 12th

Results:

Arsenal Women 11 – 1 Bristol City Women

Bristol City Women 0 – 2 Birmingham City Women



Bristol City didn't have a good start to the month with Arsenal thrashing them 11 – 1. Bristol got the smallest of consolations with just six minutes left when Yana Daniels was brought down in the box. Despite the initial spot-kick being save Daniels ensured Bristol would score by bundling the rebound in. In their second game of the month Bristol faced Birmingham. Bristol started strong with an early shot from Ebony Salmon forcing a save from Hampton in the Birmingham goal, but this start was spoiled when Birmingham's Lucy Whipp scored for the Blues giving them the confidence to dominant the first half. However, Bristol fought back in the second half with Birmingham's goalkeeper having to stay alert with a lob from Brown and shots from Yana Daniels and Charlie Wellings, but none were converted into goals. Despite all this pressure from the Robins they couldn't stop Birmingham scoring their second and winning the game. Bristol's game against West Ham United was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Chelsea



Position: 3rd

Results:

Chelsea 2 – 1 Manchester City Women

Liverpool 1 – 1 Chelsea Women

Chelsea first match of the month against Everton was postponed due to a frozen pitch. Chelsea then faced the strong side of Manchester City in an eventful game. Chelsea dominated the first half with shots from Ji So-Yun, England and Ramona Bachmann forcing City goalkeeper Ellie Roebuck to produce numerous saves. Mjelde also struck the crossbar from a distance. In the second half it was City who broke the deadlock, a beautifully floated cross from Walsh reached Caroline Weir who's perfectly executed Volley flew passed Berger in the Chelsea goal. Chelsea upped the pressure and got an equaliser as Ji's powerful effort was denied for England to put away the rebound. Just three minutes later Chelsea got their winner with Mjelde slotting the ball home at the near post. Chelsea then faced Liverpool in some very dreary conditions, with a draw meaning they slipped down to third place.

Everton

Position: 5th

Results:

Manchester United Women 3 – 1 Everton Women

Everton 1 – 3 Arsenal Women



Everton's first match of the month against Chelsea was postponed due to a frozen pitch. Everton got an early lead against the Red Devils, in the second minute a corner from Everton's went in after United keeper Earps punched the ball into her own net after some good pressure from Magill. But Everton could hold onto their lead as just two minutes later James equalised from close range. Katie Zelem converted a penalty and James scored another to secure United the victory before half time. Everton then faced Champions Arsenal, despite a consolation goal from Kelly they conceded three to lose their second of the month.



Liverpool

Position: 11th

Results:

Manchester City Women 1 – 0 Liverpool Women

Liverpool Women 1 – 1 West Ham United Women

Liverpool Women 1 – 1 Chelsea Women

Ex-Reds captain Gemma Bonner gave city the win heading home a cross from a free kick, but Liverpool could have equalised late on through Fahey. Despite all the City's chances Liverpool's defence stayed strong denying several strong attempts at goal. Liverpool went behind early against West Ham through Adriana Leon. Melissa Lawley missed a penalty in the second half but created the Equaliser for Niamh Charles who scored Liverpool's first goal in open play in the WSL this season. The Reds produced an amazing performance of resilience as they held Chelsea to a 1 - 1 draw. After just five minutes the Reds got a free-kick, Linnett's spicy drive was parried away by Berger in the Chelsea goal but fell into the path of Charles who slotted it home into the bottom corner. Liverpool couldn't hold onto their early lead as just ten minutes later England scored the equaliser for Chelsea.

Manchester City

Position: 2nd

Results:

Manchester City Women 1 – 0 Liverpool Women

Chelsea Women 2 – 1 Manchester City Women

Manchester City Women 5 – 0 Brighton & Hove Albion Women



Manchester City were the better side as they played Liverpool, missing numerous chances in both halves it was a narrow victory for the title chasers. Gemma Bonner scored City's only goal as she headed home a free kick from Weir in the twentieth minute. It looked as if City were on their way to a win against Chelsea in their second match of the month. Caroline Weir scored a stunning volley for City, but Chelsea fought back from behind scoring two goals in three minutes to get the win. City bounce back from defeat with an impressive performance against Brighton. Steph Houghton step up the score the first goal after Brighton were called up for a pass back. City scored a further two goals in the first half, an impressive effort from Ellen white and Lauren Hemp complete the first half. The second half saw goals from Stanway and Bremer to finish the game.

Manchester United

Position: 4th

Results:

West Ham United Women 3 – 2 Manchester United Women

Manchester United Women 3 – 1 Everton Women

A thrilling match to watch United looked as if they had secured victory as Lauren James put her side up 2 – 1 with just ten minutes remaining. However, West Ham got two free kicks inside the last ten minutes, both being beautifully converted by Baunach for a remarkable comeback. United were much more positive against Everton, after an unfortunate own goal just two minutes in United quickly equalised through James close range shot. James was then fouled in the box with captain Katie Zelem scoring from the spot. Lauren James went on the score a second before half time to secure United the victory. Manchester's last home game of the year against Birmingham City was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.



Reading

Position: 6th

Results:

Reading Women 0 – 3 Arsenal Women

Reading Women 3 – 1 Tottenham Hotspur Women



The Royals faced a tough challenge in their first match of the month as they faced Champions Arsenal. Reading had a few chances in the first half but Chaplen and Williams were unable to beat Zinsberger in the Arsenal goal. Super striker Vivianne Miedema broke the deadlock for Arsenal chipping Moloney in the Reading goal. Arsenal go their second through Kim Little as she linked up with Nobbs, the Gunners sealed the victory as Miedema scored in extra time. Reading came from behind to score three late goals against Tottenham and get all three point in their last game of the year. Goals from Potter, Allen and Eikeland showed the heart and determination of the whole Royals team. It was Eikeland's first goal for Reading, the Norwegian international picked up the ball on the halfway line and in close pursuit from the Spurs defence calmly slotted it away.

Tottenham Hotspur

Position: 7th

Results:

Birmingham City Women 1 – 1 Tottenham Hotspur Women

Tottenham Hotspur Women 1 – 0 Brighton & Hove Albion Women

Reading Women 3 – 1 Tottenham Hotspur Women

Tottenham came from behind to earn a draw against Birmingham. A goal in the first half for Birmingham from Grant put on the pressure, but Tottenham didn't crumble and keep pushing for a goal. It came in the 73 minute, Gemma Davison crossed for Kit Graham to score her fourth goal of the season. In their next game Tottenham faced Brighton, an uneventful game was decided by an own goal as Neville's effort was touch by Williams as it crept over the line. Tottenham looked sure to get three points against Reading as with just fifteen minutes left, they were 1 – 0 up, but they couldn't hold back the heart of the Royals who managed to score three and come from behind to win.





West Ham United

Position: 8th

Results:

West Ham United Women 3 – 2 Manchester United Women

Liverpool Women 1 – 1 West Ham United Women

West Ham faced United in their first match of the month, being 2 – 1 down with just seven minutes left to play the Hammers needed to fight and they did exactly that. Baunch scoring two to get the win, the first effort a cross that went through everyone, the second from the edge of the box. Despite this brilliant comeback it wasn't all celebration for West Ham as Leanne Kiernan was sent off after receiving a second yellow following an off the ball incident. The Hammers went ahead early against Liverpool through Adriana Leon but the game ended in a draw as Charles levelled for Liverpool. West Ham's match against Bristol City was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

January's WSL fixtures can be found at: www.thewomensfootballmagazine.com/fixtures



Women's football announce support of 'Head's Up campaign



The women's game has joined the Premier League and EFL in announcing its support for the Heads Up campaign, following unanimous backing from the women's professional game Board, leagues and the clubs.

Launched by The FA and spearheaded by HRH The Duke of Cambridge, the Heads Up campaign harnesses the influence and popularity of football to encourage more people to feel comfortable talking about, and taking action to improve, their mental health.

The focus of support from The Barclays FA Women's Super League, The FA Women's Championship and The FA Women's National Leagues will be on the weekend 8/9 February, with more details to be announced in due course.

Kelly Simmons, The FA's Director of the Women's Professional Game said: "Over recent years the women's game has been home to inspirational and courageous role models who have spoken honestly and openly about their mental wellbeing, driving awareness and normalising the conversation about such an important topic.

"Although research identifies that males are less likely to tackle their mental health issues, this campaign is not exclusive to a male audience and we hope this association will provide females – as well as males - with a supportive platform to be open and honest about their mental wellbeing and seek action, if it is required.

"The women's game has always united on important societal issues and we're grateful to the clubs whose support on 8/9 February will help reach communities across the whole of the country."

AMMOS ANTICS WORDSEARCH



R	Z	B	N	D	P	W	S	Y	P	I	T	C	H	B	M	F	S
H	G	C	W	A	L	E	S	N	H	R	O	N	D	O	S	U	H
N	U	J	K	B	I	R	M	I	N	G	H	A	M	O	O	L	I
Q	A	S	T	O	N	V	I	L	L	A	O	R	V	T	D	L	N
J	D	L	W	P	G	O	A	L	S	T	M	I	E	S	A	B	P
N	F	E	L	B	A	M	I	D	F	I	E	L	D	M	G	A	A
T	O	B	C	K	R	O	S	S	J	U	N	I	O	R	S	C	D
Y	C	A	B	L	U	E	S	T	R	A	I	N	I	N	G	K	S
D	Y	M	Y	H	S	F	U	L	L	T	I	M	E	F	I	E	S
Z	L	M	J	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	I	U	C	A	Z	T
B	W	O	M	E	N	S	F	O	O	T	I	E	M	A	G	O	B
P	R	E	F	E	R	E	E	F	T	A	T	Y	O	H	G	Y	E

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘.

AMMO
ASTONVILLA
BIRMINGHAM
BLUES
BOOTS
FOOTBALL

FULLBACK
FULLTIME
GOALS
MIDFIELD
PITCH
REFEREE
RONDOS

ROSSJUNIORS
SHINPADS
TRAINING
WALES
WOMENSFOOTIEMAG

CHAMPIONSHIP





Crystal Palace ring in the changes



Crystal Palace have seen a number of changes in December.

Free agent Amber Stobbs joined the team on December 5.

The forward has been without a club since leaving Charlton Athletic at the end of the 2018/19 season.

Stobbs told the official website: “It's exciting times ahead.

“I’m really excited to be joining Palace, the club is in a great place and everyone has made me feel welcome so far.

“It feels like a perfect match and I can’t wait to get started.”

Earlier in the month, Annabel Johnson signed a new contract with the Championship side which sees her committed until the end of the 2020/21 season.

Manager Dean Davenport said: “We are delighted AJ has agreed to stay with us.

“She has proved herself over and over again this season so far. We only expect more good things to come from her.”

Finally, Ciara Watling has left the club after terminating her contract.

In a statement the club said: “The club wishes Ciara all the best for the future and would like to thank her for all she has done over the past four seasons.

“She will be welcome at Crystal Palace at any time.”

Championship monthly Round-up



By Regan Foy

Aston Villa

Position: 1st

Results:

London Bees 1 - 2 Aston Villa Women

Aston Villa Women 3 - 1 Leicester City Women

Aston Villa Women 3 - 1 London City Lionesses

Aston Villa remain unbeaten as they move past the season's halfway point this December, capping off an exceptional 2019 which has seen them lose only twice throughout the calendar year with three strong wins. Their first game of the month came in the form of a 2-1 win against London Bees away from home; midfielders Amy West and Emma Follis scoring in the 25th and 74th minutes respectively. The next two results for the league leaders had an air of synchronicity to them - with both games finishing 3-1 at home, and both games involving goals from German midfield general Marisa Ewers. Melissa Johnson, who scored against her old club, and Shania Hayles added to the goals against Leicester, whilst Emma Follis and Emily Syme made it three against London City. (I guess you could say that a month full of L's brought nothing but W's).

Blackburn Rovers

Position: 9th

Results:

Leicester City Women 2 - 0 Blackburn Rovers Ladies

Blackburn Rovers Ladies 1 - 2 London City Lionesses

London Bees PP - PP Blackburn Rovers Ladies



As tight as it is towards the top of the table - it is the same towards the bottom too - with ninth-placed Blackburn Rovers only four points away from fifth. The Lancashire side picked up their eighth loss of the season against Leicester City in their December opener, disrupted by an own goal before Lachante Paul doubled Leicester's lead 17 minutes from time. Manager Gemma Donnelly will be disappointed with the result against London City Lionesses, a 2-1 loss, with Blackburn taking the lead via Saffron Jordan in the 22nd before losing their lead just a minute later. Flo Fyfe dealt the final blow ten minutes from time for London City. It's another frustrating month for Blackburn with their third game of the month called off for a waterlogged pitch, meaning they now have two games in hand compared to 8th placed Leicester City.

Charlton Athletic

Position: 11th

Results:

Crystal Palace Women 1 - 1 Charlton Athletic Women

Charlton Athletic Women 1 - 1 Coventry United Ladies

Lewes FC PP - PP Charlton Athletic Women



Another dull month for the Charlton Athletic, who find themselves at the bottom of the FA Women's Championship - but are only one win away from rising as far as sixth. Charlton have work to do to turn their draws into wins as the London based side has picked six points up from six draws this season (five of which have come in their last five games) and are yet to win. Perhaps it is a case of not being able to see games through to their conclusion, as against Crystal Palace Charley Clifford gave Charlton the lead in the first half, before Cherelle Khassal equalised for the hosts in the second, and an early goal from Clifford against Coventry was snuffed out at the death with an equaliser from Helen Dermody. Their game against Lewes was postponed, so much like Blackburn, Charlton now have two games in hand.

Coventry United

Position: 10th

Results:

Coventry United Ladies 2 - 3 Durham Women

Charlton Athletic Women 1 - 1 Coventry United Ladies



The new side on the block, Coventry United only played in two games during December, picking up a single point in a draw thanks to a

last-minute equaliser from Helen Dermody. Against Durham, one of the standout sides this year, Coventry trailed for much of the game and went in at half-time 2-0 down, before a goal from Beth Merrick gave the side a lifeline to grab points. Durham stretched their lead back to two goals in the 91st minute before Becky Anderson grabbed a late consolation just a minute later.

Crystal Palace

Position: 6th

Results:

Crystal Palace Women 1 - 1 Charlton Athletic Women

Crystal Palace Women 1 - 4 Durham Women

The gap between mid-table and the top is growing week-on-week and hasn't been helped by a somewhat poor month for Crystal Palace. Their opening game of December saw Palace draw with rock-bottom Charlton, in a game that the home side had to fight back from behind to secure a point thanks to a Cherelle Khassal goal. Most disappointing for Crystal Palace, however, will be the 4-1 drubbing at home received by Durham, in which Durham found themselves 3-0 ahead at half-time thanks to a brace from Beth Hepple and a brink of the half goal from Becky Salicki. Hepple grabbed her hat-trick in the 86th minute, but not before Crystal Palace had managed to find consolation through Amber Stobbs in the 75th. Palace will be hoping their form picks up in 2020, with 12 points separating them and 4th placed London City Lionesses.

Durham

Position: 3rd

Results:

Coventry United 2 - 3 Durham Women

Durham Women 3 - 0 Lewes FC

Crystal Palace 1 - 4 Durham Women

Durham continued their chase for promotion with a strong, unbeaten December which saw them score ten goals across three games. The opened the month with a hard-fought 3-2 win over Coventry United, which saw two late goals from Coventry attempt to rock Durham - but the home side would have needed another to ensure they snatched points from the third-placed side. A more emphatic win was to follow, as Durham left it until the hour mark to put their shooting boots on as it were, with goals from Abby Holmes, Lisa Robertson and Beth Hepple came in the 61st, 67th and 82nd minutes respectively. Durham rounded out the month with a stellar performance against Crystal Palace in a game that saw the away side 3-0 up at half-time. Beth Hepple bagged a hat-trick, whilst Becky Salicki also got involved in the scoring.



Leicester City



Position: 8th

Results:

Leicester City Women 2-0 Blackburn Rovers Ladies

Aston Villa Women 3 - 1 Leicester City Women

Leicester City Women 1 - 4 Sheffield United Women

Leicester City will be eager to forget December, and quickly. Their opening game of the month came in the form of a 2-0 win against Blackburn Rovers, aided by an own goal from Alex Taylor, before Lachante Paul netted 17 minutes from full time to secure the win. Against Aston Villa, Leicester kept them quiet for nearly 80 minutes, as Marisa Ewers netted in the 78th minute, before former Foxes forward and the league's top scorer, Melissa Johnson, doubled their lead. Freya Thomas put Leicester back into the game with a lifeline goal a minute before time, but youngster Shania Hayles netted in the sixth minute of added time. On December 15, Leicester suffered 4-1 defeat to Sheffield United, with Katie Wilkinson netting a hat-trick and Aimee Palmer picking up another. Paige Bailey-Gayle's 33rd minute goal nothing but a consolation at full-time.

Lewes

Position: 7th

Results:

Durham Women 3 - 0 Lewes FC

Lewes FC PP - PP Charlton



Just the one game for 7th placed Lewes this month due to their end-of-year fixture being postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. Lewes looked as if they were going to snatch a point against a strong Durham side, with the scores level after the hour mark, before Abby Holmes netted for the home team. Goals from Lisa Robertson and Beth Hepple saw Lewes off and they left Durham with nothing.

London Bees

Position: 5th

Results:

London Bees 1 - 2 Aston Villa Women

Sheffield United Women 3 - 1 London Bees

London Bees PP - PP Blackburn Rovers Ladies



A tough month, all things considered, for the London Bees as they faced first and second place in the form of Aston Villa Women and Sheffield United. League leaders Aston Villa took the lead through Amy West in the 25th minute, before Lauren Pickett equalised for the Bees just before halftime. It was Emma Follis, who dropped down from the WSL to play for her childhood club that separated the two sides with an exceptional goal in the 74th minute.

Against Sheffield United, the London Bees found themselves two goals down in the first half an hour, before they grabbed a goal back through Nikita Whinnett in the 57th minute. Their attempt to get a foothold in the game was wasted, however, as Katie Wilkinson put the game to bed for Sheffield. Their third game of the month was postponed due to poor conditions.



London City Lionesses

Position: 4th

Results:

London City Lionesses 1 - 2 Sheffield United Women

Blackburn Rovers Ladies 1 - 2 London City Lionesses

Aston Villa Women 3 - 1 London City Lionesses

London City Lionesses can't have expected much more from this month, despite their strong league position. They opened the month with a visit from Sheffield United, who took the lead after just eight minutes. London City found a way back into the game through Vyan Sampson in the 56th minute, but Olivia netted the winner just 20 minutes later. The Lionesses picked up three points against Blackburn Rovers Ladies despite going a goal down thanks to a Saffron Jordan goal in the 22nd minute. Freda Ayisi equalised for London City just a single minute later, and then Flo Fyfe grabbed City's second ten minutes before time. It was the opposite in the affair against Aston Villa Women - Ellie Mason grabbing the opening goal in the sixth minute at Boldmere St. Michaels, before goals from Emma Follis, Emily Syme and Marisa Ewers stopped London City from dampening Villa's end of year party.



Sheffield United

Position: 2nd

Results:

London City Lionesses 1 - 2 Sheffield United Women

Sheffield United Women 3 - 1 London Bees

Leicester City Women 1 - 4 Sheffield United Women

An unbeaten December for Sheffield United, who look to be matching Aston Villa throughout this season as serious contenders for promotion to the WSL. Their opening fixture of the month came with a trip to London, where Katie Wilkinson opened the scoring in the 8th minute, before Olivia Fergusson was required to give United the lead once again after Vyan Sampson equalised. Sheffield United Women found themselves 2-0 to the good after half an hour against London Bees, and after Nikita Whinnet's goal, United denied them any chance of this with a third goal just a minute later. Second placed Sheffield closed out the month in emphatic fashion with a 4-1 destruction of Leicester City. Katie Wilkinson scored a hat-trick, whilst Aimee Palmer also got in on the action in the 23rd. Paige Bailey-Gayle's 33rd minute goal for Leicester meant nothing at the final whistle.



November's Championship fixtures can be found at:
www.thewomensfootballmagazine.com/fixtures

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE *Awards*

In December we launched the TWFM Awards 2019.

Thousands of you voted for your winners and over the next few months we will be bringing you exclusive content relating to all our winners.

Here's who you voted to win our inaugural awards and the nominees in each category.

WSL player of the Year



- **Molly Sharpe (Durham)**
 - Jade Pennock (Sheffield United)
 - Mel Johnson (Aston Villa)
 - Ashlee Hincks (Crystal Palace)
- **Vivianne Miedema (Arsenal)**
 - Jessica Sigsworth (Man Utd)
 - Sophie Baggaley (Bristol City)
 - Bethany England (Chelsea)

Championship player of the Year



- **Molly Sharpe (Durham)**
- Jade Pennock (Sheffield United)
- Mel Johnson (Aston Villa)
- Ashlee Hincks (Crystal Palace)

National League player of the Year



- **Keira Ramshaw (Sunderland)**
- Georgia Stevens (AFC Fylde)
- Hope Nash (Crawley Wasps)
- Danielle Rowe (Portsmouth)

Grassroots player of the Year



- Keisha & Jessica
- Amelie (Ammo) Curtis
- Abby Chiverton
- Maizie

Coach of the Year



- Casey Stoney
- Joe Montemurro
- Nick Cushing
- Emma Hayes

International player of the Year



- Alex Morgan
- Megan Rapinoe
- Sam Kerr
- Dzenifer Marozsan

Best England moment of 2019

- Record breaking crowd at Wembley
- England win the SheBelieves Cup
- England's performance against Norway
- Steph Houghton receives 100th cap in front of home crowd
-

Best Women's football moment of 2019

- Women's Football Weekend
- Scotland's WWC send-off
- WWC final
- Juventus v Fiorentina at the Allianz Arena

**Players are in the category for the division they finish 2019 in*

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE



THE WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE

Slipping Under the Radar?

Leeds United Women looking to re-establish former glory days



By Emily Cassidy

Finishing the 2019 calendar year sitting in 2nd place in the Women's National League Division 1 North, Leeds United Women seem to be a reformed side after re-establishing with Leeds United FC in 2017.

Last season, the lady whites finished a respectable 6th, four places above where they finished the 2017/18 season proving that they are now a respected competitor and a team to be feared.

Leeds showed this by starting on the front foot of the 19/20 season by beating Liverpool Feds 1-0, the only team to defeat Leeds twice last season. Currently sitting on 25 points, 3 points behind league leaders Barnsley with 8

wins out of a possible 11, top goal scorer Rebecca Hunt had many positives about the team's form when I spoke to her.

"We have had a great first half of the season, the best we've had in the past 3 years. We've been working none stop since pre-season and it's great to see us being rewarded with results.

"Team morale is high and it's still all to play for. We are performing well and getting stronger as a team each week, I believe that if we keep performing as we are then there is no reason why we can't go on to win the league," she said.

On the other hand, Leeds are not getting too ahead of themselves and are taking it week by

week.

Hunt finished off by saying: "There is still room for improvement and we are not focusing too far ahead taking it week by week, which is an exciting prospect going into the rest of the season."

Rebecca looks to have had a large impact on Leeds current form, having scored 12 goals already this season, 1 behind her total goal tally for the 18/19 season.

Speaking to manager Dan O'Hearne about her impact, he said: "The standout performer so far this season has been our influential midfielder Rebecca Hunt.

"At this moment she is our leading goal scorer and is a real asset to the club both on and off the pitch. Hopefully she can continue her great form into the latter end of the season."

Leeds Achilles heel this season seems to of been achieving a good cup run, with the County Cup being the only cup competition that they remain in. Leeds recently lost out narrowly to a strong Nottingham Forest side in the last 16 round of the FA WNL Plate 19/20, therefore focus could then be re-adjusted to the last league game of the 2019 calendar year which Leeds will have been looking to take full advantage of. Leeds seem to be making a statement this season again, having defeated Bolton Wanderers 2-0 at home in their last league game before the Christmas break, a team that took 4 points off the lady whites last season.

Ending the year on a high, Leeds will be seeing the new year in having taken 12 points and 4 wins from their last four league games; including two wins over local rivals Bradford

and an important three points against 5th placed Durham Cestria. Manager Dan O'Hearne also picked up the Manager of the Month award for the November month, a well-deserved honour based on recent results and a reasoning as to why Leeds have maintained pressure on the teams around them.

When asked how the season was going so far, O'Hearne said: "We are having a good solid season so far, sitting in 2nd place going into the Christmas break.

"After a season of stability last season, this season was about bringing in more quality, player wise.

"We have a good mix of players, with a lot of young talent who are fresh and exciting for the squad and the club moving forward."

Included in the key signings O'Hearne has made are two of Guiseley Vixens most consistent players from the 18/19 season, experienced centre-back Jodie Hunter and pacey winger Milly Ash who have moulded into the team and shown why they are key to achieving Leeds season objectives.

With future aims of reaching the WSL, Leeds have set their current focus on small improvements to see the club established back to its former glory days.

To make their centenary year a special one, Leeds top priority is an improvement in their league position compared to the 18/19 season come June 2020, and some form of silverware being a close second. Leeds United Ladies are based at Thorpe Arch Training Ground, their next game is a County Cup home fixture against Pontefract Sports and Social on the 5th January 2020.



Premier Division News

Lucy Watson signs for Doncaster Belles first team



Forward Lucy Watson has signed a contract with Doncaster Rovers Belles.

The 16-year-old striker moves up from the RTC U16 squad and has been given the number 21 shirt.

Watson has recently returned to the Belles from a successful international break with the England U17 team where she scored two goals in two games in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Morgan Hallett leaves Cheltenham

Town

Morgan Hallett, first-team coach has left Cheltenham Town Ladies by mutual consent.

A statement on the club's website said: "Morgan, who studies at the University of Worcester and coaches with their football club's men's 2nd team has chosen to step away from the Robinnesses to focus on his work commitments, as well as working with the university team.

"Morgan is a very gifted coach, with a flair for the role, producing a high standard of football from the players and bringing a real leadership quality and a professional approach despite his young age.

"Cheltenham Town Ladies FC would like to extend their thanks to Morgan for his time and effort since the start of the campaign, and wish him all the very best of success in the future – both in and out of football."



Arber update after horror injury

West Bromwich Albion's Jade Arber has provided an update to her injury.

The striker landed awkwardly just before the hour mark in Albion's National League Northern Premier fixture with Fylde, causing the game to be abandoned in November.

Arber visited the Club doctor, who assessed her and will continue to provide assistance throughout her rehabilitation.

The severity of the injury is not as bad as first feared, but Arber said to the official website: "I really appreciate everyone's support and messages. I'm really looking forward to coming back stronger and better than before.

"I could be out for anywhere between a few weeks or months, it just all depends on my body and how quickly it recovers.

"I'm doing stretches and everything the doctor has told me to try and get back as soon as possible."

Premier Division News

Changes at Walsall as whole squad leaves

Walsall Ladies first team have announced that the current crop of players will no longer represent the club after just five months together.

Following an “emergency committee meeting” the club sent letters to certain players informing them they are no longer part of the clubs plans causing the whole squad to decide to leave.

The letter, which was posted on social media included the lines: “The club held an emergency committee meeting on Wednesday 27th November where we discussed in full concerns.

“The first concern were subs, it has been a continuous and constant effort to get most individuals in Walsall Ladies first team to pay on time and in advance.

“Also there are individual players who are behind on payments.

“The second concern highlighted was the lack of training by the first team.

“The final concern raised was several individual players are taking it upon themselves to go against correct procedures at the club.

“Despite those individuals having several warnings but continued to carry on.”



AFC Wimbledon new signings

AFC Wimbledon have announced two new signings to their squad.

Attacking midfielder Evie Gane joins from Oxford United whilst Lily Stevens joins from Crystal Palace.

The statement said: “Both joining us with a wealth of experience in the higher leagues and both representing the UCFB Wembley Women's First Team.”

Cambridge United manager retires

In a statement on social media, Cambridge United manager Kevin Hoover has announced his retirement.

He said: “After a lot of thought and reflection, it’s time to call a time on my management career. It’s been by and large a great journey where I’ve met some great people and made special friendships.

“I’ve been lucky enough to manage some great players and the honour of lifting a few trophies on the way.

“Thank you to everyone at Cambridge United WFC for your support over recent weeks. You will always be the only club for me.

“I shall still be around catching up with games but I’ll leave the management to more than capable Ben Yeomans, will lead the team onto bigger and better things. I am sure.”





Fylde's Play

with Georgia Stevens

@Stix_Official_9 @FyldeLadiesFC

A Happy New Year to you all! I hope you all enjoyed a well-earned break and enjoyed the festive period as 2020 is now upon us!

Unfortunately for us at Fylde, December saw a lack of games because of the awful weather we had. A game against West Brom in late November was called off early due to an injury to the opposition player, we then travelled to Wolves to play our FA Cup Second Round Fixture. After scoring early in the first half, we did brilliantly to hold off a tough opposition to come out winners and head into the third round (where we will face Sunderland).

That was the only game we played in December, the following week, our opponents were playing their FA Cup fixture – so we had a weekend off. The week after that, our fixture against Nottingham Forest was cancelled due to the pitch being unplayable. It truly is a frustrating period. It's hard to gain momentum and build confidence as a squad when you don't have regular games. On top of that, the rescheduling will most likely lead to squads playing mid-week fixtures, something that is difficult for a lot of players with full-time jobs.

On a positive note, December was a successful and busy period for me off the pitch. I had the brilliant experience of visiting my secondary school, The

Liverpool Blue Coat School, with my England cap. It was amazing to have something physical to show my hard-working and wonderful teachers who helped me continue my studies whilst representing England. Majority of the camps and tournaments I played in were during school time which meant I missed a fair bit of lessons, but I had a brilliant set of teachers and Head of Year during this time who made sure that I had all the support and help that I could possibly wish for – I sat my A Level English Mock (A two and a half hour paper) in Spain while playing a tournament there and I think that's just one of the examples why I'm so grateful and proud to be an "Old Blue".

I also got to speak to countless students and meet a Year 7 PE class where the girls were participating in Football. To see so many young girls involved in football outside of the school curriculum was amazing. When I joined Blue Coat as a Year 7 in 2011, I was the only one in my year, and possibly the whole school, who played football. So, to see six or seven hands shoot up when I asked if anyone played, was brilliant and a positive sign of how the game is growing at such a fast pace.

Later in the month, I had the opportunity to be on The RedMen TV's show "The Final Word" after the Merseyside Derby, as well as their pre-match programme before the



Bournemouth game. It's truly a great time to be a Liverpool fan so to be able to talk about the Reds was amazing. Personally, to be on a programme and to now be friends with the lads at RedMen is rather surreal. As a Liverpool fan, I've always kept up to date with RedMen and I wholeheartedly admire the content they produce, so to be alongside them in the studio was brilliant.

On top of that, I had the absolute privilege to be asked to film some content for the Fifa Club World Cup, whereby I asked Al Sadd SC striker Hassan Al-Haydos whether he knew some Scouse phrases. To be shared on a platform which boasts over 17 million followers was great and I can't wait for more opportunities like it. Plus, it's always a win to be sharing the beauties of the Scouse language!

At the time of writing this, I'm currently in London – a world away from my beloved Liverpool! I'm down here doing some work with FootballScoutsTV (so keep an eye out on Instagram!) but I'm also visiting Mundial Magazine as well as some of my friends at Copa90! Both companies are ones that I admire and I'd recommend everyone reading this to check them out as the way they cover Women's Football, much like here, is so refreshing.

As always, feel free to follow me and reach out to me on social media!

I'd love to hear some of your thoughts on everything and anything football and media!

Instagram: Georgia.Stevo

Twitter: Stix_Official_9

GRASSROOTS



Lilah: How playing football has helped

In November, alongside 'Women's Football Supporters, we ran a competition encouraging young footballers to tell us about their stories. After a lot of hard debate at the TWFM Towers, we finally found our winner. Here Lilah tells us her story written by her parents.

Meet my 10 year old daughter, Liliah.

Liliah at 7 year old found communicating very difficult. She suffered with anxiety and had an anxiety stammer.

I have always taken Liliah to Hillsborough, she's been a season ticket holder since she was 18 months old but didn't really kick a ball until she was 7.

She was seen in a local park and approached. She was asked if she wanted to play football. She jumped at the chance. She started training with a local academy 4G1 run by a young man called Luke Forgione.

Liliah had no confidence and wouldn't speak to anybody other than myself. That is until she found football and fell in love with the game. She went from strength to strength with Luke who really helped her

gain confidence on and off the field.

She joined a local boys team Ardsley Athletico whilst training at 4G1 and each week I could see my little girl growing in confidence. Luke learnt my girl life skills through football. I will be forever grateful for this.

Liliah had two successful seasons at Ardsley until one particular game she was ridiculed by the boys and more surprisingly parents.

She was called gay.

She was told she wasn't good enough.

She was told she shouldn't be playing football.

Liliah hit rock bottom. We had tears after tears she didn't want to play anymore.

Confidence shattered.

“ I could see my little girl growing in confidence ”

She asked to play in a girls team. I made her a promise. If she played in a girls team she had to beat the bullies and continue to prove the boys wrong and play with the boys too.

Liliah joined Barnsley Ladies. A great season where she established her right mid position. Her control of the ball and skills were being used more and more in the game. Confidence was on its way back.

Now my girl plays for Handsworth Girls. She's 10 but plays at u12 level. She also still plays with the boys at Staincross Rangers. She really has come along way from the timid 7 year old that couldn't speak. With thanks to Football. We live and breathe the game. She is totally in love with the sport.

Football made my girl! And I will be forever grateful.

Liliah is currently on the sidelines due to a tackle she received which shattered her collar bone and damaged her ligaments! In true Liliah style we will bounce back. In the meantime we are watching games including a trip to Wembley to watch the Lionesses.



CUPS



**THE WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**

Champions League plans



Uefa has announced plans to revamp the Women's Champions League starting in the 2021/22 season.

The new format will see a group stage introduced with four groups of four teams replacing the round of 16.

The top two teams from each group will progress to the quarter-finals of the competition.

The plan is to centralise all media rights for the Women's Champions League from the group stage onwards as part of a wider shake-up of European club soccer's premier women's competition.

Up until now only the final of the Women's Champions League has been centrally marketed by European soccer's governing body, with the clubs responsible for selling rights to their home games in the earlier rounds.

As a result, the competition has often struggled for visibility outside of the final given that broadcasters have been unable to acquire rights to games in bulk and have therefore been limited to buying specific games.

However, starting with the 2021/22 season, Uefa will sell the rights to a 16-team group stage that will replace the current knockout round of 16, with the governing body producing every fixture for television or online streaming.



SSE Women's FA Cup

FA Cup 3rd round results

The third round draw has been drawn.

Games took place on Sunday, 5 January, with winning clubs receiving £1,250 from The FA prize fund.

The draw for the fourth round—including the WSL and Championship sides—will take place on Monday, 6 January.

Northern Section			Southern Section		
Fylde	P-P	Sunderland	Ipswich Town	1-0	Portsmouth
Burnley	2-1	Nottingham Forest	Watford	5-0	Plymouth
Loughborough Foxes	2-3	Stoke City	Cardiff City	1-2	Southampton FC Women
Brighouse Town	0-1	Barnsley	Southampton Women's FC	3-1	West Bromwich Albion
			Billericay Town	P-P	Actonians

Round Dates

First Round Proper - Sunday 10
November 2019

Second Round Proper - Sunday 1
December 2019

Third Round Proper - Sunday 5
January 2020

Fourth Round Proper - Sunday 26
January 2020

Fifth Round Proper - Sunday 16
February 2020

Quarter Final - Sunday 15 March 2020

Semi-Final - Sunday 19 April 2020

Final - Saturday 9 May 2020





FA Cup 2nd round proper

Chorley 1-2 Brighouse Town

Derby County 2-3 Nottingham Forest

Barnsley 4-0 Sheffield FC

Sunderland 4-3 Middlesbrough

Stoke City 1-1 (4-3 P) Huddersfield Town

Wolverhampton Wanderers 0-1 Fylde Women

Chester-le-Street Town 0-4 Loughborough Foxes

Burnley 2-1 Hull City

West Bromwich Albion 2-0 Lincoln City

Hounslow 0-6 Cardiff City

Keynsham Town 0-3 Watford

Yeovil Town 1-1 Southampton FC Women

Portsmouth 6-1 Leyton Orient

Southampton Women's FC 1-1 (3-2 P) MK Dons

Oxford United 3-4 (AET) Plymouth Argyle

Chichester City 0-6 Ipswich Town

Billericay Town 2-1 Gillingham

Actonians 3-1 Crawley Wasps

5 things you may have missed from the Continental Tyres League Cup



Reading sneak into knockouts

Reading looked to be out of the competition after during 1-1 with Group D leaders Chelsea. But all hope was not lost as it went onto the penalty shoot out for the extra point. Jo Potter's free-kick put them ahead but Deanna Cooper levelled, and the Royals won 4-2 on spot-kicks to join the Blues in the quarter-finals.

Once again mid-week fixtures sees teams suffer

In round four it was obvious the difference in sides between the top flight and the second and it was the same again. Midweek fixtures are difficult for Championship part-time sides and saw many slip to large defeats. London Bees fell to a 9-0 defeat to Arsenal whilst West Ham were 7-0 winners over Crystal Palace.

100 for Beattie

Jen Beattie made her 100th appearance for Arsenal in their 9-0 win over London Bees. Unfortunately, her night was cut short due to injury. Katie McCabe scored a hat-trick with braces from Melisa Filis and Lisa Evans and a goal from Beth Mead.

Addison flying high

Tottenham Hotspur put on an impressive performance against Championship side Lewes. Angela Addison's hat-trick and a brace from Lucy Quinn before half-time ensured Tottenham Hotspur coasted to victory. Karen Hills' side went into the encounter already knowing they couldn't qualify for the knockout stages. Addison grabbed her first on 34 minutes with a curling effort from a tight angle, Addison grabbed her first on 34 minutes with a curling effort from a tight angle and then pounced on the rebound from Rosella Ayane's shot to smash home her second of the game. She completed her hat-trick on 38 minutes after bundling the ball home to put Spurs five goals to the good at the break.

Leicester struggle

Leicester lost 4-0 to WSL side Everton. The result means that the Foxes exit the competition with no points to their name and finish bottom of their group for the second year running. The team had five players who are age 16 and had come up from the reserves.

Continental Tyres League Cup results and Tables

Round 5—11th December		
Group A (North 1)		
Liverpool	3-1	Durham
Sheffield United	2-2	Coventry United
Aston Villa	5-2	Blackburn Rovers
Group B (South 1)		
Arsenal	9-0	London Bees
London City Lionesses	2-4	Brighton & HA
Charlton Athletic	2-5	Bristol City
Group C (North 2)		
Birmingham City	1-3	Manchester United
Leicester City	0-4	Everton
Group D (South 2)		
Chelsea	1-1	Reading
Tottenham Hotspur	6-0	Lewes
West Ham	7-0	Crystal Palace

Group A						
Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Sheffield United	5	3	1	1	6	10
Aston Villa	5	3	1	1	4	10
Liverpool	5	3	0	2	9	9
Durham	5	3	0	2	3	9
Coventry United	5	0	3	2	-8	6
Blackburn Rovers	5	0	1	4	-14	1

Group B						
Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Arsenal	5	4	1	0	25	13
Brighton & HA	5	3	1	1	9	11
Bristol City	5	3	1	1	0	10
London Bees	5	1	1	3	-14	5
Charlton Athletic	5	1	1	3	-9	4
London City Lionesses	5	0	1	4	-11	2

Group C						
Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Manchester United	4	4	0	0	17	12
Manchester City	4	3	0	1	7	9
Birmingham City	4	2	0	2	2	6
Everton	4	1	0	3	-3	3
Leicester City	4	0	0	4	-23	0

Group D						
Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Chelsea	5	4	1	0	19	13
Reading	5	3	1	1	10	11
West Ham United	5	3	1	1	8	10
Tottenham Hotspur	5	2	1	2	1	8
Crystal Palace	5	1	0	4	-18	3
Lewes	5	0	0	5	-11	0



Conti Cup quarter final draw

Chelsea vs Aston Villa
Kingsmeadow, 7pm

Arsenal vs Reading
Meadow Park, 7.30pm

Sheffield United vs West Ham United
Proact Stadium, 7.30pm

Manchester United vs Brighton & HA
Leigh Sports Village, 8pm

Games to be played on January 15

Home Nations



**THE WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**

England Lionesses: Review of 2019



© Joerdeli Photography | Daniela Porcelli

By Marissa Thomas

With the World Cup on the horizon, 2019 was always going to be a year filled with hope and expectation for England's Lionesses. In the end, England were unable to fulfil the ambition set by braggadocious head coach Phil Neville of winning the prestigious tournament and in fact did worse than the previous World Cup. 2019 started on a high for England Women's team but ultimately ended in disappointment. Here we review a year that failed to live up to the hype.

SheBelieves Cup

England's first fixtures of the year occurred in the invitational SheBelieves Cup tournament

in February. This was the fourth edition of the tournament, with England taking part each time and winning it at the fourth attempt after beating Brazil and Japan and finishing two points clear of hosts and defending champions USA after drawing with them.

While not a sought-after trophy, it was still a huge confidence boost for England to win it and show they could compete with and match teams at their level.

Road to France friendlies

In preparation for the World Cup, England hosted four countries in what was billed as a 'Road to France Series'. The fixtures occurred against Canada, Spain, Denmark and New Zealand. Of the four countries chosen, only Denmark would not be competing at the

World Cup so this was a good level of opposition for the Lionesses. Two 1-0 defeats at the hands of Canada and New Zealand were sandwiched between victories over Spain and Denmark. Defeat by New Zealand in their last World Cup warm-up match was of particular concern as England dominated for large spells without being able to make it count.

Women's World Cup

England's World Cup group consisted of fierce rivals Scotland, Argentina and Japan. The Lionesses topped Group D with a perfect record of three wins from three. Consecutive 3-0 victories followed against Cameroon and Norway to take England through to the semi-finals. It was against the best women's team in the world, USA, that the Lionesses came unstuck.

Jill Ellis' side were just too good for England and ill-discipline as well as missed chances saw Phil Neville's side bow out at the semi-final stage for the third consecutive tournament. With USA 2-1 up and six minutes left on the clock, England were awarded a golden opportunity to equalise and force extra-time when they got a penalty following Becky Sauerbrunn's challenge on Manchester City striker Ellen White.

With Nikita Parris having missed her last two penalties in the tournament, against group stage opponents Argentina and Norway in the quarter-final, captain Steph Houghton stepped up and also failed to score from the spot. Millie Bright was then sent off to cap a miserable night for the English in France.

For all of Phil Neville's bold statements about England being ready to win the World Cup and beat the world's best, his side fell short of expectation and could only leave with a bronze medal as consolation. However, the Lionesses were beaten by Sweden in the third-place play off and left empty-handed.

Rather than being gracious in defeat, Neville chose to behave like a sore loser and stated "We came here to win it and not finish fourth."

"Well done to Sweden but it is a nonsense game."



In Neville's own words, failing to reach the final "would represent failure". Coming third in Canada was a huge achievement for the country and this team was supposed to be even better but they certainly didn't show up when it really mattered.

Post World Cup friendlies

In their next few friendlies after their World Cup disappointment, England played like a team that felt sorry for themselves and had forgotten the basic art of defending, despite being coached by a former defender. England drew 3-3 with Belgium a month after the conclusion of the World Cup, throwing away a 2-0 lead as their opponents came back to lead 3-2 before Parris spared England's blushes with an equaliser from the spot in the 75th minute.

England then lost to Norway in September, again going ahead only to be pegged back as they suffered a 2-1 defeat. Caroline Graham Hansen's winner came in the 89th minute highlighting England's inability to see out a

game without switching off at vital moments. Brazil were the next side to beat the Lionesses in October, also by a 2-1 score line as England's post World Cup woes continued.

Phil Neville's side finally tasted victory again a few days later when they beat Portugal 1-0 before they lost to Germany the following month in a record-breaking crowd for a Lionesses home international of 77,768 at Wembley.

Fortunately, a few days later, England were able to close out 2019 with a win as they beat Czech Republic 3-2 thanks to a winner from Leah Williamson in the 86th minute.

For all the optimism that filled the air at the start of the year, the Lionesses will be left with numerous regrets from a 2019 that promised so much and, in terms of silverware, delivered nothing.





Phil Neville Out?

That's the wrong answer



By Ali Rampling

As the dust settles on 2019, England can reflect on a real rollercoaster 12 months. The Lionesses began the year in style, winning the SheBelieves Cup for the first time in their history, before reaching their third successive major tournament semi final at the World Cup in France.

However, since falling just short against the USA, things have unravelled somewhat for Phil Neville's side. England lost the third place playoff to Sweden, a match Neville was quick to dismiss the importance of, before the never ending World Cup hangover kicked in. In subsequent friendlies, the Lionesses have looked laboured and lethargic as results and performances have failed to match the bar that had been set over the summer. Neville took the brunt of the criticism for the Lionesses' sluggish post-World Cup showings, with some parties even calling for the former Manchester United man to be dismissed.

Is this really fair? Neville guided England to

the last four of the World Cup a matter of months ago, has his position suddenly become untenable because of a handful of friendly defeats?

During the Lionesses' run of poor results, a major criticism thrown at Phil Neville was that he was not qualified for the job in the first place. This is undoubtably true, but you could argue that the same can be said for Gareth Southgate. With a managerial resume that included relegating Middlesbrough and finishing bottom of the group at the 2015 European Championships with the England Under 21 side, Southgate was hardly the ideal candidate for the role when he was handed the reins of the men's national side in 2016. Yet within two years, Southgate had rejuvenated the squad and helped the nation fall back in love with English football.

Similarly, Neville was effectively given the job by default after the controversial dismissal of Mark Sampson. Neville did not choose to be appointed. In fact, he was asked to apply after

the FA's handling of Sampson's sacking put those more suited to the position completely off it. Neville was appointed because, much like Southgate, the FA could rely on him to not embarrass the governing body as predecessors Sam Allardyce and Mark Sampson had. Not being qualified for the role back in 2018 is not a justification for sacking Neville today.

A further criticism levelled at the England boss in recent months has been that he has not improved the Lionesses since taking over. This is a comment that often comes from people who had not watched England prior to the 2019 World Cup, and from a results perspective, Neville matched Sampson's semi-final finish. However, from a footballing point of view, England have improved massively. Neville has overseen a transition from the long ball, counter attacking football under Sampson, to a new building from the back, possession based style.

At the 2015 World Cup under Sampson, England averaged 44% possession. At Euro 2017, where England were one of the favourites for the tournament, once again the Lionesses' possession average was 44%. Sampson's football was successful at getting results when England went into games as the underdog; against home nation Canada in the 2015 World Cup quarter finals, and against much fancied France at the same stage of Euro 2017, the Lionesses were happy to sit back and soak up the pressure, before catching both opponents out on the counter attack and via set pieces. It was not always pretty, but it led to superb wins against top class opposition.

However, this one dimensional football was also what Sampson treated the England fans to when the Lionesses' went into a fixture as favourites. In their second game at Euro 2017, England played Spain, a side who had never made it past the World Cup group stages. The Lionesses had just 22% of the ball during an excruciating 2-0 win.

This reached boiling point during the Euro 2017 semi finals. With France and Germany eliminated, England were now firm favourites to lift their first piece of silverware. But against Holland in the last four, it was long ball after





long ball to Jodie Taylor up front as the Lionesses lost 3-0. The dull style of play was made all the more apparent when compared to the excited Dutch side, who overwhelmed England with their electric pace down the flanks. England's tactical naivety was highlighted three days later in the final, as Denmark carved out chance after chance against Holland, scoring twice during their defeat after England had drawn a blank.

To change this rigid style of play is no mean feat, especially given the limited time Neville has with players during brief international camps scattered throughout the season. But the vast improvement under the 42-year-old was immediately evident at the 2019 World Cup, with England's possession average shooting up to 61%.

Neville has also had to oversee England's transition from plucky underdog status to suddenly being labelled genuine World Cup contenders. The pressure was on the Lionesses to reach the semi finals at the very least in France. Against Norway in the last eight, when previously England may have buckled under the weight of expectation, the Lionesses produced their performance of the tournament to runaway 3-0 winners. Take a glance at the Golden Generation; England are not a country celebrated for their ability to handle expectation. England tend to either slip under the radar to everyone's pleasant surprise, or woefully underwhelm. Somehow, Neville had discovered a happy medium.

Even in the semi finals against the might of the USA, Neville's side could have been forgiven for sitting back and playing more cautiously. The more defensively minded Jade Moore would perhaps have been the more sensible option to play in the holding midfield role, with the Reading player renowned for her crunching tackles and ability to break up play. But Neville instead opted for the technically gifted Keira Walsh, famed for her vision and passing range. And it was Walsh who found Beth Mead with a fabulous cross field pass in the build up to Ellen

White's equaliser, rewarding Neville's more expansive, risk taking football.

Losing to the USA was not a tragic failure; England went toe to toe with the very best in the world and ultimately came up just short. They were playing a side who have it ingrained in them that they are the best in the world, a side who gleefully celebrate scoring their 13th goal against an amateur Thailand side because that is simply all they know. England meanwhile are still adjusting to the idea that they could be world beaters. It is that winning mentality that Neville needs to continue to build.

We cannot for a second pretend that everything is perfect with Phil Neville and England. The post-France performances have not been good enough. That is in part because the squad probably needed freshening up after the World Cup, but making wholesale changes

proves difficult due to the number of players on central contracts.

Neville's comments after the defeat in the third place playoff were also daft, especially given the joyous celebrations after the Lionesses had won that very fixture four years earlier, and the fact that Neville had played a full strength side. His needless experimenting with Lucy Bronze in midfield is also infuriating - why move a player - whose greatest strength is her ability to bomb down the flanks - centrally?

But Neville is a coach and manager with potential, in possession of a squad with potential. With the Olympics and a home European Championships on the horizon, there is such an opportunity to do something special. Let's hope the hangover has been cured come 2020.



A view from the other side



By Jess Cully

“Oh no! We suck again!”

In the Adam Sandler film *The Waterboy*, the news that the titular star player has been banned from college gridiron football draws this anguished cry from a fan. A sentiment that can be echoed by supporters of the England women's football team.

England's record in the second half of 2019 was P8 W2 D1 L5. To find a worse run of results in eight consecutive matches for the Lionesses, you have to go back to 2002-03. Ultimately football is all about results and the buck has to stop with the manager. Lifting the SheBelieves Cup feels like a long time ago now.

Defeat at home to New Zealand in June should have set off warning bells. Of course, that was soon forgotten as another run to the World Cup semi-finals carried Lionesses fans on a wave of euphoria.

The semi-final loss to the USA was accepted as just another classic case of England heroically falling just short, but the next game saw Phil Neville abruptly end his honeymoon with Lionesses fans.

England looked disjointed in the third place play-off with Sweden, seeming to lack a game

plan, and the defeat marked a step backwards since the last World Cup. Neville did himself no favours by dismissing the match as “a nonsense”. Whether intended as such or not, this was an insult to the Lionesses of 2015, whose win in the corresponding match against Germany meant so much to the players involved and cemented that team in the hearts of the English sport-watching public. One can only imagine how the 2015 survivors in the 2019 squad felt about the manager's comments.

Neville's team and squad selections have left much to be desired. Lucy Bronze, widely considered the best right-back in the world, is frequently deployed by him as a midfielder. Leah Williamson, in the form of her life at Arsenal, rarely starts and is sometimes not played at all. Katie Zelem and Leah Galton, on fire at Man Utd, are ignored. And Neville has a long-standing penchant for selecting goalkeepers who are understudies at their clubs. If you're not first choice at your club you shouldn't be in the England picture.

It is now clear that appointing someone with scant managerial experience and no previous involvement in women's football was a mistake. And now Jill Ellis, an English coach and a double world champion, is available. The FA should be moving heaven and earth to replace Neville with her.

If Ellis as England manager made a decision I disagreed with I would unquestioningly accept it because I would have absolute faith in her as someone who knows what they are doing. Neville does not inspire that in me.

I seriously believe that if Neville remains in place for our home Euros in 2021 we will flop there. And then the English sporting public will give up on the Lionesses, and move on to the English team or individual that achieves success.

Phil Neville: Fan's view

IN (55%)

I guess I want Phil Neville to stay mainly because he's the first and only manager I've seen with the Lionesses. Yes the Lionesses have lost a few games recently but he got them to the semi-final of the World Cup. The players often describe him as a dad, so he must be doing something right. I think him putting Lucy Bronze in midfield was so he could plug the gap for Karen Carney retiring from the international game and also putting Jordan Nobbs back into midfield. Honestly I may just be being biased because he's the only person I've seen coach the Lionesses but he has achieved so much. Not only has he got them to the Women's World Cup semi-but he also helped them win the She Believes Cup so I don't think Neville is entirely to blame for their losses recently. I personally believe he's a great manager- Neville in.

What would the reason for sacking him? People fail to recognise the challenge of playing regular friendly fixtures is greater than qualifying fixtures against lower ranked sides.

There is no way will we get rid of Neville now. He was employed on a long-term strategy and he is going to be GB coach for Tokyo. He has brought in some great changes in the squad and whilst results haven't been good, we need to stick with him. I still believe he is the right man for the job.

England have been unlucky in some of their games this year but they are great to watch. Had some great performances in the WWC. Phil Neville must stay as manager.

I want Phil Neville to stay—he's only just begun with what he can achieve.

OUT (45%)

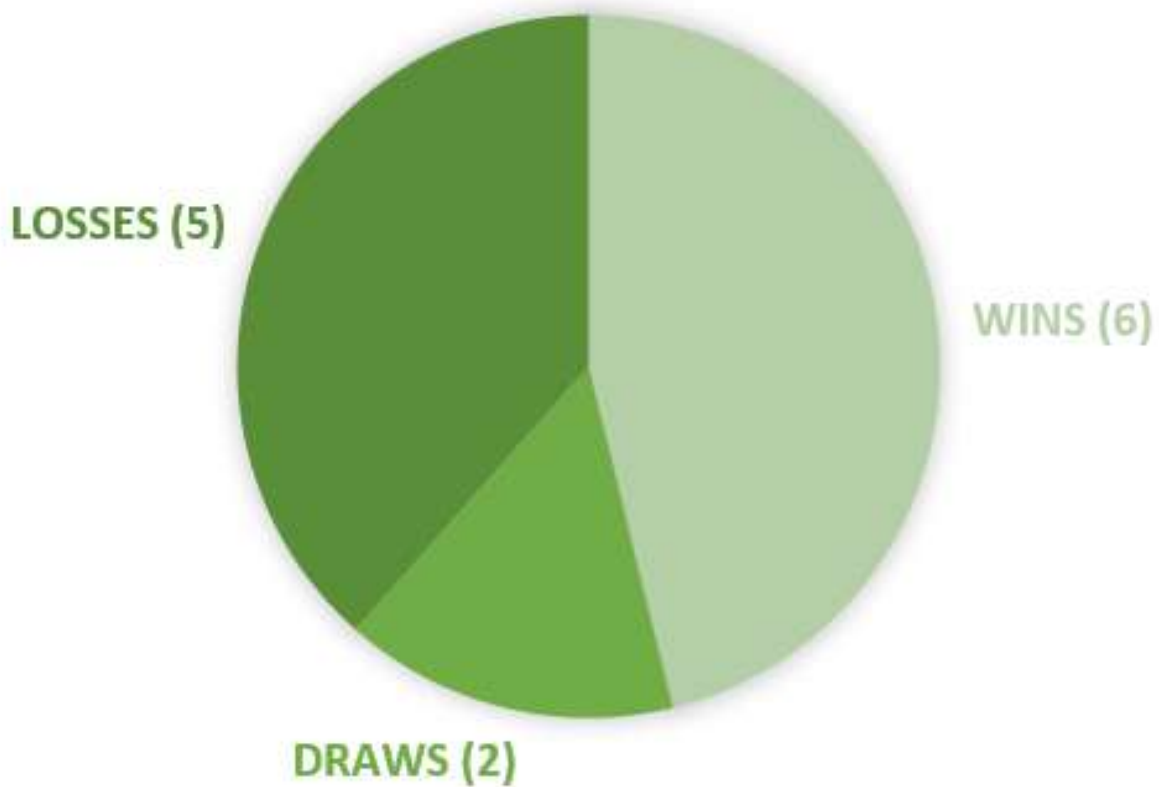
We have not moved forward as a team since 2015. Although Phil Neville has brought the Lionesses in to the limelight because of his name, we have lost the 5 out of the last 8 games. We only beat Portugal and Czech Republic who didn't even qualify for the Women's World Cup. We only beat Czech in the 86th minute of the game due to a deflection. It's good that he has brought exposure to the country's team, however as a team we are nowhere near as good enough as we were in 2015.

I think Phil Neville has had more than enough chances to put things right. He has played players out of their usual positions and this has effected the teams performance. Despite the reason why Mark Sampson was sacked , he was a good manager and the team were playing well. In the men's premier league, if a team isn't performing as it should be, the manager is often sacked. We have been surprised that this hasn't happened to Phil Neville. We feel that a female manager would suit the team best going forward. Hope Powell certainly was a manager who supporters will always remember as being a good manager. We would like to see a change being made in the future in respect of management and hope with the change, the team can get back to their winning ways again.

Surely Neville has to go? If he does not go now, we will be stuck with him and performances and decisions have not been good enough. He refused to admit there were problems until recently but it's too little too late for me. If we don't pounce for Jill Ellis now, we will regret it and be stuck with Neville for at least the next two years.



SCOTLAND IN 2019



Important moments:

- 5th in the Algarve Cup
- Game vs Jamaica at Hampden Park in front of record crowd - 18,555
 - Played in their first WWC
- Erin Cuthbert named Scotland Women's Player of the Year

Shelley Kerr receives honorary doctorate at the University of Stirling



Scotland boss Shelley Kerr has received an honorary doctorate at the University of Stirling. She was recognised for her outstanding contribution to women's football.

Kerr, who led Scotland to their first FIFA Women's World Cup earlier this year said: "It's a great honour to be the recipient of this award. My time at Stirling was one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences in my personal journey to date.

"The University prides itself in developing people, sporting excellence, equality and diversity and it was a privilege to be offered a unique opportunity to excel in academia and sport. The University's forward-thinking epitomises its core values – and I'm absolutely thrilled to be an ambassador for the students.

"This is a very special moment and humbling to be honoured at an educational establishment that has played a major role in my career development."



Eddie Wolecki Black: Manager leaves Celtic Women for 'new challenges'



Eddie Wolecki Black has stepped down as Celtic Women manager after two seasons in charge.

The former Glasgow City boss steered Celtic to successive third place finishes in the SWPL1.

"I have enjoyed my time immensely with the club and I wish the players and everyone at Celtic the very best for the future," he said in a statement.

"I am now looking forward to taking on some new challenges but will always make sure I follow the Celtic women's team. I hope the team can go on and achieve some great success in the future."

Mairead Fulton



Glasgow City have announced their first signing for the 2020 season.

Former Celtic and Keflavik player Mairead Fulton joins the SWPL1 side.

She told the official site: “I am delighted to be here. I wanted to play with the best team.

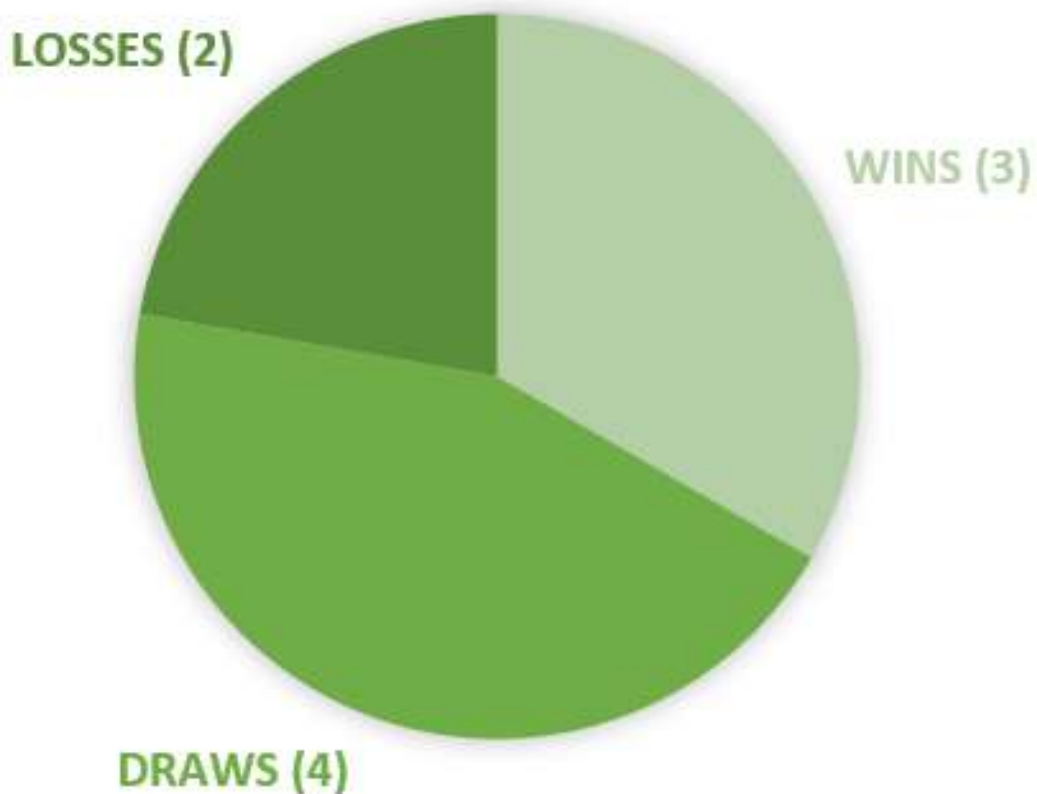
“I saw the standard straight away when I came in and I feel I really fit into this team.”

Head coach Scott Booth added: “It’s great to have Maddie on board at City.

“She really is a talented footballer and will fit right into our style.

“She’s hungry to succeed here and if she works as hard as she has so far she will become an important player for us.”

WALES IN 2019



Important moments:

- 15-year-old Carrie Jones makes her debut
- Boots becomes a partner of women's football in Wales
 - Jayne Ludlow receives an MBE

Llandudno Ladies withdraw from Welsh Premier Women's League



Llandudno Ladies FC have withdrawn from the Welsh Premier Women's League with immediate effect, leaving it without a north Wales team.

Llandudno say their decision was "hard" to make and their record for 2019-20 has been expunged.

Difficulties in recruiting and retaining players were cited as issues.

"No easy short-term solutions could be found to maintain the team's position for this season," league organisers said.

"Therefore Llandudno's resignation request has been accepted."

Eight teams remain in the competition with Swansea City Ladies currently top of the table, six points ahead of second-placed Cardiff City FC Women while Aberystwyth Town Ladies are winless at the bottom.

FA Wales Women's Cup quarter-final draw

The draw for the quarter-final has been made.

Swansea City v Rhyl/Bethel

Denbigh/Connah's Quay Nomads v Port Talbot

Llandendo v Abergavenny

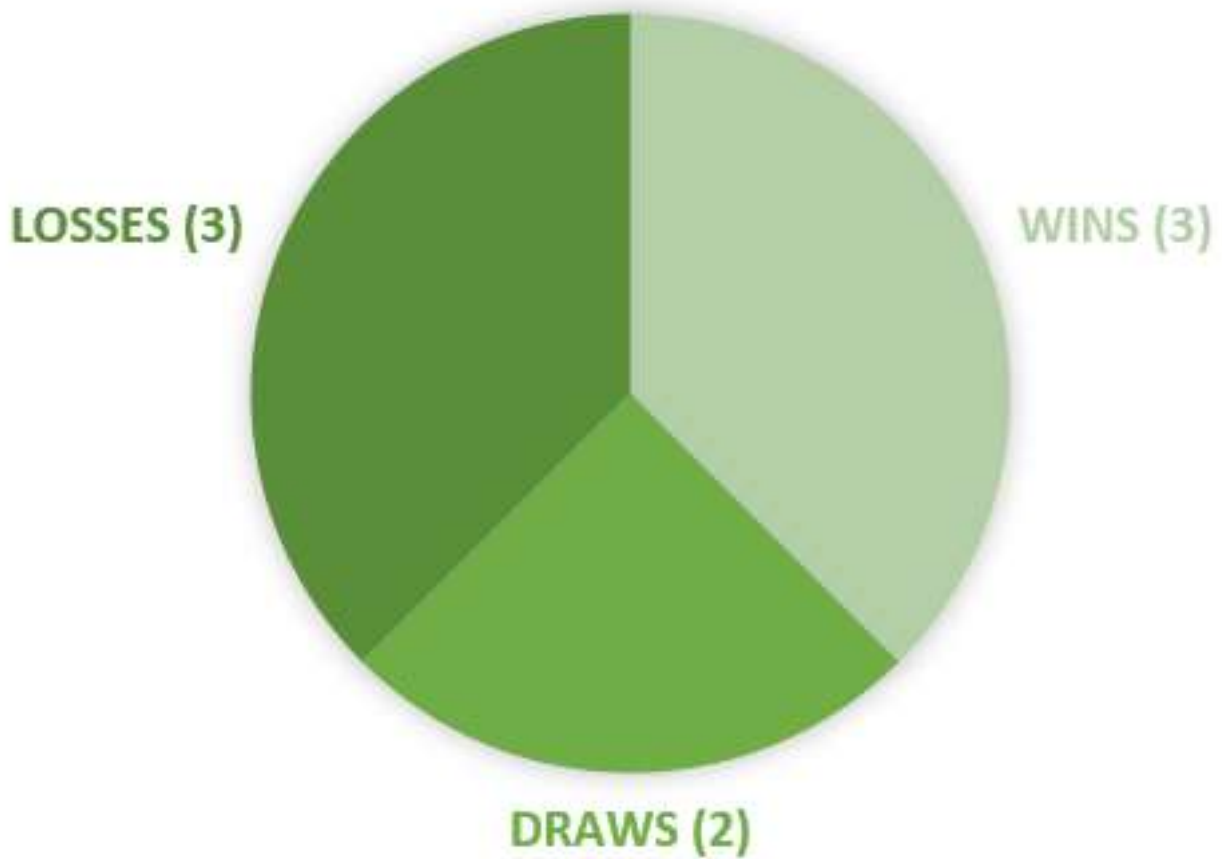
Cardiff City v Cardiff Met

Games will be played on Sunday, February 9.





NORTHERN IRELAND IN 2019



Important moments:

- Finish 3rd in the Turkish Cup
- Remain 56th in the FIFA rankings
- Boots sponsors NI, home nations and Ireland
- Ashley Hutton makes 100th Cap

2021 Championship chatter

Uefa confirm professional Euro 2021 schedule

Important info:

- England will kick off the tournament on July 7th (venue TBC) before playing their other 2 group games in Brighton and Southampton
- Group B games at MK Dons & Brentford
- Group C Bramall Lane & Leigh
- Group D Rotherham & CFA.



UEFA
WOMEN'S
EURO 2021
ENGLAND

Schedule

Match one

Wednesday 7 July: England v A2 (venue tbc)

Thursday 8 July: A3 v A4 (Southampton)

Friday 9 July: B1 v B2 (Milton Keynes), B3 v B4 (Brentford)

Saturday 10 July: C1 v C2 (Sheffield), C3 v C4 (Wigan & Leigh)

Sunday 11 July: D1 v D2 (Rotherham), D3 v D4 (Manchester)

Match two

Monday 12 July: England v A3 (Brighton & Hove), A2 v A4 (Southampton)

Tuesday 13 July: B1 v B3 (Brentford), B2 v B4 (Milton Keynes)

Wednesday 14 July: C1 v C3 (Wigan & Leigh), C2 v C4 (Sheffield)

Thursday 15 July: D1 v D3 (Manchester), D2 v D4 (Rotherham)

Match three

Friday 16 July: A4 v England (Southampton), A2 v A3 (Brighton & Hove)

Saturday 17 July: B4 v B1 (Milton Keynes), B2 v B3 (Brentford)

Sunday 18 July: C4 v C1 (Sheffield), C2 v C3 (Wigan & Leigh)

Monday 19 July: D4 v D1 (Rotherham), D2 v D3 (Manchester)

Knockout phase

Quarter-finals:

Wednesday 21 July: QF1 – Winner Group A v Runner-up Group B (Brighton & Hove)

Thursday 22 July: QF2 – Winner Group B v Runner-up Group A (Brentford)

Friday 23 July: QF3 – Winner Group C v Runner-up Group D (Wigan & Leigh)

Saturday 24 July: QF4 – Winner Group D v Runner-up Group C (Rotherham)

Semi-finals:

Tuesday 27 July: SF1 – Winner QF3 v Winner QF1 (Sheffield)

Wednesday 28 July: SF2 – Winner QF4 v Winner QF2 (Milton Keynes)

Saturday 1 August: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2 (Wembley)

2021 Championship groups

Group A									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Netherlands	6	6	0	0	28	3	25	18
2	Slovenia	5	2	0	3	14	10	4	6
3	Russia	3	2	0	1	5	2	3	6
4	Kosovo	3	2	0	1	4	6	-2	6
5	Estonia	4	0	1	3	1	13	-12	1
6	Turkey	5	0	1	4	1	19	-18	1

Group B									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Italy	6	6	0	0	19	2	17	18
2	Denmark	5	5	0	0	29	0	29	15
3	Bosnia &	5	3	0	2	12	6	6	9
4	Israel	4	0	1	3	4	10	-6	1
5	Malta	5	0	1	4	1	18	-17	1
6	Georgia	5	0	0	5	1	30	-29	0

Group C									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Norway	4	4	0	0	32	1	31	12
2	Wales	4	2	2	0	9	2	7	8
3	Belarus	3	1	0	2	7	8	-1	3
4	Northern	4	0	2	2	2	14	-12	2
5	Faroe	3	0	0	3	0	25	-25	0

Group D									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Spain	3	2	1	0	9	1	8	7
2	Czech	3	2	0	1	12	5	7	6
3	Moldova	2	1	0	1	3	8	-5	3
4	Poland	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
5	Azerbaijan	3	0	0	3	1	11	-10	0

Group E									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Finland	4	3	1	0	16	2	14	10
2	Scotland	2	2	0	0	13	0	13	6
3	Portugal	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
4	Cyprus	2	0	0	2	0	12	-12	0
5	Albania	4	0	0	4	1	17	-16	0

2021 Championship groups

Group F									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Sweden	3	3	0	0	16	1	15	9
2	Iceland	3	3	0	0	11	1	10	9
3	Hungary	4	1	1	2	5	9	-4	4
4	Slovakia	4	1	1	2	2	9	-7	4
5	Latvia	4	0	0	4	2	16	-14	0

Group G									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Austria	4	4	0	0	16	0	16	12
2	France	2	2	0	0	9	0	9	6
3	Serbia	4	2	0	2	9	7	2	6
4	North Macedonia	4	1	0	3	4	13	-9	3
5	Kazakhstan	4	0	0	4	1	19	-18	0

Group H									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Belgium	4	4	0	0	17	2	15	12
2	Switzerland	4	4	0	0	15	0	15	12
3	Romania	3	1	0	2	3	7	-4	3
4	Croatia	4	1	0	3	4	13	-9	3
5	Lithuania	5	0	0	5	1	18	-17	0

Group I									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Germany	4	4	0	0	31	0	31	12
2	Ireland	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
3	Greece	3	1	1	1	5	6	-1	4
4	Montenegro	3	0	0	3	0	16	-16	0
5	Ukraine	3	0	0	3	2	19	-17	0



FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019™ 

World Cup Watch

UEFA Women's Under-17 Euro 2020 draw

England, Scotland and Wales are all through to the elite round with the elite round draw taking place on November 29.

Group 1 (22–28 March): Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Belgium (hosts)

Group 2 (18–24 March): Hungary (hosts), Russia, Iceland, Romania

Group 3 (23–29 March): Republic of Ireland (hosts), Austria, Serbia, Denmark

Group 4 (14–20 March): Germany (holders), Netherlands (hosts), Scotland, Croatia

Group 5 (16–22 March): France, England (hosts), Slovakia, Wales

Group 6 (19–25 March): Spain, Portugal (hosts), Slovenia, Turkey

Group 7 (23–29 March): Norway (hosts), Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine



UEFA
UNDER-17
CHAMPIONSHIP

World Cup watch

Four countries have put in bids for the 2023 Women's World Cup.

Australia/New Zealand – joint bid

Proposed host cities: Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Newcastle, Launceston, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton, Dunedin

Brazil

Manaus, Recife, Brasilia, Salvador, Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre

Colombia

Barranquilla, Cartagena, Cucuta, Bucaramanga, Medellin, Manizales, Pereira, Bogota, Armenia, Cali

Japan

Sapporo, Sendai, Saitama, Tokyo, Toyota, Suita, Kobe, Kyoto

10 Best Moments of the Women's World Cup



By **Jess Chandok**

As we kick off a new decade, we felt compelled to look back at some of the most important moments of last year for the women's game. Being a World Cup year, we decided to bring you our top 10 moments from last summer's tournament in France.

1. United States Take Home Second Consecutive Title

With more titles than any other nation and as current holders after victory in Canada in 2015, the USWNT were hot favourites to lift the trophy for a fourth time. Despite the pressure on their shoulders, Jill Ellis' side were as impressive as ever, opening with a record 13-0 win over Thailand that included five goals from Alex Morgan, before sweeping aside Chile and Sweden to top Group F. Overcoming a more testing challenge in their round of 16 clash with Spain thanks to two penalties from Megan Rapinoe, they then came head to head with hosts France in an intense encounter where another Rapinoe double was enough to take

them through with a 2-1 victory. The machine rolled on as England were the next to suffer a 2-1 defeat in a dramatic game that had everything: a benched Rapinoe (not a problem when her replacement is Christen Press), an iconic Alex Morgan celebration, a late penalty miss and a red card.

The holders faced a resilient Netherlands team in the final but proved too strong in the second half as another Rapinoe penalty and a brilliant solo goal from Rose Lavelle saw them defend their rightful crown. Making headlines on and off the pitch, there's no doubt that they were the best team throughout the competition.

2. The Netherlands Impress From the Stands to the Pitch

Dutch fans turned France orange after travelling in their thousands to watch the defending European Champions' 1-0 win over New Zealand thanks to late heroics from substitute Jill Roord in Le Havre.

Their dedication was further rewarded with a little piece of history as star striker Vivianne Miedema became the country's all-time top scorer with a brace in their second group game against Cameroon. The 22-year-old now has a record 60 goals at international level. Bolstered by an impressive midfield trio of Jackie Groenen, Danielle van de Donk and Sherida Spitse, the Oranje Leeuwinnen went on an impressive winning run in only their second ever appearance in the competition. After overcoming a stubborn Sweden in extra-time during the semi-final thanks to a lovely Groenen goal; it looked as if they were destined to go all the way and add to their 2017 European title. Unfortunately for their fantastic supporters, they had to settle for second place after a clinical performance from the United States – but they are definitely a team to watch in upcoming tournaments.

3. The Rise of Megan Rapinoe



At 34 years old, it's likely that France 2019 was Megan Rapinoe's final World Cup with the United States – and she certainly made sure that it was one for the history books. Sporting bright pink hair, an iconic celebration and a swagger that, along with her passionate opinions on everything from

equal pay to the President; has made her a household name. The winger ended the tournament with her second winner's medal along with a long list of individual awards including World Cup Final Player of the Match, the Golden Ball and the Golden Boot after six goals and three assists. Although the record was equalled by compatriot Alex Morgan, Rapinoe had played less minutes – famously being kept on the bench for the semi-final win over England. Rapinoe won The Best FIFA Women's Player in September and has been using her heightened fame to advocate for the women's game and shine a light on issues such as gender discrimination.

4. Record Television Ratings

There was huge interest in last year's tournament, with increased investment and broadcasting. As well as the thousands of fans that travelled, there were more than 200 broadcasters in attendance with many games given prime-time slots on network television. In October, Fifa announced that a combined record 1.12 billion viewers tuned in to watch official broadcast coverage. The final drew an average live audience of 82.18 million and reached a total of 263.62 million unique viewers. In the UK, England's semi-final defeat to the United States attracted the highest peak UK television audience of the year so far with 11.7 million - setting a new record for women's football in the UK. That was 50.8% of the available audience, beating the previous best for a women's game of 7.6 million for England's quarter-final win over Norway.

5. Marta Inspires a Generation With Viral Speech

Competing in her fifth World Cup, Brazil striker Marta became the competition's all-time record goalscorer with her penalty against Italy that put them through to the last 16. The six-time World Player of the Year is now the all-time leading scorer at men's or women's finals with 17 goals and hopes to use her status to “push for more

as “...there’s not going to be a Marta forever. There’s not going to be a Cristiane. The women’s game depends on you to survive...Cry in the beginning so you can smile in the end.”



6. Ellen White Shines Bright

Ellen White was one of the tournament's stars last summer, capturing the hearts of the nation with her signature glasses celebration and six goals (that could have been seven had VAR not chalked off her equaliser in the semi-final!) Phil Neville has since praised White for changing her game and running less so that she could be closer to the box to convert chances. Begrudgingly, White agrees that Neville was right and it paid off as she bagged the Bronze Golden Boot. The standout performance by England was their quarter-final against Norway where White scored to become England's all-time leading goalscorer at Women's World Cups. After England's disappointing exit, she tweeted: 'When I look back on this tournament, my overriding emotion is that of pride! Pride in this Lionesses team and playing for my

country.'

7. Argentina Shock Scotland

Ranked 37th going into the World Cup, few expected Argentina to gain anything from their group made up of England, Scotland and former Champions Japan. Back in 2016, the country effectively had no women's team. After missing out on qualification for the 2015 World Cup, they lost all of their funding from the Argentine Football Association (AFA) and were virtually disbanded. Prior to that, they had reached two World Cups (2003 & 2007), but had lost all six group games conceding 31 goals. This time around they managed a 0-0 draw in their opener against the 2011 winners before a narrow 1-0 defeat to England. In their final group game, Argentina made a stunning comeback from 3-0 down with 20 minutes to go to draw 3-3 with Scotland at the Parc des Princes. Unfortunately the result wasn't enough to keep either side in the competition but the 94th minute VAR penalty controversy certainly made it one of the most entertaining group games for the neutral.



8. Lucy Bronze's Thunderbolt Against Norway

As a defender, Lucy Bronze is not a known goalscorer but when she does score them, she tends to do so in spectacular style and her strike that put England 3-0 up in their quarter-final against Norway was no different. Bronze's rocket from the edge of the area came first time from a set piece from Beth Mead and it was apparently a move that the Lionesses had been practising in training – although it was supposed to be Keira Walsh with the shot! It was rightly nominated as one of the goals of the tournament.



9. Cameroon Qualify For Last 16

Cameroon left it late – to the very last kick of the game in fact; to qualify for the last 16. Ajara Nchout opened the scoring in their final group game against New Zealand before an own goal from Aurelle Awona levelled for the Football Ferns in the 80th minute. Needing a win, Nchout stepped up once more, this time in the 95th minute with a cool finish to send her side through

as one of the four best third-placed teams and set up a clash with England in the round of 16.



10. Thailand Bounce Back From Heavy USA Defeat

After a gruelling tournament record 13-0 defeat to the holders USA, Thailand delighted their travelling supporters when they scored a consolation goal in their second group game against Sweden. In some of the most emotional scenes we saw during the summer, captain Kanjana Sung-Ngoen was mobbed after her 91st minute strike as the coaching staff cried tears of joy on the bench. While it may be seen as such a small step for some, for a country that only had 1,000 registered female players four years ago – a goal against a team ranked so much higher than them certainly gives them something to build on.





AROUND THE WORLD



JP JOERDELI PHOTOGRAPHY
© Daniela Porcelli

THE **WOMEN'S**
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE





News from around the world

Eni Aluko leaves Juventus



Former England striker Eni Aluko has announced that she will be leaving Juventus in December.

The 32-year-old has been at the Serie A club for 18 months after joining from Chelsea.

It is thought she will be moving to a WSL club after hinting so to the Guardian.

During her time at Juventus, the striker has lifted the Serie A trophy, the Coppa Italia trophy and recently she was part of the team to win the Italian Supercoppa.

Taking to the Juventus site, she wrote: I have come to the difficult decision to leave Juventus in December and I want to share some words from my heart.

"After winning the Supercoppa recently, I felt a sense of great completion with my time at Juventus, after also winning the Coppa Italia and Scudetto.

"I feel very fortunate to have achieved such success with all of you in my 18 months at the club.

"My heart is full to know that I have added three trophies at a special club as Juventus with special memories. I thank you all so much for this."

Aluko's final game was on November 30 against title rivals Fiorentina.

Julie Ertz named US Soccer Female Player of the Year

USA and Chicago Red Stars midfielder Julie Ertz has been voted USA Soccer's 2019 Female Athlete of the year.

It is the second time the 27-year-old won the award after she won in 2017.

Ertz received 42 percent of the votes to finish ahead of fellow nominees Rapinoe, Alyssa Naeher, Alex Morgan, Rose Lavelle and Carli Lloyd.

"All of my teammates just had such an amazing year, and we all know it takes an entire team to win a World Cup or have a successful club season.

"We are all a sum of the people around us, so I want to especially thank [my husband] Zach and my family, all my coaches for the national team and the Red Stars, and all my teammates for their never-ending support.

"It's emotional to be recognized in this way, and it's a cherry on top of a beautiful 2019. It's incredible."





News from around the world

Christine Sinclair honoured as Canadian soccer player of the decade

Christine Sinclair has been named the Canadian soccer player of the decade.

In a statement from CSA says Sinclair, 36, is awarded the honour for "an unparalleled 10 years of world-class performances in which she continued to build a legacy as of one of Canada's greatest athletes of all time."

"Christine Sinclair is a once-in-a-generation athlete that has been at the heart of Canadian sport for over 20 years, but what she accomplished in the past 10 years has changed the sport forever in our country," Canada Soccer president Steven Reed said in a statement.

Sinclair won Canada Soccer's female player of the year award seven times in the past decade, and seven times as well from 2000-09.

Toni Duggan injury

Toni Duggan has suffered a muscle injury in her right leg.

The Atletico Madrid midfielder has undergone medical tests but no further information has been provided.

Changes in Serie A

The budget committee of the Senato della Repubblica, a house of the Italian parliament, has passed a new law allowing for women's soccer in the country to be fully professionalised for the first time.

The ruling removes the current salary cap and allows teams in Serie A Femminile, the top flight of women's soccer in Italy, to pay their players a higher wage.

According to L Football, the senate has allocated €11 million (US\$12 million) over the next three years to allow semi-professional clubs to make the transition.

Up until now, players in Serie A Femminile have earned just €60 (US\$67) per week and a match bonus of €77 (US\$86).

Katia Serra, spokesperson for the Italian Players' Association (AIC), told L Football: "We are very happy. Now the alibi that professionalism is too expensive no longer works."

"The €11 million allocated are a sufficient fund for the necessary economic coverage. This is only a first step, fundamental to building professionalism together with the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) and all the federations interested in finally giving equal treatment to women athletes."

The new law will come into play in January 2020, although most changes will likely be made over the summer. (SportsProMedia)



What's to come in 2020?

JANUARY

Dec 27—Jan 27: Transfer window

Jan 5: FA Cup Third Round Proper

Jan 15/16: Continental League Cup quarter-finals

Jan 26: FA Cup Fourth Round Proper (WSL and Championship sides join)

Jan 29/30: Continental League Cup semi-finals

FEBRUARY

Feb 16: FA Cup Fifth Round Proper

Feb 29: Conti Cup Final (subject to broadcast), venue TBC

MARCH

TBC: SheBelieves Cup

March 5-11: Euro 2021 group stage qualifying round 4

March 15: FA Cup Quarter Final

March 24/25 : Champions League quarter-final first leg

APRIL

April 1/2: Champions League quarter-final second leg

April 9-14: Euro 2021 group stage qualifying round 5

April 9: Cyprus v Scotland

April 10: Wales v Faroe Islands

April 14: Scotland v Portugal

April 14: Wales v Norway

April 14: Belarus v NI

April 19: FA Cup Semi-Final

April 25/26: Champions League semi-final first leg

April 26: Final day of the 2019/20 Women's Championship season

TBC: FA WNL Cup final

TBC: FA WNL Plate final

MAY

May 2/3: Champions League semi-final second leg

May 9: FA Cup final, Wembley

May 10: National League Northern/Southern Premier 2019/20 season final day

May 10: Division One Midlands/North/South East/South West 2019/20 season final day

May 16: Final day of the 2019/2020 Women's Super League

May 24: Champions League final, Viola Park, Vienna

TBC: UEFA Women's Under-17 Euro 2020, Faroe Islands

JUNE

June 3-9: Euro 2021 group stage qualifying round 6

June 5: Scotland v Albania

June 5: NI v Belarus

June 9: Finland v Scotland

June 9: Wales v Belarus

June 9: NI v Faroe Islands

JULY

July 22-Aug 7: Tokyo Olympics

AUGUST

Aug 7: Olympic gold medal match

SEPTEMBER

Sept 6-22: Euro 2021 group stage qualifying round 8

Sept 18: Portugal v Scotland

Sept 18: Faroe Islands v NI

Sept 22: Scotland v Finland

Sept 22: Norway v Wales

Sept 25: Euro 2021 play-off draw, Nyon

OCTOBER

Oct 19-27: 2021 Play-offs (two legs)

NOVEMBER

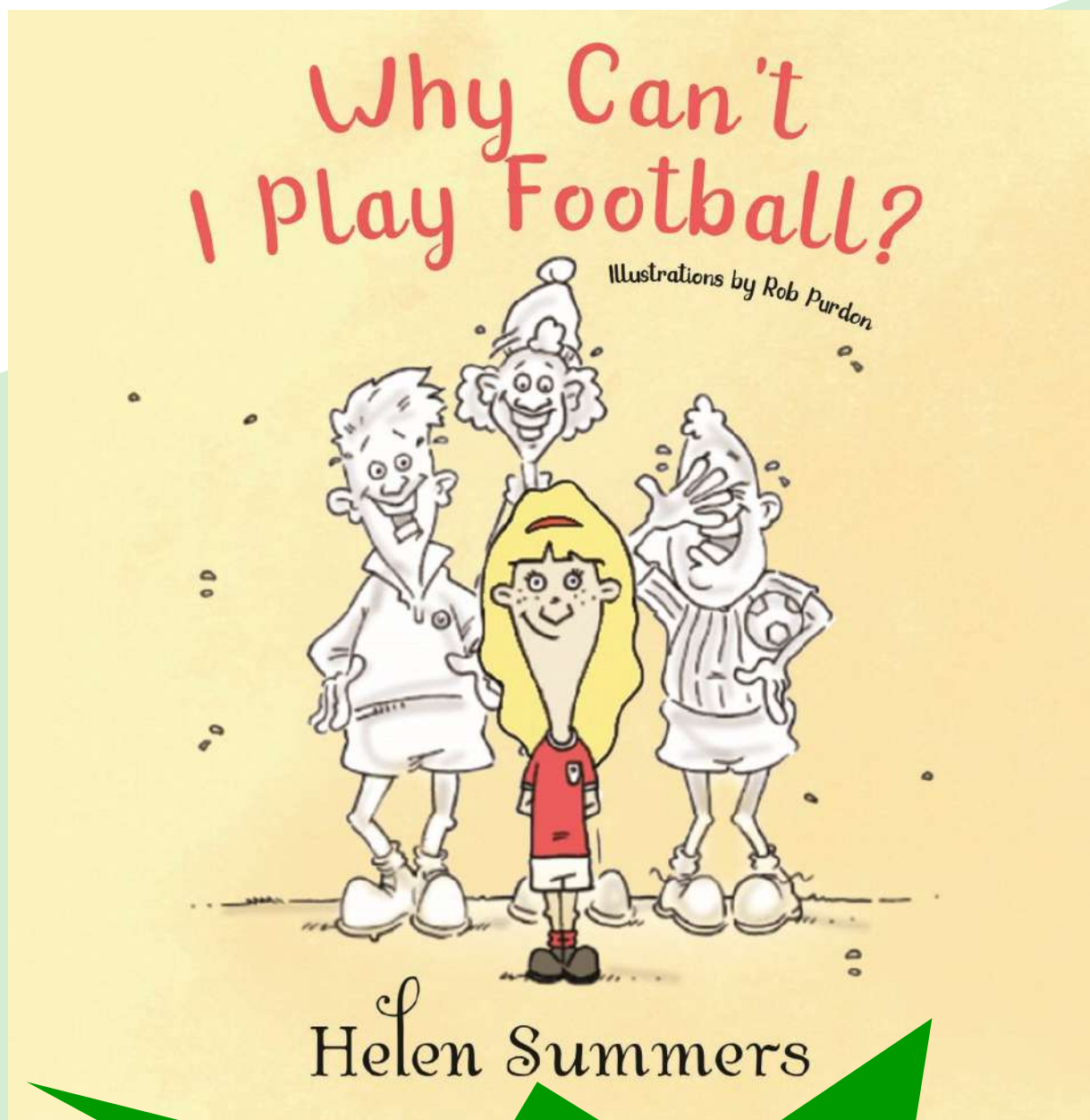
Events to be confirmed

DECEMBER

Events to be confirmed

**THE WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK OUT NOW



£5.99

Available at Amazon, Waterstones and
all good bookshops

**THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**