

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

ISSUE 30 MAGAZINE OCTOBER 2019



 **WSL NEWBIES** 

Marissa Thomas looks at how the new teams are faring in the WSL, live reports from Manchester United v Arsenal and Reading v Liverpool. Hartlepool boss Jonathan Hayes talks to us about growing the game and all the latest from our home nations, Championship and National League teams.

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



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Hello and welcome to Issue 30!

Hello everyone and welcome to issue 30!

I'd like to start by saying we have gone **pink** on our front cover for Breast Cancer Awareness month. If you can donate anything to the campaign, no matter how small, please do.

This month we have SO much content and so many great writers joining us. We have all the latest news from the WSL with match reports, key moments and news, our monthly round-up of the Championship and all the latest from the Premier Division and Division One.

Our home nations have been in action along with the U19s and we have our first bit of Tokyo 2020 gossip too. Connor Botting is also looking ahead to England's game with Germany.

Ammo is back with a slightly different antics—it's brilliant and Georgia Stevens tells us all about her month at Fylde - massive congratulations on your nomination.

Finally, I would just like to say we forgot to thank James Boyes for providing the incredible front cover last month—so thank you James!

Enjoy the issue!

Helen Rowe-Willcocks

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WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE



Record crowd sees City beat United in derby Opener



By Jessica Chandok

A spirited performance from WSL newcomers Manchester United wasn't enough to take points from rivals Manchester City in the first ever WSL Manchester derby. Scotland midfielder Caroline Weir's powerful long-range strike gave the home side a 1-0 victory in front of a record crowd of 31,213 at the Etihad Stadium.

The Citizens took the lead just after half time when Katie Zelem's sloppy clearance was cut out by Weir in space 25 yards from goal. With a lot still to do, Weir drove forward and smashed the ball into the top corner giving United 'keeper Mary Earps no chance. It was a goal befitting of such a historic occasion but perhaps harsh on

United, who had held their own and created the best of the chances before the break.

Newly appointed United captain Zelem had almost orchestrated a fine goal for the away side inside the opening half hour thanks to a fantastic move that started with her through ball out wide to the ever-dangerous Leah Galton. Galton's pin-perfect cross fell to Jane Ross, but the Scotland striker's half volley was palmed away by the brilliant Ellie Roebuck.

Moments later, another Galton cross from the left caused havoc in the box as City defender Gemma Bonner had to slide in to prevent Jackie Groenen pulling off a back-heel finish, before Roebuck managed to get to the ball ahead of a battling Jess Sigsworth and Demi Stokes.

City were more in control in the second half and went close through chances for Tessa Wullaert, Georgia Stanway and Janine Beckie, who was unable to finish off a lightning counter-attack after carrying the ball around 45 yards.

Despite City dominating, United did not stop battling for an equaliser. Their best chances came as Galton forced another save from Roebuck at the near post before Groenen weaved her way through the City defence and managed to get a shot away that rebounded off the post and into the arms of City's grateful teenage 'keeper.

In their first top-flight appearance after cruising to the Women's Championship title in their maiden campaign last year, Casey Stoney's side proved that they can go toe-to-toe with the league's best. Reflecting on her side's efforts, she said: "I have to be extremely proud of these players and where they've come from in such a short space of time."

Cheered on by the infamous 'Barmy Army', the sea of red behind the goal contributed to the electric atmosphere generated by the huge record crowd, which was around six times the previous league-high of 5,265 that watched Arsenal crowned champions at Brighton last season.

Commenting on the attendance post-match, City manager Nick Cushing said: "This team has had the opportunity to play in front of 31,000 in our home stadium. We are just really pleased that we have repaid them with the win."

In a fantastic advert for the women's game Manchester remains blue, but United are certainly not here to make up the numbers.



Players to avoid having to cover their own injury costs this season in the WSL



Women's Super League footballers will no longer have to worry about covering their own injury costs this season.

Despite the fact the league turned professional last season, some players still had to provide their own medical insurance.

The news means that players will have the chance to access club injury funds however there is still a clause which means that if players are injured for more than three months they can be sacked.

Whilst no club has yet activated that clause, the FA has said it's medical policies were under "regular review".

Name change for Everton

Everton Ladies have dropped the 'Ladies' from their title for the current and future seasons.

The WSL team, who were one of eight founding members of the league, will be known as Everton from now on.

Professor Denise Barrett-Baxendale, Chief Executive Officer at Everton, said: "Everton has played a significant role in the development of women's football.

"The identity change is an important and progressive step and part of our desire to bring our men's and women's teams closer in identity and location. It is a clear symbol of togetherness and unity and part of our 'one club' vision.

The announcement also so a video with major Everton stars from both the women's and men's teams saying "We are Everton, we are one club."



WSL September review

By Bridget Lockwood



TheFA Women's
Super League



Arsenal

Position: 1st

Results:

Arsenal 2 – 1 West Ham

Man Utd 0 – 1 Arsenal

Arsenal 4 – 0 Brighton & Hove Albion

It was a busy month back for the Champions with six games throughout different competitions. They kicked off the new season at home with a comfortable 2-1 win over West Ham, the second goal coming from new summer signing Roord who stuck the ball first time after a clever lay-off from Mead. This game also saw the return of Jordan Nobbs who came on in the second half for her first game after suffering a terrible knee injury last season. Their second game was a much closer affair, playing newly promoted side Man Utd. The goal didn't come till the eighty ninth minute with a scramble in the box eventually ending up with Van De Donk slotting it home for a late winner. With a very convincing win against Brighton to finish the month Arsenal's perfect start to the season saw them top of the table.

Birmingham City

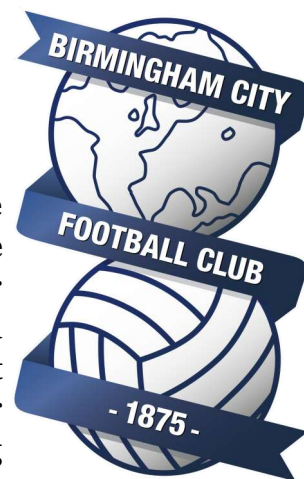
Position: 11th

Results:

Birmingham City 0 – 1 Everton

West Ham 1 – 0 Birmingham City

The Blues have had a difficult start to the season. Their opening game against Everton saw an unlucky defeat, with captain Harrop's defensive attempt being turned into her own net for the only goal of the game. In their second game of the season Birmingham were again unable to find a breakthrough after West Ham's first half goal, despite Staniforth's valiant effort from 25-yards being fumbled against the bar. Unfortunately, their game against Reading was postponed due to the heavy overnight rain leaving the pitch waterlogged and unplayable.





Brighton & Hove Albion

Position: 9th

Results:

Bristol City 0 – 0 Brighton & Hove Albion

Brighton & Hove Albion 1 – 1 Chelsea

Arsenal 4 – 0 Brighton & Hove Albion

After sharing the points with Bristol on the opening day of the season Brighton & Hove faced a tough game against Chelsea. The game looked to be ending goalless until the last ten minutes when Whelan put Brighton in front with a nicely set up half volley. However, the hosts leveled in stoppage time after a close range shot from Engman. Brighton then faced the tough away trip to league champions Arsenal, having most of the possession it wasn't a surprise when the hosts broke the deadlock just before the ten-minute mark. Brighton did well to contain the Arsenal attack for large spells of the game, but the champions were fierce and kept pushing for more goal which eventually came.

Bristol City

Position: 10th

Results:

Bristol 0 – 0 Brighton & Hove Albion

Everton 2 – 0 Bristol

Bristol 0 - 4 Chelsea



During Bristol's first game of the season both teams had chances to go ahead. The keepers at both ends played a crucial part in keeping the score level, with Bristol keeper Baggaley saving a first-half penalty kick. In the end, even with a flurry of chances from both sides Bristol shared the points in their first game of the new season. The Robins were then away at Everton in their second game of the season. Despite having a couple of chances to take the lead through new signing Wellings they couldn't get the win, with Everton taking the lead just before half time as Kelly fired two balls into the net within sixty seconds of each other. Bristol had another tough afternoon against Chelsea. It took just three minutes for Chelsea to open the scoring, with three goal inside the opening twenty minutes.



Chelsea

Position: 3rd

Results:

Chelsea 1 - 0 Tottenham Hotspur

Brighton & Hove Albion 1 – 1 Chelsea

Bristol 0 - 4 Chelsea

Chelsea played their opening match of the season at Stamford Bridge in front of 24,564 fans. Only four minutes in Beth England put the blues ahead striking the ball from 25-yards into the top-left corner. Despite dominating the game Chelsea couldn't capitalise on an abundance of chances they created with it ending just 1 – 0. In an uneventful game against Brighton & Hove which looked to be ending goalless, Whelan put the hosts ahead with only six minutes left on the clock. Chelsea needed stoppage time to rescue a point as Bright brought down a ball for sub Engman to level. The blues started strong against Bristol, Reiten scored twice within the first ten minutes later being followed by two more goals from Ji So-Yun and Ingle. The blues had numerous chances to increase the score line but some nice saves from Bristol keeper Baggaley kept it at four.

Everton

Position: 4th

Results:

Birmingham City 0 – 1 Everton

Everton 2 – 0 Bristol City

Everton 0 – 1 Manchester City



A near perfect start to the season for Everton saw them win two games from three. The side saw their first win come against Birmingham, an own goal from Harrop being the only thing to separate the two teams in a very even match. Everton should have doubled their lead just after the own goal as George had a free header which was just wide. Their second game of the season saw two wonder goals from Chloe Kelly just before half time. The first a low driven shot going off the post and in, the second only minutes later as Kelly found the top corner from 35-yards out. Everton could have got a third as Kelly nearly had a hattrick hitting the bar in the last twenty minutes. However, Everton's perfect run was end as the face Manchester City. A low driven free kick from Houghton was enough for the win in some very windy and rainy conditions.

Liverpool

Position: 12th

Results:

Liverpool 0- 1 Reading

Tottenham Hotspur 1 – 0 Liverpool

Manchester United 2 – 0 Liverpool



A disappointing month for Liverpool as they start the season without a win. Their opening game saw Reading take all three points as ex Liverpool player Fara Williams scored a beautiful free kick from 25-yards out. A week later the Reds played newly promoted side Tottenham, a frustrating game for the reds with few decisions going their way. Just before half time, Jane brought down Spurs player Furness in the box, who later went on to score from the spot for the only goal of the game. But many Liverpool players argued that they should have been given a free kick in the lead up to the penalty foul. Liverpool's game was damped further with twenty-five minutes to go as Fahey was sent off for pulling back Ayane as she went forward towards goal. Against Manchester United they had a strong 80 minutes but couldn't hold back the attacking threat of United as they conceded to late goals.

Manchester City

Position: 2nd

Results:

Manchester City 1 – 0 Manchester United

Reading 0 – 2 Manchester City

Everton 1 – 0 Manchester City



Manchester City have had the perfect start to the season with three wins. The sides first game against rivals United was in front of a record crowd of 31,213 people. Weir drilled a shot into the top right corner just after half time for them to get the win over their rivals. Pauline Bremer secured their second win of the season scoring two goals against Reading, she could have had a hattrick, but her header hit the post to go wide. With a Steph Houghton free kick being all they needed to beat Everton in some very windy and rainy conditions, City end the month looking strong with all nine points.

Manchester United

Position: 6th

Results:

Manchester City 1 – 0 Manchester United

Manchester United 0 – 1 Arsenal

Manchester United 2 – 0 Liverpool



United played rivals Manchester City in their first ever WSL game. Going down one nil just minutes into the second half the Reds still pushed and frustrated City and could have equalised through Groenen when she hit the post with only five minutes left to play. In their second game of the season United face champions Arsenal with only a late goal from Van de Donk separating the two sides. The Red devils got their first win in the WSL against bottom of the league Liverpool. Young striker James opened the scoring with a neat finish after turning away from her player, just a day before her 18th birthday. Captain Zelem made it two in extra time from the spot.



Reading

Position: 8th

Results:

Liverpool 0 – 1 Reading

Reading 0 – 2 Manchester City

Readings opening game of the season saw victory over Liverpool, Williams struck the ball perfectly into the top corner late into the first half to help the team get all three points. Their next game against Manchester City came with defeat as two defensive mistakes allowed for Bremer to curl home the opener and easily put away a second for her team. The deficit could have been bigger but Royals keeper Moloney pulled off several saves to try and give her team a chance. Unfortunately, their game against Birmingham was postponed due the heavy overnight rain leaving the pitch waterlogged and unplayable.

Tottenham Hotspur

Position: 5th

Results:

Chelsea 1 – 0 Tottenham Hotspur

Tottenham Hotspur 1 – 0 Liverpool

West Ham United 0 – 2 Tottenham

Newly promoted Tottenham played their first game of the season against Chelsea, going behind after just four minutes allowed Chelsea to dominate the game. Spurs had threats going forward with Davison and Furness but were unable to capitalise on any of these chances, suffering their first defeat in the WSL. Tottenham then played Liverpool; a penalty from Furness was enough to give them first win and three points. Spurs then beat West Ham in front of the second largest crowd in WSL history, just under 25,000 people filled the London Stadium. Their first goal came from Dean whose pinpoint header snuck in near post to put spurs in front. Then just seven minutes before full time Quinn scored to secure victory.





West Ham United

Position: 8th

Results:

Arsenal 2 – 1 West Ham United

West Ham United 1 – 0 Birmingham City

West Ham United 0 – 2 Tottenham Hotspur

West Ham only narrowly lost to champions Arsenal on their opening game of the season. Two first half goals from the gunners didn't deter West Ham as they pushed for goals. The Hammers were close with a goal from Thomas and Dali hitting the woodwork twice in a tense ending to the game. West Ham then faced Birmingham, with a goal from Adriana Leon being the only thing to separate the two teams. The Hammers couldn't get a win at the London Stadium as Tottenham scored two goals. West Ham missed good opportunities through Thomas and Lehmann to equalise but both missed the target from inside the six yard box.



Other WSL news



Laura Coombs out with knee injury

Manchester City's Laura Coombs has suffered a knee injury which will see her sidelined for about six weeks.

The midfielder, who joined the club from Liverpool during the summers has undergone surgery.

Coombs, 29, joins Georgia Stanway, Ellen White and Lauren Hemp on the road to recovery for City.

Get well soon Laura!

Davison out with ankle injury

Tottenham forward Gemma Davison has been sidelined due to a 'significant' ankle injury.

The 32-year-old damaged her ankle ligaments in training and the WSL have not confirmed how long she will be out.

Get well soon Gemma!

Manchester United fans chanting Liverpool

Liverpool have reported chants made during the WSL defeat to Manchester United to the FA.

It is understood that anti-Liverpool chants previously heard at men's games were heard at the match at Leigh Sports Valley.

There has been no further comment from either club or the FA as of yet.

Other WSL news



Thatchers partner Bristol City Women

Thatchers Cider have announced a new partnership with WSL side Bristol City, The partnership will see the company sponsor the back of both the home and away shirts for the current season.

Martin Thatcher said: Women's football is going from strength-to-strength and there's a real buzz surrounding the sport. As a close partner to Bristol Sport we're delighted that Thatchers Cider will be appearing on the shirts of Bristol City Women's Football Club this season.

"As the city's local cider we're always delighted to be a part of activity at Bristol Sport. We wish Bristol City Women a successful season ahead and congratulate them in the amazing work they do in inspiring the local community to watch and participate in football."



Georgia Stanway injury update

Georgia Stanway is expected to be sidelined for around six months after picking up a hamstring injury in the UEFA Women's Champions League first leg with Lugano.

The 20-year-old was substituted 30 minutes into City's 7-1 win.

Wishing you a speedy recovery Georgia!

Royals impress in opening game of the season



By Bridget Lockwood

Reading defeated Liverpool 1-0 in their opening Women's Super League game; which was packed with end to end action from the start, only being separated by a stunning free kick from Fara Williams to give the Royals the three points.

Going into the first match of the season both teams looked strong with new signings strengthening both squads. Over the summer Liverpool signed Jade Bailey, Melissa Lawley, and ex-Royal Becky Jane with all of them looking to make their first appearance in this game. Two of the Royals summer signings started the game, Kristine Leine and Angharad James, with Amalie Eikeland and Maxime Bennink on the bench.

Reading started strong straight from kick off within the first ten seconds a powerful run from Millie Farrow playing in Williams whose early shot forced Liverpool's keeper Preuss to make a strong save pushing the ball over the bar.

This strong start set the tempo for the game with both teams having strong periods of possession throughout. Just under a minute later Liverpool had a chance with a nice turn from Sweetman-Kirk putting her in space with a driven shot flying over the bar. Liverpool then won a free kick in a threatening area with a foul on Jess Clarke, eventually leading to nothing.

The Royals began to take a steady hold on the game with some very slick passing between the whole team allowing them to keep possession and create loads of chances around the box. With the continuous pressure Liverpool became impatient with a few cynical fouls to try and stop the flow.

This worked with Liverpool regaining the ball and with some nice play down the right-hand side of the pitch. Clarke had space to produce a pinpoint cross for new signing Lawley to head in, but it was straight at Reading keeper Moloney.

Reading soon started to take control and just after the thirty-minute mark after some strong attack play from Reading, the captain Harding was given a chance as she received a through ball over the top putting her in front of goal, but Liverpool's keeper Preuss was alert and cleared the ball before Harding was able to gather her touch.

Reading were awarded a free kick on the forty-minute mark after a late challenge on Jade Moore. It was Fara Williams who struck the ball, effortlessly curling the ball into the top corner of the net past Preuss giving the visiting side the lead just before half time.

Quickly after the Royals goal they were given another free kick to the other side of the goal, however this was easily dealt with by the Liverpool defence.

Both teams saw out the rest of the first half attempting to break through each other's defence but with no success.

Half time | Liverpool 0-1 Reading

With the ref blowing the whistle to start the second half the Reds showed a new set of urgency moving forward sharply. A tame shot from Lawley was then shortly followed by Sweetman-Kirk going through one on one with Moloney but a heavy touch allowed the keeper to collect the ball before a shot was taken.

Chaplen then gathered a loose ball and with some quick feet beat Robe only to fire a left footed shot over the bar.

With a period of end to end action neither team could control take control of the game, one of the Reds youngsters Niamh Charles caused continuous havoc with her speed down the left side producing several quality deliveries which couldn't be finished by her teammates. At the other end of the pitch Chaplen caused some problems for the Liverpool defence with endless runs in and around the opposition's box.

Reading made their first substitution just before the hour mark with Millie Farrow coming off for new signing Amalie Eikeland. This was shortly followed with Liverpool's first substitution which saw pacey striker Babajide replacing Jess Clarke.

The Royals remained strong in attack with summer signing Kristine Leine pushing up from defence to cross a ball being met by Moore with a perfectly timed volley only to be denied by an amazing reaction save from Preuss in the Liverpool goal.

Liverpool followed this with their second substitution where Courtney Sweetman-Kirk was replaced by Ashley Hodson. This created an immediate effect with Liverpool going forward looking for an equaliser; sub Babajide beat her marker with the shot just rising over the bar.

Readings Angharad James then had a shot from long range with looked to be curling into the top corner only to be denied by the out reached fingers of the Liverpool goal stopper. Quickly after, James was handed the only yellow card of the game on the eighty third minute.

Just before the ninetieth minute the goal scorer Williams made way for Rakel Honnudottir. With three minutes of extra time being indicated Liverpool were given their final chance with a teasing free kick from Lawley which was met by Bradley-Auckland but her header went just wide and the whistle for full time was blown.

Full time | Liverpool 0-1 Reading

Liverpool: Preuss, Jane, Bradley-Auckland, Fahey, Robe, Bailey, Rodgers (Linnett 86), Charles, Clarke (Babajide 65), Lawley, Sweetman-Kirk (Hodson 77)

Subs: Kitching, Kearns, Purfield.

Reading: Moloney, Leine, Howard, Potter, Rowe, Moore, Williams (Honnudottir 88), James, Farrow (Eikeland 57), Chaplen, Harding

Subs: Laws, Benik, Pacheco, Skeels

Attendance: 1435

Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur: How have the newly promoted sides settled into the WSL?



By Marissa Thomas

After a successful season in the Women's Championship where newly-formed Manchester United were crowned champions and Tottenham Hotspur finished nine points behind them, both sides were promoted to the Women's Super League and subsequently strengthened their squads to prepare for the challenge ahead. With two league games played, how have the newly promoted sides settled into the WSL so far?

Manchester United: Played two: lost two.

The WSL began with its first-ever Manchester Derby which was decided by a superb strike from Manchester City's Caroline Weir. Man United created great chances, particularly through new signings Jackie Groenen and Jane Ross but ultimately they came away from their first WSL game empty-handed. Despite the defeat, Man United made history in their first top flight game as they faced Man City at the Etihad Stadium, in front of a WSL record attendance of 31,213, almost six times the previous record of 5,265 when Arsenal won the league last season against Brighton at the Amex Stadium. Man United will have been disappointed to lose their first derby but could take plenty of positives from the game. Their next fixture against reigning champions Arsenal consisted of another good performance with nothing to show for it. Man United clearly set up for a draw and they were just 60 seconds away from achieving it when Danielle van de Donk

snatched a late winner for Arsenal in the 89 th minute. United defended resolutely and frustrated Arsenal all evening so the late goal seemed cruel but as Casey Stoney's side are finding out, life in the top flight is unforgiving. No points from the six available looks bad but Man United have played well and caused last season's top two problems. If they play this well against the other teams in the league, they will soon have points on the board.

Tottenham Hotspur: Played two: won one, lost one.

Spurs were the other team to begin their maiden WSL campaign with a game in a men's team stadium. Karen Hills' side faced Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in front of 24,564 fans. A 25-yard rocket from Beth England in the fourth minute gave Chelsea the victory but, like Man United in their opening fixture, Spurs could and should have equalised with Gemma Davison and Rachel Furness going close. Both sides will have already learned that they must take their chances against the bigger teams. In their next fixture against Liverpool, Spurs got their first WSL win. Rachel Furness converted from the spot just before half-time and secured the three points for her new side. Spurs were a threat throughout and took the main chance they had in the game to secure a victory. While Davison should have done better with just Liverpool goalkeeper Anke Preuss to beat, Spurs have their first win early on which will surely give them a boost after their defeat against Chelsea on the opening weekend.

Both newly promoted sides have looked comfortable at the top level and it seems that will adjust well to the rigours of the WSL. While there is still a long season ahead, Manchester United and Spurs have brought something different to the league and will have the likes of Liverpool and Birmingham looking anxiously over their shoulders as the campaign continues apace.





Last minute goal sees Arsenal steal all three points at Manchester United



By Helen Rowe-Willcocks

The stage was set for the champions vs champions game at Leigh Sports Village on Monday, 16 September.

The fans were in loud voice as Manchester United faced their first home game in the Women's Super League.

United legend Patrice Evra was one of a number of names alongside England manager Phil Neville watching the clash.

Arsenal, who had started their title defence with a 2-1 win over West Ham, saw Jordan Nobbs return to the starting XI for the first competitive game back since a serious injury last November.

The game, which was competitive from start to finish, saw an early chance for the hosts as Jess Sigsworth crosses a dangerous ball into the box but no-one can get on the end of it.

Casey Stoney's side looked the stronger side in the opening minutes as Arsenal struggled to keep possession and the came close again as Ella Toone's shot go wide of the post.

As the game went on, Arsenal began to pick up the pace and Leah Williamson and Leonie Maier were impressive in defence for the Gunners.

United goalkeeper Mary Earps was on fire throughout the game and pulled off two superb saves just after the half-an-hour mark.

Viv Miedema jumped into the air but Earps got low to make the initial save before also saving the rebound.

Half time | Manchester United 0-0 Arsenal

After half time, Arsenal came out the much stronger side.

They immediately took control of the game and Jill Roord had an early chance but Earps was there to collect the ball in her arms.

As the hour mark hit, Manchester United had their best chance of the night.

Jane Ross moved to get space in the box but her shot was expressively saved by Manuela Zinsberger and the rebound was cleared by Arsenal.

The game, despite the lack of goals, was end-to-end from both sides which set itself up for an impressive end and as the play built, the crowd and the chants built with it to make an impressive atmosphere in Leigh.



It looked as if the two sides were going to share the points, despite United beginning to tire, but after Miedema hits the post from a beautifully curled ball, Arsenal finally got the goal just before injury time.

Arsenal got the ball in the box and it was a mad struggle between the two sides to hold of it but it finally fell to substitute Danielle Van de Donk who was not going to miss.

Impressively, despite the late defeat, all of the Manchester United players stayed out on the pitch chatting to fans and having pictures for a good half-an-hour after the final whistle had gone.

Full time | Manchester United 0-1 Arsenal

Manchester United: Earps, Turner, McManus, Turner, Smith, Ladd, Toone, Zelem, Sigsworth (Hanson, 78), Ross (James, 58), Galton

Subs: Harris, Green, Mikalsen, Arnot, Edwards

Arsenal: Zinsberger, Maier, Beattie, Williamson, McCabe, Roord (Quinn, 90+3), Little, Evans, Nobbs (Van de Donk, 70), Mead, Miedema

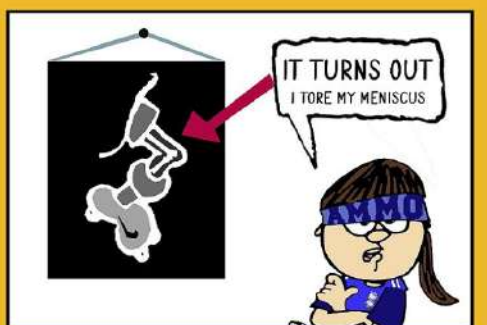
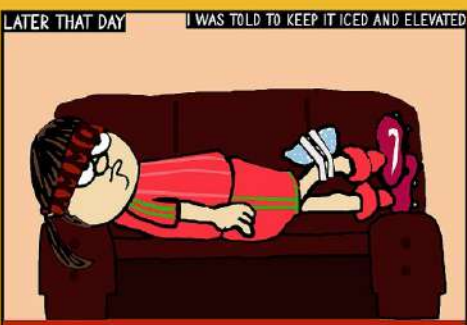
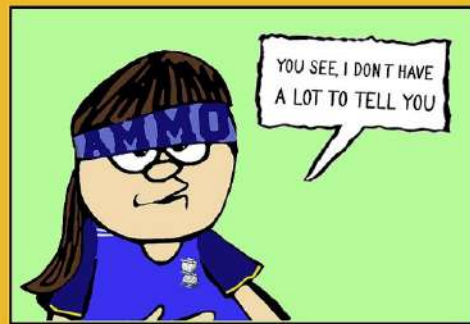
Subs: Mitchell, Peyraud-Magnin, Schnaderbeck, Grant, Filis

Attendance: 2530





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CHAMPIONSHIP



**THE WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**

Championship monthly Round-up



By Helen Rowe-Willcocks



Aston Villa

Position: 2nd

Results:

Aston Villa 2-1 Blackburn Rovers

Crystal Palace 0-6 Aston Villa

Melissa Johnson had another impressive month for Aston Villa. After picking up the Championship Player of the Month for August, she is up for the award again. The striker scored in the win over Blackburn and got her second hat-trick of the season in the dominant performance over Crystal Palace. Emma Follis, Amy West and Shania Hayles were the other goalscorers at Palace.

Blackburn Rovers

Position: 11th

Results:

Aston Villa 2-1 Blackburn Rovers

Blackburn Rovers 2-3 Sheffield United

Blackburn Rovers P-P Charlton Athletic



Blackburn Rovers are at the bottom of the table and have failed to pick up a point so far this season. Rovers have added some new players to their squad with centre-back Kelsie Burrows and goalkeeper Lauren Perry both signing from Linfield Ladies. The side suffered a disappointment at the end of the month when their game was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Charlton Athletic

Position: 8th

Results:

Durham 2-0 Charlton Athletic

Charlton Athletic 0-2 London City Lionesses

Blackburn Rovers P-P Charlton Athletic



Charlton Athletic had a difficult month losing two matches and having a third postponed. Their first September match came up against Durham, who remain unbeaten in the league. Charlton struggled to keep possession and could not keep up with the pace. In their second clash Charlton fell to their second defeat of the season. After a goalless first half, Charlton could not keep London City Lionesses out. Their clash with Blackburn Rovers was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Coventry United

Position: 9th

Results:

London Bees 2-1 Coventry United

Coventry United 1-2 Lewes

Sheffield United 5-1 Coventry United



Coventry United suffered a tough September with defeats against London Bees, Lewes and Sheffield United. A clash of heads during the Sheffield United saw Shannon O'Brien taken to hospital. She was later discharged with concussion we wish her a speedy recovery. Coventry, who are currently looking for a new head coach, remain winless in the Championship.

Crystal Palace

Position: 7th

Results:

Lewes 1-1 Crystal Palace

Crystal Palace 0-6 Aston Villa

Leicester City 1-2 Crystal Palace

Crystal Palace had a mixed month in September but finished on a high with their first Championship win. A long-range shot from Leeta Rutherford with less than five minutes to go saw them take the lead after they came from behind to get the equaliser just 10 minutes earlier. Earlier in the month the Eagles suffered a disappointing defeat to promotion hopefuls Aston Villa and drew with Lewes.



Durham

Position: 1st

Results:

Durham 2-0 Charlton Athletic

London City Lionesses 0-6 Durham

Durham remain unbeaten in the Championship and top the table after another two solid performances in September. Molly Sharpe, who joined for Durham in July, has been nominated for player of the month after scoring against Charlton and London City Lionesses. In good news for Durham Emily Roberts injury from pre-season is better than first thought and she could be back in the New Year.



Leicester City

Position: 10th

Results:

London City Lionesses 3-1 Leicester City

Leicester City 3-3 London Bees

Leicester City 1-2 Crystal Palace

Leicester City struggled to find form in September with two defeats and a draw. After losing to London City Lionesses, the Foxes came from behind to draw against London Bees. Goals from Leigh Dugmore and Lucy Johnson saw Leicester take an early lead but Bees were 3-2 up with five minutes to go. Into the final minutes, it was Natalie Johnson who grabbed the equaliser at Sutton Park.



Lewes

Position: 6th



Results:

Lewes 1-1 Crystal Palace

Coventry United 1-2 Lewes

London Bees 2-1 Lewes

Lewes unbeaten record was broken as London Bees came from behind to beat the Rooks 2-1 at the end of the month. Lewes had been flying in the league with a 1-1 draw with Palace and a 2-1 win over Coventry United earlier in the month but the defeat saw them slip to sixth in the table. Lewes also suffered two serious injuries in the month with Annie Tomoney (ankle) and Caitlin Hayes (head) forced to sit out.

London Bees

Position: 3rd



Results:

London Bees 2-1 Coventry United

Leicester City 3-3 London Bees

London Bees 2-1 Lewes

London Bees had a superb September to see them move up the table after two wins and a draw. In their final game of the month, goals from Amelia Hazard and Lauren Pickett saw the Bees come from behind to secure victory against Lewes. Lauren Pickett has earned herself a nomination for player of the month also getting a goal against Coventry United.

London City Lionesses

Position: 5th

Results:

London City Lionesses 3-1 Leicester City

Charlton Athletic 0-2 London City Lionesses

London City Lionesses 0-6 Durham Women

Two wins out of three saw London City Lionesses continue to thrive in the Championship. The Lionesses put in dominant displays against Leicester City and Charlton



Athletic but struggled against league leaders Durham in a game which also saw Harley Bennett sent off. Ylenia Priest, Leanna Cowan, Evie Clarke and Flo Fyfe were the players to get on the scoresheet for September.

Sheffield United

Position: 4th

Results:

Blackburn Rovers 2-3 Sheffield United

Sheffield United 5-1 Coventry United

Katie Wilkinson earned her second consecutive Championship player of the month nomination after scoring three times – once against Blackburn Rovers and twice against Coventry. Their unbeaten September sees them move up the table as they continue to put in dominant performances in the league. The 5-1 win over Coventry had it all with difficult conditions and a serious head injury but it was a game that showed how good the women's game is.



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



**THE WOMEN'S
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Lewes legend Katie McIntyre retires



Photo credit: James Boyes

Lewes captain and legend Katie McIntyre has retired.

The centre-back, who is affectionately known as “Macca” by teammates and fans played her final game in the Continental Tyres League Cup 3-2 defeat to Crystal Palace on Sunday 22 September.

Following the game, a presentation was made to McIntyre, who was understandably emotional and was given a standing ovation and was given a guard of honour as she left the pitch.

After the game, Fran Alonso told Lewes: “It’s a sad day for her and for us. She’s a legend, a great player and a great girl. We’ll miss her a lot. Hopefully soon we’ll see her back in a different role.”



Photo credit: James Boyes

Damian Walters joins Charlton Athletic



Charlton Athletic have announced Damian Walters has joined the club as a commercial director.

Walters will be responsible for the 'strategic development of the Women's commercial strategy'.

General manager Steve Adamson told the club website: "We're delighted to welcome Damian to the Club in this role. With a proven track record of commercial success and experience within the women's game, he has a great understanding of the opportunities and how to materialise them for the benefit of the club."

Women's Football Weekend

Following a record-breaking opening weekend in the 2019-20 Barclays FA Women's Super League, The FA has today announced plans for the first Women's Football Weekend, with 16-17 November set to be another landmark moment in the growing popularity of the women's game.

With the men's international weekend creating a pause in the Premier League and EFL calendars, The FA are calling on supporters to capitalise on the opportunity to back Women's Football Weekend and to attend a women's match at any level in the pyramid on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 November.

The announcement of the weekend, that will become an annual event, follows just days after a momentous 24 hours in the Barclays FA Women's Super League, as more than 62,000 supporters attended opening-day fixtures.

And another mouth-watering set of fixtures are in store for Women's Football Weekend.

Among the highlights is the north London derby, as Tottenham Hotspur take on Arsenal. Liverpool and Everton will battle it out for Merseyside bragging rights while Chelsea face Manchester United.

The FA Women's Championship promises to be equally as exciting with an all-capital affair in the shape of London City Lionesses' match-up with Crystal Palace, with early pacesetters Durham facing London Bees. There will also be a full league and cup fixture schedule across the rest of the football pyramid.

Kelly Simmons, The FA's director of women's professional game said: "We are excited to announce the first ever Women's Football Weekend, for what is sure to be another great moment in a year that has seen huge momentum behind the growth in popularity of women's football.

"Following on from a record-breaking FIFA Women's World Cup and opening Barclays FA Women's Super League weekend, there has never been a better time to visit your local team, and we encourage all supporters to get involved at all levels of the pyramid on 16-17 November."

Framed by the Fans



NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE



THE WOMEN'S
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MAGAZINE

Women's World Cup legacy in action



By Helen Rowe-Willcocks

On Sunday, September 1, my parents were invited down to Fylde Women as guests for their first home league game of the season against Sunderland Ladies.

During the Women's World Cup, both my parents really got into following the sport. They have both dabbled mainly through my love of the game, but neither had been to a women's game live.

Dad has always been a football fan—it's how I got into it—but mum, whilst happy to go to games with dad when I could not, has never been the biggest fan.

Fast forward to the Women's World Cup and TWFM was planning it's trip around France. Along with my husband, the TWFM web designer Will and his girlfriend Lorna, my parents decided to come out and watch a couple of England games (and also hand out some goodies—I am sure you saw them about!).

Both of them, but particularly my mum, fell in love with the game so much and ended up taking in other games while they were out there. Including the Norway v Australia round-of-16 clash—I was very jealous.

On Twitter, I got into a conversation about how many people were falling in love with the game and Fylde Women kindly offered us tickets to be guests.

So wrapped in many layers, on a windy Fylde coast Sunday, they made their way to Mill Farm and had an absolute ball.

Once again they found their enjoyment of the game and loved being there. So, much so they have been back since.

It's great to see that the World Cup legacy is happening in action here's to many more games at Mill Farm.



Premier Division News

Record crowd for Derby County v Nottingham Forest

Pride Park hosted Derby County Ladies' clash with rivals Nottingham Forest saw a record crowd of 2,318.

The record was for attendance of a FAWNL Northern Premier Division – which was set at last year's same game, was over 700 more.

In the game the Ewe Rams suffered a narrow 1-0 defeat, their second of the season, and it was their former forward Precious Hamilton who gave Forest the three points in the 83rd minute.

MK Dons Owen Evans steps down

MK Dons have confirmed that Owen Evans has stepped down as joint manager of MK Dons Women.

Initially Evans joined as the development team manager and was part of the transition of players from the development squad to the first team.

During his time at the club, he has seen the side promoted to the FA Women's National League South in 2017, whilst as assistant first-team coach.

In February, Evans was appointed as joint manager alongside Charlie Bill and they saw the highest-ever league position for the Dons.

In a statement on the website the club said: "The Club would like to place on record it's thanks to Owen for his huge contribution to the development of the female game at MK Dons, as well as the work he has done within the Sports & Education Trust."

Charlie Bill will remain in charge.

Oxfordshire Community Foundation becomes sponsor

Oxford United Women have announced the Oxfordshire Community Foundation as the back of the shirt sponsors for the 2019/20 season.

The OCF is a local charity that brings together organisations and people to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged in the county.

The back of shirt sponsorship has been donated to OCF by Autotrak, whose owners Michael and Maria Fox are big supporters of both the Football Club and local charitable causes.

They said: "We are excited to help promote Oxfordshire Community Foundation and when we approached the Women's team with the idea about putting a local charity on the back of the shirts, the girls suggested OCF.

"It's great they have a connection with the charity they are wearing proudly on the pitch and we look forward to working closely with OCF and Oxford United Women throughout the season."



Fylde's Play

with Georgia Stevens

@Stix_Official_9 @FyldeLadiesFC

September was a whirlwind of a month. It kicked off for myself when I got to attend the first Kick It Out Game Changers seminar in the Premier League Headquarters. It was a truly fulfilling day, meeting the other Game Changers on the programme and meeting our mentors as well as being able to network with highly experienced professionals with the game. The focus of the session was surrounding leadership & culture. We were privileged enough to receive a talk from Sir Paul Grant, former Head Teacher of Robert Clack School of Science. Hearing someone speak so passionately about education was very inspiring and it was a rewarding experience. Our next seminar will be this month and I am eagerly awaiting it!

With regards to Fylde, we had one of our tightest schedules to date. Our first home game of the season at Mill Farm was against a very tough Sunderland opposition and we were very disappointed not to pick up three points that day, especially since it was at home. But our attention had to quickly shift to our mid-week game against a newly promoted Burnley squad. Our first derby in the National League and a first Lancashire Derby for the newer members of our squad. The match was an entertaining one to watch, so I was told, but once again we were a little frustrated to come away with just a point. But, credit to Burnley who were a tactically tough team to break down on the night. Our hectic week was topped off with a long away

trip to Sheffield on the Sunday. Always a difficult team to come up against, we were delighted to come away with our first three points of the season. Three games in a week certainly was a test for us as a squad and showed the depth we have, but credit must go to our coaching staff and those behind the scenes who helped us to recover and look after ourselves during the week.

I think last month showcased why so many people become fascinated and fall in love with women's football. Playing three matches in a week would be tough for a professional side, but when you consider that all of our players are either in education or working a full-time job, it's a feat that has to be admired and why the women's game (as well as the men's non-league game) deserves so much respect.

Last month we also supported World Suicide Prevention Day with If U Care Share. As a team, mental health is an important topic to us all and it was something we wanted to share. In support of the day we went "Inside Out" and donned #AskMeWhy stickers as part of If U Care Share's initiative. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death worldwide among 15-24 year olds. The male suicide rate is a heart-breaking figure. Nearly everyone knows of someone who has or has been affected by suicide themselves, it's so important that we talk about these difficult topics in order to break the stigma and let people who are struggling know that it's okay

to not be okay. Support is definitely out there with programmes such as If U Care Share and the Samaritans and if you're struggling, reach out to someone. Let's get what's on the inside out.

On a personal note, last month I was nominated for a Ladbrokes Northwest Football Award for Women's Rising Star of the Year. To even be considered for this award is an honour and it still seems a bit surreal. I'd like to also congratulate my teammate Laura Merrin for her nomination for Women's Player of the Year as well as our Men's team counterpart Danny Rowe for his nomination for National League Player of the Year. If you have just a spare minute, a vote for us would mean a great deal!

The link can be found in my pinned tweet on twitter or at:

northwestfootballawards.com/northwest-football-awards-2018/vote-nwfa-2019.

Thank you!

I'd also like to just take this opportunity to remember Zoe Tynan. Zoe was a Fylde player who passed away three years ago on 30th August. It is so important to the club that we take the time to remember her and honour her. We'd also like to thank everyone in attendance of our home game against Sunderland who joined us in a minute's applause. #19.



Northwest Football Award nominations



The nominations for the Northwest Football awards 2019 have been announced.

Nominations for women's player of the year:

Laura Merrin (Fylde Women)

Jess Holbrook (Blackburn Rovers Ladies)

Sarah Greenhaigh (Burnley FC Women)

Simone Magill (Everton Women)

Sophie Bradley-Auckland (Liverpool FC Women)

Steoh Houghton (Manchester City Women)

Katie Zelem (Manchester United Women)

Nominations for rising star of the year:

Georgia Stevens (Fylde Women)

Natasha Flint (Blackburn Rovers Ladies)

Evie Priestley (Burnley FC Women)

Elise Hughes (Everton Women)

Amy Rodgers (Liverpool FC Women)

Georgia Stanway (Manchester City Women)

Massive congratulations to our own Georgia Stevens on your nomination!

You can go to <http://www.northwestfootballawards.com/northwest-football-awards-2018/vote-nwfa-2019/> to make your vote.

GRASSROOTS



**THE WOMEN'S
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JONATHAN HAYES

Jonathan Hayes is the manager of Hartlepool United Women. He joined TWFM editor Helen Rowe-Willcocks to talk all things women's and girls football.

How did you get into coaching?

I have been coaching since I started working in schools – this is my 21st year working in a secondary school so I got involved through that. I started off with men's teams and then got involved in the women's game through school football.

Do you have girl's teams at school as well?

I run my year group girls team which is now year 8 so U13s but I have girls playing up. Last year we won a final and they were playing against U14s. We have some really talented players.

Is the interest for girls playing growing do you think?

Definitely. Last year we had a league programme set up which is obviously progress which sees schools from Hartlepool to Middlesbrough involved. That means more schools which is brilliant. Grassroots teams in Hartlepool

is brilliant. We have teams here who start so young – U6/U7. It's becoming much more popular and I think the big difference is that primary schools are getting involved in it to. Even for me last year we had some of the girls playing for the boy's teams as well. It was great because we see the boys accepting it and seeing that these girls are just as good as them. In the past it was so different but there has been a change in people's perception and that is so positive. Because the girls start so early now in primary school kids are brought up playing in mixed teams and that's brilliant from the off.

I still think there are a lot of things which need improving in the women's game. I have seen growth but there is always more we can do. Look at the WSL we have seen a number of teams using big stadiums to

“We don't want to be left behind in the North East”

promote the games and that's brilliant to see records being broken but we need to find ways of getting those fans to games week in, week out.

Do you think the mixed teams at younger ages are important for development?

Absolutely. It's so important for acceptance. I can remember when I was younger we had a girl who was incredible but at that time it was unusual and there was not that much of a pathway for girls and women. So it's brilliant now that there is much more opportunities out there. There is now a path all the way through schools where we are and that's brilliant.

How big is women's football in Hartlepool?

At Hartlepool we are still a grassroots side and whilst we get support on social media from Hartlepool, our girls still have a long way to go. But we still get recognised in town and young girls know our players and that is amazing. It's massive. I had people media phoning me up asking my opinion on the World Cup and before that people wouldn't know who I was. In the North East we have so many amazing teams and players

and it's great that Hartlepool are want to be the next big club.

Is Hartlepool big on promoting a 'one club' idea?

Yes there is. Hartlepool's media guy Mark Simpson is massively into women's football so we are really lucky. He comes to all our home games, does updates on the website and social media and that's so that's fantastic. We get a lot of fans coming to watch and that's because Mark really pushes the women's game. We have a number of things we do including interviews, training session videos and stuff that really push the game and that is so important going forward. Obviously in grassroots we are not here for the money but when it comes to things like the FA Cup we try to get as far as we can because then we get some extra money for the club. We are so lucky that we have someone so passionate about it and that will set us apart from other clubs.

There has been a lot of work changing the league systems over the last few years; do you think that will affect the lower leagues and grassroots?

I think you have already seen changes in teams because of this. For me Sunderland is one of those. You only have to look at how many players they have produced over the years –



The Big Interview

Steph Houghton, Lucy Bronze, Jordan Nobbs to name just a few – and they have really had to change in recent years. They have a fabulous squad and that but in the North East we are suffering and it's hard for players. We used to have some of the best teams in the country but due to financial problems we have seen teams demoted and it has an impact on people wanting to go to games. We don't want to be left behind in the North East. There is such a big following for women's football in the North East. We have amazing players, amazing stories that need telling.

Were you disappointed that there was no North East stadium hosting any Euros game?

Yes I really was. It means our closest stadiums for fans up here to get to games will be Manchester and that is just not good enough. That's a lot of fans going to miss out. There are so many stadiums up here which would be perfect – Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Newcastle, even others like Hartlepool or Scunthorpe. Instead we get two stadiums in Manchester. The outcry when the stadiums were announced was huge, it's such a missed

opportunity. It's just such shame. There will be many young teams up here who would have gone as a squad but travelling to Manchester is probably not an option for many. I am absolutely gutted by the decision. I just do not know what they were thinking behind the decision.

To find out more about supporting Hartlepool and going to their games go to:

@Official_HUWFC

Www.hartlepoolunited.co.uk



Thurston football youngsters dressed for success



Caption: Thurston Youth FC's under-12s girls' team are celebrating receiving a Team Sports Award donation from UK Power Networks

Youngsters at a Thurston football club have been kitted out for the new season after securing funding from UK Power Networks.

The power company, which delivers electricity to 8.3million homes and businesses across the East of England, London and the South East, has given Thurston Youth FC's under-12s girls' team a much-needed £250 grant as part of its Team Sport Award scheme.

Employee Nichola Newcomb, one of the team's administrators, applied for the award. Her daughter Emily plays for the side and will also represent Ipswich Town's girls' under-12s this year having made it into their squad after a successful trial.

Nichola, who lives and works in Bury St Edmunds for UK Power Networks, said: "Being with Thurston has been a great help to my daughter and has played a big part in her developing to now become involved with Ipswich.

"There is a fantastic group of girls and coaches at Thurston and a real community spirit about the club. The team won its first match of the season 8-2 so everyone's already on a high. The money from the Team Sport award has helped fund a smart new kit for everyone."

The Team Sport Award scheme encourages staff to volunteer in the community and is aimed at promoting healthy living, teamwork and development of sporting opportunities.

Hundreds of community and sports groups have benefited from grants since the scheme was set up. Last year £18,000 was donated to sporting groups connected to UK Power Networks staff.

Two Girls Talk Balls



Hi everyone, we are Two Girls Talk Balls, formerly Two Girls World Cup. Along with our Producer, Christian Allen, we started the podcast in May 2019, just before the start of the Women's World Cup. Everything around us was either male-dominated, or very, very safe (and we are neither of those things- the clue might be in the name(s)!) Our vision was to create something for people like us that were seemingly missing from the conversation; even though women's football is expanding rapidly. We wanted to create something that championed our female footballers, but also raised the controversial issues, and challenged the inequalities that we see around us, and are also evident in the world of football. Amongst all of that are our ridiculous personalities, which bring out the pantomime in the whole experience. We are light-hearted and humorous; passionate and ludicrous; we drink pints out of dirty football boots when we lose a bet; we play games with our audience- this again something that was missing from the footballing world, at least from a female perspective.

During the WWC, the podcast exploded and we found ourselves on a rollercoaster ride bouncing between the BBC 5Live studio and various other radio outlets. We had a mad 24-hour roadtrip to Le Havre and back, where we bore witness to the might of Lucy Bronze's goal, and also the shambles of FIFA; but an experience that will always stay with us. It was moments like that when we knew that we had to carry forward the podcast far beyond that of the World Cup; to not only continue influencing the conversation, but because we bloody love football and nothing would've got Helen out of bed at 5am other than an adventure like that (she absolutely loves sleep!)

You can find us on iTunes, and wherever else you get your podcasts; and also please get involved with us @TGTalkBalls on Twitter and Two Girls Talk Balls on Instagram.

CUPS



**THE WOMEN'S
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Champions League round-of-32 round up



Man City impress against Lugano

After an impressive first leg in Switzerland against Lugano which saw Manchester City come out 7-1 winners, Nick Cushing's side were back in Champions League action for the second leg at the Academy Stadium.

It has to be said that the game will not go down in history as one of the most interesting games but Man City managed to put a solid performance together to secure an 11-1 aggregate win.

A hat-trick from Janine Beekie helped the side and her play with Keira Walsh proved vital in the game.

Substitute Pauline Bremer was the final goalscorer in the game which saw them comfortably in the draw for the next round.

Cushing said after the game: "The most pleasing part for me was how clinical we were over two legs. Maybe in previous seasons in the Champions League, we would have won the game 3-0 or 4-0 over the two legs, so to go into double figures is really pleasing for us.

"I thought we gave away too many counter-attacks in the first half of the away leg, which isn't like us, but we changed something tactically in that game at half-time and controlled the next 45 minutes, and we controlled this game."

Arsenal keep clean sheets in round-of-32 clashes to make it into the draw

Arsenal Women put in two dominant performances in the Uefa Women's Champions League to book their place in the round-of-16 draw.

The Gunners, who are back in the competition for the first time in six years, beat Fiorentina 4-0 in the first leg and 2-0 in the second.

Arsenal travelled to the Serie A runners-up for the first leg and dominated the game.

Viv Miedema got a brace whilst goals from Little and Lisa Evans were enough to give the WSL champions a commanding lead in Florence.

In the second leg at Boreham Wood, captain Little scored the opening goal from the penalty spot before Miedema added a second.

Speaking after the game, manager Joe Montemurro said: "We go into every tournament to win. I believe in it this time.

"I believe in the way we play and hopefully we can continue this momentum."

Glasgow reach next round

Glasgow City are through to the round-of-16 after beating Chertanovo Moscow 5-1 on aggregate.

Scott Booth's side took a narrow 1-0 win into the second leg and it was the Russian visitors who went ahead to level the score.

However, City began to show their class and a brace from Hayley Lauder and goals from Claire Shine and Rachel McLauchlan saw them dominate at Petershill Park.

After the game, Booth told BBC Alba: "'I think for 88 minutes we were fantastic, but it was just that first two minutes we got caught and that's the danger that team have - they have pace up front.



"But I thought the recovery from that was difference class from the players. They created numerous chances and played some really good football."

Hibernian knocked out in Champions League

Hibernian Ladies have been knocked out of the Uefa Women's Champions League in the round-of-32.

Hibs, who were trailing 4-1 after the first leg, struggled against Slavia Prague in the second leg at the Sinobo Stadium.

Petra Divisova opened the scoring for the hosts but Amy Gallagher got the side back in it.

However, the Czech Republic side were too strong for Hibs and goals from Tereza Kozarova, Katerina Svtkova and Tereza Szevieczkova secured them a 9-2 aggregate win.

Head coach Grant Scott said: "As daft as it'll sound, similar to the first leg we've competed so well and just got sucker punched. The opposition, the quality that they have, have punished us big time.

"I don't think we've played badly. It's really, really frustrating."





Women's Champions League draw



The draw for the Champions League was made on Monday 30 September.

The games will be played 16/17 October and 30/31 October.

The draw

Glasgow City v Brondby

Barcelona v FC Minsk

BIIK-Kazygurt v Bayern Munich

Lyon v Fortuna Hjorring

Paris Saint-Germain v Breidablik

Wolfsburg v FC Twente

Slavia Praha v Arsenal

Manchester City v Atletico Madrid

How does the draw work?

The eight sides with the highest coefficients were seeded and placed in a separate pot from the unseeded teams.

One team was drawn from each pot then placed in a second pot with the first team picked out at home in the opening leg.

No club could meet a team from their own association.

Seeded:

Lyon

Wolfsburg

Paris Saint-Germain

Barcelona

Bayern Munich

Slavia Praha

Manchester City

Brondby

Unseeded:

Fortuna Hjorring

BIIK-Kazygurt

Glasgow City

Atletico Madrid

FC Twente

Arsenal

FC Minsk

Breidablik

Key Women's Champions League dates:

Round of 16: 16/17 and 30/31 October

Quarter-final and semi-final draw: 8 October

Quarter-finals: 24/25 March and 1/2 April

Semi-finals: 25/26 April and 2/3 or May

Final, Viola Park, Vienna: 24 May

SSE Women's FA Cup

FA Cup 2nd qualifying draw

Hartlepool United	vs	Blackburn CSC	Newmarket Town	vs	Luton Town
Bolton Wanderers	vs	Newcastle United	Harlow Town	vs	Wroxham
Redcar Town	vs	Norton & Stockton Ancients	Norwich City	vs	Cambridge United
Harrogate Town	vs	Chorley	Cambridge City	vs	St Albans
Morecambe or FC United	vs	Brighouse Town	Wycombe Wanderers	vs	Whyteleafe or Worthing
Barnsley	vs	Bradford City	Ipswich Town	vs	Royston Town
Chester-le-Street Town	vs	Doncaster Rovers Belles	Kent Football United	vs	Actonians
Leeds United	vs	South Shields	Dartford	vs	Billericay Town
Mossley Hill	vs	Stockport County	Ashford LFC	vs	AFC Wimbledon
Durham Cestria	vs	Ossett United	QPR Girls Development	vs	Oakwood
Farsley Celtic	vs	Liverpool Feds	Enfield Town	vs	Islington Borough
Burton Albion	vs	Leicester United	Maidenhead United	vs	Bowers & Pitsea
Woodlands	vs	Rise Park	Fulham	vs	Saltdean United
Mansfield Town	vs	Birmingham & West Midlands	Abingdon United	vs	Chesham United
Leek Town	vs	Leicester City Ladies	AFC Basildon	vs	Phoenix Sports
Wolverhampton Wanderers	vs	Shifnal Town	Abingdon United	vs	Leyton Orient
Lincoln City	vs	Solihull Moors	Exeter City	vs	Sheborne Town
Chesterfield	vs	Bedworth United	Portishead Town	vs	Royal Wootton Bassett Town
Northwich Vixens	vs	Altrincham	Winchester Flyers	vs	Poole Town
Leaffield Athletic	vs	Sporting Khalsa	Marine Academy Plymouth	vs	Southampton Women's FC
Sutton Coldfield Town	vs	Solihull Ladies United	Southampton FC Women	vs	Buckland Athletic
Coventry Sphinx	vs	Crewe Alexandra	Moneyfields	vs	Larkhall Athletic
The New Saints	vs	Long Eaton United	Cheltenham Town	vs	Brislington
Stevenage	vs	Peterborough United	Swindon Town	vs	AFC Bournemouth

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



Sheffield United grasp last minute win over Liverpool

Sheffield United pulled off the upset of the weekend with an injury time win over WSL side Liverpool. Forward Jade Pennock scored in the 94th minute to see the visitors as 3-2 winners. The Blades came from behind twice in the game before going on to win the match in dramatic style.

Mead is hat-trick hero

Beth Mead is becoming a firm favourite at Arsenal. After an impressive season last year and cementing her place in the England squad, Mead has started this campaign as she means to go on. A hat-trick in the Gunners opening game against London City Lionesses showed just how good she is.

Reading look strong

The Royals have a good history with the Conti Cup with semi-final and quarter-final appearances in the competition in the last two years. Reading's opening game in Group D saw them come up against Tottenham and they showed their quality early on. A brace from Brooke Chaplen, a goal from Millie Farrow and and Ashleigh Neville own goal saw Reading come out 4-0 winners at the Hive.

Chelsea's summer signing gets first goal

Chelsea's Guro Reiten, who signed for the club in summer transfer window, scored her first goal for the club. The Norwegian gained fans at the Women's World Cup and scored the Blues' second goal of the afternoon in a 2-0 win over London rivals West Ham.

Tables turn in Birmingham v Everton

Birmingham City and Everton have faced each other for the twice already this season. The sides met on 8 September in the WSL where Everton came out 1-0 winners thanks to a Kerys Harrop own goal but the tables turned in the Conti Cup. The game was a cagy affair but a Rachel Williams header proved enough for Birmingham to secure the win.

Continental Tyres League Cup results and Tables

Group A		
Coventry United	1-1	Blackburn Rovers
Durham	3-0	Aston Villa
Liverpool	2-3	Sheffield United
Group B		
Bristol City	3-0	London Bees
Charlton Athletic	0-3	Brighton
London City Lionesses	0-5	Arsenal
Group C		
Birmingham City	1-0	Everton
Man City	5-0	Leicester City
Group D		
Chelsea	2-0	West Ham
Lewes	2-3	Crystal Palace
Tottenham	0-4	Reading

Group A						
Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Durham	1	1	0	0	3	3
Sheffield United	1	1	0	0	1	3
Coventry United	1	0	1	0	0	2
Blackburn Rovers	1	0	1	0	0	1
Liverpool	1	0	0	1	-1	0
Aston Villa	1	0	0	1	-3	0

Group B						
Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Arsenal	1	1	0	0	5	3
Brighton	1	1	0	0	3	3
Bristol City	1	1	0	0	3	3
Charlton Athletic	1	0	0	1	-3	0
London Bees	1	0	0	1	-3	0
London City Lionesses	1	0	0	1	-5	0

Group C						
Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Manchester City	1	1	0	0	5	3
Birmingham City	1	1	0	0	1	3
Manchester United	0	0	0	0	0	0
Everton	1	0	1	1	-1	0
Leicester City	1	0	0	1	-5	0

Group D						
Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Reading	1	1	0	0	4	3
Chelsea	1	1	0	0	2	3
Crystal Palace	1	1	0	0	1	3
Lewes	1	0	0	1	-1	0
West Ham United	1	0	0	1	-2	0
Tottenham	1	0	0	1	-4	0



National League Cup and Plate draws

After the determining round, the draws for the National League and Plate draws have been made.

FA WNL Cup 2019-20 First Round draw

Derby	vs	The New Saints	Mickleover Sports Club
Long Eaton United	vs	Liverpool Feds	Grange Park
Chorley	vs	Durham Cestria	Victory Park Stadium
Brighouse Town	vs	Norton & Stockton Ancient	The Yorkshire Payments Stadium
Huddersfield Town	vs	Sheffield FC	Shelley CFC (Stafflex Arena)
AFC Fylde	vs	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Mill Farm Sports Village
Barnsley	vs	Sunderland	Barnsley FC Academy
Birmingham & WM	vs	Stoke City	Boldmere St. Michaels FC
Chesham United	vs	Exeter City	The Meadow
Cardiff City	vs	MK Dons	CCB Centre for Sporting Excellence
Southampton Women	vs	AFC Basildon	Romsey Town FC
Larkhall Athletic	vs	Southampton FC	Plain Ham
Leyton Orient	vs	Portsmouth	Mile End Stadium
Enfield Town	vs	Yeovil Town	QE Stadium
Crawley Wasps	vs	Actonians	East Court
Billericay Town	vs	Cambridge City	AGP Arena

FA WNL Plate 2019-20 first round

Leicester United	vs	Leafield Athletic	Sign Right Park
Sporting Khalsa	vs	Stockport County	The Aspray Arena
Bolton Wanderers	vs	Doncaster Rovers Belles	Kensite Stadium, Atherton Collieries
Newcastle United	vs	Loughborough Foxes	Duid Park
Chester le Street Town	vs	Nottingham Forest	Moor Park
West Brom	vs	Burton Albion	Walsall Wood
Bradford City	vs	Leeds United	Eccleshill United Sports Club
Middlesbrough	vs	Hull City	Billingham Town FC
Watford	vs	Kent Football United	The Sadiku Stadium, 3pm
Buckland Athletic	vs	Plymouth Argyle	Homers Heath
Ipswich Town	vs	Stevenage	The Goldstar Ground
Chichester City	vs	Swindon Town	Oaklands Park
Cambridge United	vs	Maidenhead United	Premier Plus Stadium
Oxford United	vs	Norwich City	Oxford City FC, Court Place Farm
Cheltenham Town	vs	Poole Town	Petersfield Town
Brislington	vs	AFC Wimbledon	Brislington Stadium

****Games to be played October 13, 2pm KO***

Home Nations



**THE WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**

England

England 1-2 Brazil: A fan's view



By Ella Wort

We had Mearps in goal, Alex Greenwood as left back, Lucy Bronze back at right back, Skipper Steph Houghton and Leah Williamson as centre backs. Back on the pitch for the first time with England in 401 days Jordan Nobbs was in midfield alongside Jill Scott and Keira Walsh and up front we had Jodie Taylor, Nikita Parris and Beth Mead.

Before kick-off Lucy Bronze, who always wants to shy away from the limelight, was awarded her Women's World Cup and FIFA the Best awards in front of the home crowd at Riverside.

England started on the front foot and Brazil barely had a touch two minutes in. Parris nearly got played in but the defence cut her off early, before it got dangerous. Back to England defence. Walsh moved through and took a shot from 30 yards but the ball went just wide. Goal kick for Brazil.

Brazil started to put the pressure on. Zaneretto dribbled into the box but her shot fell safely in the hands of Earps. Some direct play from

England ended with Parris knocking a high ball down for Taylor but Barbara came off her line and removed the danger from 25 yards. England really should be in front by this point. Mead collected a long diagonal pass from Houghton, darted into the box, beat two defenders but then passes the ball beyond the far post from just five yards out. Not a great finish from Mead but some wonderful play to get into that position.

After Brazil fail to clear Parris' through ball, Taylor latched onto the clearance but one touch too many was all Brazil needed to clear the second time. At this point I am wondering even more 'how are England not ahead?'

England have dominated the match so far but have lacked the requisite composure in front of goal. Brazil's defence looked pretty ropey, to be honest, too. Nobbs, who is struggling to get back into the game tried to beat a couple of players on the edge of the area but is crowded out.

Another chance from Brazil sees a dangerous cross go past everyone before Mead got the ball stuck under her feet.

Walsh's passing ability and Scott's desire to break up play seems like a good, solid combination which is why I don't understand how England are not ahead. Walsh's passing ability and Scott's desire to break up play is key in the midfield but was the latter who had the most influence on this game - which is a concern considering how much of the ball England had.

In my eyes England dominated the first half and had more shots than Brazil. Jordan was struggling to get back into the game as she had 401 days out. England lacked composure in front of the goal. Mary Earps didn't have much to do.

Half time I England 0-0 Brazil

England came out for the second half fighting and immediately had a chance but Bronze hit the bouncing ball straight at Barbara. Soon after, England fell one behind after a goal from Debinha's header which went under Earps who couldn't get to it in time. At this point, England needed to get back to how they were playing in the first half after that blow.

Brazil have looked brighter since making their half time changes and England failed to raise their game to match the increased intensity.

It's fantastic that England want to play out from the back but in reality it was not working. There was no movement and the passing was at a snail's pace. England barely created a chance since the break, Substitute Daly quickly ended up in the book after losing the ball and trying to make up for it by diving into a challenge with Zaneretto but got nowhere near the ball.

Brazil doubled their lead with 20 minutes to go. A low cross from the right found its way to Debinha in the centre who struck it first time from the six yards out. It deflected off Bronze and looped over Earps. Greenwood really should have done more to stop the cross.

With 15 minutes on the clock, England came on for her senior home debut. The substitu-

tion made the difference for Phil Neville's Lionesses. As Houghton hit a long, straight ball into the box for England to attack and the striker picked out the top corner from around the penalty spot to give the Lionesses a way back into the game.

Unfortunately, it was too little, too late. Brazil made sure to play the game out and keep possession and England remain without a win in five games.

Full time I England 1-2 Brazil

If we're being positive, it's a chance for England to learn the valuable lesson that if you do not take your chances, you will be punished. They had so many chances in the first half they should have won it at a canter but instead they were punished by Debinha's two finishes. It's five games without a win for England now and another underwhelming performance as Neville continues to ponder what his best team is.

My player of the match would have been Steph Houghton or Beth Mead. Houghton had some great crosses and Mead tried more than others. As soon as Beth England came off the bench you could see the impact that she made on the team.

England: Earps, Bronze, Houghton, Williamson, Greenwood, Scott, Walsh, Parris (Staniforth, 74), Nobbs (Daly, 58), Mead, Taylor (England, 74)

Subs: Telford, Mannion, Bonner, Lawley, Roebuck

Brazil: Barbara, Leticia, Bruna, Monica (Giovanna), Camila, Thaisa (Aline Milene), Formiga (Beatriz), Marta (Maria), Chu (Ludmila), Adressa Alves, Debinha

Subs: Aline, Poliana, Daiane, Tamires, Darlene, Rilany, Kathellen, Geyse, Andressinha Kerolin, Raquel

Attendance: 29,238 – a Lionesses record (outside of Wembley)



STOKES

3

England break their losing streak but it's still not the Lionesses of old



By Helen Rowe-Willcocks

A single second half goal from Beth Mead secured Phil Neville's Lionesses of a much needed win.

And whilst winning was important to get over the World Cup, the team still did not put in a performance we have come to expect in recent years.

Neville, who has had criticism thrown at him from fans and some of the media praised "outstanding" performances after the friendly.

He said: "The players were determined to win and we got the luck we haven't had in the last five games.

"The performances over the last two games have been outstanding. I am pleased with the players, I am pleased with the spirit, I am pleased with the direction that we are going in.

"For me personally, in terms of what I've seen at this camp, it's been my most enjoyable camp since I've been manager with this England team."

However, were England outstanding?

I am not so sure.

We lack passion, drive and the intensity we are used to seeing from the Lionesses was not there in either of the games. We seemed to

lack ideas and that is disappointing because we have always looked sharp.

People are calling for Phil's head. Honestly if it was not for Jill Ellis becoming available, I do not think that would be the case.

Neville is in charge of the Team GB squad so I don't personally seem him leaving just yet but things need to improve. It's time to stop playing about with people's positions and work towards the next goals.

It's going to be hard to be competitive when it's only friendlies going forwards for the Euros but there needs to be improvement.

And quickly.

Portugal: Barros Morais, Sayiogo Fidalgo, Rebelo, da Silva Costa, Mendes, Marques (Gomes, 83), Silva, Pinto, Borges (Neto, 73), Coruche Mendes (Norton, 63), Silva (F. Pinto, 83)

Subs: Pereira, Capeta, Gomes, Faria, Maia, Costa, Marchao

England: Roebuck, Daly (Taylor, 65), Houghton, Williamson, Greenwood, Bronze, Walsh, Parris, Staniforth (Lawley, 80), Mead (Hemp, 86), England (Nobbs, 65)

Subs: Telford, Earps, Mannion, Bonner, Lawley, Kelly

England v Germany:

A record-breaking match beckons



By Connor Botting

Off the back of a summer which raised the profile of women's football worldwide, England's Lionesses face Germany at Wembley next month in a match which could mark a new era for Women's football in England.

England play at Wembley Stadium for the first time since 2014, when they lost 3-0 to Germany, but at the same time set a record for attendance at a Lionesses' match, with 45,619 watching from the stands – but next month's encounter has seen more than 75,000 tickets sold, eclipsing the national team's previous record.

The record attendance for any women's football match in the UK was set way back at the London 2012 Olympics – when Team GB shocked Brazil, defeating the South American's 1-0, with 70,584 attending Wembley that day.

However, following such a positive summer, Phil Neville's England side are enduring somewhat of a World Cup hangover, following their semi final loss to the USA 2-1, and then their 3rd place play-off loss to Sweden by the same score line, their last two friendlies haven't gone to plan.

England squandered a 2-0 lead against Belgium as the match finished 3-3, and then followed that up with a 2-1 loss to 1995 World Champions Norway.

Neville's side however have two more friendlies to regain the form which saw them capture the imagination and support of the nation over the summer – as they face Brazil in front of a 30,000 sell out crowd at the Riverside Stadium in Middlesbrough, before jetting off to face Portugal away at the Estadio do Bonfim, before their clash with the Germans in November.

England will be buoyed by the return to fitness for Arsenal midfielder Jordan Nobbs – who has been absent since a knee injury she sustained in a match against Everton last season, and which ultimately ruled her out of the World Cup.

With England hosting the 2021 UEFA European Championship they will therefore not be required to play in qualification matches, meaning that these friendlies will be the only matches they will play on their build up to the tournament, so it is paramount that they perform in these matches.

The Lionesses' encounter with Germany promises to be an enthralling one, and with the tickets continuing to sell, Neville's ladies will feel the full support of the crowd, and undoubtedly the biggest crowd many, if not all, of the team has played in front of, but must ensure they take advantage of fixtures like this if they want to perform well at their home tournament in two years time.





Young Lionesses— U19 Championship qualifying results

England 8-0 Cyprus

Goals: Blanchard, Park (3), Manders, Bradley, Salmon, L. Roberts

England 3-0 Belarus

Goals: Salmon (2), Park

Serbia 0-6 England

Goals: Manders, Park (3), Salmon, Blanchard

Squad: Asmita Ale (Aston Villa), Annabel Blanchard (Leicester City), Katie Bradley (Manchester City), Aimee Everett (Leicester City), Naomi Hartley (Sheffield United), Simran Jhamat (Leicester City), Missy Bo Kearns (Liverpool), Rose Kite (Southampton Women's FC - on loan from Reading), Ava Kuyken (University of Florida State), Holly Manders (Durham), Jessica Park (Manchester City), Molly Pike (Everton), Abbie Roberts (Rutgers University), Beth Roberts (Stoke City), Lucy Roberts (University of South Florida), Ebony Salmon (Bristol City), Kiera Skeels (Reading), Libby Smith (Leicester City), Frances Stenson (Blackburn Rovers - on loan from Arsenal), Phoebe Williams (Southampton)



Young Scots – U19 Championship qualifying results



WOMEN'S
UNDER19
CHAMPIONSHIP®

Scotland 4-0 Bulgaria

Goals: Moore, McGowan, Scott, Maughan

Scotland 0-0 Croatia

Poland 0-1 Scotland

Goals: Smith

Squad: Abby Callaghan, Aisha Maughan, Brogan Moore, Caley Gibb, Carly Girasoli, Chloe Warrington, Eilidh Shore, Elena Santoyo-Brown, Emily Mutch, Francesca Ogilvie, Hannah Scott, Hannah Clark, Jenna Clark, Jennifer Smith, Kathleen McGovern, Kirstie McIntosh, Lauren Davidson, Michaela McAlonie, Rebecca McGowan, Sophie Allison, Tara McGonigle, Kirstie McIntosh (withdrawn)

Rangers Women to become semi-professional



Rangers Women players will become semi-professional next season after the club announced an increase in their investment in Gregory Vignal's side.

And Women's and Girls Academy manager Amy McDonald believes they are moving closer to being a force in Scottish and European football.

Calling it "yet another ground-breaking announcement for women's football in Scotland", she told the Rangers website: "This investment will allow us to recruit and retain the best footballers possible for the club, allowing us to compete domestically and, eventually, within European football."



Scotland introduce play-offs

Scottish Women's Football will introduce play-offs and a group stage in the Scottish Women's Premier League Cup as of next season.

Two regional divisions will also form a new Championship, which will sit below a 10-team SWPL 2.

The changes come after a six-month consultation among clubs.

The main changes include:

- One automatic promotion and relegation place between SWPL 1, which will remain at eight teams, and an expanded 10-team SWPL 2
- A one-legged play-off between the seventh-placed SWPL 1 side and second-placed team in SWPL 2
- Two SWPL 2 teams relegated to the Championship, with regional league winners promoted. Will also be a play-off between the two second-placed Championship sides for the right to meet the eighth-placed SWPL 2 team
- Top two in SWPL to be given a bye to SWPL Cup quarter-finals
- Other 16 sides to be split into four groups of four. Group winners and two best runners-up qualify for quarter-finals
- Rest of teams, bar the two worst-placed bottom sides, will enter a newly created SWPL Plate competition



Belarus 0-1 Wales

Wales' Rachel Rowe returned from a year out due to injury to score a sensational goal in their 1-0 win over Belarus.

It was the Reading midfielder's first senior international goal as she returns from an ACL injury and sees Wales's side stay second in Group C.

Speaking to the BBC after the match, she said: "It's my debut goal for Wales. I don't feel anything other than pride when I put that shirt on. I am proud that I scored but I am just proud to get the win, the team played well and we won ugly."

Wales squad: Laura O'Sullivan (Cardiff City Ladies), Claire Skinner (Cardiff City Ladies), Hayley Ladd (Manchester United Women), Loren Dykes (Bristol City Women), Gemma Evans (Bristol City Women), Rhiannon Roberts (Liverpool FC Women), Charlie Estcourt (Charlton Athletic Women - on loan from Reading FC Women), Anna Filbey (Tottenham Hotspur Women), Angharad James (Reading FC Women), Elise Hughes (Everton Ladies), Rachel Rowe (Reading FC Women), Natasha Harding (Reading FC Women), Emma Jones (Lewes FC Women), Megan Wynne (Tottenham Hotspur Women), Helen Ward (Watford FC Ladies), Kayleigh Green (Brighton & Hove Albion Women), Josie Green (Tottenham Hotspur Women), Nadia Lawrence (Cardiff City Ladies), Georgia Walters (Tranmere Rovers), Grace Horrell (Cardiff City Ladies)

Wales social media abuse

Wales manager Jade Ludlow told reporters that players received "horrific abuse" after their 2-2 Euro 2021 qualifying draw with Northern Ireland in August.

Goalkeeper Laura O'Sullivan was one of those who received abuse after an error during the game.

"Some of the reaction to the last game was really tough to take," Ludlow said.

"They had some horrific abuse on social media for it and the one person in particular [O'Sullivan] is an amateur player who works full time.

"Over the last two months, she has gone through a process in her work life where it is her busiest time of year, but she still manages to step on the pitch as our national team goalkeeper and perform particularly well.



Young Wales – U19 Championship qualifying results

Wales 0-1 Northern Ireland

Goal: Rea

Norway 11-0 Wales

Moldova 0-3 Wales

Goals: Rogers (2), Griffiths

Squad: Olivia Clark (Huddersfield Town Ladies FC), Poppy Soper (Cyncoed Ladies FC), Hayley Hoare (Cardiff City Ladies FC), Esther Morgan (Chelsea FC Women), Morgan Rogers (Cardiff City Ladies FC), Josie Longhurst (Cardiff City Ladies FC), Cerys Jones (Cardiff City Ladies FC), Josie Smith (Everton Ladies FC), Sophie Norman (Cardiff City FC Women), Phoebe Hampson (Everton Ladies FC), Alice Griffiths (Charlton Athletic Women FC), Rhianne Oakley (Cardiff City Ladies FC), Emily Jones (Lewes FC Women), Lucia Carpanni (Bristol City Women FC), Caitlin Williams (Cyncoed Ladies FC), Charlotte Harris (Manchester City Women FC), Grace Horrell (Cardiff City Ladies FC), Ellie-Mai Sanford (Bristol City Ladies FC)

USW backing women's football through support partnership



Image caption: Wales manager Jayne Ludlow (left) with young footballers who will benefit from the partnership; Mel Tuckwell (second from right), USW lecturer in Sports Coaching and Performance, and Claire O'Sullivan, Head Coach of the Wales Elite Youth Football Academy at Coleg y Cymoedd (right)

Wales Women's football team manager Jayne Ludlow joined young players at the launch of a sponsorship deal aimed at supporting their development.

The former Wales and Arsenal player was at the University of South Wales (USW) Sport Park in Treforest as sponsored shirts were handed over to members of the Coleg y Cymoedd Football Association of Wales (FAW) Girls U19 football team.

The FAW teamed up with Ystrad Mynach-based Coleg y Cymoedd in 2015 to launch an elite female football academy, with the aim of helping the young players move up the ranks.

The sponsorship aims to develop the players further, with support coming from the USW Sport specialists and through use of the facilities at the Sport Park, and with

USW's logo also included on the team's shirts.

The partnership will help to cement a newly-developed pathway for the students, which aims to support them as they improve their football skills, while also studying for qualifications at Coleg y Cymoedd and then progressing to study for degrees at USW.

As well as supporting the FAW team's development through the football pathway, USW has also established a Women Sport Advisory Board to provide strategic and practical advice to improve the delivery, recognition, promotion and development of participation, performance and leadership opportunities for women sport in the region.

The Board will serve the sporting community at the grassroots level to 'take the pulse' of community sentiment in women's participation in sport in the region, and also help to raise the profile of women's sport and explore the issue of gender equality in sport in the region.

Young NI – U19

Championship qualifying results

Wales 0-1 Northern Ireland

Goal : Rea

Northern Ireland 6-0 Moldova

Goals: Collighan, McGuinness, Smyth, McKenna, Burrows, Finnegan

Northern Ireland 0-7 Norway

Squad: Lauren Perry (Linfield Ladies), Maddy Clifford (Crusaders Strikers), Libby Gilmore (Bristol City Ladies), Kelsie Burrows (Linfield Ladies), Beth Chalmers (Crusaders Strikers), Naomi Donnan (Linfield Ladies), Kirsty Cameron (Linfield Ladies), Toni-Leigh Finnegan (Cliftonville Ladies), Mia Fitzsimmons (Linfield Ladies), Jessica Rea (Crusaders Strikers), Kerry Beattie (Glentoran Women), Rebecca McKenna (Linfield Ladies), Beth Smyth (Manchester City Women), Joely Andrews (Glentoran Women), Sasha Clare (Crusaders Strikers), Caitlin McGuinness (Linfield Ladies), Faith Johnston (Crusaders Strikers), Casey Howe (Linfield Ladies), Alexandra Collighan (Life University Atlanta, USA), Danielle Maxwell (Glentoran Women)



Neville selects 'long list' for Great Britain



Phil Neville says he has selected a long Great Britain squad which has to be put down to 18 for the 2020 Olympic Games.

The 42-year-old England manager will lead the women's team made up of players from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Neville said: "We are going through the selection process now.

"The longlist has been selected and the players from all countries have been notified.

"It's a difficult process to go through because you have to pay respects to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in terms of contact with their players.

"The process will be open and honest and we will make sure every player has the opportunity to go."

Qualification for the Olympics was secured after England finished fourth at the World Cup.



2021 Championship chatter

Wednesday, October 2			
G	North Macedonia	4-1	Kazakhstan
Friday, October 4			
A	Turkey	0-0	Estonia
A	Kosovo	P-P	Russia
A	Slovenia	2-4	Netherlands
B	Denmark	2-0	Bosnia & Herzegovina
B	Malta	0-2	Italy
C	Belarus	1-7	Norway
D	Spain	4-0	Azerbaijan
E	Albania	0-1	Portugal
F	Latvia	1-2	Slovakia
F	Hungary	0-5	Sweden
H	Lithuania	0-3	Switzerland
Saturday, October 5			
G	North Macedonia	0-6	Serbia
I	Germany	8-0	Ukraine
Tuesday, October 8			
E	Finland	8-1	Albania
A	Turkey	1-6	Slovenia
A	Estonia	1-2	Kosovo
A	Netherlands	2-0	Russia
B	Italy	2-0	Bosnia & Herzegovina
B	Georgia	0-2	Denmark
C	Belarus	0-1	Wales
C	Faroe Islands	0-13	Norway
D	Czech Republic	1-5	Spain
F	Sweden	7-0	Slovakia
F	Latvia	0-6	Iceland
G	Kazakhstan	0-3	France
G	Serbia	0-1	Austria
H	Romania	0-1	Belgium
H	Switzerland	2-0	Croatia
I	Greece	0-5	Germany
I	Republic of Ireland	3-2	Ukraine

2021 Championship chatter

Group A									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Netherlands	4	4	0	0	16	2	14	12
2	Slovenia	4	2	0	2	13	6	7	6
3	Russia	3	2	0	1	4	6	3	6
4	Kosovo	3	2	0	1	4	6	-2	6
5	Turkey	4	0	1	3	1	11	-10	1
6	Estonia	4	0	1	3	1	13	-12	1

Group B									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Denmark	4	4	0	0	15	0	15	12
2	Italy	4	4	0	0	8	2	6	12
3	Bosnia & Herzegovina	4	2	0	2	9	5	4	6
4	Israel	2	0	0	2	2	6	-4	0
5	Georgia	3	0	0	3	0	12	-12	0
6	Malta	3	0	0	3	0	12	-12	0

Group C									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Norway	3	3	0	0	26	1	25	9
2	Wales	3	2	1	0	9	2	7	7
3	Belarus	3	1	0	2	7	8	-1	3
4	Northern Ireland	2	0	1	1	2	8	-6	1
5	Faroe Islands	3	0	0	3	0	25	-25	0

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

Group E									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Finland	2	2	0	0	11	1	10	6
2	Scotland	1	1	0	0	8	0	8	3
3	Portugal	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
4	Cyprus	1	0	0	1	0	8	-8	0
5	Albania	3	0	0	3	1	12	-11	0

2021 Championship chatter

Group F									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Sweden	3	3	0	0	16	1	15	9
2	Iceland	3	3	0	0	11	1	10	9
3	Slovakia	3	1	0	2	2	9	-7	3
4	Hungary	2	0	0	2	1	9	-8	0
5	Latvia	3	0	0	3	2	12	-10	0

Group G									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Serbia	3	2	0	1	9	1	8	6
2	Austria	2	2	0	0	4	0	4	6
3	France	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
4	North Macedonia	3	1	0	2	4	10	-6	3
5	Kazakhstan	3	0	0	3	1	10	-9	0

Group H									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Switzerland	3	3	0	0	9	0	9	9
2	Belgium	2	2	0	0	7	1	6	6
3	Croatia	3	1	0	2	3	9	-6	3
4	Romania	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
5	Lithuania	3	0	0	3	1	9	-8	0

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



FIFA Best Football Awards



At a star-studded event in Milan, Italy FIFA The Best awards were named on September 23.

The Best FIFA Women's Player:

1st Megan Rapinoe (46 points)

2nd Alex Morgan (42 points)

3rd Lucy Bronze (29 points)

The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper:

1st Sari van Veenendaal

2nd Christiane Endler

3rd Hedvig Lindahl

The Best FIFA Women's Coach:

1st Jill Ellis (48 points)

2nd Sarina Weigman (40 points)

3rd Phil Neville (31 points)

FIFA FIFPro Women's World 11

Goalkeeper: Sari van Veenendaal (Arsenal, Atletico Madrid)

Defenders: Lucy Bronze (Lyon), Nilla Fischer (VfL Wolfsburg, Linköpings), Kelley O'Hara (Utah Royals), Wendie Renard (Lyon)

Midfielders: Julie Ertz (Chicago Red Stars), Amandine Henry (Lyon), Rose Lavelle (Washington Spirit)

Forwards: Marta (Orlando Pride), Alex Morgan (Orlando Pride), Megan Rapinoe (Reign)





AROUND THE WORLD



JP JOERDELI PHOTOGRAPHY
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THE **WOMEN'S**
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE

Two Nigeria players die in accident

Three Police Machine players were involved in a car accident after training in Ugo on September 30.

The Nigeria Women's Pro League players had finished training before their play-off game at the weekend.

Ani Ekong and Saturday Glory were pronounced dead at the scene and Monica Anthony remains in a critical condition.

We are sending all our thoughts and love to Police Machine and the players loved ones.

RIP.

Portugal launch first official women's fantasy football

Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) launches the first women's football fantasy league in Europe.

The Portuguese Football Federation has joined RealFevr to launch BPI Fantasy League, the first official virtual women's football league in Europe.

The purpose is to get the women's premier league closer to football fans, providing them with a new thrilling entertainment tool.

The competition is already available and may be accessed through various platforms – web/smartphone/tablet.

Caster Semenya

Two-time Olympic 800m gold medallist Caster Semenya has joined South African women's football team JVW.

The 28-year-old was unable to compete in her usual athletics events without taking testosterone-reducing drugs following a rule change by the IAAF, athletics' governing body.

JVW FC was formed in 2013 by South Africa women's captain Janine van Wyk in an aim to "identify, develop, improve and expose" female footballers.

In a statement on the club website, Semenya said: "I am looking forward to this new journey. I appreciate the love and support I already get from the team."

Club founder Van Wyk said: "She's had two training sessions with the team and you could see her football is there, but we still need obviously to work on her a little bit because it's very different to track and field.

"She's made it really clear to me that she's not giving up running at all.

"To have her play in the league over here is incredible and I think young girls and her team-mates will draw a lot of inspiration from Caster."

Pablo Lopez named new Atletico Madrid Women coach

Pablo Lopez Salgado has been named as the new coach of Atletico Madrid Women.

He will take over the club until the end of the season and will be in the dugout for their Champions League game against Manchester City.

At the press event he said: "It's a dream fulfilled both personally and professionally. Being able to go to work here is such an achievement."

Huerta allegedly groped after Houston Dash's game

Reports from America say that a football fan is facing a lifetime ban from Mexican club Tigres after he appeared to grope the chest of Sofia Huerta.

The incident occurred after a friendly in Mexico between Tigres and Houston Dash where Huerta plays.

Huerta was taking selfies with fans in the stand when a man standing behind her for a photo appeared to grab her chest.

The club released a statement: "Once the so-called fan has been identified, he will be prohibited for life from entering any of our facilities and any women's or men's matches.

"At Tigres, we are fully committed to eradicating in our stadium and in our community any form of harassment or situation that violates human dignity or seeks to intimidate, degrade or offend women.

"As a result of the events that took place on Saturday, in which a so-called fan presumably violated the dignity of the Houston Dash player at the end of the game, we have decided to take action regarding this action. We will be filing a lawsuit against whoever was responsible for this event."

Houston Dash also produced a statement supporting Tigres: "We believe that behaviour has no place in our game or in our society.

"Above all, our main priority is the security of the players and we thank Tigres' efforts to solve this matter."



Iranian Women attend first match in decades

Iranian women attended their first football match after being banned.

Women have effectively been banned from stadiums when men are playing since just after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The change followed the death of a fan who had set herself alight after being arrested for trying to attend a match.

Sahar Khodayari, known as "blue girl" because of the team she supported, set fire to herself outside court while awaiting trial for trying to attend a match disguised as a man.

FIFA have stepped up pressure on Tehran to meet its commitments to allow women to attend World Cup qualifiers.

More than 3,500 women bought tickets to Thursday's World Cup qualifier against Cambodia.

Trophee des Championnes

Lyon came out as winners in the first women's champions trophy.

The game against Paris Saint Germain finished 1-1 and went to penalties but Marie-Antoinette Katoto and Grace Geyoro missed.

Congratulations!



New FIFA rankings

The new women's FIFA rankings have been published.

Women's World Cup winners the USA remain at the top but Phil Neville's England stay fifth.

Belgium (18th – up 1), Chile (37th – up 1) and Fiji (68th – up 4) all reach record highs.

Scotland are 22nd, Wales have moved down one place to 33 and Northern Ireland have moved up three places to 56.

Some of the most interesting spots of the rankings:

- Leader USA (unchanged)
- Moves into top ten Japan (10th, up 1)
- Moves out of top ten Brazil (11th, down 1)
- Matches played in total 113
- Most matches played Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe (all 7)
- Biggest move by points Botswana (plus 56)
- Biggest move by ranks Zambia (110th, up 9)
- Biggest drop by points South Africa (minus 53)
- Biggest drop by ranks Zimbabwe (111th, down 9)
- Newly ranked teams (re-entries unless otherwise stated) Kyrgyz Republic, Angola, Comoros, Mauritius
- Teams no longer ranked due to prolonged inactivity Afghanistan



FIFA Club World Cup

FIFA

Fifa president Gianni Infantino is continuing to push for the creation of a Women's World League to help grow the game on the back of this year's Fifa Women's World Cup.

The head of world soccer's governing body had his initial attempts to form the new national team tournament blocked inside the organisation, but has promised to continue his efforts, arguing that France 2019 highlighted the desire for more elite women's soccer competitions.

Infantino had first vowed to campaign again for setting up a Women's World League back in June and reasserted his plans while speaking at a Fifa conference in Milan this week.

"We have to build on the momentum of this fantastic World Cup," he said.

The Swiss added that he first came up with the idea of the new league in 2017 but had seen it rejected within Fifa despite "big, big support" from global soccer officials.

"We then brought it back to the council of Fifa, where it was, how shall I say? Put on hold? Or blocked for probably some sports political reasons? I don't know exactly why," he added.

"But we will bring it back on the table until it will be approved."

Infantino has already pushed through an expansion of the Women's World Cup, increasing the number of teams from 24 to 32 in 2023.

Now, along with his wish for a World League, he also wants to see an annual Women's Club World Cup to boost the game outside of national team competitions.

"We need to create a World Cup for clubs. We cannot think that we can seriously develop women's football by only having national teams," he said.

"We need clubs as well and to give them more reason to invest and to give them a stage where they can perform. So I will propose a Club World Cup. Every year, starting next year or the year after next. I don't think it takes us a long time to organise it."

The proposed tournament would see 16 or 24 teams competing over a three to four-week period, with a different host nation each year.

Infantino's proposals reaffirm a commitment made by Fifa last year to double worldwide participation in women's soccer to 60 million by 2026.

The Women's World Cup behind the lens

On 28 January 2018, I got lent a professional camera as I didn't own one of my own and was sitting pitchside at my first Arsenal Women's game. I was clueless about what to do. But already the first seconds I felt comfortable and happy. So I started photographing. And kept going.

526 days later - on the 7 July 2019 - I was able to cover the biggest FIFA Women's World Cup Final ever. The World Cup Champions USA won their 4th star. Against a great team the Netherlands, who every single one of them can be proud of what they achieved. 4 years ago I was in the stands. Now I was in the middle of it. And I felt so at ease. Grinning. Smiling. Proud. Belonged. At home.

I need time to reflect this. I need time to absorb this in. I need time. But in short: I am grateful to have been a part of this. Thank you for following this amazing World Cup. Thank you for following my journey. Thank you for your continuous support. More to come soon.

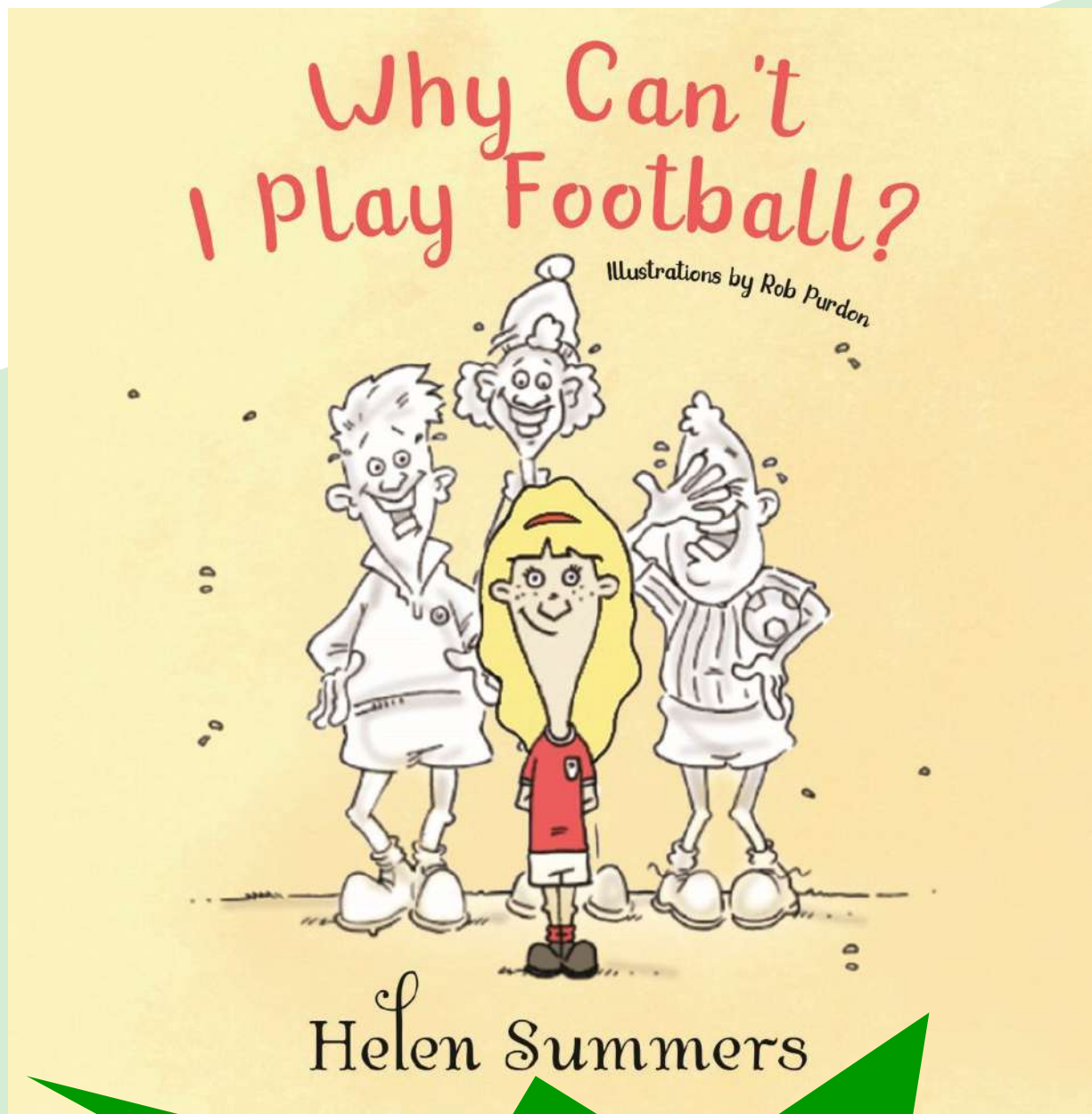
These three pictures mean a lot to me. I have been a huge fan of Kelley O'Hara since Stanford times and seeing her sitting there for a few seconds on her own and absorbing it all in, knowing all the way she has come, was a beautiful and special moment for me to capture. The second picture shows the whole USA team lifting the trophy, and this reminded me of the victory in Vancouver 2015 when I was there as a fan.

The third picture feels really emotional for me as it shows the Italian national team singing the national anthem. I am Swiss-Italo, so when I saw them at this very moment and looked back and forth between all players, I started to cry. The feelings to have them back at the biggest stage - a World Cup - after 20 years of absence, overcame me. I was proud. I was happy. I felt home.

Your Daniela Porcelli (Joerdeli)



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