

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



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EURO SPECIAL

ISSUE 3

Welcome

Contributors

Editor: Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Articles:
Jessica Pratt
Katy Sandalls
FA

Pictures:
Chloe Leadbeater
PA Images
Sophie Baggaley

Website Designer:
Will Ibbetson

Marketing Manager:
Anthony Summers

Twitter:
@womensfootiemag
Facebook:
thewomensfootiemag
Subscribe to our magazine:
www.thewomensfootballmagazine.com

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Welcome and About My Month

Welcome to the new issue of The Women's Football Magazine.

The countdown for the Euros is well and truly on and both the England and Scotland squads are in full preparation ahead of the competition.

A full list of all the games and key dates for the Euros can be found later in the issue so you can keep a tab of how the sides are doing.

Tweet us or send us a message on our Facebook page to show us how you are preparing for the Euros and the best pictures and tweets will be included in next month's issue.

Here at WFM, we were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Bradley Lowery. The 6-year-old has lit up the footballing world with his beautiful smile and he will be missed by many. Our thoughts go out to all those who knew him. If you would like to donate to the charity set up by his family then please follow the link below.

Helen Rowe-Willcocks
Editor

<https://bradleylowerysfight.org.uk/>





About My Month

Each month I write this section saying how busy the month has been here at WFM.

We are well and truly getting in the mood for the Euros and are on full count down.

This month I had the great pleasure of attending the U11 Girls Independent Schools National Cup which was held at St. George's Park. It was a great day out and a fantastic experience for all the girls involved. Before the competition started the 12 clubs who reached the finals had the chance to watch the Lionesses squad who were training in the grounds. It is certainly something they will never forget.

Congratulations to Royal Russell on your win and a huge well done to all those who took part, especially the girls from AKS in Lytham. The school holds a special place in my heart as it was where I went from the age of 4 and where I first got to play football!

This month I also visited Dan who is part of the FA Marketing team. They have some great ideas and initiatives in the months ahead. Look out for the #salute campaign which is launching on July 10.

We've welcomed another new member to the team. Welcome to Phil Brooke who joins as Graphic Designer.

Helen x

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The Big Story: Euro 2017



By Helen Rowe-
Willcocks

J JILL SCOTT

"This is the most prepared we have felt before a tournament - we have no excuses."

@womensfootiemag



With over 100 appearances under her belt for England, Jill Scott is easily one of the most dependable players in the squad.

10 years after competing in her first major tournament for her country, the Manchester City Women midfielder, is anxiously waiting for the chance to get the England's campaign underway.

With one day before the opening match against Scotland, the 30-year-old chatted to our editor Helen about how preparations ahead of the tournament have changed from when she first got in the game.

With manager Mark Sampson announcing the squad in April, there have been plenty of opportunities for the girls to bond and gel and Scott believes it is the most prepared they have ever been.



Training for the Euros has been seen you travelling to lots of different places, how has the preparation been?

It has been a great preparation. Obviously having the facilities at St. Georges Park, we were very lucky there and we got a great few weeks training. From there we got the opportunity to go to Valencia, which was a great experience at couple of weeks ago. We got to train in the heat and it also gave us chance to do a bit of team building. Mark is very big on us being a together team and I think that week away really helped us with that. I really feel that we are probably the best prepared team going into this tournament.

How quickly did the squad gel together?

We are used to [the change of going from rivals to teammates]. We have all played against each other now. The

Spring Series was great to get to carry on playing and when you play against each other for those 90 minutes you are not friends for that time but as soon as we meet up for camp we leave that behind and switch on to the task ahead. The girls are really good at doing that, a lot of us have been doing that for well over 10 years now so it is something that comes as second nature really.

How much change have you seen in the England camp in the 10 years you have been part of the squad?

There has been a massive change. My first tournament was 2007, which is 10 years ago now. At that time, I remember getting a lot of individual programmes sent through and you were kind of trusted to go off and do a lot of training on your own which was difficult. You got the physical demands out of that training session but there was not much team stuff whereas now the opportunities to warm up as a team four, five weeks before the tournament is brilliant. That's why I think we are the best prepared. It is no bad words against the environment before it is just the difference with us being all full-time footballers; the opportunities are now there for us to get together more often. It puts in a better place individual.

How much have you seen in the promotion ahead of Euro 2017 compared to the World Cup in 2015?

It has been amazing. I watched a video before with Ian Wright, Michael Owen, Andy Murray all talking about the competition. Little things like that would never have happened 10 years ago so there has been a lot of promotion around it. . We have seen



how well the other England men's teams have done recently as well. That is going to spur us on. I feel like it has left us with no excuses. The staff have us so well prepared. The media is out there, it is so well promoted. There is such an excitement and buzz around the team, we just want to get going and playing football.

The squad went to Kensington Palace to meet Prince William before heading out to the Netherlands, how was that as a final send-off?

That was fantastic. Prince William has always been so supportive. I think sometimes people think when they do things like that it is because they have to tick boxes but in Canada he kept in touch with us through the whole of the

of the World Cup. He even rang the squad on loud speaker a one point! Going to Kensington Palace, it really made the squad feel like they were starting the competition now. It just made it feel a little bit more real.

How has it been watching the first games, are you getting excited about the first game against Scotland?

Yeah it is getting the team all excited. We want to be part of it now. We have watched the opening games on TV but because you are not actually at the games, it just makes you want to get involved. We just want to get out there and play. The place we are staying is lovely, we have been quite chilled in our off time which has been really useful.

"Prince William has always been so supportive. In Canada he kept in touch with us through the whole of the World Cup. He even rang the squad on loud speaker a one point!"

What are your day preparations ahead of an evening kick-off?

This could be the latest game I have played in! Apart from maybe Champions League. It is 7.45 at home but it is 8.45 here. I made a joke yesterday that I am usually in bed by that point! I like the fact that Mark gives us a free day on match days, which is always good. In the past we have had a lot of meetings and things and it means that people can't compare as much as they want to. We will get up, go for a walk and then I will probably have a bit of a nap in the afternoon.

As an experienced player, have you been helping some of the younger members of the squad prepare?

We have a number of players like Farah Williams – she has played over 160 times now – so they experience is very wealthy in the squad. The younger players know that any questions they need answering we are always there to help with advice. I think there is a real confidence about the younger players, there is an added incentive of getting more games under our belt.



Jill Scott Factfile:

Nickname: Jilly
Position: Midfielder
Club: Manchester City Women

Current England Appearances (before Euros): 112
England goals: 18
Lionesses debut: v Netherlands 31/08/2006

Right or left footed?
Right

ONES TO WATCH



By Jessica Pratt

Any fan of international football will tell you that the European Championships are one of those tournaments you wait agonisingly for after each one goes by. There's just something about seeing the world's best go head to head with one another that fills you with excitement. Teammates from the same clubs become rivals, underdogs take down giants and players from across Europe put on a show to remind us of the reasons we fell in love with the sport to begin with.

With the number of countries competing rising from 12 in 2013 to 16 this time around, there will be 31 matches played in the Netherlands over the next three weeks, which means spectators are almost guaranteed some top quality entertainment. There will no doubt be heroes, villains, contentious decisions, moments of magic, grudge matches, surprises and come Sunday 6th August; champions.

With the Euros in mind I've been keeping a watchful eye on some of the players I expect to light up the tournament this year. I will kick things off with Group D and our Lionesses, who recently edged past Denmark 2-1 in their final warm up friendly before their opener against Scotland in Utrecht.

Group D

ENGLAND



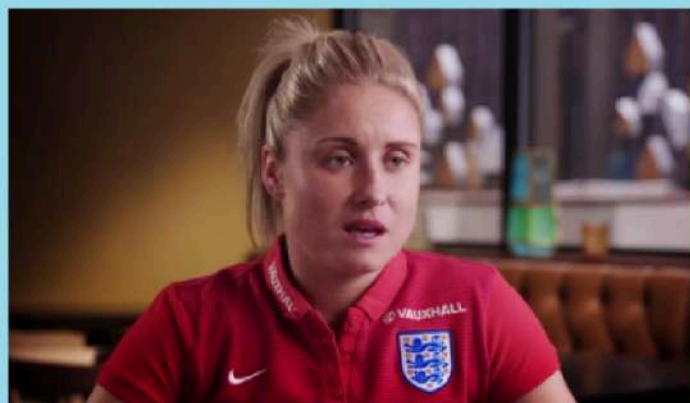
It was a tough decision to pick just one standout player and whilst it is standard procedure to choose an attacking player in these situations, I am going to do the opposite and go with Lucy Bronze. The Manchester City right back has long proved to be an asset in attack as well as defence for both club and country. There's a reason Mark Sampson has named Bronze the best right back in the world, she has cemented herself as one of the first names on the team sheet and is consistently reliable. I struggle to think of another player as good as her in her position and I believe her determined runs, defensive acumen and ability to read the game will be key to England matching up to some of Europe's best teams.

SCOTLAND



Scotland are one of several teams to make their debut in the competition but they haven't had the easiest of preparations as they have suffered some key losses prior to the tournament with injuries ruling out Jen Beattie, Lizzie Arnot and the formidable Kim Little, who was BBC Women's Footballer of the Year in 2016. That is not to say Scotland don't have any other talented players to call on, I expect Liverpool's Caroline Weir to be a threat with her set piece deliveries and Manchester City's Jane Ross, who netted ten goals in the qualifying rounds, will surely be a handful in front of goal.

16 countries, 16 interviews



Steph Houghton, England



Kim Little, Scotland

Five countries are making their debut in the EURO this year. Does that show how the game is expanding and improving?

I think it's great that there are five more teams that are making their debut in the European Championship. I think that's what we strived to do: to make many good football teams around Europe. And for us as footballers, you want as much competition as you possibly can.

So the addition of those five teams, it's great to see how much they've improved and how much people have invested into trying to make women's football in each country as good as it can be.

How does it feel to be representing Scotland in their very first final tournament?

"I have been involved with Scotland for about ten years now, in the national team.

"I've played a lot of campaigns, so to be able to head to the EUROs, a competitive tournament, Scotland's first. That kind of excitement is just wow. Yeah, I'm just looking forward to it really."

Group D

SPAIN



Spain's final warm up match for the tournament was a 7-0 hammering of Belgium, a clear sign that they have talent in all areas of the pitch. However, when their squad was announced we were all shocked at the omission of their dynamic veteran Verónica Boquete, who captained the side in the 2015 World Cup. With Sonia Bermúdez also missing, it seems manager Jorge Vilder has opted for youth over experience. Of the players that have been picked, look out for striker Jenni Hermoso who matched Lionel Messi's 33 goals domestically last term with Barcelona and has recently completed a move to PSG.

PORTUGAL



The lowest ranked side in the competition will need to pull off something special if they are to get out of the group in their first appearance in the championship but whilst they have no player to match Cristiano Ronaldo's scoring record, Captain Cláudia Neto has the experience to impact the midfield. Portugal have plenty of experience of facing top European sides from hosting the annual Algarve Cup each March, but it remains to be seen whether this experience will translate into results that could make their debut in the competition a memorable one.

16 countries, 16 interviews



Marta Torrejon, Spain

How have things improved since you started playing football?

They've improved a lot. I started playing when I was 7 years old and everything has changed so much from then until now, where I'm 27. Women's football used to be unimaginable. When I started playing, I didn't know it would come this far.

I hope that the future for the next generation of girls who want to play will be even better.



Claudia Neto, Portugal

How important is it that you can come back and inspire kids, girls, to take up football?

I think it is important for young girls to have people to look up to, such as myself or other members of the national team. We have to be good role models and show them the way. I think we, the older players, need to help their development through education and setting a good example, so that they can also prosper not only in the national team and at club level, but also in their lives.

Group C

FRANCE



FÉMININE

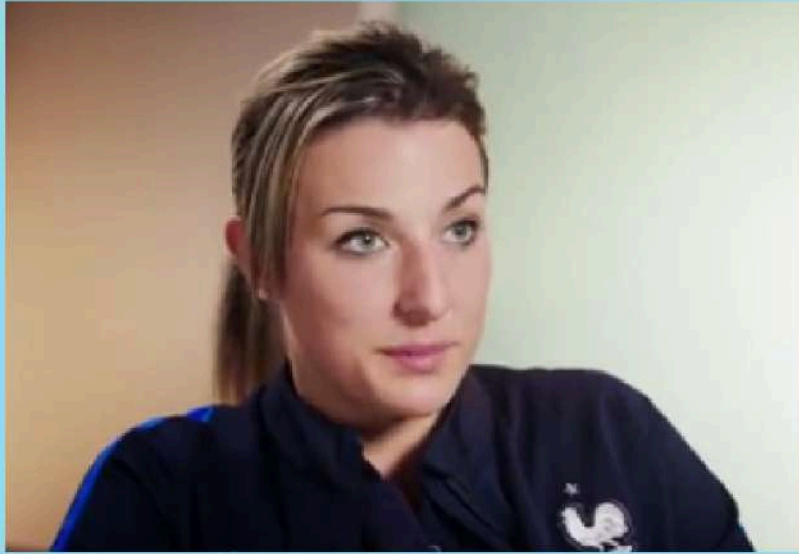
Once again the French go into this tournament as one of the favourites, after winning all of their qualifying matches and conceding no goals in the process. There are high hopes for France to finally realise their full potential on the international stage, especially after their She Believes Cup victory back in March. That piece of silverware could be vital in giving the team confidence and helping them to change their mentality, which has been one of their main weaknesses in the past. I have no doubt that Olivier Echouafni has a talented squad at his disposal that can mount a serious challenge in this year's Euros. France will be without their key playmaker Louisa Nécib for the first time in a major tournament since she retired last August but they have plenty of cover in the classy midfielder Camille Abily, who will undoubtedly chip in with some vital goals and assists. My one to watch for Les Bleues would have to be Eugénie Le Sommer. The experienced striker has taken criticism in the past for going missing in big games but having finished her club season with Lyon as joint top goalscorer in the league alongside teammate Ada Hegerberg, I feel she has the form and the ability to help France get over their past disappointments in the competition.

ICELAND



Compared with some of the other teams in the competition, Iceland are relatively inexperienced in major tournaments but they did make the quarter finals four years ago and have looked impressive in their qualifying matches. Unfortunately, their Captain and current top goalscorer Margrét Lára Viðarsdóttir was ruled out of the tournament with the same cruciate ligament injury that sidelined her sister Elisa and winger Dóra María Lárusdóttir. It will be a monumental loss for the team and they will have to look to the likes of energetic stand-in Captain and Wolfsburg midfielder Sara Björk Gunnarsdóttir for inspiration.

16 countries, 16 interviews



Claire Lavogez - France

There's a group of supporters getting organised to come and follow the team. That's new. It must feel really good that people are getting together to come and support you, right?

Yes, and that's where you can see the evolution of women's football. Having people behind us, supporting us, feeling people loving us is really important. We know that there are a lot of people who like women's football in France, and we're always thrilled to see them in the stadiums.



Dagný Brynjarsdóttir, Iceland

Five countries will be making their debut at the EURO this year. Does that show how the game is expanding and improving?

Yes, I think that shows how much European football has improved. The nations that have not been as good are stepping up, and the fact that all the teams are getting better is good for women's football all over the world.

I think the matches will get more interesting and more evenly contested and it will be great for women's football to have more strong nations.

Group C

AUSTRIA



Making their major tournament debut, Austria have proved that persistence pays off. Having narrowly missed out in the 2013 play-offs, Dominik Thalhammer's side qualified as runners up in their group this time and have made great strides in closing the gap between themselves and Europe's elite. They won the Cyprus Cup in 2016 and proved they could play with the best back in October when they came from 2-0 down to draw level with Germany, although the match eventually ended in a 4-2 victory for the European Champions. Their prolific number 10 Nina Burger scored in that game and will help lead the line for Austria in the Netherlands.

SWITZERLAND



The Swiss are another side making their debut in the competition and are in good form having gone unbeaten in their qualifying games. They are strong in both attack and defence with experienced players in key areas. Chelsea's joint-second top scorer in the WSL Spring Series Ramona Bachmann has the potential to provide the spark up front. Of the five teams making their debut Euros appearance this year, Switzerland are the best ranked according to Fifa and I believe they could be the team to provide the biggest shock in the competition.

16 countries, 16 interviews



Carina Wenninger, Austria

How has women's football in Austria developed?

Women's football in Austria has developed in a really good way, we have a promising mix of young players. It has taken a little bit longer in Austria for that process to happen. There's a national centre in Austria for women's football, which is producing a lot of great young players. I think that the combination with the veterans that we have make up a great national team and that is now being reflected in our performances.



Ramona Bachmann, Switzerland

How do you think people will look back on Women's EURO 2017?

I think people will view the EURO as a game-changing event, illustrating the growing attention captured by women's football, with more sponsors starting to invest and the media starting to cover women's football more. Hopefully they will also be looking back on a Swiss victory!
I definitely see great progress.

Group B

GERMANY



It is no surprise that the current holders and most successful team in the Euros, with an unprecedented eight titles, have an array of talent at their disposal. Even with injuries ruling out key players like Alex Popp, Simone Laudehr and Melanie Leupolz, it is a challenge to choose just one member of their talented squad as a standout performer. As I watch the French league regularly I have chosen Captain Dzsenifer Marozsán, who has had a fantastic first season with treble winners Lyon. She will be a handful for any midfielder who comes up against her as she poses a huge threat with her long-range shots and can cause mayhem with her set pieces. The Germans have won every European championship bar one since 1989 and I feel the key to stopping them making it seven consecutive Euro wins could be keeping Marozsán quiet.

SWEDEN



The Olympic Silver Medallists and hosts of 2013's tournament have reached the quarter finals in their last six appearances at the European Championships and they finished in third place last time around as they were cheered on in their home country. They have been given a tough draw having Germany in their group but I believe their squad is capable of building on the success of their last campaign. I think their wide players Olivia Schough and Kosovare Asllani will be a danger to many defences and will provide plenty of chances for my player to watch Lotta Schelin, who is the nation's sweetheart and all-time top scorer.

16 countries, 16 interviews



Anja Mittag - Germany

How will this tournament be received in the Netherlands?

I hope there'll be interest because Holland is a football-crazy country. They've produced some excellent football, and in the women's game too. So, I hope they'll support their country, and maybe other countries as well, and that they'll go to the stadiums and watch the games. Hopefully, they'll see some good women's football.



Lotta Schelin - Sweden

How important is it to inspire girls who are coming through, and who are going to be the next generation?

It's always important. It's what we are doing both in our work at club level and for our country. Then when a tournament comes around, that offers a great opportunity to showcase football at its best and boost interest. That is when we get to be role models, which is important for young girls. They need to know that they can achieve that as well.

Group B

ITALY



It is difficult to judge how well Italy will fare in the tournament. They have qualified for the Euros a joint-record 11 times (with Norway) and have regularly made it past the group stages. However, their form in the qualifying rounds wasn't too impressive, where they suffered home and away defeats to Switzerland. It does not help that the Azzurre are in one of the toughest groups but they will be able to call upon some talented players including the experienced Melania Gabbiadini, a quick and technical forward who has been voted the Serie A Footballer of the Year on four occasions.

RUSSIA



One of the lower ranking teams, Russia have failed to make it out of the group stage in their past four appearances in the Euros. The team boasts talents from their 2005 Under-19 winning Euros team, but they have failed to build on that triumph in recent years. Elena Danilova may be a vital player in the group stages for Russia, the experienced forward recently spearheaded a victory against Serbia in one of their pre-Euros friendlies with a hat-trick that saw the team come from behind to win 5-3.

16 countries, 16 interviews



Sara Gama - Italy



Elena Morozova - Russia

What would you like this tournament to be remembered for?

I've read some reports about what happened in Sweden in 2013 – how many TV channels broadcast the matches, how many people bought tickets. I hope those figures will increase, and I hope the impact of this tournament on social media will be so positive that it can actually have an impact in our country.

What's the perception of women's football in Russia?

People still get surprised, some people don't even know a sport like that exists in our country. A very small number of people attend the games – 100 people maximum – and that's almost nothing, compared to the thousands in Germany, Sweden.

We need to find coaches, and train them. We need to get young girls together, get them interested. And we need to invest in development.

Group A

NETHERLANDS



The hosts will be hoping to replicate the form from their debut in the competition back in 2009, where they reached the semi-finals with some fierce defensive displays. They struggled to follow that up in 2013 as they went out at the group stage but having the tournament played on home soil should give them a boost. Without the burden of qualification, they have played a number of international friendlies in recent months. Their results have been mixed with a 7-0 win over Scotland in October being the highlight. Keep a lookout for young striker Vivianne Miedema, who was part of the U19 Euros winning squad in 2014 and signed for Arsenal back in May after a prolific season with Bayern Munich.

NORWAY



Norway constantly exceed expectations in European Championships, having appeared in six finals in the past and winning the tournament twice back in the 80s and 90s. More recently, the team have appeared in two finals and one semi-final in the past three tournaments. They certainly have the personnel to continue their rise in the women's game, with current UEFA Best Women's Player in Europe winner Ada Hegerberg leading the line. The formidable Lyon striker joins her sister Andrine in a squad that is looking to go one step further than their second place finish four years ago.

16 countries, 16 interviews



**Vivianne Miedema -
Netherlands**

What do you think should be done to promote the women's game more, to improve it and take it to the next level?

I think there should be even more promotion, also in the Netherlands. I think it should be on TV more and there should be bigger sponsors and, of course, we should play attractive football. We have an important role to play – we need to make people want to come back and watch us again.



**Andrine Hegerberg -
Norway**

What still needs to improve in women's football, to get better and better?

Yes, areas of improvement are always a bit hard, because ... who has responsibility, and stuff? In England, some clubs have great facilities, staff, knowledge and stuff like that, which gives the players the opportunity to develop. There's a big responsibility on us players to actually develop and increase the interest in the sport. That's why I think this EURO could be a brilliant opportunity for that.

Group A

DENMARK



Looking to build on their successful run last time around, where they caused a huge upset by knocking out France to reach the semi-finals, Denmark are another side that will go into the competition full of confidence. Watch out for their number 10 Pernille Harder, a consistent goalscorer who completed a move to Wolfsburg in January and has won the Danish Football Player of the Year for the past two years running.

BELGIUM



Another team making their debut in the European Championships, Belgium secured qualification as comfortable runners up from their group where they showed promise, especially when they held England to a draw at home. Tessa Wullaert is undoubtedly their most exciting player, the Wolfsburg striker is the team's all-time top scorer and the player who netted the most goals in qualifying.

16 countries, 16 interviews



Line Hansen - Denmark



Tessa Wullaert - Belgium

How have things improved since you started playing football?

When I was in Denmark and I told someone that I played football, they would say: "And what else do you do?" When I went to Sweden and told them that I played for Tyresö and the national team, they thought it was cool. There was just much more respect there, while in Denmark it was just considered a hobby. But I think that's changing. The respect towards women's football has changed a lot.

How important are the fans in big competitions?

It's always nice to have a lot of supporters behind you during games and it will definitely give the Netherlands an extra boost. I hope that'll be the case for us as well because it's not far away. I hope our supporters will be able to help us towards victory.

GRAINGER TO JOIN ENGLAND WOMEN'S COACHING STAFF FOR EUROS

Gemma Grainger will join the England Women coaching staff on an interim basis as part of a continuing professional development (CPD) programme.

Grainger, who has most recently been part of the England Women Under-19 backroom team, will join the coaching staff for next month's UEFA Women's Euro finals. She has travelled to Copenhagen for the Lionesses' game against Denmark this evening (6pm BST KO).

Grainger joined The FA in 2007 and has worked across England Women development teams. She worked the 2014 FIFA Women's U20 World Cup and the 2016 FIFA Women's U17 World Cup as well as at two U19 Euro finals and an U17 Euro finals. She received her UEFA Pro Licence in 2016.

Following the Denmark game, England will travel to Valencia for a week of warm weather training before heading to the Euros, which are being staged in the Netherlands.

They kick-off their Group D campaign against Scotland in Utrecht on 19 July, before facing Spain in Breda (23 July) and Portugal (27 July).

Grainger said: "I am delighted to be joining such a talented group and it is a privilege to be a part of the England Women senior team set-up.

"I know this team has got a real chance this summer and I am really looking forward to being involved, working with the staff and players and continuing to develop as a coach."



Head coach Mark Sampson said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for Gemma to get invaluable coaching experience at a senior major tournament.

"There is nothing quite like tournament football and Gemma has a lot of experience at different youth-level events which will be really useful. A senior tournament is a big step-up in intensity on and off the pitch, and the perfect chance for her to learn across all areas of the game.

"We believe Gemma can have a real impact in helping us win this summer and we're pleased to welcome her to our group for the

FA technical director Dan Ashworth added: “We are committed to the development of female coaches working across the game and pleased that Gemma has the chance to experience a senior tournament.

“In recent years we have put a real focus on the development of the women’s pathway, which means we are in a position to take advantage of opportunities such as this and give our coaches the chance to work across different age groups and at different tournaments.

“This is an approach that we believe will bring huge benefits to both our coaches and the teams they work with, and is something we will continue to do more of in the future.”

The FA will review staffing across all teams as part of its annual review after Euro 2017.



SQUAD LISTS

ENGLAND



Goalkeepers:

Karen Bardsley
Siobhan Chamberlain
Carly Telford

Defenders:

Laura Bassett
Steph Houghton
Lucy Bronze
Alex Scott
Casey Stoney
Demi Stokes
Jo Potter
Alex Greenwood

Midfielders:

Isobel Christiansen
Jade Moore
Jordan Nobbs
Jill Scott
Fara Williams
Millie Bright

Forwards:

Karen Carney
Toni Duggan
Jodie Taylor
Fran Kirby
Nikita Parris
Ellen White

SCOTLAND



Goalkeepers:

Gemma Fay
Lee Alexander
Shannon Lynn

Defenders:

Vaila Barsley
Frankie Brown
Rachel Corsie
Ifeoma Dieke
Sophie Howard
Joelle Murray
Rachel McLauchlan
Kirsty Smith

Midfielders:

Leanne Crichton
Erin Cuthbert
Lisa Evans
Hayley Lauder
Jo Love

Leanne Ross
Caroline Weir
Chloe Arthur

Forwards:

Fiona Brown
Lana Clelland
Christie Murray
Jane Ross

Little Mix help launch 'Salute' campaign in support of England's Lionesses



British pop group Little Mix have teamed up with the FA to show their support for the Lionesses ahead of the 2017 European Championship in the Netherlands.

With the former X Factor winners' song "Salute" playing in the background, many famous faces can be seen wishing England luck for the competition.

The campaign urges fans to join Little Mix and other stars including Gary Cahill and Joe Hart by videoing their salute and posting it on social media.

The launch comes alongside the FA launching their new website "For Girls" where fans of the women's game can go to find all the information they need about playing the sport, learning new drills and finding out where to go support their local clubs.

More information can be found at: <https://forgirls.thefa.com/>

Match Previews by Jessica Pratt



Group Stage - Group D

England vs Scotland

Wednesday 19th July, 7.45pm

Stadion Galgenwaard, Utrecht



V



These two teams will be the last to play in the opening round of matches in the group stages. Being placed in Group D means the players will have to wait until the fourth day of the tournament before they can get their campaigns underway. It should be worth the wait, as this derby has been much anticipated since the group stage draw was made back in November.

Scotland will be raring to go in their Euros debut and much like Portugal, who open their Group D match against neighbours Spain; the Scots will have a point to prove against a team they are very familiar with.

These sides have faced off 25 times over the years, with only six of those being competitive fixtures. Three of those were qualifying matches for past European Championships and England were victorious in all of them. In fact, Scotland have only beaten their fellow Brits twice before, the most recent win coming in their 2-0 Cyprus Cup victory back in 2011. The last meeting between England and Scotland was a highly entertaining 4-4 draw in the same cup competition in 2013. Whilst it is unlikely this opener will provide another eight-goal thriller, with national pride on the line we can be sure to expect a fiery performance from both sets of players.

Despite England being the overwhelming favourites for the game, they will remain wary of their opponents in Utrecht. Some of Scotland's finest players ply their trade in England with teams in the FA Women's Super League meaning they have plenty of experience playing alongside, and against, several of Mark Sampson's squad. One such player is Manchester City's Jane Ross, who is a proven goalscorer and will be hoping to get the better of the likes of club teammate and England Captain Steph Houghton.

Both sides go into this contest on the back of wins in their final warm up games in recent weeks, with Ellen White's two goals ensuring England edged past Denmark 2-1 and a late winner from Christie Murray seeing Scotland secure a narrow 1-0 victory over the Republic of Ireland. With the preparation now over and the tournament finally upon us, this is undoubtedly the standout fixture for fans of the Lionesses. Although 16 places separate the two teams in the FIFA World Rankings, Scotland shouldn't be written off and I predict this one will be a tight game with the team to score first going on to take all three points.

Don't forget all of England's matches will air live on UK television. You can catch this one from 7pm on Channel 4.



England vs Spain

Sunday 23rd July, 7.45pm

Rat Verlegh Stadion, Breda



England's second group match of the campaign comes against a team they have recent Euros history with as they also shared a group in 2013's tournament. Back in that group match in Linköping, Alexia Putellas broke English hearts with a goal deep into added time that saw the Spaniards win 3-2. England rounded up a dreadful tournament by finishing bottom of their group, whilst Spain progressed in second place but lost out to eventual runners-up Norway in the quarter finals.

Since then, England have risen considerably in the world rankings after earning a bronze medal in the 2015 World Cup and will be hoping to build on that achievement in the Netherlands. Spain just edge England in head-to-head wins and are in fine form of late but they will be aware that England are the strongest side in the group and are dangerous, particularly up front.

England striker Toni Duggan has recently completed a high profile move from Manchester City to Barcelona so I expect Jorge Vilda and his team will have a game plan to keep her quiet. On the opposing attack is Jenni Hermoso, the former Barcelona striker who Duggan is replacing after she left for PSG recently. Hermoso's scoring record speaks for itself and she is a threat Mark Sampson will not want to ignore.

With strong attacking options available for both sides, I'm predicting a high scoring outcome for this one and England to take revenge for that 3-2 defeat four years ago.

England vs Portugal

Thursday 27th July, 7.45pm

Willem II Stadion - Tilburg



V



England's final match of Group D comes against Portugal, the lowest ranked team in the tournament. It is expected that, providing results go their way in the other two matches, Mark Sampson will use this game to rest some of his key players ahead of the knockout stages.

However, the Euros are never that easy to predict and the Lionesses know that all too well after the disappointment of 2013. I expect Portugal will put up a fight and are not to be underestimated. Their opening match is the derby against Spain and as any football fan knows, a derby can go either way. Similarly, fans of the Euros know that tournament football routinely provides some of the biggest shocks in football, with underdogs getting further than they ever could have imagined.

England are proof of that themselves; nobody expected them to take the bronze medal against Germany in the 2015 World Cup. It is important to note that Portugal have experience of facing the top teams as hosts of the yearly Algarve Cup and I don't expect their debut appearance in the competition to faze them.

However, this match may come too late for them and I believe there will be some tired legs out there by the time this match arrives so I predict England will run out comfortable winners in Tilburg.



Scotland prepared after
beating Republic of Ireland in
final Euro warm-up game



Scotland have not had the easiest preparations ahead of their first ever major championships this summer.

After securing qualification for Euro 2017 in September, the players have been working hard alongside coach Anna Signeul to make sure they are in top form for the competition.

The squad are now over in the Netherlands after beating Republic of Ireland 1-0 in their final warm-up match.

Substitute Christie Murray scored a late header in the 85th minute to give the Scotland side a boost ahead of their tournament opener against England on July 19.

Signeul, who will be stepping down from her role after the Euros to take up the Finland head coach job, chose her final squad in June with a number of key players missing through injury.

Jenny Beattie has been ruled out of the

tournament with an ankle injury while Kim Little and Lizzie Arnot are out with anterior cruciate ligaments injuries.

Goalkeeper Gemma Fay, who made her 200th appearance for the club in the win over Ireland is joined at the back with defenders Vaila Barsley and Sophie Howard. Barsley, aged 29, was born in England and her mother is Scottish.

Playing in Sweden for Eskilstuna United, she is teammates with Fiona Brown and has played for England Under-17s in the past. She is a strong, agile defender and has been capped three times.

Also a defender, 23-year-old Sophie Howard plays for TSG 1899 Hoffenheim and the German born centre-back is eligible for Scotland through her Scottish grandfather.

She made her debut against Belgium in April and featured in the recent 1-0 defeat to Sweden. Hibernian trio Joelle Murray, Kirsty Smith and Rachel McLauchlan are included after recently helping Hibernian Ladies to a 4-1 win over Celtic to lift the SWPL Cup for the second successive year.

Leanne Crichton, who now plays for Glasgow following the folding of Notts County, made her 50th appearance for her country against Romania and will travel to The Netherlands, along with Jane Ross who scored her 50th goal for Scotland in the same match, at Falkirk Stadium.

Bristol City's Chloe Arthur was a late inclusion to the squad, after coming off the bench in the recent match against Sweden.



Anna Signeul said: “This is an incredibly exciting time for Scottish women’s football and I’m delighted to name the squad today.

“It’s a strong squad with a great mix of youth and experience. All the players have worked incredibly hard to reach this stage and deserve to play at the Euros.

“This year we have had the benefit of playing nine games which has helped build a unity within the group and the players are all focused on that first game against England.

“Before that, we take on Republic of Ireland at Stark’s Park and we’re looking forward to playing in front a

big crowd to give the players the perfect send-off.

“The recent injury to Jenny Beattie is a blow and while all the players are gutted that she, Lizzie Arnot and Kim Little are out, it will add to our determination to do well for them as well as the entire country.”

Scotland's opening game against England will be live on Channel 4 on July 19.



FIXTURES

19th July 2017

England  20.45  Scotland

23rd July 2017

Scotland  18.00  Portugal

England  20.45  Spain

27th July 2017

Portugal  20.45  England

Scotland  20.45  Spain

29th July 2017

Quarter Finals

Winner Group A  -  Runner-up Group B

Winner Group B  -  Runner-up Group A

30th July 2017

Quarter Finals

Winner Group C  -  Runner-up Group D

Winner Group D  -  Runner-up Group C

3rd August 2017

Semi Finals

Winner QT 2  -  Winner QT 3

Winner QT 1  -  Winner QT 4

6th August 2017

FINAL

Winner SF 1  17.00  Winner SF 2



UEFA
**WOMEN'S
UNDER-19
CHAMPIONSHIP**
NORTHERN IRELAND 2017



**ENGLAND
SQUAD
NAMED FOR
WOMEN'S U19
EURO FINALS
IN NORTHERN
IRELAND
NEXT MONTH**

Mo Marley has named her England squad for next month's UEFA Women's U19 Championship finals.

The Young Lionesses were drawn in Group B alongside Italy, Netherlands and France, with the matches scheduled to take place in Northern Ireland between Tuesday 8 August and Monday 14 August.

Sixteen of the 18-strong squad helped

England qualified for the competition after winning all three of their group games against Denmark, Turkey and Czech Republic - letting no goals in!

England make it to the last eight, with defender Lotte Wubben-Moy and Liverpool attacker Niamh Charles added to the group.

Marley's charges won all three elite round qualifiers, against Turkey, Denmark and Czech Republic.

Goalkeepers: Sandy MacIver (Clemson University), Ellie Roebuck (Manchester City)

Defenders: Megan Finnegan (Everton), Grace Fisk (University of South Carolina), Taylor Hinds (Arsenal), Mayumi Pacheco (Doncaster Rovers Belles), Anna Patten (Florida State University), Lotte Wubben-Moy (University of North Carolina)

Midfielders: Georgia Allen (Syracuse University), Zoe Cross (University of Missouri), Niamh Charles (Liverpool), Chloe Peplow (Birmingham City), Mollie Rouse (University of Louisville), Georgia Stanway (Manchester City)

Forwards: Rinsola Babajide (Watford), Ellie Brazil (Birmingham City), Chloe Kelly (Arsenal), Alessia Russo (University of North Carolina).



Euro Schedule:

v Italy: 3pm Tuesday 8 August
Mourneview Park, Lurgan

v Netherlands: 7pm Friday 11 August
National Football Stadium at Windsor Park, Belfast

v France: 3pm Monday 14 August
Ballymena Showgrounds, Ballymena



Lionesses U23s win Nordic Cup

@katysandalls



By Katy Sandalls

England's U23's showed off their superb form of late with a fantastic run and a resounding performance at the Nordic Cup final, beating Norway, 2-0 to be crowned champions.

The team led by head coach and former England and Marianne Spacey, headed to the competition as favourites with two recent wins behind them against fellow Cup contenders Sweden and the USA.

Indeed the team's first game against Sweden was a sign of intent as England stormed to a 4-0 win thanks to a storming double from Everton's Claudia Walker as well as goals from Chelsea's Beth England and Arsenal's Beth Mead.

Their second game against the USA proved to be more difficult with neither side being able to make a breakthrough. The game ended goalless, leaving both teams capable of taking the crown.

With one game left England left their souls on the pitch in a thrilling 2-0 final which saw Mead finish the competition as top goalscorer. She helped to cement the young Lionesses run in Sweden putting away a goal inside the first 45 minutes alongside Chelsea's Hannah Blundell.

England almost made it three goals after half-time but the Lionesses could not find the back of the net, hitting the post three times within the first five second half minutes. In the end it was England's goal rush in their early games which helped them pip the USA to the title on goal difference.

The win by the Young Lionesses capped a great run for England's Youth sides coming only days after the men's U20 World Cup and Toulon tournament wins.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Sophie Baggaley, Megan Walsh

Defenders: Molly Bartrip, Hannah Blundell, Jessica Carter, Gabby George, Aoife Mannion, Meaghan Sargeant, Paige Williams

Midfielders: Jodie Brett, Sarah Mayling, Abbey-Leigh Stringer, Millie Turner, Keira Walsh, Leah Williamson

Forwards: Freda Ayisi, Beth England, Melissa Lawley, Beth Mead, Claudia Walker.



Rafferty and Chelsea making a difference in Colombia with Plan International

Lorem Ipsum



LADIES

Claire Rafferty travelled to Colombia last week as part of a trip to visit some of the areas benefitting from Chelsea's global partnership with Plan International.

Women in Colombia face many social issues with girls often expected to stay at home or marry early, while boys are not always educated about gender equality, while violence and aggressive behaviour remains an issue.

Together Plan and Chelsea have been working to change this through our Champions of Change programme, which aims to breakdown gender stereotypes and tackle gender-based discrimination, enabling boys and girls to fulfil their potential. Football is helping Chelsea and Plan International to do this by engaging the most hard to reach and teaching them about equality, respect and tolerance.

The first stop on the visit was the rural community of Clemencia where Plan and Chelsea have been working with

270 boys and girls on the Champions of Change project for the past 18 months.

An action-packed afternoon followed with Rafferty, who has been joined on the trip by the head of the Chelsea Foundation Simon Taylor, sitting down for a discussion with 33 of the participants who have excelled on the programme before the Orpington-born Chelsea defender joined Foundation coaches for a 90-minute coaching session.

At the conclusion of the session each of the players involved also received a medal from Plan along with a Chelsea kit as a reward for their participation on the programme.

Rafferty said: 'I am incredibly proud to be part of this trip and help raise awareness for the work being done by Plan and Chelsea.

'It has been a whirlwind afternoon, which even included a song about the programme! Hearing the way the girls and boys talk about the benefits of the programme was very eye opening and highlighted the importance of programmes like this.

'Of course I enjoyed getting involved in the football, but the parts about equality, respect and understanding are more important to improve lives in this part of the world. Before the game we all made a pact to respect and honour each other.

'It has been a fantastic day as part of a long-term commitment from Plan and Chelsea and I can't wait for day two!'

The England international also took time out to meet 14-year-old Juliana and her mother at their home after



"Since joining Champions of Change, Juliana has been working with Plan to become a community news reporter and engage with the local community on important issues."

the youngster was nominated for the one-on-one opportunity after excelling on the Champions of Change programme.

Since joining Champions of Change, Juliana has been working with Plan to become a community news reporter and engage with the local community on important issues. This has included a regular radio show on Clemencia Stereo.

Upon meeting the Chelsea Ladies star, Juliana commented: 'Champions of Change has changed my life and the lives of many others. I now have trust in myself to challenge stereotypes.

'No words can express how honoured

and happy I am, to have a role model like Claire in my home. Thankyou Chelsea and Plan for supporting us.'

The following day was the busiest yet as Rafferty visited the area of Nelson Mandela, just outside the city of Cartagena.

Nelson Mandela is a community of Cartagena that sprung up in the mid-90s at the height of armed conflict. The community are all families who were fleeing the ongoing war in Colombia. A settlement where running water and electricity was only connected four years ago.

The day began with a Champions of Change press conference. Rafferty



was joined by Simon Taylor, head of the Chelsea Foundation, Plan country director Gabriella Bucher and participants Yuliana and Juan for questions from the youngsters who have been trained as community reporters as part of the programme as well as members of the local press.

At the conclusion of the conference Plan International in Colombia were presented with a shirt signed by our Premier League-title winning squad as a thank you for hosting the visit.

Attention then turned to football with Claire and local star, Real Cartegna's Juliana Toro joining the participants for a tournament organised and run by the Foundation coaches.

All players in attendance received a Chelsea shirt and medal for taking part.



Chelsea has been working together with our global charity partner, Plan International, to transform the lives of children across the world through the reach and power of football.

Our approach is proven to transform lives: girls stay in school longer and marry later, while boys learn to be respectful of their female peers. To date the Champions of Change project has reached 1,000 youngsters in five of the most deprived settlements in Colombia.

The afternoon at Nelson Mandela saw a further 30 of those on the programme benefit directly from the trip as the Foundation coaches split the group up and staged two separate coaching sessions.

Rafferty again was at the thick of the action and upon departing the settlement and after handing out further Chelsea kit to the participants said: 'It has been an incredible experience and one I will remember for a long time.

'Meeting the boys and girls and playing football with them, having fun and learning from each other was very emotional for me. The work being done by Plan and Chelsea really is making a difference. The long-term aim is to change beliefs towards equality and based on what I've experienced, it is working. There is a long way to go but this work is making a difference for these girls and boys and hopefully generations to come will benefit.'



Toni Duggan joins FC Barcelona Femení

England striker Toni Duggan has become the first footballer to sign for Barcelona since Gary Lineker in 1986.

The 25-year-old has signed a two-year contract for the Spanish club from Manchester City with it being understood that no transfer fee was exchanged.

Duggan's contract was set to expire in November after spending four years with the Sky Blues helping the side win the Women's Super League One title for the first time in 2016 and was part of the squad which won this year's FA Cup.

The former Everton Ladies is currently preparing for England's opening

European Championships game against Scotland on Wednesday and has scored 15 goals in 47 appearances for England so far in her career as well as being part of the side which finished third in the 2015 Women's World Cup in Canada.

Duggan told Barcelona TV: "FC Barcelona are known all over the world for playing attractive football and I naturally wanted to be part of that. I think my style of play will suit the team and I'm honoured to be part of the club.

"My new coach Fran Sanchez has told me that their ambition is to win the Women's Champions League and the



club have made that very clear with their signings over the years. "I've had a lot of success in England and I've really enjoyed my time with Manchester City but I wanted to challenge myself even further by playing abroad. I'm also looking forward to learning Spanish and living in the city.

"On a personal level, I am a striker and I obviously want to score goals. I like to be in the box. But, creating chances is also very important to me.

"It's going to be a new challenge for me but one that I will relish. Obviously, FC Barcelona are known worldwide for playing attractive football and I think it will suit my style. After seeing the facilities and meeting the people I'm looking forward to getting started."

Grassroots football:

A look into girl's football in Independent Schools



THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Royal Russell claim inaugural U11 Girls Independent Schools National Cup



St. George's Park was a fantastic setting for the first ever U11 Girls Independent Schools National Cup Finals Day.

12 schools made it through to finals day where they were lucky enough to get the chance to watch the England Lionesses in their preparations ahead of the 2017 Euros.

Izzy Christiansen even took the time out to come down meet the teams and chat to the girls about football – a moment which made the days of many girls (and a few teachers too!)

The brand new competition, run in partnership between ISFA, The FA, ISA and IAPS, had seen 43 schools take part in six regional qualifiers organised by ISFA, ISA and IAPS, with

the top two from each event travelling to St Georges Park to participate in the finals day.

The teams were split into two groups of six, with Royal Russell topping group A after recording three wins and two draws from their five group matches. Joining them in the semi-finals were The Gower School who won two and drew three of their matches.

Group B was equally as competitive with Hale Prep coming out on top after winning three and drawing two matches, with Bedes Prep taking second place with two wins and two draws.

The semi-finals produced two excellent competitive matches with both games being decided by penalty shootouts.



"It was great to see so many schools take part in the qualifiers and here today at the finals day, the standard of football throughout has been good and today's action was an excellent advert for girls football."

Royal Russell edged out Bedes Prep after a 0-0 draw, while The Gower School were victorious over Hale Prep.

Before the final was played the play-off matches took place, with Scarisbrick Hall beating Alton Convent on penalties to secure 11th place, Queen Ethelburga's beat Forest 3-1 to take 9th place, Portsmouth Grammar School beat St Edmund's on penalties to take 7th, Kings Hall defeated AKS Lytham to take 5th place, and Hale Prep beat Bede's Prep 1-0 to take 3rd.

The final was an excellent advert for U11 girls football with both teams attacking trying to win the game during normal time. However, with the game finishing 1-1, it was again

penalties that would decide the winners.

Royal Russell held their nerve to win 2-1 on penalties and were crowned national champions.

ISFA's National Football Development Manager, Ian Bent, was delighted with the success of the finals day and the competition as a whole. He told the organisers: "It was only 6 months ago that it was decided to go ahead this year with this competition, and without the support and funding from The FA this wouldn't have been possible. It's great to see the organisations working together to develop and grow girls football within independent schools."

U11 Girls Independent Schools National Cup Finals

GROUP A

1st	Royal Russell	11pts
2nd	The Gower School	9pts
3rd	AKS Lytham	7pts
4th	Portsmouth Grammar School	6pts
5th	Forest	4pts
6th	Scarisbrick Hall	2pts

GROUP B

1st	Hale Prep	11pts
2nd	Bede's Prep	8pts
3rd	King's Hall	7pts
4th	St. Edmund's School	5pts
5th	Queen Ethelburga's College	5pts
6th	Alton Convent	2pts

FINAL RESULT:

Royal Russell* 1 – 1 The Gower School

3rd place play off:

Hale Prep 1 – 0 Bede's Prep

5th place play off:

King's Hall 1 – 0 AKS Lytham

7th place play off:

Portsmouth Grammar* 0 – 0 St Edmunds

9th place play off:

Queen Ethalburga's 3 – 1 Forest

11th place play off:

Scarisbrick Hall* 1 – 1 Alton Convent

* denotes won penalty shoot-out





How girls football is changing opinions in schools



Arnold King Edward VII School in Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire has a long tradition of being a sporting school.

Known across the Fylde Coast for its strong rugby and hockey squads throughout all the ages, the school is now starting to bring girl's football into the mix.

The girl's U11 squad are currently the North England champions and went on to compete in the National Finals which were held at St. George's Park.

We went along to meet teacher and coach Mark Moretti who has been the driving force behind bringing the girl's game into the school.

How long has football been back at AKS?

Not very long, they have had a boys section in the Junior School for a couple of years and in the Senior School it is only a recent thing. I got brought in to help with the football in the Junior School and help out in the Seniors too. It has lead from one thing to another. We ended up with three girls teams competing on one day, in three different tournaments. Over 30 girls played tournament football from the Junior School which is just unheard of. It was fantastic. It is slowly drip-feeding it in. The school's ethos is hockey and football so it is hard to compete with them but the exposure we are getting is unbelievable. We have been trying to get football more integrated. There is such a demand for



girl's football in our area now. The local club in St. Annes is really pushing girl's football too. It really is growing in the area.

Has it been hard getting the school on board?

It has been hard. They have never had anyone to run it before. I don't know how long it will take to make it recognised but doing the after school practices is certainly a help. We have over 30 girls playing in the Junior School now. The hope is to create a link between the school and a local club where we can get those in the Senior School who are interested into a club where they can play regularly. It is challenging but the Headmaster is being really supportive and we just want to build on that.

How excited were you when you found out where the National Finals were being held?

I have played football for 20 odd years

I have never had such an opportunity. It is an opportunity. I think the national team is so supportive of younger players. Getting to watch them practice this morning, that is something they will never forget. Even me now, I want to be able to play and coach. It brings the enthusiasm in me getting the chance to be at St. Georges Park. I got into managing and coaching whilst I was still playing and it is just something that I love doing. I love getting the best out of players. Seeing the improvement over the season is the best feeling in the world.

How many of the squad play football outside of school?

Just the skipper Beth. Beth has moved from another school. She started playing for Bolton Academy and she is now playing for St. Annes FC U12 girls. I am hoping to sign her for my sound! They are a sporty squad though. We have a lot of Lancashire hockey squad members so they are all a really sporty bunch. AKS is a sporting school, that is something that has never changed. If you compare it to a state school for the children, they don't do hardly any sport there in Juniors. When you get a group like this, you just want them to be able to continue. The problem is that when it come to next year they are all off to Senior School and there is not a team. They have hockey which is the main sport but the hope is that I can expand into the Senior school and offer football for after school hours.



Comment: Why small changes to girl's football in schools could make a big change in the future

Growing up it did not take me long to get into watching football.

Whenever there were matches on the television my dad and I would usually win control of the remote.

It was down the influences of my Grandad and dad that slowly but surely football became a bigger part of my life.

At school I would ask to play in the playground with friends but most of the time the boys refused to let us join in. My friends were a sporty bunch and most of us already played hockey and netball (amongst a number of other sports), so when our lunch times were not taken up by sporting

activities that the school provided, we began to take a football into school and kick it around.

This soon became a regular occurrence and we started challenging the boys to games over break.

By the time we got to Year 6 one of our teachers, Mr Exley picked up on our love for playing the game and began to champion the idea of having a girl's football team for the junior school. After a lot of persuasion, he finally got this idea off the ground and we began playing friendly games against other local schools.

At first many were unsure of the idea. Our school was very much a



hockey and rugby school – even the boys did not have a football team – but slowly as we began to practice more and win more games, we managed to enter a local tournament. We were lucky enough to get through to the Lancashire final where we had the chance to play at Bloomfield Road (a highlight for me as a Blackpool fan) before one of their home games.

The success we had in such a short amount of time was incredible and we started to think that football could become a permanent fixture at the school. Most of us were staying on at high school so we hoped we could continue with the sport.

Sadly, after we left the junior school so did football. There were no more junior squads and we ended up playing hockey and netball full-time. The affect sport has on you as a person is brilliant



and you never get the opportunities again once you have left school. I think it is interesting how within my group of friends (who were in that football team and played hockey with me as well) all still play hockey on a regular basis.

It just goes to show how much sport during school can affect your future lives. For independent schools football is still a rare thing – amongst both genders – so when I heard that my old school, now Arnold King Edward VII School in Lytham had got an U11 girl's side up-and-running, I had to go down and see the girls for myself.

Under the supervision of Mark Moretti the girl's side have had fantastic success over the season getting through to the U11 Girls Independent Schools National Cup which was held at St. Georges Park.

Thanks to Mark they have grown in ability and confidence and he is hopeful that he will be able to continue coaching them as they go into senior school.

Women's football has come a long way since I started playing. There was not much information about the girl's sides. In football programmes, the women's teams would get a one-page mention (usually on pink paper – something which would always wind me up).

Thanks to the successes of the Lionesses, women's football in the UK is on the up.

There is still a long way to go but competitions like the U11 ISFA Independent Schools finals are the right way to go.

Around the world in 9 stories

West Ham United Ladies secure 5 players

Amy Cooper, Dayna Chong and Chantelle Mackie have re-signed for the Hammers after impressing last season.

Molly Peters re-joins the club after spending four months at London rivals Arsenal and Paige Anderson-James also returns after a year out.



England Womens dip to 5th

Ahead of the Euro 2017, FIFA announced their updated World Rankings.

England slipped to fifth with Canada overtaking them.

USA remain first with Germany second and France in third.

Elise Bussaglia joins Barcelona

Before announcing the signing of Toni Duggan, Barca made their first announcement of the summer.

French midfielder Elise Bussaglia has joined the club from Wolfsburg on a two year contract.



Karen Bardsley signs new City contract

The 32-year-old Lionesses' goalkeeper joined Manchester City at the end of the 2013 season and has signed a new deal which will see her stay with the club until 2019.

Bardsley is currently out in Holland training with England

Manchester United called out about lack of Women's team

The club scrapped it's women's team in 2005 explaining that "it was not part of their core business" but as the sport has grown in the UK, there are currently no plans to re-instate it.

Former England Lionesses player Rachel Brown-Finnis told the BBC: "I think it is shocking that in 2017 a club the size of Manchester United does not have a women's team, and what is even worse is they will not properly explain their position."



France announce World Cup cities

France, hosts of the 2018 Women's World Cup have announced the nine cities which will be hosting games for the competition.

In the North, Rennes, Reims, Valenciennes and Le Havre join the capital Paris as locations.

Champions League champions Lyon will host games alongside Grenoble, Nice and Montpellier.

Juventus announce new side

Italian club Juventus took to Twitter to announce that they will be competing in the 2017-18 Women's Serie A season. The club have so far kept quite with the details but it is big news for the club.



Everton Ladies announced as FA WSL 1's newest side

After Notts County withdrew from the competition ahead of the Spring Series a space was left open for a new side to join. WSL sides were invited to apply to replace the side but it was Everton who won the WSL2 Spring Series who were chosen.

Australia announce World Cup bid

Australia, who have bid for the competition before, announced their intentions in June.

The Matildas are ranked eighth in the world.



The Back Page Quiz

Test your knowledge!

10

Tweet us and tell us how you do! @womensfooriemag

Question 1 Who is the youngest player at this year's Euros?

- a) Viktoriya Shkoda b) Agla Maria Albertsdottir
- c) Davina Vanmechelen

Question 2 Who is currently the youngest goalscorer in the Euros?

- a) Oksana Yakovshyn b) Carly Telford c) Isabell Herlovsen

Question 3 Which club has the most players representing their country in the Netherlands?

- a) Arsenal b) Barcelona c) Wolfsburg

Question 4 Who were the first Women's European Champions in 1984?

- a) Germany b) Sweden c) Austria

Question 5 How many times have Germany won the competition?

- a) 8 b) 12 c) 5

Question 6 How many games did England win in their qualifying matches (out of 8)?

- a) 8 b) 7 c) 4

Question 7 What ranking are Scotland in the official FIFA rankings?

- a) 50th b) 21st c) 9th

Question 8 Where is England's opening game against Scotland to be played?

- a) Rat Verlegh Stadion b) FC Twente Stadion c) Stadion Galgenwaard

Question 9 Which of these teams have qualified for the competition for the first time?

- a) Both b) Switzerland c) Portugal

Question 10 Who scored both England's goals in their final warm-up match against Denmark?

- a) Ellen White b) Jill Scott c) Casey Stoney

Answers: 1a, 2c, 3c, 4b, 5a, 6b, 7b, 8a, 9a, 10a