

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

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MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2019



NICK CUSHING

The Manchester City boss looks ahead to the new WSL season, Jeremy Meyer, head coach of LA Salsa joins our columnist team, Adam Bateman previews Manchester United's new season and all the latest news from grassroots to the Lionesses

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



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Hello and welcome to Issue 28!

The countdown to the new season is well and truly on, how exciting.

We would love to wish Sio Chamberlain a massive congratulations on your baby news, it is great to see a club as big as Manchester United supporting women ahead of motherhood and seeing them already confirm their support for her to come back when she is ready after work. It cannot be easy for women athletes to make choices like that but having your team behind you must be a big help.

We are delighted to be growing as a magazine too. You have properly noticed each issue is getting bigger and we are now 60 pages full of content –all for the same price. I would like to welcome Connor Botting to the team. Read his first piece on Lucy Bronze in the issue. Jeremy Meyer—who is head coach at LA Salsa has also come on board as a columnist and will give us a great insight into the goings on in LA.

We have a fantastic interview with Nick Cushing, manager of Man City and all the latest news ahead of the new season.

Enjoy the issue!

Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Editor-in-Chief

@helenrw11



FA WOMEN'S CONTINENTAL
LEAGUE CUP FINAL
V ARSENAL
23rd FEBRUARY 2019

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BARDLEY

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NICK CUSHING

Last season, Manchester City secured the domestic double—Continental Tyres Cup and SSE Women's FA Cup winners.

The feat saw them join the men—who were the first men's side to win the domestic treble—on an open-top bus parade through the city

Now leap forwards to August, there is one month to go until the start of the Women's Super League and manager Nick Cushing has had a busy summer bringing some superb signings to the club.

England Lionesses shining World Cup star Ellen White was announced as a City player early in the transfer window, joining the club from Birmingham.

Following the signing, she went on to play some of the best football of her career in France, securing the Bronze Boot and a place in the FIFA "The Best" Top 10 women's players.

Going out, Nikita Parris—who was one of the standout Man City players last season—has left the club to go to Olympique Lyon. She is just the latest player to leave the Academy Stadium for the French giants.

Many fans are keen to stop losing their players to the

continent but until the WSL can offer the same that the likes of Lyon, PSG and Barcelona are offering, the players will keep going.

Manchester City are favourites to lift the WSL this year but what is Cushing hoping for for the season.

The City boss spoke to TWFM earlier in the summer.

Looking back at last season, what are your overall feelings on the season?

I think people will say we scored goals, we have great players but resilience has been our key. We probably shouldn't have drawn 2-2 with Bristol City, we probably shouldn't have drawn 2-2 with Chelsea when we were leading 2-0 at half time.

This team's ability to absorb pressure has probably been the best part. I am so comfortable and so proud of them. They absorb pressure. In the past few seasons we have not had that and it shows – we did not win a trophy. This year we spoke about it, changed a few things. When we could have given chances away, we have found ways to stay in the game and go on to win the game.

They have full trust in me, I have full trust in them.

You went unbeaten in three competitions last season (WSL, Conti Cup and FA Cup), despite not winning the league, how proud are you?

I think it is a fantastic achievement for the players and the staff. I am a realist, last year we did not win anything and there were reasons for that. There is no point being emotional about it, it is the fact. We changed a few members of staff, a few changes in how we run as an operation, we brought some new players in. We were undefeated (in the league) but the flip side is we should have won the league. We feel Arsenal deserve the league, but we do not feel they were better than us. We should have won the game against Reading when we were 1-0 up, we should have won the game against Bristol when we were 1-0 up, we should have won the game against Chelsea when we were 2-0 up, we should not have given away the two mistakes against Bristol at home, I can go through all of these things but I have to look at the logical reasons. We need to improve on those little mistakes but also take all the good we have produced into

next season.

You have struggled in the Champions League in recent years, will the Champions League be your aspiration this season?

We came up against a very good Atletico Madrid team. We were probably still very much in that development phase of getting over the things we changed – we changed the working week, if I went into all the detail, it was very new then. The Champions League came just a little bit too soon for us.

It is dangerous to have the Champions League as your aspiration. There are so many difficult teams in it. Not only is there so many difficult teams in it but you see every year, because of the format, you don't really know who you have got. You could get the best team, you could get the best unseeded team and it be really tight. You just have to go into each game and relish the fact that you are putting yourself up against the best teams in Europe and then you will get through to the later stages. I thought Chelsea were excellent in the Champions League last season. We have all seen the way that they pushed Lyon hard.

You have a high number of young and experienced Lionesses in the squad, is it important to you to bring young British talent to the club?



The Big Interview

I am so proud of them. Our strategy is really evident. [They are the] strongest part of our club.

Myself and Gavin have a really clear strategy of how we work. We stick at it through good and bad times. It is to develop good, young players and to put responsibility and expectation on them to win along the way. That's how you create good players.

We bring in great players from other countries too like Tessa Wulleart but if there are good, young players out there we like to play a part in developing

them because it is our belief that is how we will do well.

What is your goal for this season?

Our goal has always been to be domestically dominant. We want to be up there, we want to be competing for everything. In the Champions League we just need to embrace the fact that we are playing against Europe's best sides and try and get into the latter stages. You are with the big teams.

Finally, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur and other smaller teams are starting to invest in their squads, how

much do you think it will change the dynamic of the WSL?

I think it will make the league more competitive. The more teams that come in – look at West Ham this year. We will embrace that. As a club we know what our strategy is and how we work and we hope to keep competitive. We know it is getting even more difficult, it is getting harder and harder to win. That's why when we do win, we are so proud. It is competitive but it makes the league so much better and we embrace.



Manchester City

Summer Transfers

IN

- Ellen White (Birmingham City)
- Matilde Fidalgo (SC Braga)
- Laura Coombs (Liverpool)
- Aoife Mannion (Birmingham)
- Lee Geum-min (Gyeonggi KHNP)

EXTENDED CONTRACTS

- Karen Bardsley
- Ellie Roebuck
- Megan Campbell

OUT

- Nikita Parris (Olympique Lyon)
- Abbie McManus (Manchester United)
- Claire Emslie (Orlando Pride)
- Melissa Lawley (Liverpool)
- Jennifer Beattie (Arsenal)



Hear her roar: Legendary female footballer immortalised in Bronze



Nearly 100 years after the first women's football match between players from across England and France, the UK sees the first ever statue of a female footballer, in honour of women's football trailblazer Lily Parr.

The life-size bronze statue, created by sculptor Hannah Stewart, was commissioned by Mars to inspire the England Lionesses ahead of this summer's tournament and has been unveiled at the National Football Museum.

Lily Parr, a left winger who scored over 980 goals in her 32-year career, was reputed to possess one of the most powerful shots in football, and had the ability to score goals from extraordinary angles with immense skill and power.

Starting her career at Dick, Kerr Ladies FC as a full-back 100 years ago aged just 14, Lily moved to the left wing in 1921 and scored an impressive 108 goals in her first year in this position. Her steely determination to be the best footballer worldwide saw her spend hours perfecting her shooting technique, as many other legendary players have gone on to do.

Gemma Buggins, Mars Brand Director, said: "Lily Parr was the heroine of her time in the sporting world. It's an honour to be able to recognise her and commemorate the inspirational woman that she was.

"We hope the unveiling of the first ever female footballer statue spurs [women's footballers] on and gives them the motivation!"

Marzena Bogdanowicz, Head of Commercial and Marketing, Women's Football at The FA said: "Women's football is in a very strong place today with the England team helping us to drive participation and interest at every level. We have come a long way since Lily Parr's days and she deserves recognition as a true pioneer of the sport."

"Lily Parr was the first woman to enter the Football Hall of Fame, an iconic achievement in itself, so it's only fitting that she takes her place alongside other football legends and becomes the first woman to be celebrated with a statue in her honour."

Top 10 Facts about Lily Parr:

1. Lily Parr was born in 1905 in St. Helens, and was buried there after her death in 1978.
2. Lily began her career at St. Helens Ladies in 1919, before moving to Dick, Kerr Ladies FC in 1920, following a recommendation from teammate Alice Woods.
3. Parr began her career with Dick, Kerr Ladies aged 14-years-old as a full back, before moving to the left wing in 1921.
4. Lily scored 108 goals in her first year as a left wing, coming second only to centre forward Florrie Redford who scored 170.
5. Parr scored 986 goals during her career with the Dick, Kerr Ladies.
6. Parr was billed as possessing one of the most powerful shots in the history of the game, an outside-left of immense skill and power. Programme notes from the 1920s describe Parr as "big, fast and powerful, is tricky and can take corner kicks better than most men", also nothing she "scores goals from extraordinary angles with a left foot cross drive which nearly breaks the net".
7. Parr and the Dick, Kerr Ladies team toured in the USA in 1922 where they played against men's teams.
8. During the USA tour, four members of the Dick, Kerr team; Lily Parr, Florrie Haslam, Jennie Harris and Molly Walker, ran a relay race with the American Women's Olympic team. They led all the way and were first past the winning post, beating the Olympic athletes!
9. Alongside her illustrious football career, Parr trained as a nurse and worked in Whittingham Mental Hospital until she retired.
10. In 2002, Parr became the first woman to be inducted into the English Football Hall of Fame at the National Football Museum.



**THE WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**



FA Championship updates and opening fixtures

Following the withdrawal of Yeovil Town Ladies from the Championship, the FA Women's Football Board has agreed the promotion and relegation structure for the new season.

At the end of the 2019/2020 season:

- Two teams (champions of National League Northern and Southern divisions*) will be promoted to the Championship
- One team (bottom side of the Championship) will be relegated to either National League Northern or Southern division

** subject to meeting licence criteria for Tier 2*

Opening Day fixtures:

Aston Villa vs Sheffield United

Crystal Palace vs Coventry United

Leicester City vs Durham

Lewes vs Blackburn Rovers

London Bees vs London City Lionesses

Free Week: Charlton Athletic

Starting 18/19th August



National League Opening Day fixtures

FA WNL Northern Premier Division

Burnley vs Derby County

Huddersfield Town vs Fylde

Hull City vs Loughborough
Foxes

Middlesbrough vs Nottingham
Forest

Stoke City vs Sheffield FC

Sunderland vs West Bromwich

FA WNL Southern Premier Division

Cardiff City vs Gillingham

Hounslow vs Yeovil Town

Portsmouth vs Watford

Chichester City vs MK Dons

Crawley Wasps vs Plymouth
Argyle

Oxford United vs Keynsham
Town

FA WNL Division One North

Stockport County vs Chester le
Street

Bolton Wanderers vs Norton &
Stockton

Newcastle United vs Barnsley

Bradford City vs Durham
Cestria

Brighouse Town vs Chorley

Leeds United vs Liverpool Feds

FA WNL Division One Midlands

Bedworth United vs Sporting
Khalsa

Long Eaton vs Solihull Moors

Leicester United vs Burton
Albion

Doncaster Belles vs Leafield
Athletic

Wolverhampton vs Lincoln City

The New Saints vs Birmingham
& WM

FA WNL Division One South East

Stevenage vs Actonians

Leyton Orient vs Cambridge
City

Ipswich Town vs AFC
Wimbledon

Cambridge United vs Enfield
Town

Billerica vs Kent Football
Town United

AFC Basildon vs Norwich City

FA WNL Division One South West

Brislington vs Southampton
Women

Cheltenham Town vs Poole
Town

Exeter City vs Larkhill Athletic

Maidenhead vs Buckland
United Athletic

Chesham vs Southampton FC
United

*All fixtures to be
played at 2pm on
August 18*

Lucy Bronze: From Domino's Pizza to World Beater



By Connor Botting

“They’ve had their warning; they’ve had their warning... here’s Lucy Bronze, what a goal” screamed Jonathan Pearce down the microphone as Bronze thumped the ball into the roof of the net. A thunderous strike from outside of the area, that goal secured England their place in the 2019 FIFA Women’s World Cup semi-finals and sparked euphoric celebrations amongst her team-mates.

It wasn’t too long ago that the England full back was serving up slices, instead of goals, at a Domino’s Pizza restaurant whilst studying a degree at Leeds Metropolitan University. It’s fair to say that England’s golden girl has burst on to the scene as quickly as one of her marauding runs down the flank on the football field.

Now, she is at the peak of her powers, fighting for trophies left, right and centre for both club and country.

Born in Berwick-upon-Tweed on 28th October 1991, Bronze is often referred to as one of the finest right backs in the women’s game, or in England manager Phil Neville’s opinion, the finest player in the world.

Following the match against Norway, Neville didn’t hold back his praise and admiration for the 27-year-old: “What you’ve seen tonight is that Lucy Bronze is the

best player in the world, without a shadow of a doubt.”

“I played full-back but never, never, ever to that level she plays at, she is the best in the world.”

There’s not much that Bronze doesn’t have in her locker; speed, stamina, strength, and a sensational long shot – just ask the Norwegians, this was the second World Cup in a row where she had sealed victory with a strike from outside of the box.

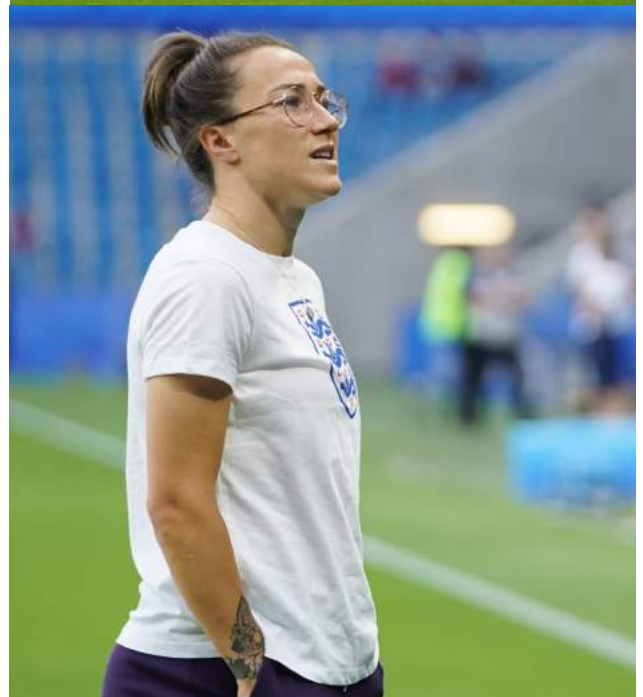
During youth football, Bronze enjoyed playing for mixed gender teams, but at the time, FA rules stipulated that mixed teams were not permitted past the under-12 age group, meaning that she had to quit her team and travel to Blythe, a one hour car journey away, forcing her to form new friendships.

Thankfully, in 2014 the FA unanimously voted to increase that age limit, meaning mixed gender football teams can be used until the under-sixteen’s age group, with Bronze’s mother Diane, and her aunt Julie, playing their part in campaigning.

Bronze made her professional debut for Sunderland in 2007, where she won the player of the match award in the 2009 FA Cup Final, aged just 17-years-old.

In 2010 she made the switch to Everton before crossing to the red half of Merseyside to play for Liverpool. It was here that Bronze gained the appetite for silverware, winning back to back Women’s Super League titles in 2013 and 2014, before transferring to Manchester City.

During her time at City, Bronze won the league and cup double in 2016, following





that up with an FA Cup victory a season later, as well as a semi-final finish in the UEFA Champions League, narrowly losing on aggregate to eventual champions Olympique Lyonnais.

Following the game, the right-back was approached by Lyon club president, Jean-Michel Aulas, who complimented her on her performance, and soon after Lyon made an offer for her services. With a burning desire to win the Champions League looming large, Bronze followed her dreams and accepted the move to France for the 2017-18 season, and hasn't looked back since.

During her debut season, Lyon went on to win the treble, with Bronze scoring a semi-final Champions League winner against former club City, before beating German side Wolfsburg in the final – finally winning the trophy she yearned for.

Bronze puts her meteoric rise to the summit of professional football down to her performance at the 2015 World Cup in Canada.

Very reserved and modest, Bronze becomes very bashful at even the thought of being regarded as one of the best in the women's game, and in an interview with the Guardian newspaper, the Northumbrian said that going into the 2015 competition that "I don't think anyone knew me.

"I scored a couple of goals and my football life changed overnight."

Bronze is very aware of the implications of becoming a superstar in the sport and relishes the challenges that accompany that: "People knew my name and who I

was, and I had a target on my back when I was playing, but it was something I enjoyed and always wanted.”

Club honours aren't all that Bronze has to boast about on her CV, her individual performances have been recognised and she has been bestowed with an array of awards such as; 2015 England International Player of the Year, 2x WSL Players' Player of the Year, 2018 BBC Women's Footballer of the Year, and the 2019 World Cup Silver ball award, for being voted the second most valuable player at the tournament.

There are talks of her being a contender for the Ballon d'Or Feminin – a new award for the best female player in world football, her Lyon team-mate Ada Hegerberg won the inaugural award last year.

With England legend Karen Carney announcing her retirement last week prior to the third place play-off against Sweden, and other England internationals entering the twilight of their careers, the Lionesses are entering a new era of women's football – welcome to the Bronze age.





Ammo's Antics

Hi Ammo here,

First off I just want to say how proud and inspired I was by England's Lionesses. A really strong performance in the World Cup and it must feel great to know the whole country was behind you.

I've got quite a lot to tell you about this month. Firstly, the season ended with Birmingham City RTC and I was offered a new contract with the U14s.

I hate not playing football though so during the break I linked back up with Ross Juniors, and played in summer tournaments with my friend Eva who plays for Bristol City. The first was in Tupsley. We won every game and beat the other Ross Juniors team in the final. Next up was the Ross Juniors tournament, we managed to win in a tough final against really strong Ross Juniors team who had just won their league. Then I was asked to play in a boys tournament which was loads of fun.

Next I played in the Monmouth tournament. We coasted through to the final not conceding a goal. I was super confident but it was super tense and ended up 0-0 which meant penalties. I really didn't want to take one, I've never felt as nervous as I did as I walked to the spot. I missed. It was a horrible moment. After a few more penalties the other team won. It was the first girls tournament with Ross Juniors that I hadn't won. I heard my Dad say I was inconsolable but I'm not entirely sure what that means. My confidence had taken a knock. I was devastated.

A couple of weeks later we went to another tournament. The Leicester riverside sevens. It was going to be our toughest test as Leicester City had a team in it. It was not surprise that we met them in the final. The game went to penalties after it finished 1-1. This time when our coach asked for volunteers I was first to put my hand up.

I took the ball, took a deep breath then two steps back. I struck the ball and smashed it passed the keeper into the corner. It felt really good and was a huge relief. I glanced over to my Dad and he looked like he had something in his eye. Afterwards he admitted the moment had made him emotional. I guess that's the power of football isn't it?

Eventually our goalkeeper Hannah made an epic save to win, we all piled on her to celebrate. This one felt amazing.

Since then I've played in a schools football tournament, was nominated for a Governors praise award for my footballing efforts and won school footballer of the year at our end of term assembly.

I've also had two trials for the Wales U14 development squad and I've been invited to play for a Wales select U14 team to play in a friendly against Man Utd RTC. I'll let you know how it goes next time.

I'll also have news on any friendlies I have with my club Birmingham City RTC.

Someone once told me "success isn't a straight line."

There are always going to be highs and lows, that's out of our control.. but how we react to them is all us.

Thanks for reading.
Ammo

50,000 tickets sold for Lionesses at Wembley



England are on track for the biggest-ever attendance for a Lionesses match on home soil when Germany arrive at Wembley Stadium later this year.

More than 50,000 tickets had been sold, raising expectation the final attendance for the Saturday 9 November 2019 fixture at the national stadium will surpass the previous record. On 23 November 2014, a crowd of 45,619 fans saw Germany run out 3-0 winners at the national stadium.

England head coach Phil Neville said: “We are really grateful for the incredible support we have had from our fans this year. We had loads travelling to watch us in France, millions tuning in on TV and now this incredible show of support for the Germany game.

“My players will be absolutely buzzing with the thought of a packed out Wembley cheering them on against Germany. It will be a brilliant way to end what has been a great year that began with winning the SheBelieves Cup, saw the World Cup campaign bring Olympic qualification and marked a huge transformation in how the game is seen in this country.”

The Germany match was the first home fixture confirmed for England in the autumn period with away games to come against Belgium and Norway on 29 August and 3 September respectively. The forthcoming games will be the first steps in preparations for UEFA Euro 2021. As the host nation, England do not have to qualify for the final tournament.

Meanwhile, fans yet to get their tickets for the Germany game are advised the end of the advance ticket window is fast approaching. At 5pm on Friday 2 August, ticket prices will increase for adults from £10 to £15 with kids' tickets remaining at £1.



France beat Germany 2-1 In the Women's U19 Euros title.

The final, which took place at St Mirren Park, saw France win their fifth title and four teams booked their place into the U20 Women's World Cup.

Nicole Anyomi gave Germany the lead after just six minutes but France soon equalised through Sandy Baltimore.

Nothing could separate the two sides until late into the second half when Maelle Lakrar put the French side in front.

France 2-1 Germany

Goals: Anyomi (6), Baltimore (13), Lakrar (73)

Germany, Spain, the Netherlands and France are the sides to book their place in the U20 WWC.

How did England fare?

England struggled throughout the tournament and are now set to miss the U20 WWC after finishing third in their group, with just one win.

England	1-2	Germany
England	0-1	Spain
Belgium	0-1	England

How about Scotland?

Hosts Scotland too struggled and finished last during the group stage, losing all three games.

Scotland	1-2	France
Scotland	0-4	Norway
Netherlands	4-0	Scotland

Liverpool Pre-Season



Liverpool have had an exciting pre-season tour in the USA.

They joined the men's team in America—a complete difference to last year when they toured separately.

Vicky Jepson's side travelled alongside the European men's champions, trained at the same facilities and got to play at Harvard University and Notre Dame University.

Jepson told BBC Sport, "It wasn't just for the cameras, we did a lot of interacting with them at different events.

When we got off the plane, the fans were already there on the tarmac. You had to get

escorted out by the police. People were queuing up for pictures and the second the players got off the bus, they were being mobbed.

"It was probably the first time we have ever travelled with security. The reception was everything the girls deserve for all the sacrifices they make."

Results

Cleveland Ambassadors 2-2 Liverpool

Goals:

Metropolitan All Stars 0-6 Liverpool

On a Sixpence

elements of the beautiful game

Football is the world's greatest sport. It is often referred to as the 'beautiful game' - o jogo bonito - and has been influenced and enhanced by many wonderful players. This is a visual tribute to one hundred great female footballers, using the periodic table as the framework. The list was collated from the votes of seventy two experts by The Offside Rule podcast in collaboration with the Guardian newspaper. Each cell includes the player's name, ranking, playing position, international appearances and goals. The first periodic table was produced in 1869 by Dmitri Mendeleev, a Russian scientist. His iconic table illustrates the periodic law which states that certain properties of elements repeat periodically when arranged by atomic number.

1 PH Hardy 37	2 sK Rae 1	3 aH Hart 13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 mR Ratcliffe 34	12 dM Morris 18	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 sK Kerr 29	22 aP Pope 20	23 cH Harrison 9	24 cD Dunn 4	25 aM May 4	26 kL Little 13	27 jN Noble 1	28 tH Heath 16	29 nF Fisher 14	30 eP Piper 13
31 jF Fishlock 10	32 dD van der Donk 14	33 sS van der Sanden 10	34 sG Nathan 21	35 jE Erie 13	36 jG Green 11	37 nN Nadim 11	38 bS Sauerbrunn 14	39	40
41 jT Taylor 11	42 sH Newsham 8	43 sD Dabritz 8	44 mM Njoku 16	45 aM Morgan 24	46 jS Seaton 7	47 nP Parker 1	48 IM Magill 7	49 ID Duker 14	50 rD Eyre 1
51 IW Williams 1	52 tD Duggan 13	53 mP Pugh 13	54 sB Bouchet 6	55 JM McDonald 1	56 IW Williams 1	57 aE Ewing 6	58 sM Moss 1	59 mI Hutchinson 1	60 iP Pineda 7
61 mK Karlsson 1	62 aF French 1	63 eW White 1	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71 tC Chawinga 8	72 IS Schuler 11	73 aN Nether 9	74 gM Midd 4	75 cN Neto 10	76 eK Kane 10	77 sT Tobin 10	78 gR Ridley 10	79 ID Duckworth 10	80 cS Seger 5
81 sB Bacha 12	82 vG Gavin 5	83 kB Buchanan 14	84 fR Roffo 6	85 aP Pottas 4	86	87	88	89	90
91 aO Ochola 4	92 sS Seaton 11	93 dC Cathcart 1	94 nK Kane 10	95 sB Blackburn 14	96 mB Bright 1	97 aD Duggan 13	98 mB Barnes 14	99 tW Wright 11	100 kA Adams 14
101 YN Nathan 21	102 wS Smith 14	103 eE Ewing 6	104 aK Kane 10	105 IG Gibson 14	106	107	108	109	110

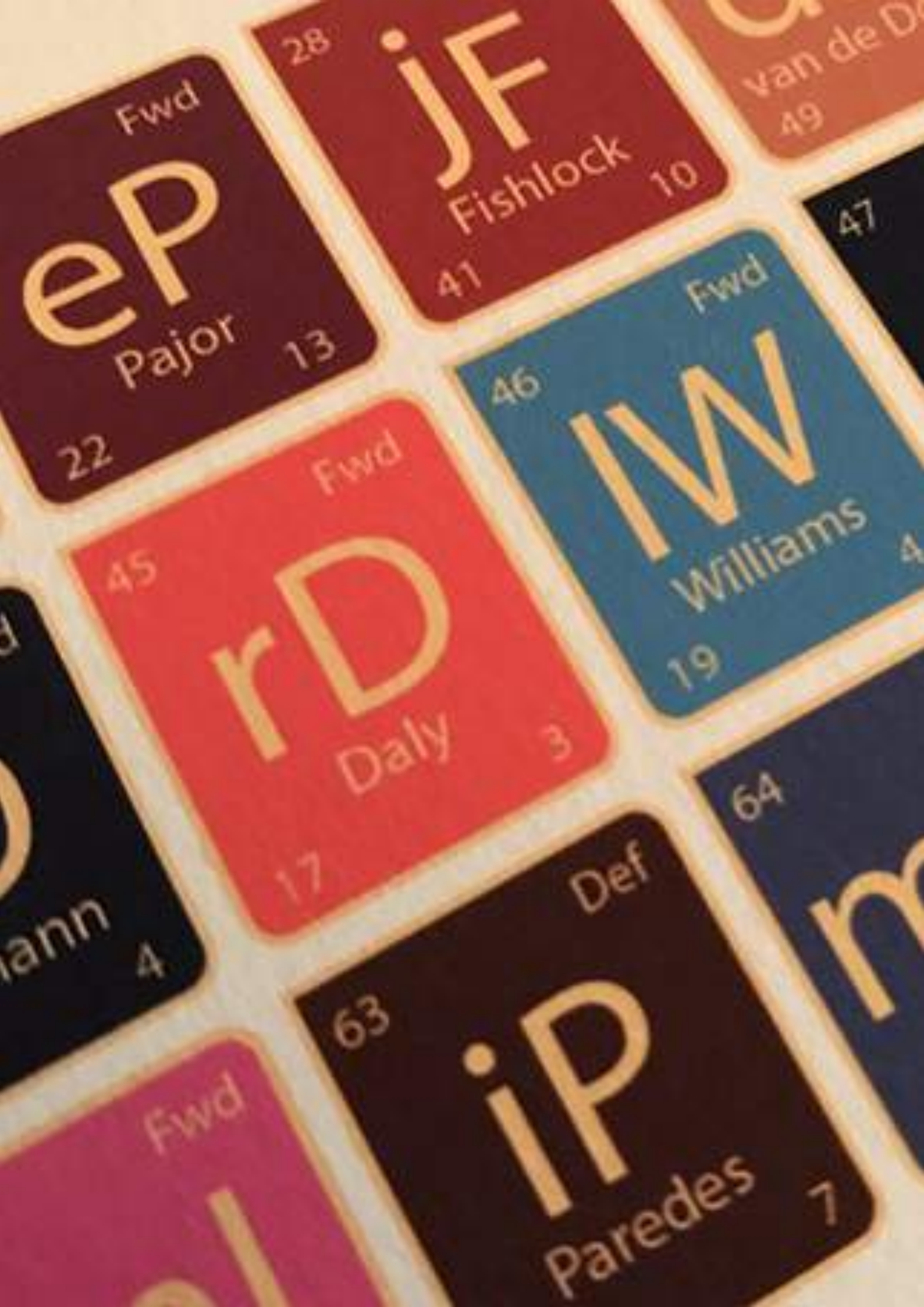
I am a London-based artist with a love for sport, numbers and good design. I design neatly-structured art prints to depict a wide range of sports team and events. My work includes prints representing the histories of different football clubs (e.g. Arsenal under Wenger) or a specific event e.g. the winners of the Tour de France.

I made a conscious decision this year to design more prints that focus on female achievements. For example, the Ladies Wimbledon champions and female British Olympic champions.

'Elements of the beautiful game' is a visual tribute to 100 great female footballers, using the periodic table as the framework. Players have been selected and ranked based on their contribution to the game, achievement and sheer talent by the Guardian and the Offside Podcast.

Each cell includes the player's ranking, playing position, international appearances and goals. The cells are colour coded based on the nationality of the footballer. Finding the statistics for these great sports women was very difficult. Launching a data driven website focused on the women's game would be a great opportunity for one of your readers!

Each print is prepared to order. Prints can be personalised to include a cell with any name chosen by the client. The artwork is printed on luxurious Hahnemühle fine art paper using a high quality giclée print process. I sell my work on my website <http://www.onasixpence.bigcartel.com>



Women's World Cup to expand to 32 teams



The Women's World Cup will increase from 24 to 32 teams for the next tournament in 2023.

It has not yet been announced as to where the next competition will be held and nine countries are expected to bid when the process opens on October 4.

The news has come to a shock for many with most believing it is the wrong decision with weaker countries expected to suffer at the hands of some of the strong teams like Thailand did in their 13-0 defeat to eventual champions USA.

According to FIFA president Gianni Infantino, the aim is to "keep the

momentum going and take concrete steps to foster the growth of women's football."

"The expansion reaches far beyond the eight additional participating teams: it means that, from now on, dozens more member associations will organise their women's football programme knowing they have a realistic chance of qualifying," he added.

"The Women's World Cup is the most powerful trigger for the professionalisation of the women's game, but it comes just once every four years and is only the top of a much greater pyramid."

Jill Ellis steps down



Jill Ellis is to step down as head coach of the USA team after becoming the first manager to win two Women's World Cups.

The 52-year-old has been in charge of the USA since 2014.

She told the US Soccer site: "The timing is right to move on.

"When I accepted the head coaching position, this was the timeframe I envisioned.

"The programme is positioned to remain at the pinnacle of women's soccer. Change is something I have always embraced in my life and for me and my family, this is the right moment."

Ellis will stay in charge until the end of October.

Jill Ellis USA record:

- 2014 CONCACAF Women's Championship (1st place)
- 2015 Algarve Cup (1st place)
- FIFA Women's World Cup: 2015, 2019
- 2015 CONCACAF Women's Coach of the Year
- 2015 FIFA World Women's Coach of the Year



The first season in the WSL— A Preview

By Adam Bateman

The reigning Football Association Championship champions have had a very busy summer in terms of transfers in and out of the club, for their debut season in the Super League, as of writing this, there had been four departures, and five incoming players.

Last season was a very successful one for the club both on the pitch and off of it, as records were set in both, and this season has the potential to be just as exciting for the fans, and for the neutrals out there!

First of all lets deal with the issues of transfers, the area that the fans always rush to see, and here Casey and her staff have been very shrewd, letting the talents of Lucy Roberts, Ebony Salmon, Naomi Hartley, and crowd favourite Charlie Devlin go, and bringing in high profile names to replace them, such as the midfielder and FIFA World Cup semi final goalscoring heroine Jackie Groenen from Frankfurt, the English duo of goalkeeper Mary Earps (Wolfsburg), and centreback Abbie McManus (from cross town rivals Manchester City), plus Scottish striker Jane Ross from West Ham United, and central midfielder Hayley Ladd from Birmingham City.



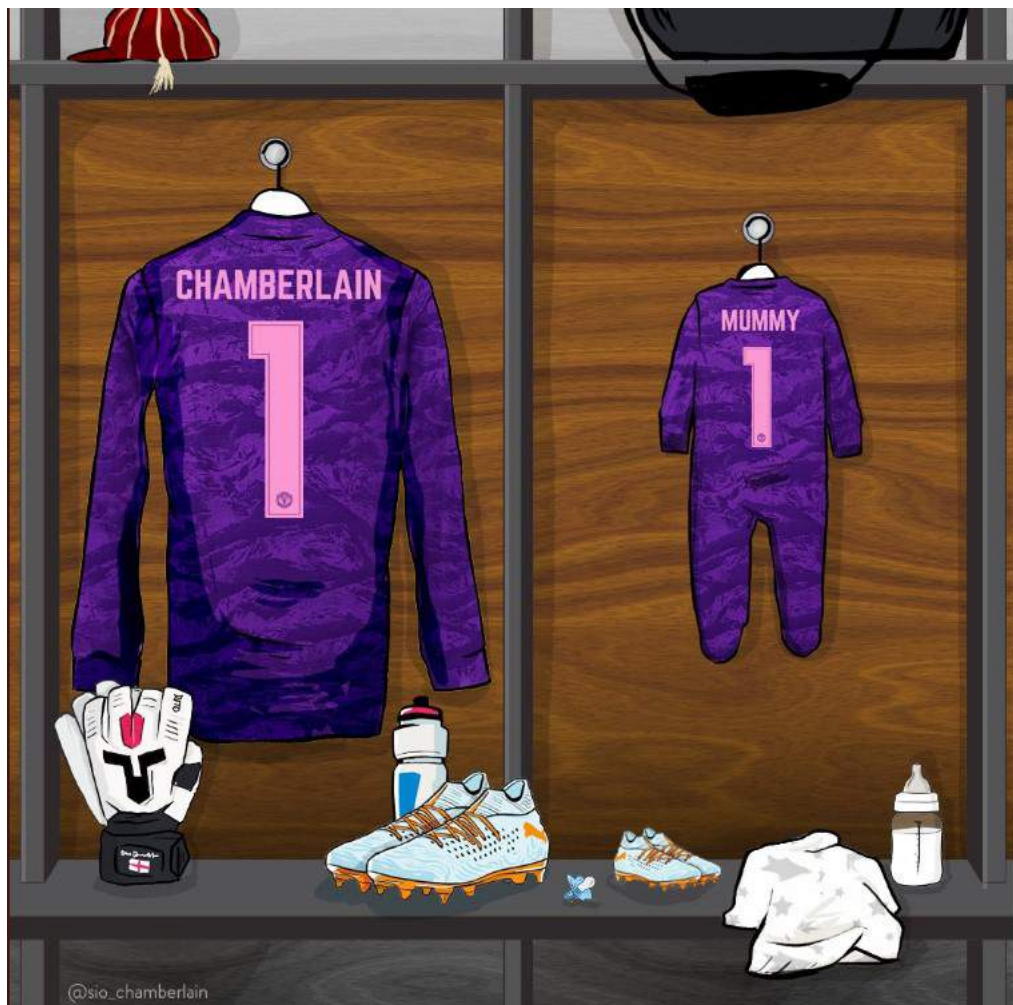
Quite a turnover, and a changing of the guard from the title winning team of last season then!

The squad that Casey has to select from is now more in-depth then last season, and has quality players, and crucially for this season, players who have experience of playing at the very highest levels, which can only benefit the team with the huge step up in abilities that they will face week-in-week-out from the very beginning, when the team faces the very daunting task of an away Manchester derby at the Etihad stadium.

The Squad

Goalkeepers	Defenders	Midfielders	Attackers
Earps	A.Turner	Groenen	Sigsworth
Ramsey	M.Turner	Zelem	Toone
Bentley	Smith	Ladd	Ross
	Harris	Palmer	Hanson
	Mcmanus	James	Galton
	Edwards	Green	Arnot

There is one huge absence for the team this year from that squad above, and that is Siobohan Chamberlain, and that is due to a fantastic reason, as she has just recently announced that she is pregnant, and as such will not be playing for the team this season, as for her future after that with the club, only time will tell.





I'm really excited to share the news with you all, that myself and my husband are expecting our first child in the new year.

We are both filled with so much love and excitement looking ahead to the coming months, as we prepare for being parents.

I want to say a huge thank you to Casey and everyone at Manchester United, who have been brilliant with me over the last few months. I genuinely couldn't have asked for a more supportive club.

So what does this mean for my football?

Quite simply, I'll be back and I intend to come back better than before. There is still a lot I want to achieve in the game and as a goalkeeper, I still feel I've got a number of years left in me at the very top level.

I'm going to use the next few months to work on certain aspects of my game both on and off the pitch. I now have this opportunity to look at things with a fresh approach and also come back with someone extra to compete for.

I will be part of the squad in a slightly different capacity for the next few months but none the less, my focus is on helping my teammates, as we prepare for our first season in the FA WSL.

With the start of the season in mind, my wish is to now switch my attentions fully to my teammates and the club, so I will update you all again on how things are going with me and my bump in a few months time.

Here's to a very exciting time, on and off the pitch.

Siobhan x

@sio_chamberlain | team@creativeplayers.co.uk

Then just as we are going to print, news breaks that Alex Greenwood has agreed terms with Lyon—just as we thought we would know the squad!

There is much anticipation and a fair amount of expectations this season from the team, despite this being only their second only as a professional outfit.

The manager Casey Stoney will have to try and keep as many players as possible happy if they are to match the very high anticipation levels from the fans.

Personally speaking, I see our rivals for a league position being Reading, West Ham, and Bristol, all of whom have far more experience at this level than ourselves, I certainly do not expect any sort of title challenge, or even a push for the Champions League places at this very early stage in our development.

If we do, then fantastic, but that would purely be an added bonus, this season should just be about settling in, and trying to do as well as possible. The higher echelon places can come in later

seasons, for now, it is just about doing ourselves justice.

Manchester United Fixtures 2019-2020

FA WSL FIXTURES 2019/20

SEPTEMBER 2019

7	MANCHESTER CITY	A
16	ARSENAL	H
28	LIVERPOOL	H

OCTOBER 2019

13	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	A
27	READING	H

NOVEMBER 2019

17	CHELSEA	A
24	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	H

DECEMBER 2019

1	WEST HAM UNITED	A
8	EVERTON	H
15	BIRMINGHAM CITY	A

JANUARY 2020

5	BRISTOL CITY	H
12	LIVERPOOL	A
19	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	H

FEBRUARY 2020

2	READING	A
9	CHELSEA	H
12	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	A
23	EVERTON	A

MARCH 2020

22	WEST HAM UNITED	H
29	MANCHESTER CITY	H

APRIL 2020

5	ARSENAL	A
26	BRISTOL CITY	A

MAY 2020

16	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H
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All dates are subject to change
manutd.com/fixtures

TheFA Women's Continental League Cup	
Group C	
	Birmingham City
	Everton
	Leicester City
	Manchester City
	Manchester United

As one can see from the opening set of fixtures, there are plenty of challenges ahead for Manchester United women's side, and they will have to contend with multiple Manchester derbies in both the league and the Continental Tyres League Cup.

This is where Casey's ability to perhaps rotate and to make best use of her squad might come to the fore.

Pre-season has only just started, and with only a behind closed doors 10-1 win against Blackburn Rovers, without many of the star players from the World Cup, being the sole game so far, with many of the World Cup players, not featuring in that game, so perhaps it will be the two games in Norway, where the fans might get to see the first glimpses of some of the new signings, and how the team might set up tactically.

Tactics

Last season, it was a bit of stroll for the team, with only the domestic cups against the Super League teams posing too much of a problem for the side, and they strolled to the Championship league title with games to spare.

This season will be very different with the higher standard of competition, so it is with no great surprise that Casey has gone out and brought in a few defensive minded players, Abbie McManus, Hayley Ladd and Jackie Groenen all bring with them that extra bit of top level experience that previously the side was lacking, so you would expect to see them start the Manchester derby on the opening day of the season, providing all come through pre-season without any injuries.

The goalkeeping department as spoken about above, eased somewhat, with the expectation now that new signing Mary Earps will be the mainstay number one in the side, with the two younger and very talented goalkeepers Bentley and Ramsey only playing backup roles.

Greenwood was expected to be captain and lot straight back into her usual left hand side role, and to stay there for the season. However with the news being announced that she is on her way to Lyon to join England teammates Nikita Parris, Lucy Bronze and Izzy Christiansen, it looks like Casey will have some changes to make.

It completely changes how I think that we might do this season without her leadership. We have questions as to who will partner Abbie.

On Sunday, United hit five past Sandefjord in a friendly and Greenwood did not come on until half time replacing newest signing Maria Edwards.



The other fullback position is between Harris and Smith, with the former going to the World Cup with Scotland, perhaps getting the nod here, but both are very good options for Casey to select from.

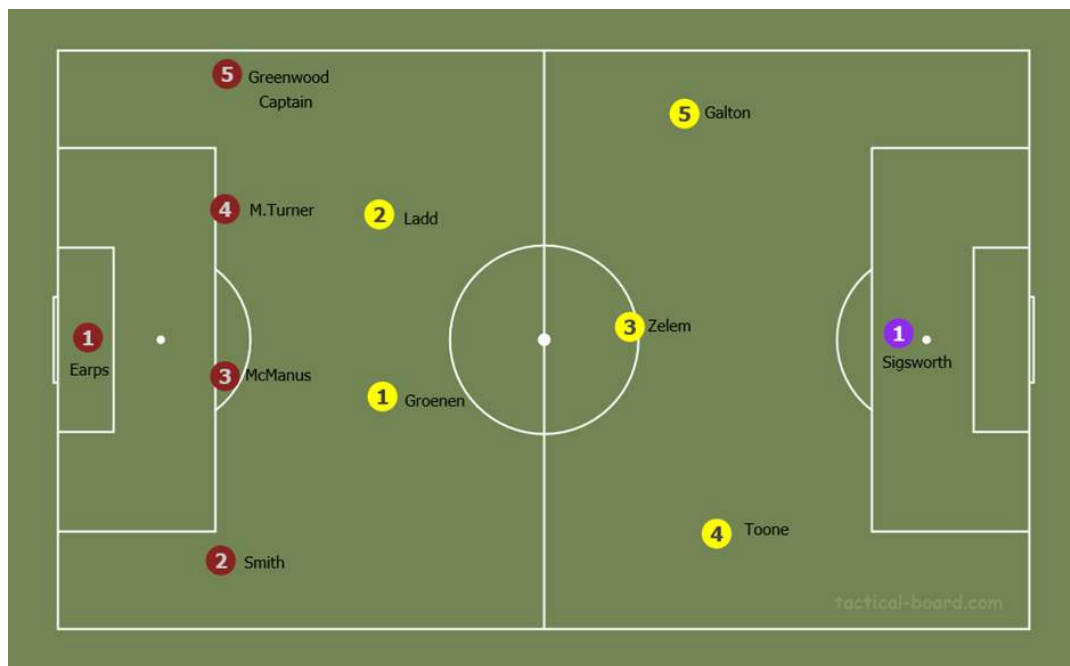
The centreback partnership one can see being the mainstay or the go to one is between new signing Abbie McManus, and Millie Turner, with the two Turner partnership that did so very well last season in the Championship, being broken up, and Amy dropping to the bench.

Now possibly the toughest area to try and select or predict who Casey will play is in midfield, as there are plenty of good options, and depending on the match, she could rotate her squad, and not really see that much of a drop off in performances.

With James, Toone, Hanson, Galton, Groenen, Ladd, Palmer, Zelem, Green, and Arnot, all vying for places, both defensively and attacking wise, there will be some very impressive players having to miss out.

For the first match, the Manchester derby away to Manchester City, I could see the midfield being made up of Ladd, Groenen, last season's player of the Season Zelem, Galton, and Toone.

With the upfront central striker position, being a straight shoot-out between Sigsworth and new signing Ross, with the hard-working and dependable Sigsworth I think getting the role initially.



Overall Conclusions

This will be a very tough season for Manchester United, and a lot will be asked of the players, some of whom have not had any top level experience previously, and the first seven league games of the season, could very well give a good indication as to quite what sort of season could be expected of the club, but with the experience of Casey to help steer the players and the club, then a season of stability could very well be what to expect.

Teams last season where not ready to face such professionalism, and in all aspects of the game, from tactics, to physicality, every Super League club will pose far more of a threat to the side.

Anything above sixth place would be a huge bonus, and progress in both the domestic cups would be something extra, where the focus should be on the league this season.

My Prediction: 5th



Alex Morgan to launch media company

USA star Alex Morgan is planning to launch her own media company.

The company, which currently does not have a name, will put female athletes at the centre of the content and is aimed at young girls.

Speaking to Bloomberg, Morgan said: “Men’s sports are always in the spotlight.

“We will be focusing on women in sport and sharing their stories that I think a lot of people want to hear and girls need to be given access to.”

“We’ve been able to see that we can use our platform to speak up about important issues.

“We’re authentic to who we are and what we stand for and we’re becoming more brave and comfortable in our skin.”

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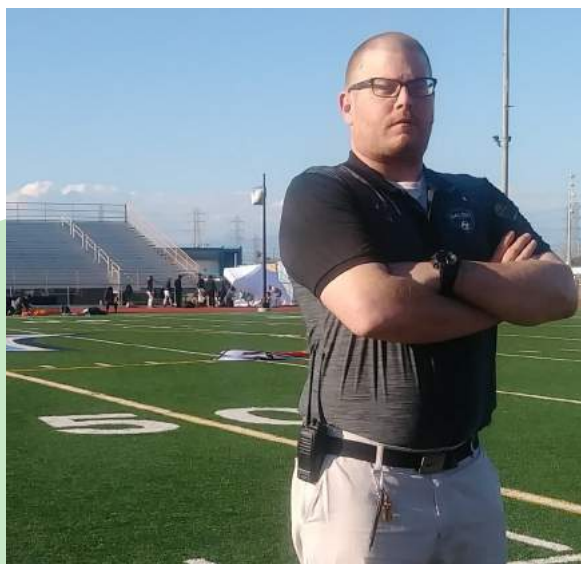


The draw has been made for the FA Women's Continental League Cup group stages.

Group games will be played in the following fixture windows:

- 21/22 September
- 19/20 October
- 2/3 November
- 20/21 November
- 11/12 December

Group A	Group B
Aston Villa	Arsenal
Blackburn Rovers	Brighton & Hove Albion
Coventry United	Bristol City
Durham	Charlton Athletic
Liverpool	London Bees
Sheffield United	London City Lionesses
Group C	Group D
Birmingham City	Chelsea
Everton	Crystal Palace
Leicester City	Lewes
Manchester City	Reading
Manchester United	Tottenham Hotspur
	West Ham United



JEREMY MEYER

The Front Office: Taking you off the pitch and into the hallways of Los Angeles Salsa Women SC

Welcome to the first edition of my new column here at The Women's Football Magazine. I want to start of this column to thank Helen for giving me a place to talk about football and give you an inside perspective on an area you may not be to familiar with.

The WPSL can be considered the FA Women's National League and has 100 teams in 16 different divisions. Compare it to the First Division in the National Women's Soccer League.

The WPSL does not pay it's players and is highly reliable on its survival by using college soccer players to build it's game day roster. Salsa Women Soccer Club has done the opposite and has built their club around players who have already graduated college and is looking for a professional setting to apply their trade.

WPSL does not allow a team to be a professional club with college players on your roster as it would violate the rules and regulations of the NCAA the governing body of college athletics.

Salsa like a lot of soccer clubs at this level did the complete opposite of what happens at a club in Europe where the academy comes second. Here the team was started by connecting with a youth organization and the adult team came after to let its players continue to play for the same.

United Women's Soccer League or simply UWS, is the second division of women's soccer in the US and is on the same level as the FA Women's Championship. The UWS, is a professional/ Amateur league.

“Salsa Women Soccer Club has done the opposite and has built their club around players who have already graduated college and is looking for a professional setting to apply their trade.”

So Salsa, can never make it to the UWS or NWSL unless they want to move up to another league and can get accepted into that league as a Los Angeles franchise.

By the time you read this column, our season will be in full swing and we will start bringing you as much detail as possible on Salsa Women SC's first year in the WPSL.

How will Salsa Women SC compete with clubs that has more resources, more support, more staff and that simply been in the game longer?

Next time, I will discuss getting everything ready for our inaugural season from finding a home stadium to getting sponsors, halftime entertainment, concessions etc. But what do you want to know? Let me know, what you want to know and I will do my best to provide it.

FULL DISCLOSURE

I'm the Game Day Manager for Salsa Women Soccer Club. But everything written in this column is my own thoughts and opinions and does not reflect the opinion of Salsa Women SC or its parent club Salsa Sc.



THE BEST

FIFA® FOOTBALL AWARDS™ 2019

FIFA Women's Coach

Milena Bertolini, Italy

- Led side to first WWC in two decades
- Reached WWC quarter-finals for first time since 1991
- Masterminded impressive wins vs Australia and China PR

Jill Ellis, USA

- WWC winner
- First coach to win two WWC titles
- USA scored 26, conceded just 3 on way to victory

Peter Gerhardsson, Sweden

- Side secured bronze at WWC
- Nation's best finish since 2011
- Oversaw impressive wins vs Canada and Germany

Futoshi Ikeda, Japan

- U20WWC winner
- His country's first World Cup win at this age level
- Side conceded just two goals en route to title

Antonia Is, Spain

- U17 WWC winner
- U17 WEURO winner
- Impressive wins vs Korea DPR, Colombia and Mexico

Joe Montemurro, Arsenal

- FA WSL winner
- Named LMA Managers WSL manager of the year
- Side scored 70, conceding just 13 in 20 league games

Phil Neville, England

- Led side to fourth in WWC
- Oversaw impressive WWC wins vs Japan and Norway
- Won SheBelieves Cup

Reynald Pedros, Lyon

- Won treble with Lyon
- Side scored 89, conceding just 6 in Division 1 Feminine
- Side scored 33 goals in nine games en route to UWCL title

Paul Riley, NC Courage

- 2018 NWSL winner
- Lifted inaugural ICC Women's title
- Named 2018 NWSL coach of the year

Sarina Wiegman, Netherlands

- Led side to a first FIFA WWC final
- Achieved the feat in only the nation's second ever
- Final just two years since Euro win

FIFA Women's Player

Lucy Bronze, Lyon and England

- WWC semi-finalist
- WWC Silver Ball winner
- Treble winner with Lyon

Julie Ertz, Chicago RS and USA

- WWC winner
- Reached NWSL play-offs
- 8 goals, in 2018 NWSL campaign

Caroline Hansen, Barca and Norway

- WWC quarter-finalist
- Scored important goal against Korea
- Won the league and cup double

Ada Hegerberg, Lyon

- Won treble with Lyon
- Second top-score in France
- Scored hat-trick in the UWCL final

Amandine Henry, Lyon and France

- Won treble with Lyon
- France's standout player
- Scored extra time winner vs Brazil in the round-of-16

Rose Lavelle, Washington and USA

- WWC winner
- WWC Bronze Ball winner
- Scored in WWC final to seal title

Sam Kerr, Chicago Red Stars, Perth Glory and Australia

- Top scorer in 2018 NWSL
- Top scorer in 2018/19 W-League
- Scored five goals in four WWC games

Vivianne Miedema, Arsenal and Netherlands

- Netherlands all-time top goalscorer
- Won WSL and finished top goalscorer
- PFA Women's Player of the Year

Alex Morgan, Orlando Pride and USA

- WWC winner
- WWC Silver Boot winner
- Concacaf women's player of the year

Megan Rapinoe, Reign and USA

- WWC winner
- WWX Golden Boot and Ball winner
- Helped Reign to NWSL play-offs

Wendie Renard, Lyon and France

- Won treble with Lyon
- Scored four WWC goals
- Conceded just six league goals

Ellen White, Manchester City and England

- WWC Bronze Boot winner
- Helped England to a fourth place finish
- Won SheBelieves Cup

Hope Nash and Charlotte Owen join Crawley Wasps



“I just want to get back to playing and enjoying my football, and I think Crawley’s the best place for me to do that. It should be a great season,” she said.

Nash added: “It’s such a lovely club. The players and the coaching staff have been so welcoming – this is the best I’ve settled in at a club.

“There’s a winning mentality throughout the squad. We’re not here just to make up the numbers.”

Nash and Owen take Wasps’ summer additions to three, after the arrival of Lewes striker Rebecca Carter.

Paul Walker’s side were narrowly edged out 1-0 by Championship club Charlton in a pre-season friendly on Sunday and take on Nash’s other former side Palace this weekend, at the Ewhurst training base in Ifield Drive, Crawley.

They begin the new league season at home to Plymouth Argyle on Sunday August 18.

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Watching Football Like a Woman

By Karen Dobres



James Boyes

We are now firmly post the FIFA Women's World Cup, and people are talking 'legacy'. The tournament broke TV viewing records across the globe, attracting the highest live telly audience of 2019 in the UK for England's semi-final against USA with a staggering 11.7 million people tuning in - proving that there's an appetite for watching women play the beautiful game. An appetite that English footballing authorities are keen to whet in would-be women's football fans across the nation.

At the moment in the Women's Super League - Europe's only fully-professional women's division - average attendances are growing, but not as fast as might be hoped. So, how will the popularity of our Lionesses translate to rising crowd figures at women's matches up and down the country?

One understandable tactic is the

Introduction of 'double headers'. This is when a women's match is played on the same day, at the same stadium, as their club's men's match. The idea is that existing fans, the majority of them male, will stay on, or arrive earlier, to watch the women's team play too - they'll make a day of it.

Now, I like watching women's football, but have never followed the men's game, (having previously assumed football was just for men). That may be an unusual statement but it's not an altogether radical one, and it's definitely one that new fans of the women's team I support would echo: most of them female and, like myself, relatively new to football.

It's not news that the experience at top level women's matches is different to men's matches. The players are known for being more stoic, less diva-like, than their diving male counterparts; crowds are smaller; fans

are less threatening, more inclusive. Whole families attend, and footballers in the top leagues are accessible, in an atmosphere that is profoundly unlike the kind of hetero-normative, bloke-heavy one that dominates the men's premier league and means that no player there has come out as gay. In fact, there are a good many openly gay female players, and fans, and the mood is more relaxed for it. I can't think of a better place than the terraces at a women's football match for cheesy chips and a cup of tea on a Sunday afternoon: I like my quotient of sporting tradition to come with a healthy dose of non-conformity.

Women's football, after all, is not men's football. The moment a woman in a team of other women kicks a ball on a pitch she turns her gender-assigned role upside-down. She may not intend to do that – she may well intend simply to shoot, tackle, dribble or pass – but, like it or not, women footballers are unselfconsciously breaking away from the traditionally assigned passive gender role that women the world over are conditioned to play out. And women-watching-women-play-football are seeing a version of themselves far-removed from the non-assertive, looks-obsessed, demure, self-effacing, deferring, indecisive, decorations that women are overwhelmingly shown how to be. Instead they are seeing powerful, resilient, space-taking, team-players who will very publicly throw themselves on the line to get what they want. Once witnessed by keen new female fans, those upset apples are never going to line up neatly in the appplecart of gender stereotypes again.

In fact, Helen Pankhurst, great granddaughter of Suffragette leader Emmeline, watched a women's match in December 2018 for the first time ever (Lewes v Manchester United), and roundly declared to TV cameras that 'women's Football Is Feminism in Action' (I've capitalised some of her words to make a new acronym for FIFA... which, naturally, I hope they'll one day adopt).

There is a danger in looking at women's football through the lens of the men's game. And there are other ways to develop this chilled but brilliantly, inherently disruptive sport. The women's match day is a world removed from the men's, and so it needs to be allowed to grow on its own terms.

Experimenting with 'double-header' games will be interesting. But in testing this approach, we need to be watching if it inadvertently deters existing fans of the women's game by throwing them in the deep end of a packed, all-seater stadium, surrounded by other people who only half want to be there. We need to ask them afterwards about their experience and not just count the numbers. The potential issue isn't playing the match at the club's (men's) main stadium - that's great. It's the risk of mixing two quite different matchday experiences and one swamping the other. And the other risk is that in chasing existing (predominantly male) football fans, resources are diverted from the fast-growing audience of 'women who were never previously into football'.

Of course as an Englishwoman I wanted our Lionesses to bring it home, but I can't help revelling in the success of a US team with a certain Megan Rapinoe at the helm. The co-captain won an even bigger platform for her message, and has used it well to espouse the true values of the women's game: collaboration, inclusivity, and a collective responsibility to change the world in the face of huge socio-cultural obstacles. This hard-earnt, ability and willingness to disrupt may just be the answer to growing the women's game: invite feminists and activists. Because not only do feminists wear pink, they also watch football. And, hallelujah, they do it in their own sweet way.

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Stephanie Frappart to referee UEFA Super Cup



Stephanie Frappart will become the first woman to referee a major men's European match.

She will take charge of the UEFA Super Cup final between Liverpool and Chelsea on August 14.

The 35-year-old Frenchwoman refereed July's Women's World Cup final between USA and Netherlands in Lyon.

She will lead a team that also includes two female assistant referees when the two sides (Champions League winners vs Europa League winners) meet in Istanbul.

UEFA president Aleksander Cerefin said; "I

have said on many occasions that the potential for women's football has no limits.

"I hope the skill and devotion that Stephanie has shown throughout her career to reach this level will provide inspiration to millions of girls and women around Europe, and show them there should be no barriers in order to reach one's dream."

The assistant referees will be Frappart's compatriot Manuela Nicolosi and Michelle O'Neill of the Republic of Ireland.

Male referee Cuneyt Cakir will be the fourth official.



NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

Following the USA's domination at the Women's World Cup, the National Women's Soccer League is back in America.

Several teams have seen a significant increase in attendance at their home games.

According to Steven Goff, of the Washington Post, the attendances for the first weekend where the USA national players were back were:

- Chicago 17,388 (sellout)
- Utah 15,931
- Orlando 9,415
- Washington 5,000 (sellout)

Last season Chicago Red Stars' average attendance was so much lower:

- Chicago 4,368
- Utah 9,466
- Orlando 4,837
- Washington 3,892

This is great news, hopefully those numbers stay that high and the WSL will show an increase too.

Be a Flamingo in a flock of pigeons

Football needs more girls!

This month's column is written by Gill's 8-year-old daughter, Olivia.

You don't need to be Ellen White to play football, you just need to be a girl with a passion for sport.

I started playing football for a team when I was at under 5 in a mixed boy and girl team. I was the only girl, and those boys were really mean, they never passed the ball.....ever!. So, I got stuck in and won the ball off them. It was great fun in those 2 to 3 years playing what my Dad calls, Bumble Bee football. I think what he means is wherever the ball ends up everyone is fighting for it, but it was great fun all the same.

Soon enough those mean boys became my teammates and we were all in it together, we won together, we lost together, we cried together, we laughed together. Now we are all great mates. Soon I realised they were not being mean..... they were just being 5.

Last season, at under 8, we all really started to develop under our coach Andy. He taught us new things every week and our confidence grew, and we got even closer as mates, on and off the pitch. I have earned my right to be called Olivia #7, not that girl with a ponytail. Yes, I have heard boys in other teams say "Oh, they have a girl", said in such a way that they must think I'm a pushover. But when I take the ball off their bigger than me striker, run past three of them and bury the ball in the bottom corner of the net, they soon realise that I'm no pushover and can compete and that I'm Olivia #7 for a reason. I have my team mates to thank for helping me develop to be able to do that.

I have been lucky to play for a few teams in the last 12 months. My main team has been my Albert Village Spitfires team, who I joined back when I was 5. Also, the Coalville Ravenettes, an all-girl team and Derby Ladies, who are a bridge between grass roots and the professional teams. I've enjoyed making new friends with all of them and also enjoyed playing football with all of them, all the highs and all the lows. My Derby Ladies U9 team beat the Derby Ladies U10 team in their league cup final at Matlock. That was a great night. Unfortunately, I couldn't play as I'm only 8, too young for that match, but the team treated me just like a team member and we all shared the glory.

I have also been lucky enough to pass the trials to become a member of Leicester City FC RTC side at U10 for the next season. I



Be a Flamingo in a flock of pigeons



I am so excited by this, me a young fox, or vixen, so exciting. That's another new bunch of girls to make friends with and after 3 practise sessions, we're all getting along fine. To all of those who know me, I'm still a lifelong Bluenose though. (That's a Birmingham City fan)

So, girl's football can help you develop your strength and conditioning, give you new skills to build on your confidence and its teaching me how to gain and keep new friends, its amazing. I still have all my school friends and all the Albert Village Tigermoths squad, the girl's academy my mum coaches. It's so cool. There's never been a better time to be getting involved with girls footy.



I watched a lot of the Women's football World Cup, did you? My Mum and Dad took me to Wembley to see the ladies FA Cup final, Man City v West Ham and I've been to watch Birmingham Ladies a lot last year, watched England play in Nottingham and Walsall but that World Cup was amazing.

Ellen White is a former Bluenose and a legend. They all came so close to winning against USA in that semi. America were really good but we came so close. I've practised that peno that Steph Houghton had saved, so many times. I've missed it a fair bit too but most the time it's ended up in the corner of the net, easy without a goalie and a million people watching you.

I'm practising it, just in case the Lionesses need me in the 2027 or 2031 World Cups. I would so love to be playing in those...a girl can hope.



I'd encourage you to take up football now, go along to a ladies game and see how much better it is than the boring Boys game. How much more you can get from it as a fan, selfies, autographs, all sorts, its wicked. Even my Dad is a convert. He's been around football since it was invented and even he prefers the ladies game, better atmosphere he says. I think it may be that the pies are better and cheaper!

You can follow me on twitter @Oliviablunose to read about my journey and I'll follow you back to read about yours. Us girls have got to stick together to show these boys how to do it. I couldn't get any more encouragement, fun, enjoyment and pride and friendship if I tried. Why don't you?

Olivia#7 #thisgirlcan #socanyou #girlsrock



THE WOMEN'S
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A new identity for Crystal Palace Ladies FC



Crystal Palace Ladies FC has announced a change of the Club name and will play in next season's FA Women's Championship as Crystal Palace FC.

The club, which was founded in 1992, has a significant history in the women's game.

The club are set to start their second season in the Championship and last season saw attendance increase by 50%.

Announcing the name change, Chairman Richard Spokes said: "Since our inception, we have proudly played as Crystal Palace Ladies FC – a name that has served us very well, been much loved and earned huge respect. However, amidst the changing landscape of the

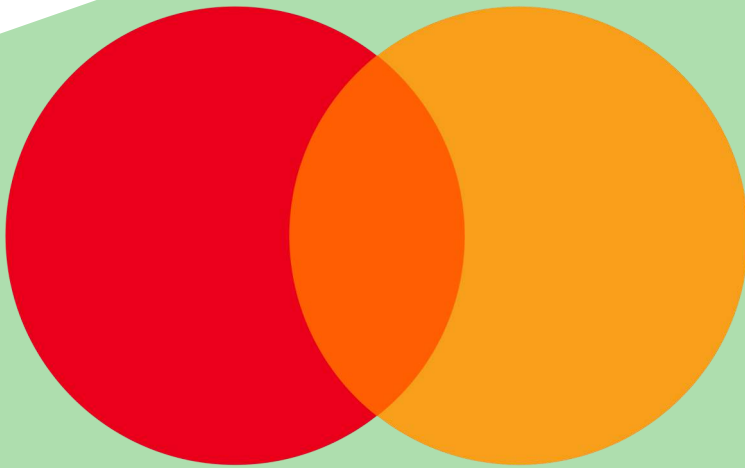
women's game, and especially for us, due to the inclusive and supportive identity of our parent club, it is with honour that we will now be playing our football, as Crystal Palace FC."

General Manager Paula Johnson said: "We believe our new name brings us into the modern world and shows that we are one club, one family. We are excited about the season ahead, playing our part under the CPFC umbrella".

Where a distinction is needed, for example, on social media channels, the name Crystal Palace FC (Women) will be used.

The Club's new social media handle will be: @cpfc_w

Arsenal reveal Mastercard as first major partner



mastercard



Arsenal Women reveal Mastercard has become the first major partner of the Arsenal women's team.

Mastercard aims to raise awareness of the women's game as well as increase the level of investment, professionalism and competition in the sport.

Raja Rajamannar, chief marketing and communication officer at Mastercard, said: "By investing significantly in women's football we have an opportunity to directly impact the lives of athletes and help build sustainable programmes to which girls and women around the world can aspire."

Peter Silverstone, commercial director at Arsenal, added: "This partnership is extremely important for the growth of the women's game. Mastercard's partnership with us isn't just an investment into our own team, but is a powerful statement for the women's game at large."

Vinai Venkatesham, Arsenal's managing director, said: "Partnering with a global player like Mastercard is a huge statement for women's sport. The partnership will help us build on our success, but it will also promote the women's game globally and continue to develop and attract the world's best talent and inspire generations of young sportswomen."



London City Lionesses to compete in Championship

The newly named London City Lionesses will take over from Millwall Lionesses and continue to play in the Women's Championship for the 2019-20 season.

Millwall, who finished bottom last season, ended their affiliation with the men's Millwall team last season.

The FA confirmed that the applications to "transfer its licence to a new entity and change its playing name" had been approved.

The club will continue to play out of the Dartford stadium that they moved to last year.

The problem is, that is all we really know about the club. There has not been much else put up.

It's hard to find anything about the players, there has been no mention in the media about transfers or a manager and there has been no tweets since July 3 when there was a notice put out on @LCLionessesFC talking about U17 and U19 women's football trials.

So with the season looming, time will tell for the London City Lionesses.

Looking ahead for Millwall, they will continue running a women's team called Millwall Lionesses, but it is yet to be announced what league they will be playing in.

Millwall will keep their honours which includes two FA Women's Cups from 1991 and 1997 and the FA Women's Premier League National Division win from the 2018/19 season.





At the time the Lionesses decided to leave, Millwall released the following statement:

Millwall Football Club regrets to announce that the Board of Directors and senior management at Millwall Lionesses have decided to become an independent entity from the end of this current campaign.

This will mean the start of a new club, London City Lionesses, while Millwall Lionesses will go on to operate through Millwall Community Trust with its proud history and tradition intact.

The club is disappointed that the Lionesses' current hierarchy have decided to become independent. Millwall have tried several times, over the course of the season, to arrive at a different outcome.

The club attempted to reach an agreement whereby its name, Millwall, could continue to be used but this was rejected out of hand. As such, the club ultimately supported the name change, subject to certain conditions being met, in order for the team to complete the current season and so that management had ample time and opportunity to secure alternative funding.

The Lionesses will always be a key part of Millwall Football Club. Their tradition and heritage is a source of immense pride and, through the Community Trust, more history can now be created. The club's aim, as always, is to ensure that there is a pathway for girls and women to play football at as high a level as possible and this will continue to be the case with a new-look Millwall Lionesses.

The club wishes London City Lionesses the best of luck in the future with their new venture.





Women's FA Cup

The draws for the first two rounds of the Women's FA Cup have been made, ahead of the 2019-20 campaign.

With 300 clubs entering this season's competition, 20 of them will be in action on Sunday 18 August in the extra preliminary round.

Winners at that stage will progress to the preliminary round on Sunday 1 September when there will be a busier day with 98 ties taking place.

Both draws have been made at Wembley, along with the list of entries and exemptions and the 2019-20 round dates.

Extra Preliminary Round, Sunday August 18

Washington	vs	Redcar Town
Wakefield Trinity	vs	Farsley Celtic
Mossley Hill	vs	Burnley Belvedere
Notts County	vs	Cleethorpes Town
Port Vale	vs	Lye Town
Corby Town	vs	Bungay Town
New London Lionesses	vs	Comets
Bishop's Stortford	vs	Hartham United
Ashford Town (Middx)	vs	Denham United
Burgess Hill Town	vs	Eastbourne United

Preliminary Round—Sunday September 1

Penrith	vs	Bishop Auckland	Solihull Sporting	vs	Rugby Town
Boro Rangers	vs	South Shields	Crusaders	vs	Sandwell
Carlisle United	vs	Hartlepool United	Tamworth	vs	Shrewsbury Town
Washington or Redcar Town	vs	Lumley	Wakefield Trinity or Farsley Celtic	vs	Thackley
Blyth Town	vs	Workington Reds	Kingfisher	vs	Cookley Sports
Alnwick Town	vs	Sunderland WE	Kidsgrove Athletic	vs	Solihull Ladies U
Wetherby Athletic	vs	Harrogate Town	Coundon Court	vs	Sutton Coldfield T
Osset United	vs	Rotherham United	Wyrley	vs	Shifnal Town
Ripon City	vs	Yorkshire Amateur	Stockingford AA P	vs	Stourbridge
Bridlington Rovers	vs	Bradford PA	Coventry Sphinx	vs	AFC Telford United
Hepworth United	vs	Pride Park	Wroxham	vs	Kettering Town
Oughtbridge WM	vs	Sheff Wednesday	Haverhill Rovers	vs	King's Lynn Town
Blackburn Comm	vs	West Kirby	St Ives Town	vs	Histon
Northwich Vixens	vs	Bury	AFC Sudbury	vs	Harlow Town
Curzon Ashton	vs	Mossley Hill or Burnley Belvedere	Rise Park	vs	Notts County or Cleethorpes Town
Thameside United	vs	Fleetwood TW	Peterborough U	vs	Thrapston Town
Manchester Stingers	vs	Merseyrail	Fulbourn IB	vs	Wymondham Town
FC United of Manc	vs	Tranmere Rovers	Netherton United	vs	Newmarket Town
Accrington G&L	vs	Altrincham	Clapton Community	vs	Margate
Didsbury	vs	West Didsbury	Aylesford	vs	Dulwich Hamlet
Accrington Stanley	vs	Morecambe	Dartford	vs	Hackney
Wythenshawe A	vs	Crewe Alexandra	Whyteleafe	vs	Millwall Lionesses
Boston United	vs	Loughborough S	Victoire	vs	Herne Bay
AFC Leicester	vs	Grimsby Borough	Meridian	vs	Regents PR
Coalville Town	vs	Hykeham Town	Sutton United	vs	Islington Borough
Worksop Town	vs	Mansfield Town	Phoenix Sports	vs	Haringey Borough
Dronfield Town	vs	Leicester City	Long Lane	vs	Ashford
Lutterworth Athletic	vs	Chesterfield	Watford Ladies D	vs	Hemel Hempstead T
Sherwood	vs	Arnold Eagles	Hitchin Belles	vs	Bowers & Pitsea
Oadby & Wigston	vs	Lincoln MR	Royston Town	vs	Wodson Park
Arnold Town	vs	Woodlands	Bedford	vs	Colney Heath
Kidderminster H	vs	Leek Town	Houghton Athletic	vs	AFC Dunstable
Port Vale or Lye Town	vs	Knowle	Riverside	vs	Corby Town or Bungay Town
Droitwich Spa	vs	<i>walkover</i>	Luton Town	vs	Leigh Ramblers

Preliminary Round—Sunday September 1

Abbey Rangers	vs	Hampton & RB	Shanklin	vs	Alton
QPR Development	vs	Wargrave	Bournemouth Sport	vs	Winchester CF
Banbury United	vs	Walton Casuals	Easleigh	vs	Moneyfields
Fulham	vs	New London Lionesses or Comets	Bishop's Stortford or Hartham United	vs	St Albans
Abingdon United	vs	Brentford	AFC Bournemouth	vs	Feniton
Ascot United	vs	Abingdon Town	Almondsbury	vs	Longlevens
Wantage Town	vs	Wycombe W	Weston Super Mare	vs	Middlezoy Rovers
Steyning Town	vs	Newhaven	AEK Boko	vs	Ilminster Town
Oakwood	vs	AFC Littlehampton	Sherborne Town	vs	Keynsham TD
Pagham	vs	Worthing	Royal Wootton BT	vs	Chipping Sodbury T
Godalming Town	vs	Eastbourne Town	Swindon Spitfires	vs	Portishead Town
Milford & Witley	vs	Tunbridge Wells F	Bideford	vs	St Agnes
Mole Valley	vs	Bexhill United	Marine Academy Ply	vs	AFC St Austell
New Milton Town	vs	Newbury	Torquay United	vs	RNAS Culdrose
Ashford Town (Middx)	vs	Oxford City or Denham United	Burgess Hill Town	vs	Saltdean United or Eastbourne United

Round Dates

Preliminary Round Sunday 18 August 2019

First Round Qualifying Sunday 1 September 2019

Second Round Qualifying Sunday 22 September 2019

Third Round Qualifying Sunday 6 October 2019

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



Website Updates

As we continue our Women In Football #WhatIf pledge we have made a lot of changes to our website.

Alongside our new features page, we now have the women's football fixtures and results available for **NINE** leagues—the first to have all of the top nine fixtures on one page.

If you want to know results, then our website is the place to go!

Fixtures and results for the following leagues are now available:

- Women's Super League
- Women's Championship
- FA WNL Northern Premier Division
- FA WNL Southern Premier Division
- FA WNL Division One Midlands
- FA WNL Division One North
- FA WNL Division One South West
- FA WNL Division One South East

**THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL
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