

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

ISSUE 40

AUGUST 2020



DALY DOSE OF BRILLIANCE

After an impressive performance in the NWSL Challenge Cup, Charlotte Stacey looks at the brilliance of Rachel Daly. Georgia Stevens is back with her latest column and Simon O'Neill interviews goalkeeper Amber Taylor. Plus all the latest news, transfers and gossip from the grassroots to the home nations.

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



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Welcome

CONTRIBUTORS

Editor: Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Writers:

Allie Coker

Marissa Thomas

Ali Rampling

Ammo Curtis

Georgia Stevens

Simon O'Neill

Charlotte Stacey

Photography: joerdeli

@GOTB

Website designer: Will Ibbetson

Graphic designer: Phil Brooke

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter: @womensfootiemag

Facebook:

thewomensfootiemag

Instagram:

Thewomensfootballmagazine

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Hello and welcome to Issue 40!

Hello everyone, welcome to our latest issue.

We have another bumper issue for you this month so we hope you enjoy.

We have a brilliant exclusive interview from Ali Rampling with James Fishlock. Fishlock is the new manager at Cardiff City and the brother of another rather well known Wales player Jess Fishlock.

Charlotte Stacey looks across the pond at Rachel Daly and the newly pending Angel City, Georgia Stevens is back with her latest column and Jeremy Meyer rejoins us after his move to Spain.

Transfers are coming in thick and fast and it's exciting to hear that the Women's FA Cup will be completed this season. Hopefully soon we will know more about the upcoming seasons across the league.

As the world slowly but surely opens up, make sure you all stay safe!

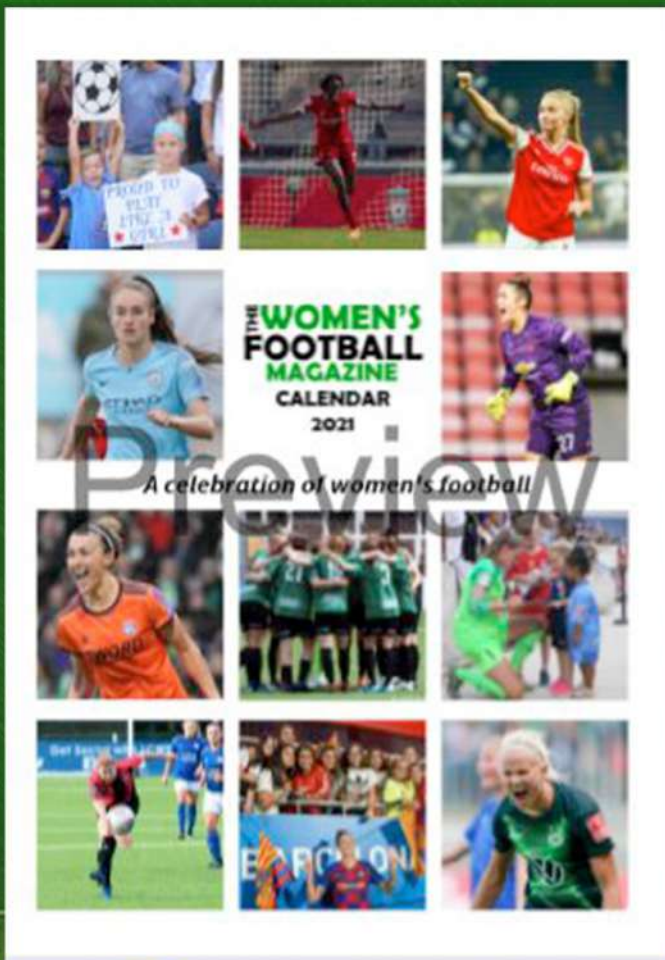
Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Editor-in-Chief

@helenrw11

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

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WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE



City Speculation



By Charlotte Stacey

Lionesses Lucy Bronze, Alex Greenwood are set to join Chloe Kelly at Manchester City according to a recent report from The Telegraph.

It has widely been speculated that Bronze and Greenwood would be returning to the WSL after their respective spells with French giants Olympique Lyonnais.

Bronze's time at Lyon has been nothing short of impressive. Bronze has thrice won the League, as well as winning the Women's French Cup in 2019, plus two consecutive Champions League titles. Her performances over the past three years have also seen her named as UEFA's Women's Player of the Year in 2019, and earned her the runners-up position at the Ballon d'Or Awards of the same year.

Now widely regarded as one of the world's greatest right backs, Bronze's return to City is welcomed. Bronze previously played for City between 2014-2017 before signing for Lyon. During her earlier stint with the Blues, Bronze won one League title and helped City qualify for their first ever Champions League.

Bronze will assumedly slot straight in to her natural right back role, freeing up forwards Janine Beekie and Georgia Stanway, who have been filling the position in the absence of injured defender Aoife Mannion.

Greenwood has also had a successful stint at Lyon. The left back joined the French Champions after leading Manchester United to promotion into the WSL last year.

In her year aboard, the former United captain helped Lyon to win their 14th

Division 1 Féminine title. New boss Gareth Taylor will now have the option of Greenwood or Demi Stokes on the left, exactly the choice that the national side have had over the last couple of years.

Greenwood's arrival at City may ruffle a few feathers with supporters of her former club. The rivalry between the two Manchester sides could well have just stepped up a notch.

Bronze and Greenwood have extended their contracts with Lyon for another two months, meaning they will both be available to play the remainder of the Champions League matches.

The pair will reportedly start with Manchester City once the 2020/21 season commences, just a few days after the Champions League concludes.

Forward Chloe Kelly has been announced as one of City's new . Everton's superstar striker rejected the offer to renew her contract with the Toffees after it expired in

June. Kelly has had an excellent spell with Everton, and finishes up her final season with nine goals in twelve appearances.

Due to her exceptional form, Kelly was also called up to play for the Lionesses in February's SheBelieves Cup.

The addition of Bronze, Greenwood and Kelly at City will see the Blues have no less than twelve regular England players in their squad. The trio will join the likes of captain Steph Houghton, playmaker Keira Walsh, and the Lionesses most capped active player, Jill Scott.

A sizeable cohort of the English squad at one club is likely to prove favourable both domestically and nationally. The Lionesses look to have a busy few years ahead of them and players training and working together with regularity will surely help develop a crucial unity.





Siobhan Chamberlain leaves Manchester United



Copyright: Siobhan Chamberlain Twitter

Manchester United have announced the departure of Siobhan Chamberlain.

The 36-year-old goalkeeper joined United when it launched in 2018 and made 27 appearances for the club.

Chamberlain, who gave birth to a daughter in January, wrote on her blog that she would now “take time to consider the next steps in my career”.

She said in a post on siobhanchamberlain.com: “When I found out I was pregnant in 2019, I knew I wasn’t ready to finish playing, fighting to get back into the squad at United was my entire focus.

“However, life and football very rarely follow the perfect path, I feel my career for club and country is the example of that. But the one thing that’s driven me throughout my entire career is not giving up.

“I had been to four major tournaments with England over 11 years before making my tournament debut in 2015. I had plenty of opportunities to give up prior to that. I didn’t.

“I have loved every minute of my time as a Manchester United player but after discussions with Casey we both agreed that now was the right time for me to move on and take time to consider the next steps in my career.

“I am proud that we as a group of players have written a chapter in this great club’s history. The future of this club is in great hands with Casey and I have no doubt that trophies and success are not far away.

“I can’t thank the fans enough for their support. The support for me as a player and the love and kindness shown to me in becoming a mother, it makes being a women’s footballer special. Women’s football needs your passion.”

Casey Stoney said: “I want to thank Siobhan for her time with us. Aside from her obvious goalkeeping abilities, she has been an incredible leader and role model within the team, and a fantastic mentor to the talented young goalkeepers we have at United.

“On a personal level, I have played with Siobhan for a number of years at various clubs and also with the national team.

“We’ve shared so many experiences together and I consider her a friend.

“As a head coach it’s my job to evolve the squad each year and after discussions with Siobhan on our plan to give our younger goalkeepers more first-team experience, it was agreed by both parties that now was the right time for Siobhan to move on and pursue her career elsewhere.

“On behalf of everyone at the club, I wish her the best of luck for the future.”



Barclays FA WSL 2019/20

End of Season Awards



Ian Wright and Kelly Smith have announced the Barclays End of Season awards in a virtual award show.

Beth England has been named the Barclays Player of the Season.

The Chelsea forward scored 14 goals in 15 appearances for Chelsea, who were named the winners of the WSL.

Manager Emma Hayes was also named Manager of the Season.

Hayes took the team through an undefeated season with 12 wins and three draws.

But it's not all Chelsea glory as Arsenal's Vivianne Miedema wins Barclays Golden Boot, having scored 16 goals for Arsenal during the league campaign, more goals than anyone else throughout the series.

Manchester City's Ellie Roebuck takes the Barclays Golden Glove, having taken over from England's Karen Bardsley to keep ten clean sheets and win the award.

Karen Bardsley opens up about mental health



Karen Bardsley has for a long time been a player who everybody knows, respects and looks-up to but with a career which has been dogged by tough injuries the 33-year-old has struggled to mentally keep herself going.

With each injury came another set-back and during the 2017 European Championships in the Netherlands this summer Bardsley was substituted after breaking her leg in the win over France – the third time she has suffered the same injury.

Through her recovery the Manchester City Women's goalie admits that there were times where she really struggled but this time she was wise enough to discuss it.

Speaking to TWFM, she said: "I found it personally really difficult to admit to myself

that I was struggling sometimes but once I had the feelings and I knew I could not sit with them any longer, I sought the help I needed.

"I went for guidance. I am fortunate that I have a good support network who I felt I could say, "hey I need to find out why I am speaking like this" and they could find out who I needed to speak to.

"I did have the right people to speak to about.

"There were some coaches, some teammates, some sports psychology people who I could trust and rely on.

"They were very important to keep me focused on the right things – the things which would be beneficial to me instead of catastrophising things and worrying about things which were not in my control.

Bardsley, who has been at Manchester City since 2014, has broken bones in her leg twice before – once in 1999 and once in 2003.

Even though they were hard at the time, she believes she has learnt a lot about herself throughout her time on the sidelines.

She said: “They were massive blows to me and I had to go through those situations to discover what my resilience not just as a player but look at who I wanted to be in the future.

“I did not want those things to define me.

“It meant so much to me to be involved in the Euros and I was looking forward to going as far as we could and we aimed to lift the trophy.

“I felt like I was playing well and I wanted to transfer this into the season with Man City but unfortunately you cannot control things and freaky things happen – they seem to happen to me a lot!

“It was really hard, I went through some really

rough patches over the last three or four months – physically, mentally,” she added.

“I tried to make sure that I was honest with my feelings and emotions.

“I knew I needed to rely on people for support and that is not something I would have admitted when I was younger.

“My support really helped me through, keep my motivation going – which I found hard at times – so when I spoke to the right people, they made me focus on things which I could control and it was imperative for me to keep my perspectives and perception of reality on track.

“It was very hard but I had help to focus on the positive things, I took some backwards steps a few times but I had people around me telling me that you have to listen to your body and take each day as it comes.”





West Ham United move home ground for new season



West Ham United Women will play their home games next season at Dagenham and Redbridge.

The Hammers will move to Victoria Road, having previously played their games at the Rush Green training ground in Romford.

Matt Beard's side finished eighth in the Women's Super League last season.

Managing director Jack Sullivan said about the decision: "The demand for women's football has never been greater.

"Our new home will allow even more of our loyal fans to watch our games.

The new WSL season will start on September 5, with fixtures yet to be confirmed.



Charlotte Fleming signs first professional contract



Charlotte Fleming has signed her first professional contract for Women's Super League club Chelsea.

The 18-year-old is a product of the Blues' academy and has been at the club since she was ten.

The deal will keep her at the club until May 2021.

The academy captain made two starts for Emma Hayes' side last season and was named in the squad three times.

Speaking to the official website, Fleming said: "It's a bit surreal to be honest, it's a dream for me and I've always aspired to be part of the women's team."

"It's really exciting for me as a young player coming into this new world."

"I have got the most amazing support network around me and it's going to be an exciting year."

Hayes added: "Charlotte has come through our academy and we are all proud of the steps she has made to earn her first contract."

"She's a fantastic person from a good family with a bright future ahead of her."

"We are all excited to see her career develop."

Manchester United announce new assistant coach



Manchester United Women have confirmed the appointment of Martin Ho as the new assistant coach.

The news comes following the decision of Glen Harris to retire at the end of the 2019/20 season.

Harris joined United in late 2018 and was instrumental in their promotion to the WSL alongside head coach Casey Stoney.

Ho joins the first team staff having already worked with the club's under-21 WSL academy team last season alongside Charlotte Healy.

He previously worked at the Everton academy boys' set-up and was assistant manager of their women's senior side.

Following this, he moved on to be head coach of Liverpool Women's Under-21 team and was

also the technical director of their girls' Regional Talent Club, before joining United last season.

Casey Stoney said: "I'm delighted to have Martin as my assistant going into the new season; he has a wealth of experience and I have seen first-hand the qualities that he possesses as a coach.

"He is a great leader and understands the values and culture of this club which is so important. I'm looking forward to getting back to training for pre-season and putting our plans into action.

"I cannot express enough gratitude to Glen for his efforts, he came in 18 months ago and seamlessly slotted into the club at a time when we were still a new squad finding our way.

“He played a big part along with the rest of my staff team in helping us achieve promotion to the WSL and I will be forever grateful for the way he worked so positively with everyone.

“On behalf of the staff and players I want to thank him and wish him all the best in his retirement.”

Martin Ho told the official website: “It’s an honour to join the first-team staff at United, I have huge respect for Casey and what she has done as both a player and head coach; I want to thank her for the opportunity she has given me.

“I’m excited to be working alongside her and

the squad ahead of what will be another competitive season in the WSL.

“I also want to thank Charlotte Healy, it was a pleasure to work with her last season and she is doing some brilliant work with our Under-21 Academy.

“Nurturing and developing young talent is what Manchester United is all about and alongside Casey, I will to continue to support the Under-21 set up to ensure we bridge the gap to the first-team.”



Transfer latest

Arsenal



In: Emma Mitchell (end of loan – Tottenham), Frances Stenson (end of loan – Blackburn), Steph Catley

(OL Reign), Malin Gut (Grasshopper Zurich), Lydia Williams (Melbourne City), Noelle Maritz (Wolfsburg)

Extended updates: Viktoria Schnaderbeck

Out: Ruby Grant (UNC), Louise Quinn, Pauline Peyraud-Magnin (Atletico Madrid), Katrin Veje (FC Rosengard), Emma Mitchell (Reading), Danielle Carter (Reading)

Aston Villa



In: Chloe Arthur (Birmingham), Anita Asante (Chelsea), Diana Silva (Sporting Portugal), Lisa Weiss (Olympique

Lyonnais), Caroline Siems (Turbine Potsdam), Ramona Petzelberger (SGS Essen)

Extended contracts: Asmita Ale, Elisha N'Dow, Jodie Hutton, Amy West, Shania Hayles and Emma Follis, Sian Rogers, Nat Haigh, Ella Franklin, Nadine Hanssen, Sophie Haywood,

Emily Syme, Marisa Ewers

Out: Jade Richards, Kerri Welsh, Alice Hassall (Coventry), Phoebe Warner, Mel Johnson (Sheffield United), Charlotte Greengrass, Sophie Maierhofer, Daniela Kosinska

Birmingham City



Extended contracts: Lucy Whipp

Out: Brianna Visalli (Houston Dash), Georgia Brougham (end of loan – Everton), Adrienne Jordan (OL Reign), Alex Brooks, Lucy Staniforth, Chloe Arthur, Kerys Harrop Rachel Williams (Tottenham)

Brighton



In: Sophie Harris (end of loan – Lewes), Katie Startup (Charlton), Katie Robinson (Bristol City), Nora Heroum

(AC Milan), Inessa Kaagman (Everton), Lee Geum-min (Man City - loan)

Extended

contracts: Danielle Bowman, Kirsty Barton, Jodie Brett, Emily Simpkins, Laura Rafferty

Transfer latest

Victoria Williams, Ellie Brazil, Rianna Jarrett, Fliss Gibbons, Danique Kerkdijk, Aileen Whelan, Beth Roe, Megan Connolly, Kayleigh Green

Out: Maxine Bennink (end of loan – Reading), Sophie Harris, Ini Umotong, Kate Natkiel, Fern Whelan, Amanda Nilden, Lea Le Garrec (FC Fleury), Matilde Lundorf (Juventus)

Bristol City



In: Ella Rutherford (end of loan – Leicester), Ella Mastrantonio (Western Sydney Wanderers),

Ella Mastrantonio (Western Sydney Wanderers), Aimee Palmer (Man Utd), Megan Wynne (Tottenham), Jemma Purfield (Liverpool)

Extended contracts: Carla Humphrey, Ebony Salmon, Gemma Evans, Florence Allen, Faye Bryson

Out: Megan Wynne (end of loan – Tottenham), Poppy Pattinson, Olivia Chance, Katie Robinson, Jeon Ga-Eul, Eartha Cumings, Frankie Brown, Lauren Dykes (Cardiff City)

Chelsea



In: Melanie Leupolz (FC Bayern), Niamh Charles (Liverpool), Jessie Fleming

Extended

contracts: Charlotte Fleming, Beth England

Out: Adelina Engman (MHSC), Deanna Cooper, Anita Asante

Everton



In: Georgia Brougham (end of loan – Birmingham), Poppy Pattinson (Bristol City), Ingrid Moe

Wold (Madrid CFF), Nicoline Sorensen (Brondby), Rikke Sevecke (FC Fleury)

Extended contracts: Tinja-Riika Korpela, Danielle Turner, Chantelle Boye-Hlorkah, Abbey Leigh-Stringer, Hayley Raso

Out: Inessa Kaagman, Hannah Cain, Kirstie Levell, Taylor Hinds, Esme Morgan (end of loan – Man City), Chloe Kelly

Transfer latest

Manchester City



In: Esme Morgan (end of loan – Everton), Chloe Kelly (Everton)

Extended

contracts: : Megan Campbell, Jill Scott, Karima Benameur, Gemma Bonner

Out: Pauline Bremer (Wolfsburg), Tessa Wullaert, Lee Geum-min (Brighton—loan)

Manchester United



In: Mollie Green (end of loan – Sheffield), Emily Ramsey (end of loan – Sheffield), Lucy Staniforth

(Birmingham City), Ona Battle (Levante), Ivana Fuso (FC Basel)

Extended

contracts: Kirsty Hanson, Amy Turner, Jess Sigsworth, Ella Toone, Martha Harris, Fran Bentley, Kirsty Smith

Out: Aurora Mikelsen (Tottenham), Aimee Palmer (Bristol City), Lizzie Arnot, Siobhan Chamberlain

Reading



In: Maxine Bennink (end of loan – Brighton), Charlie Estcourt (end of loan – Charlton), Lily Woodham (end of loan – Charlton), Deanna Cooper (Chelsea)

Extended contracts: Natasha Harding, Lily Woodham, Keira Skeels

Out : Jade Moore (Orlando Pride), Sophie Howard, Mayumi Pacheco, Charlie Estcourt, Millie Farrow, Jo Potter, Maxine Bennink, Remi Allen, Rachel Laws, Lisa Marie Utland (Rosenborg)

Tottenham



In: Megan Wynne (end of loan – Bristol), Kerys Harrop (Birmingham), Rachel Williams (Birmingham), Aurora Mikalsen (Man United)

Extended contracts: Rianna Dean, Anna Filbey, Ashley Neville,

Rebecca Spencer, Josie Green,

Transfer latest

Josie Green, Gemma Davison

Out: Emma Mitchell (end of loan – Arsenal), Sophie McLean, Chloe Morgan, Coral-Jade Haines, Megan Wynne, Jenna Schillacci (retirement)

West Ham



In: Mackenzie Arnold (Brisbane Roar), Mayumi Pacheco (Reading), Katerina Svtkova (Slavia

Praha), Hawa Cissokho (Soyaux), Nor Mustafa (Eskiltuna)

Extended contracts: Kenza Dali, Gilly Flaherty, Adriana Leon, Alisha Lehmann, Cho So-Hyun

Out: Katharina Banauch (retirement), Anna Moorhouse (FC Girondins de Bordeaux), Tessel Middag, Esme De Graaf, Vyan Sampson, Ruesha Littlejohn, Olivia Smit

Other rumours:

- Lucy Bronze and Alex Greenwood to Manchester City
- Sophie Mewis and Rose Lavelle to Manchester City
- Julia Simic leaving West Ham
- Erin Nayler from Bordeaux to Reading
- Valerie Gauvin from Montpellier to Everton





CHAMPIONSHIP



BT Sport partners with Insight TV for ‘Ultimate Goal’



BT Sport, the UK and Ireland sports broadcaster, has partnered with Insight TV, the millennial-focused broadcaster, content creator and format seller, to co-produce Ultimate Goal, a six-part reality competition format.

Premiering on BT Sport in the UK and on Insight TV worldwide in late 2020, and currently in pre-production by Zig Zag Productions (The Next Jamie Vardy, The Football Show), Ultimate Goal will capture the journey as 28 women compete for the chance to take part in a one-off match in front of scouts from women's teams around the world.

Eniola Aluko, the former Chelsea, Juventus and Lionesses player, will host the show.

Eniola, who also played for Saint Louis Athletica, Atlanta Beat and Sky Blue FC in the U.S, will lead a team of football legends who will act as mentors and coaches to the contestant players.

BT Sport football analyst, the former England national team goalkeeper Rachel Brown Finnis, will also mentor the players and the twins Rosie and Mollie Kmita (former players for West Ham United and Tottenham Hotspur) will be coaches.

From the 28 women, a team of 14 will be chosen to prepare for a trial match against a top women's football team, which will be attended by scouts from teams such as Chelsea, Barcelona, Arsenal, Lyon, and the Orlando Pride. Participants from around the world seeking the opportunity to take part are being encouraged to visit www.ultimategoal.tv.

The series forms part of BT's commitment, as part of its long-term partnerships with each of the four UK "Home Nations" Football Associations, to inspire a new generation of girls and women to participate in football, on and off the pitch. BT's partnership with the associations, launched in February, uses technology, innovation and digital skills to help change the lives of millions of players, coaches and fans. BT Sport has been broadcasting women's football since its launch in 2013.

Arun Maljaars, VP Content and Channels, Insight TV, said: "Insight TV is always looking to tell compelling stories that are exciting, inspiring and relevant to what's going on in our world. With Ultimate Goal, we wanted to build on the significant work being done in the UK and internationally to grow the women's game on and off the field through the power of storytelling. We're excited to partner with BT Sport to give women's football the exposure it deserves.

We are hoping that this show format will empower and encourage young women to get into football."

Jamie Hindhaugh, chief operating officer, BT Sport, said: "BT Sport is proud to be involved with a project which builds on BT's extensive work with the four UK Home Nations to create a legacy across women's football."

Danny Fenton, CEO of Zig Zag Productions said: "It's long been our ambition to produce a competition reality series based around women's football. The game has exploded in popularity and together with Insight TV and BT Sport we aim to create a show that will help to inspire the next generation of talent in the women's game. We are currently securing talent for the show, both as mentors and contestants."

Produced by Zig Zag Productions, one of the UK's foremost independent production companies, Ultimate Goal will be shot in 4K UHD HDR on location at the FA's St. George's Park National Football Centre.



Barclays FA Championship

2019/20 End of Season

Awards



TheFA Women's
Championship

The Football Association has announced the winners of the 2019/20 FA Women's Championship End of Season Awards, with champions Aston Villa and runners-up Sheffield United claiming the four trophies on offer.

Blades striker Katie Wilkinson claimed an impressive double after being voted the league's Player of the Season.

Following her 15 league goals in 14 matches during the campaign, she also finished as top scorer and claims the FA Women's Championship Golden Boot.

Aston Villa head coach Gemma Davies, who led her unbeaten side to the Championship title and promotion to the Barclays FA Women's Super League, was announced as Manager of the Season by the League Managers' Association (LMA) as she prepares to lead the club into its first season in top flight professional football.

One area key to Villa's success was their ability to keep things tight in defence and a confident shot stopper behind them.

Thanks to her five clean sheets in 13 appearances, keeper Sian Rogers was awarded the FA Women's Championship Golden Glove.

The 2020/21 FA Women's Championship season is due to commence on the weekend of September 5-6, with fixtures to be announced in due course.

The FA Women's Championship Award winners

- Player of the Season – Katie Wilkinson (Sheffield United)
- Manager of the Season – Gemma Davies (Aston Villa)
- Golden Boot – Katie Wilkinson (Sheffield United)
- Golden Glove – Sian Rogers (Aston Villa)

Sophie Bradley-Auckland puts Liverpool career on hold



Sophie Bradley-Auckland has confirmed she will not be returning to duty with Liverpool FC Women at the moment.

Away from football, the Reds captain has been working as a key worker during the Covid-19 pandemic at her family-run care home in Nottingham.

Speaking to LiverpoolFC.com, Bradley-Auckland discussed why she has had to put her career on hold.

"Unfortunately with the current situation it's made me have to make a decision, one that's been awful and I've actually lost sleep about it. The fact is that I can't return to Liverpool until a risk isn't posed on the care home.

"The past few months have been really difficult. I think it's been challenging for everyone, not only myself and my current situation at the care home, but it's been challenging for everyone across the whole of the world.

"We are hoping there's a bit of light at the end of the tunnel. At the minute it's quite hard to see that, especially in the job that I'm doing.

But yeah, it's just been tough, something we never thought we'd probably experience, but [we're] just taking each day as it comes and I guess my personality is just to hit things front on and that's all I've been doing.

"As well as being a Liverpool footballer, I'm also the manager of Edenhurst care home in Nottingham. It's a family-run business that's been in the family for many, many years.

"It was originally run by my nan and grandad and then my mum and dad took over. I took over three years ago and began the role of working alongside my dad.

"It's a hard one at the minute and we kind of take it day by day.

"I know the whole country has been going into the next phase of lockdown and different phases of opening different businesses, people going back to work and schools. For us it's different.

"We've got a lot of people that live with us who are very vulnerable, so at the minute we are still in lockdown so friends and family can't come to visit inside the care home.

"I was only able to come and play for Liverpool because I was able to continue with my role within the care home.

"Unfortunately with the current situation it's made me have to make a decision, one that's been awful and I've actually lost sleep about it.



The fact is that I can't return to Liverpool until a risk isn't posed on the care home.

"My happiness - and that's what I call playing football, which is my happiness, is something that I love to do - isn't worth somebody's life and that is what it is as well.

"It is actually risking somebody's life. I have a duty of care. Like I've said, I've got 24 residents, actually 24 other members of my family I would call them, and I would never want to pose any further risk on them than what's already there.

"I rang Vicky and it actually came at such terrible timing because we had just found out that the FA had actually relegated us.

"I had this holding on my shoulders and I needed to tell Vicky now and we need that conversation. I'm still a Red.

"I will be back at Liverpool but unfortunately at this moment in time it's not possible for me to come, so I think it's very much up in the air.

"Vicky straight away was like, 'When will you be back?' And I was like, 'I don't know.'

"All I'm holding onto is that I'll be back. Like I said before, my training continues before I go to work and I'll always be fit and ready to come back whenever that risk is not there on the care home.

"I know Vicky and Adam [Greaves-Smith] are so supportive and Emma and all the rest of the staff.

"They trust in me to keep fit and to be ready to go again, but I don't feel like I'm ready to retire just yet. Considering all the injuries I've had, I was loving being back playing and I was playing pretty well.

"So I'm ready whenever I can to get back, but it was awful, I'm not going to lie and say it was an easy decision. It was one that was quite emotional as well but unfortunately it's been taken out of my hands and when it comes down to it, the care home is my priority as well as my family as well.

To read the full interview go to: www.liverpoolfc.com/news/women



Transfer latest

Blackburn Rovers



Extended

contracts: Saffron Jordan, Ellie Stewart, Natasha Fenton, Kayleigh McDonalds,

Chelsey Jukes, Lauren Thomas, Ellie Fletcher, Ria Montgomery, Georgia Walters

Out: Frances Stenson (end of loan – Arsenal), Missy Bo Kearns (end of loan – Liverpool), Natasha Flint

Charlton Athletic

Extended contracts: Grace



Coombs, Lilli Mapple, Alice Griffiths

Out: Charlie Estcourt (end of loan – Reading),

Lily Woodham (end of loan – Reading), Katie Startup (Brighton), Riva Casley, Lise Janbu Eide, Sara Eggesvik, Georgia Evans, Pernille Gardien, Maddie Phillips

Coventry United



In: Georgia Popple (Leicester), Olivia Clark (Huddersfield), Alice Hassall (Aston Villa)

Extended contracts:

Katy Morris, Helen

Dermody, Amber Hughes, Shannon O'Brien, Susan Wood, Nikki Miles, Jenna Roberts

Out: Ffion Morgan (Crystal Palace), Simran Jhamat, Sian Johnson

Crystal Palace



In: Chloe Morgan (Tottenham), Ffion Morgan (Coventry), Georgia Clifford (Oxford), Liegh Nicol (unattached)

Extended

contracts: Cherelle Khassal, Amy Goddard, Leeta Rutherford, Amber Stobbs, Amber Gaylor, Bianca Baptiste, Ashleigh Goddard, Andria Georgiou

Out: Hannah McKenzie, Freya Holdaway, Lucy Gillett, Magda Mosengo

Durham Women



In: Mollie Lambert (Sunderland), Bridget Galloway (Sunderland)

Extended contracts:

Emily Roberts, Nicki Gears, Sarah Wilson, Rebecca Salicki, Beth Hepple, Ellie Christon,

Transfer latest

Kathryn Hill, Sarah Robson, Megan Borthwick, Iris Achterhof

Out: Eleanor Dale, Danielle Cox

Leicester City



Out: Ella Rutherford (end of loan – Bristol), Lucy Johnson (Arizona Sun Devils), Scarlett Field (WBA), Georgia

Popple (Coventry)

Lewes



Extended contracts: Fillipa Savva, Charley Boswell, Paula Howells, Samantha

Quayle, Rhian Cleverly, Katie Rood, Emma Jones, Emily Donovan, Sophie O'Rourke, Danielle Lane

Out: Sophie Harris (end of loan-Brighton), Faye Baker, Caitlin Hayes, Ella Powell, Annie Timoney

Liverpool



In: Missy Bo Kearns (end of loan – Blackburn Rovers), Rachel Laws (Reading), Taylor

Hinds (Everton),

Amalie Thestrup (AS Roma)

Extended contracts: Rihannon Roberts, Niamh Fahey, Rinsola Babajide, Leigh-Anne Robe, Kirsty Linnett, Amy Rodgers

Out: Courtney Sweetman-Kirk, Anke Preuss, Christie Murray, Fran Kitching, Niamh Charles (Chelsea), Jemma Purfield (Bristol City)

London Bees



Out: Nikita Whinnett

London City Lionesses



In: Alison Murphy (UMF Sefloss), Shae Yanez (Santa Teresa)

Extended

contracts: Juliette Kempf, Freda Ayisi, Leanne Cowan, Kallie Balfour, Hannah Short

Out: Vyan Sampson (West Ham – end of loan), Vanessa Susanna, Charlotte Gurr

Transfer latest

Sheffield United



In: Mel Johnson
(Aston Villa)

**Extended
contracts:** Katie
Wilkinson, Jade

Pennock, Maddy Cusack, Kasia Lipka, Alethea Paul, Rhema Lord-Mears, Veatriki Sarri, Chloe Dixon, Rebecca Flaherty, Emily Batty, Naomi Hartley, Leandra Little, Keri Matthews, Lucy Watson

Out: Mollie Green (end of loan – Manchester United), Emily Ramsey (end of loan – Manchester United), Sophie Barker, Ali Johnson, Izzy Ford (South Alabama), Samantha Tierney, Olivia Fergusson



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Carla Ward leaves Sheffield United Women



Sheffield United Women and Carla Ward have parted company with immediate effect.

Chief executive officer, Stephen Bettis, told Sheffield United's official website: "On behalf of the owner, board and everyone at the club, I'd like to place on record our thanks to Carla for the four years of service.

"Carla was instrumental in the club achieving FA Championship status in 2018 and also in the women's team reaching their highest ever position in the pyramid before the 2019-20 season was curtailed.

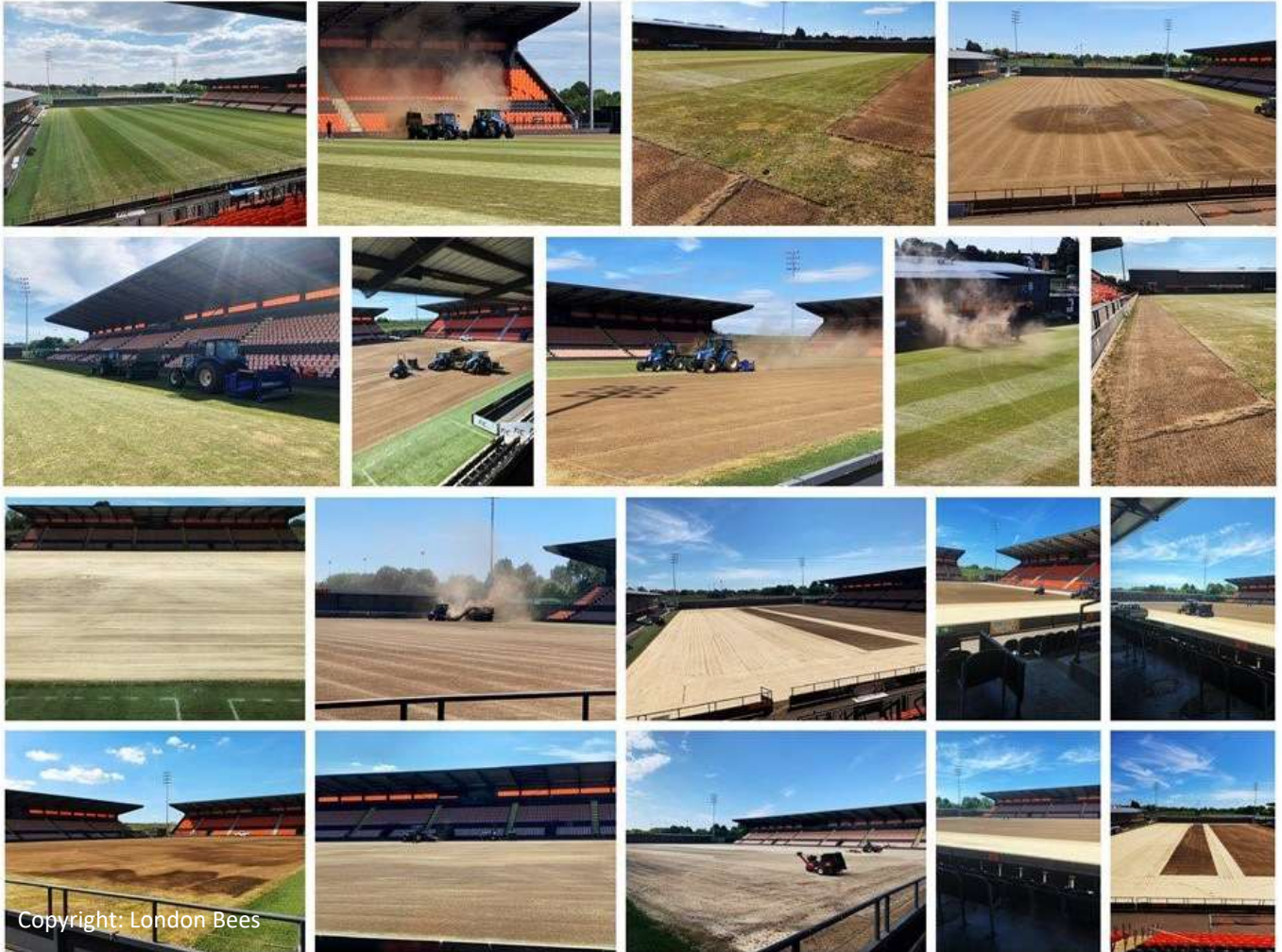
"However, both parties have opted to go down a different path. We will announce a new head coach in due course to be ready for the start of the 2020-21 campaign."

Ward added: "I want to place on record my thanks to everyone at the football club for the opportunity to work at what's been a very special club.

"From the moment I walked in, every single department has been so supportive and fully backing of the women's team and I can't thank them enough for that, it gave me an opportunity to learn and develop in my role and allowed us to achieve what we have on the pitch.

"For now a new fresh challenge is needed and I wish everyone at the football club the very best of luck."

Pitch improvements at London Bees



Copyright: London Bees

With no football being played since March at The Hive, London Bees have made the most of the opportunity to restore the playing surface ahead of the 2020/21 season.

The surface has been dug up, removing the 'black layer' of fertiliser and water build-up which greatly affected the drainage of the pitch last season.

In a statement the club said: "We, of course, apologise to our supporters for the inconvenience last season's postponements caused and we have worked tirelessly since play was halted to ensure no such issues arise in the 2020/21 campaign.

"The grass is now being cut on an almost daily basis to keep it in pristine condition throughout the summer before the new season kicks off at The Hive London.

"Our groundsman has highlighted that this significant reconstruction, means that the pitch is in a great position to cope with the various matches that take place at our home.

"This investment into our playing surface ensures that our supporters will see the quality of surface that they have been used to in previous seasons."

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE



Paul Walker departs



Copyright: Ben Davidson Photography (www.bendavidsonphotography.com)

Crawley Wasps have parted company with first-team manager Paul Walker by mutual consent.

Assistant manager Dave Cole will lead the team through pre-season as interim first-team manager. His role as the club's new director of football remains unaffected at present.

All other first-team staff continue to work towards preparing the squad for the season ahead.

Walker became first-team manager in 2015, leading the club to back-to-back promotions in 2018 and 2019 and the Sussex Women's Challenge Cup in February 2020. He was also the club's chairman between June 2017 and June 2020.

A statement from the club said: "The Crawley Wasps board expresses its gratitude to Paul for his hard work on behalf of the club, and for the success achieved during his time as manager.

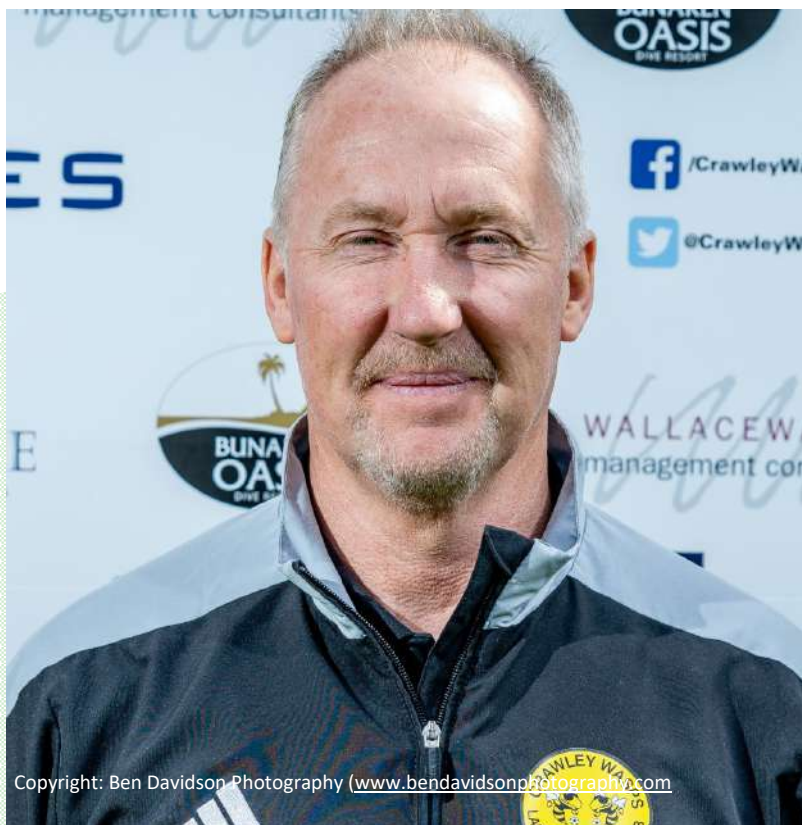
"We wish him all the best for the future.

"We will be making no further comment at this time, but will issue a further update when a successor is appointed."



Copyright: Ben Davidson Photography (www.bendavidsonphotography.com)

Crawley Wasps re-structure



Crawley Wasps have revamped their off-field set-up as they begin their 30th year as a standalone all-female club.

The football committee is now an operations board, led by new chairman Jack Ayles, who will also head up a three-man executive board running a new limited company.

Joining Ayles on the exec board will be his father Gary – a former racing driver who co-owns Pease Pottage-based classic car logistics firm Bespoke Handling – and Kim Beasley, business director of Regency Security, who takes on the same role in a voluntary capacity at Wasps. Both have granddaughters who play in the club's youth section.

"I have brought Kim on board as he brings valuable business experience and will ensure we keep pace with our goals and objectives," chairman Ayles said.

Most of the new operations board will be made up of the former committee, with

first-team assistant manager Dave Cole joining it as director of football and Ant Scott now heading the communications department.

The other members are Simon Pavey (director), Maz Graves (club secretary), Paola Heaton (financial director), James Laraman (commercial director), Alison Smith (welfare and safeguarding officer) and Dave Connor (head of youth).

Ayles added: "I'm delighted with the breadth of experience we have in key positions within the club.

"This is an unpredictable period as we navigate through the new normal, but we will all be working together to help the club fulfil its undoubted potential.

"To have been a standalone, all-female club for 30 years is something of which we can very proud, but we must also look to the future and set in place goals, objectives and plans for the longer term."



Gaster appointed reserve-team manager



Crawley Wasps have appointed Hannah Gaster as reserve-team manager.

The former Millwall Lionesses RTC coach and general manager holds a Uefa B licence and has also coached Charlton Athletic Women Under-14s and at the University of East London.

She succeeds Simon Pavey, who stepped down this summer due to increasing work commitments. Reserves coach Ryan Strudwick has also left the club.

West Sussex-born Gaster, 31, said: "What I'm passionate about is ensuring there's a pathway from youth to first-team level. That's what I've been sold on here at Wasps and hopefully it can come to fruition.

"You don't want a reserve-team player coming into the first team who doesn't know how to win, because being a first-team player is all about winning and getting higher up the league.

"So developing that winning mentality is still

going to be very crucial in the way that I coach the reserves. But, at the same time, it's also about helping players progress and learn. It's a mix of both, and it's a very delicate balance."

During Pavey's six years in charge, the reserves won back-to-back promotions in 2015 and 2016, taking them from the Sussex County Women's League to the South East Counties Premier Division, before winning that title in 2019.

They then successfully adapted to the FA Women's National League Reserve Section last season prior to the league being voided.

Wasps chairman Jack Ayles said: "Simon and Ryan did a fantastic job to take our reserves up the pyramid and everyone at Wasps is hugely grateful for the work they put in.

"I'm delighted to be able to welcome Hannah to the club. Her coaching experience and her enthusiasm for the role made her the ideal appointment."

Portsmouth captain announces retirement decision



Portsmouth Women captain Amelia Southgate has announced her retirement from football following a 12-year playing career.

The defender made 71 appearances for the Blues after joining in 2017, winning two Hampshire Cup trophies during her time.

Her Pompey debut was in a 4-1 win over Cardiff at Westleigh Park in 2017, while she scored twice across three seasons.

The first goal came in an FA Cup win over AFC Wimbledon in the 2017/18 season, while she also netted against Warsash in a Hampshire Cup quarter-final tie during the same campaign.

Southgate's superb leadership qualities on and off the pitch meant she was named vice-captain to Charley Boswell in February 2018, following the departure of Nadine Bazan.

Boswell made the move to Championship side Lewes at the end of that season and manager Jay Sadler decided to hand the armband to Amelia.

Her first game as skipper came at C&K Basildon in a 6-0 victory, where she produced a solid defensive performance to ensure a clean sheet.

Southgate captained the side that won the Hampshire Cup in 2019, lifting the trophy after a 3-1 win over rivals Southampton.

She said: "Football has pretty much been the main focus of my life for over 20 years now.

"I am at a point in my life where I have lots of other competing priorities. I can't commit to football as much as I would like to at the moment or as much as the other girls deserve.

"I have absolutely loved my time at Pompey and feel honoured to have represented the club. I would like to thank everyone at the club for everything they have done for me and also for the team."

Manager Jay Sadler added: "I want to say a massive thank you to Millsy for everything she has done for the club.

"She has made an incredible contribution as both a player and captain, playing a significant role in the progress and evolution of Pompey Women.

"She has represented this club with diligence and professionalism over the past three seasons and has been a true leader and inspiration to us all. I wish her all the very best in her retirement."

Latest News

Stockport County announce re-signings and new signings

Jessica Hill, Dan Wlsh, Rebecka Coe and Ellie Turner have all re-signed for Stockport County Ladies.

They join midfielders Imogen Porteous Williams, Millie Edwards, Sophie John and Jade Park on the retained list.

Finally in goalkeepers and defenders, Jess Linforn, Hannah Wilson, Abigail Hayes, Jodie Hancock, Masa Butler and Yasmin Ahmed remain on the books.

Jessica Hill, Dan Wlsh, Rebecka Coe and Ellie Turner have all re-signed for Stockport County Ladies.

Defender Abigail Carrington joins the club from FC United.

Jemma Heath also joins the club from Cardiff City.

West Didsbury & Chorlton Women retain list

West Didsbury & Chorlton have announced their retained list.

Players include Jami Hodges, Isha Mundell, Vicky Kerr, Leanne Higham, Julie Ruiz, Chloe Jackson-Ogden, Courtney Bamber-Hewitt, Rachel Mason,

Amy Fraser, Claire Jefferson, Molly Towers Mode, Shauna Edmonson, Ellie Caddick, Alex Francis, Sophie Woods and Hannah Mitchell

Atkinson wins award

Dave Atkinson of Sale United Ladies has been named the Grassroots coach of the year for adults in the Cheshire FA 2019/20 Grassroots Football Awards.

He beat West Kirky Ladies boss Andy Jones and Micky Beanon of Crewe Arrows FC.

Pompey Women Add Development Team

Portsmouth FC Women have bolstered their player pathway with the addition of a Development Team for the upcoming 2020/21 season.

The newly formed team will bridge the gap between Pompey in the Community's Girls BTEC Programme and the senior side.

It will offer additional playing opportunities, alongside the current college games programme, to support the development of all those who enrol.

Latest News

Blues boss Jay Sadler said: “Now we have bridged the gap from under-16s and can offer a clear pathway from foundation right through to the first team.

“It not only echoes our ambition and the direction we are going in, but enables girls of all ages to represent this historic club.”

Barnsley appoint Greene as captain

Barnsley Women have announced Drew Greene will be the first team captain for the new season.

Former captain Lucy Turner stepped down at the end of the 2019/20 season to concentrate on her career.

Manager Andy Glossop said: “Drew is a terrific player and she leads by example in matches and in training.

“She makes an excellent contribution in the dressing room and will make a great captain.”

Michael Bailey associates PLC renews sponsorship for third season with Burnley

Burnley FC Women is delighted to announce that Michael Bailey Associates Plc will continue as principal

kit sponsor of the Burnley FC Women team for the third consecutive season.

Mike Garlick, Founder and Group CEO of Michael Bailey Associates Plc and Chairman of Burnley FC said: “As both a club and community, we are totally committed to the ongoing development of the Burnley Women’s team.

“Since my firms’ association with the team commenced over two years ago, the progress of the team has been nothing short of phenomenal.

Derby’s Cara Newton retires

Striker Cara Newton has announced her retirement.

The Derby County striker has been plagued with a persistent ankle injury which has forced the final decision.

Manager Sam Griffiths said: “I was hoping this day wouldn't come for a while yet but I know how this injury has affected Cara and I and the club are fully supportive of her decision to move on in her life and I know we are going to have an extra supporter in the stands instead.

Latest News

AFC Fylde announce retained list

Joint manager's Kim Turner and Danielle Young have announced 15 players who have been retained with the club.

They are: Ashleigh Hayes, Bethany Donoghue, Bethany Powney, Danielle Young, Emily Hollinshead, Hannah Forster, Hollie Helsh, Jenna Carroll, Jessica Holbrook, Jodie Redgrave, Laura Merrin, Leah Embley, Molly Wilcock, Olivia Fuller and Sasha Rowe.

Coventry United sign Clark

Coventry United have announced the signing of Welsh U19 international Olivia Clark.

Clark joins the club from Huddersfield Town Women.

Hull City land new goalkeeping coach

Paul Kirbitson has joined Hull City Ladies as their new goalkeeping coach.

Kirbitson also coaches at York City RTC.

Cassidy joins Middlesbrough

Middlesbrough Women have announced

the signing of midfielder Emily Cassidy.

Cassidy, who often writes for TWFM, joins the team after two years at Leeds United Women.

"I'm very happy about joining Middlesbrough Women" she said.

"I've enjoyed the first few weeks of training and I'm very excited about the season ahead. Middlesbrough is a great club that will offer me a new challenge.

"The girls have welcomed me with open arms and Steph and the rest of the coaching staff are putting everything in place to make the club successful and I feel this club can bring the best out of me as a player - it was an easy choice when decided to sign."

Stoke City's Baptiste retires

After a 16-year playing career, Tash Baptiste has decided to hang up her boots.

She has spent time with West Brom, Aston Villa and ISC Gunners.

She said: "It was a big decision for me to step back after having my entire life planned around training and games but it is the right time for me."

Latest News

Galloway leaves Sunderland

Sunderland Ladies have confirmed that Bridget Galloway has left the club.

The 20-year-old striker progressed through the ranks before making her debut in October 2016.

She has made over 60 appearances and scored 40 goals for the side.

Cardiff City sign Oakley

Cardiff City have announced the signing of Rhianne Oakley.

The forward joins the club from Cardiff Met WFC.

Chichester announce new signings

Chichester City have announced a number of new signings.

Forward Katie Bundy and left back Morgan Bond join the club for the 2020/21 season.

Naylor announces retirement

MK Dons have announced that Louise Naylor has retired.

Since joining in 2014, Naylor has made over 100 appearances and played a key role in the Dons gaining promotion to the National League Southern

Premier Division.

She also leaves the club with four Berks and Bucks FA Senior Cup winners medals to her name.

“After 6 years with MK Dons Women, it is with great sadness that my playing days have come to an end,” Naylor told mkdons.com “I have enjoyed every minute of it and all that I have achieved as a MK Dons player.”

Harris signs for Golden Girls

Watford have announced the signing of goalkeeper Sophie Harris.

The 25-year-old joins the Golden Girls from Women’s Super League side Brighton and Hove Albion, having spent last season on loan at Lewes in the FA Women’s Championship.

“I will look to bring my experience to the team,”

“Looking back at last season you can tell the team is doing well so I would like to bring a little bit more to that, and some clean sheets!

“I think we can look to really kick on and hopefully we can finish what was started last season.

Latest News

Bedworth United announce 2019/20 award winners

Managers Player/s: Lydia Hackney & Jodi Hunter

Players Player: Lydia Hackney

Supporters Player/s: Chloe Quinn & Kirsty Farnsworth

Best newcomer: Toni Kingscott

Keith Richards memorial award: Chloe Quinn

Long Eaton sign duo

Tara Kirk and Paige Kavanagh sign for Long Eaton.

Striker Kirk joins John Bennett's side from Leicester City.

Bennett said about the signing: "It's important in the women's game to get the right mixture of experience and youth and Tara comes in hungry and eager to succeed and that's exactly what the club needs."

Kavanagh joins from Sporting Khalsa.

Manager Bennett added: "This a huge addition to our squad and I'm delighted she's made the move here."

Solihull Moors announce new signing

Moors have signed centre-back Zoe Creaney

from Coventry United.

Manager David Healey said: "Zoe will be a hugely important signing for Moors.

"Not only an extremely talented centre-back, but having captained Coventry Utd reserves another leader in the team. Zoe has already integrated herself well into the squad."

Stevenage FC announce trials

Stevenage FC Women have announced they will be holding trials for the first team and development squads.

They will be held on Sunday August 9 between 12pm and 3pm.

Just go to the website to register your interest or contact womenandgirls@stevenagefc.com

Marlborough vacates reserve team manager

After a successful first season in charge of the Ladies reserves team, Kerrie Marlborough has left the role due to personal reasons.

Marlborough will continue to support newly appointed manager Kyle Hellina as well as other coaches with her new role as Assistant Club Development Coach.



Hitting between the Stix

with Georgia Stevens

@Stix_Official_9

A sense of normality is slowly returning. July has been a month packed full of football (FINALLY!)

We returned to training this month at Huddersfield, at first in small groups, adhering to government guidelines.

Despite there being a limited number of us, it was great to get back to kicking a ball with my teammates. It's been really exciting working with our new manager Jordan and it's going to be a very exciting season at Huddersfield, with all of us working incredibly hard over this period and raring to go.

Recently we've also returned to "normal" training, which again has been brilliant. We've got some really good preseason friendlies lined up for the beginning of next month which should throw up some challenges. It'll be great to see the team finally putting into action the things we've been working on over these past few months.

Away from the pitch, Liverpool finally lifted the Premier League trophy which saw lots of celebrations at home! I'd also like to say I'm very proud of the guys (who I'm lucky enough

to call my friends) over at RedMenTV for commissioning a wonderful mural of Jordan Henderson by Anfield, in aid of Alder Hey.

This month for me has been packed full of Skype interviews and hours of editing as I'm preparing to launch my YouTube channel ([YouTube.com/GeorgiaStevens](https://www.youtube.com/GeorgiaStevens)). The channel will be launching with two series's, centres around football magazines! With the Absolute Zines showcase video premiering on the 5th August and the podcast Behind the Zines dropping on the 8th.

As always, even though I started this by saying that normality is returning, please don't forget about the ongoing work that I spoke of last month. Black Lives Still Matter, the issue doesn't go away. Please continue to keep doing the work and fighting injustices wherever you see, however you can.

Also, a massive massive thank you to all our key workers and NHS Staff, who continue to do the hard work and risk themselves to help all of us.

Stay safe,
Georgia x



GRASSROOTS



Hundreds of women's football teams to benefit from funding



Nearly 200 women's football teams will benefit from over £1 million of funding.

The Government's Football Foundation has been put in place to help clubs return from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The GFF is awarding 3,383 grants to organisations across the country through the Club Preparation Fund, which was open to applications at the beginning of July.

The latest fund will enable clubs to prepare buildings to reopen in line with

Government hygiene and social distancing guidelines.

On July 18, the FA announced plans for a phased return for grassroots football.

A total of 40,131 teams will benefit, including 32,921 grass-roots teams, 6,742 teams in the FA National League system, 10 clubs in the Welsh Cymru Premier League and 197 teams in the FA women's football pyramid.

The money will go towards installing hygiene facilities such as hand

sanitiser and soap dispensers, as well as safety screening, contactless payment systems and inspections of water, gas and ventilation.

Sports Minister Nigel Huddleston said: “Football is at the heart of communities across the country and we’re determined to help local clubs bounce back stronger than ever.

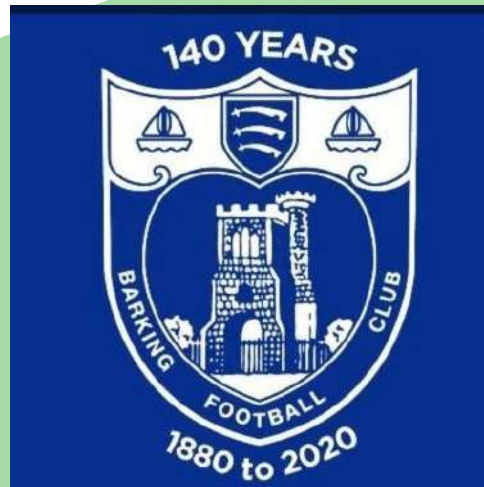
“I’m delighted to see grass-roots football return and I know this investment will do so much to help teams stay safe as they get back on the pitch.”

The FA also released bespoke guidance for outdoor facility providers to reach Government guidelines. Providers will need to carry out a Covid-19 risk assessment, then adapt their facilities to promote good hygiene, keep facilities and equipment clean, and maintain social distancing.

The Football Foundation is a charity funded by the Premier League, the FA and the Government through Sport England.



Barking announce new women's team



Barking have announced the formation of a new women's side ahead of the upcoming 2020-21 season.

Barking FC Women will be the first senior women's side under the Barking FC umbrella since the 2014/15 season.

The team will be playing in the Premier Division of the Essex County Women's League.

They will be managed by Ross Shorey, who made three appearances in a Barking shirt during the 1998-99 season.

Shorey told the Barking and Dagenham Post: "The girls and myself are so excited to be joining and representing such a historic club.

"Under the guidance of chairman Rob O'Brien Barking FC is going to be the place to be for the next decade.

"My father and myself played for Barking so it's like coming home.

"Last season the girls were unbeaten in the league and reached the County Cup semi-final and will be looking to continue this dominance and bring trophies home

while wearing the famous blue shirts of Barking – watching Barking women's will be the hottest ticket in town.

"We're delighted to be joining Barking."

First-team captain Daisy Cook added: "The club is undergoing some amazing renovations and we can't wait to be part of all the excitement in the upcoming seasons.

"Our team have tried to uphold a professional approach in everything we do from tailored fitness sessions with our fitness coach Kyle to individual game specific drills with our manager Ross.

"Now we are part of such a great club our facilities and new club's ethics will match the standards we have set for ourselves.

"Last season we were unbeaten in the league and the only team without an affiliated club behind them to reach the semi-finals of the County Cup.

"We hope to start next season the way we finished the last and bring some silverware back to our new home.

"We want to thank the club chairman Rob O'Brien for being so welcoming and trusting in our abilities as a team."

Simon Says



Copyright: Amber Taylor/Joe Jephcott (44 Sports Management Group Ltd)

During the summer, players often do extra training in order to kit fit. That was made extra hard with the Covid-19 lockdown and being without a contract at a club makes it even harder. This month, I spoke to talented goalkeeper Amber Taylor about keeping kit and trying to train.

I began by asking her how she first became involved in football and her earliest recollections were going along with her dad to watch Tottenham play and from this, her interest grew in finding a team.

Whilst many girls would avoid diving

in mud, Amber states that she loved diving in and making saves to help ensure her team wins—like a striker would score to win games. Amber says it's as important to have a goal-saving keeper in the team.

Her career in football began around the age of 8 or 9 with her local team and she loved playing in all weathers and then at the age of 11 moved into a higher standard of football.

All her family are keen followers of her career in football and in addition, her dad has been her coach during most of her career so far and the family are always asking who she's getting on.

Simon Says

Her career continues when she joined a friend's team and they have been so supportive of Amber in her desire to reach the top that even when she left, they watch when they can.

One of the teams Amber has played for, Bow Brickhill helped improve her overall game and she moved onto the team she supports, Tottenham Hotspur where she stayed for 8 years until she suffered a torn ACL injury.

Following this she received her rehab at Leicester City have helped immensely in getting back to fitness and London Bees have supported her in allowing Amber to train in order to be fully match fit.

When asked what she loves about being a goalkeeper, Amber states that she loves the pressure that comes with being the last line of the defence and the diving which comes with the job.

Not surprisingly for someone who loves the game Amber also added she loves the training and even the fitness regime can be fun.

Knowing most players have a team they follow or secretly follow, I asked Amber who her team in the women's game is. However, she doesn't follow any specific team but looks at all the team and league in general to follow her beloved game.

As part of the goalkeeping union, I ask if there is a goalkeeper she admires, and her choice is England keeper Karen Bardsley who inspired Amber during the 2015 World Cup.

With the women's game being more professional I asked if making a career in football was something that she wants to continue.

Despite missing two years due to her injury, Amber is very determined to make a career out of football and is training on her own due to the lockdown to make that dream a reality.

As someone who is young herself, Amber says that if you are a player you should not let anyone stop you in your quest to play football and most importantly never give up.

Finally, when asked for her dream five players Amber chose: Hope Solo, Lucy Bronze, Fara Williams, Vivienne Miedema and Alex Scott.

After speaking with her Amber has all the talent and enthusiasm to make it so I recommend you watch out for her over the coming seasons.

Simon

CUPS



Women's FA Cup gains approval for completion



The Football Association is pleased to confirm that it has received approval to conclude the last three rounds of the 2019/20 Women's FA Cup in the early part of the 2020/21 season, with the Final to be played at Wembley Stadium connected by EE on Saturday 31 October.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, The FA has been exploring various options to allow for the competition to be completed having reached the Quarter-Final stage before the country went into lockdown.

While the decision was made to end the Barclays FA Women's Super League and FA Women's Championship campaigns last May in the best interests of the women's game, the hope has always been to complete the Women's FA Cup at the start of the new season and conclude the final three rounds.

An application was made to FIFA for special dispensation to complete the competition in the early stages of the 2020/21 season, with football's world governing body giving its approval.

Holder Manchester City are amongst seven clubs from the Barclays FA Women's Super League who remain in the competition, with Leicester City the sole representative from the FA Women's Championship.

The Quarter-Finals will be played three weeks into the new season, on the weekend of 26-27 September, with the Semi-Final due to follow the same week, on 30 September -1 October. As has been the tradition since 2015, the Final will be played at Wembley Stadium on 31 October – kick-off time to be announced in due course.

Kelly Simmons, The FA's Director of the Women's Professional Game, said: "A significant amount of work has been going on behind the scenes to ensure The Women's FA Cup can be completed and I am delighted that we have received the necessary approval for its conclusion.

"The Women's FA Cup is a showpiece fixture in the football calendar and because of that there was huge appetite within The FA for the three remaining rounds to be played. We welcome the opportunity for a champion to be crowned at Wembley Stadium at the end of October."

With government guidelines still uncertain as to the level of fans permissible in stadiums, The FA will refund all ticket holders for the postponed final in May.

For those with tickets, refunds will be processed automatically to all ticket buyers within 14 working days. Refunds will only be made to the lead booker and onto the original payment card used. Ticket holders do not need to contact The FA directly in this instance to request a refund.

The FA will continue to follow government guidance on fans returning to stadiums. A further announcement will be made closer to the Wembley final on any ticketing arrangements and the opportunity to rebook, should rules change on football being played behind closed doors.





HOME NATIONS



England Women will not take part in 2021 SheBelieves Cup



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The FA has announced that England will not participate in next year's SheBelieves Cup in the USA.

The decision has been made "based on existing uncertainties around the future trend of the Covid-19 pandemic".

The decision was down to technical factors and travel logistics during a tight international window, according to the FA.

The Lionesses have competed in every tournament since its inception in 2016 and were crowned champions in 2019.

The SheBelieves Cup is an invitational tournament held in the USA every year around February or March and includes four teams.

The Lionesses' autumn fixtures will be announced "in due course", the FA said.

In a statement, the FA added: "The clear focus for our technical team will be to deliver

an international fixture programme which provides the best possible performance outcomes for the Lionesses as we begin a crucial three-year period building to the home Uefa European Championship in 2022 and Fifa Women's World Cup in 2023."

England's performances in the SheBelieves Cup:

2016: Third (USA winners)

2017: Third (France winners)

2018: Second (USA winners)

2019: First

2020: Third (USA winners)



2019 CH

England manager latest: 142 applications to replace Neville



A total of 142 people have applied for the England head coach's job, according to Baroness Campbell.

It has already been announced that Phil Neville will leave the role next summer meaning his replacement will be in charge for Euro 2021 (now taking place in 2022).

It is yet unknown who will lead Team GB at next year's summer Olympics in Tokyo.

Baroness Campbell said: "We've had an unbelievable response.

"I'm not judging it against what we've had in the past, it's saying, 'who has got the ability to take us right to the top of Everest?'

"We're at the final camp - how do we get to the top of that mountain? That's what my job is. To find that person for the players. They deserve the best and I want to get them the best if I can."

Applications closed at the end of June.

Baroness Campbell added: "There has been very, very good interest from significantly experienced coaches."

The FA announced last month it would make 124 positions redundant, as it faces losses of around £300m caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Baroness Campbell says the women's game "has taken its hit" but insists that their plans will not be adversely affected by a £75m per year budget cut.

"I'm afraid the reality is smaller budgets, smaller focus, smaller staffing," she told Fair Play: The Women in Sport Show.

"What we're talking about now is what do we stop, and how do we find different, creative ways to do some of the things we were going to do through funding."

Who are the favourites for the job?

- Jill Ellis

Ellis coached the USA women's team to victory in 2015 and 2019 and remains the firm favourite. Although in recent weeks there have been many negative comments from USA players about their former coach which could go against her. Sydney Leroux said that it was "the best thing" for Jill Ellis and that they won the 2015 and 2019 World Cups "in spite of" Ellis. Ali Krieger spoke out about talking to her teammates and telling them "things she had not been able to say in the last two years" because of a "special someone".

- Emma Hayes

Emma Hayes' name came up last time the England position became available but she withdrew from the race. The Chelsea boss has just seen her team lift the Women's Super League title and won the FA's manager of the Year award. Hayes has always said she wanted to win the Champions League with Chelsea and has yet to achieve this so will this stop her going for the post?

- Nick Cushing

Similar to Hayes, Cushing was amongst the names going round for the position last time round. The former Manchester City boss is well thought of in women's football circles but with his recent move away from the WSL side and to become assistant coach for New York City FC, it is unlikely he will leave his new post.

- Casey Stoney

Former Lionesses and current Manchester United manager has quickly become one of the most respected managers in women's football. Players and managers alike have a lot to say for the former Arsenal player and she has already achieved a lot in her first few years at Manchester United, seeing her side promoted from the Championship as champions and finishing fourth in the 2019/20 season. Whilst she is probably in line for the role in the future, there will be many who believe this position has come a few years too early for Stoney.



SWPL season declared null and void after one round of games



The 2020 SWPL season has been declared null and void.

Just one round of games had been played when the term was halted in March.

Scottish Women's Football are planning to revert to a winter season for the top flight, starting on Sunday, October 18 and running until June.

The proposed October start date for the new season is pending government guidance and the Scottish FA lifting their ban on competitions.

Rangers, who finished fourth in 2019, and Celtic, who were third, started the 2020 season as Scotland's first professional women's teams.

Celtic defeated defending champions City 2-1 in their opening league fixture of the new season.

The Scottish Women's League Cup had also yet to reach the quarter-final stage, with Celtic, Hamilton Academical and Hearts having already qualified to join European representatives Glasgow and Hibernian in the last eight.

SWF confirmed a "condensed" League Cup schedule will take place in May and June.





FAW abandons all cup competitions



The FAW National Cup board have made the decision to terminate the remaining FAW Cup Competitions including the FAW Women's Cup and the FAW U16 Girls' Cup.

The official statement read: "The FAW National Cup Board have made the difficult decision to terminate the remaining FAW Cup Competitions for the 2019/20 season.

"The decision brings an end to the JD Welsh Cup, FAW Women's Cup, FAW Amateur Trophy, FAW Youth Cup, FAW U16 Girls' Cup and the FAW Regions' Cup. As a consequence, no title holders will be declared for the 2019/20 season.

"The Cup Board expressed their sympathies to the remaining clubs in communications to them today (30 July) and explained that the outstanding prize money will be distributed equally in the respective competitions.

"A key consideration by the Cup Board was sporting integrity, in that squads are now changing in preparation for the 2020/21 season and will therefore be different to those competing in the competitions during the 2019/20 season.

"The current Welsh Government Regulations continue to prevent clubs from participating competitively and as the pandemic situation continues, the available dates to reschedule the competition has also become problematic as the FAW plans for a return to football with the 2020/21 season."

JAMES FISHLOCK

As the new season creeps ever closer, it could not be a better time to be a Cardiff City Ladies supporter. The club announced the appointment of James Fishlock as their new manager and revealed the statement signing of Welsh centurion Loren Dykes in the space of six exciting days for Wales' top women's side.

Ali Rampling sat down with Fishlock to discuss his plans for the Welsh side.

Football and Cardiff City Ladies run in the Fishlock blood.

The new Cardiff boss' younger sister is OL Reign midfielder, Wales talisman and all round football icon Jess Fishlock, who kickstarted her glittering playing career at Cardiff City Ladies at the age of seven.

With such a personal connection to the club, the managerial position at Cardiff was a dream role for Fishlock, and one he could not imagine turning down.

"The club is close to our family," Fishlock said.

"Karen (Jones MBE - Cardiff City Ladies club secretary) and Michele (Adams MBE - club chair), they've been lifelong friends of the family ever since Jess started football.

"We've always kept an eye out for their results and when I got into coaching there was probably an unspoken expectation that I would look to do some coaching with Cardiff City.

"I did a brief bit of work with the reserves last season for a short period of time and then obviously this opportunity's come around.

"It was a shock to get offered the job to be honest; it wasn't something I was looking at.

"I'd actually agreed to do some coaching this season with the men's side but then when you get offered something like this

“The club is close to our family—we always look for the results”

it's very difficult to turn it down.

"When you get a club such as Cardiff come in for you in the women's game - which is where I see myself as primarily coaching in - it's very difficult to say no."

Fishlock has an abundance of coaching experience in both men's and women's football, having spent three years working at Cyncoed in the Welsh Women's Premier League, followed by a spell at Taffs Well FC, and most recently Cardiff City reserves.

However, these had all been as an assistant manager. The Cardiff City job is Fishlock's first as a head coach, but he is relishing the new challenge.

"I enjoyed my time at Cyncoed as an assistant; I liked the idea of staying as that, although in the back of my mind I was thinking: 'could I make the step up?'" Fishlock said.

"It wasn't something I was actively seeking but when this comes along it's sort of one of those situations where you have to say yes and you have to see if it's something you can do. I'm excited for the challenge, it's going to be a bit

The Big Interview

of a learning curve for me but I think I've had a really good experience as an assistant coach.

"I worked with Fern Burrage at Cyncoed who was absolutely fantastic as a head coach and a manager, so hopefully I've learnt a lot from her and hopefully I can be as successful as she's been at Cyncoed with Cardiff City."

Although the government restrictions in place as a result of the coronavirus make it a less than ideal start to a new job, with Fishlock and his new squad of players yet to meet up or have their first training session together, behind the scenes the new managerial team have already hit their stride.

The signing of Loren Dykes was announced within the same week of Fishlock being unveiled as the new boss.

Like her new manager, the Wales international has a longstanding connection to Cardiff, having begun her senior career with the club before enjoying a successful 12 years with Bristol City in the WSL.

"We were aware of Lauren's situation with Bristol," Fishlock explained.

"Obviously I'm aware with Lauren that she's got a lot to offer as a player; she's very knowledgeable and she's a Welsh legend really.

"She's played in England for most of her career, but she also has a history with Cardiff City and my plan and the committee's plan has always been to try and get people back involved with Cardiff who have a history, who have an association with the club, want the club to do well and want to give something back.

"So it was an easy conversation with Lauren in terms of seeing if she was able to play and still wanted to play.

"And you can't put a price on her experience. Just having her around the club is going to be great for all of us really - the coaches and the players.

"Some of them know her, some of them don't, but they're in for a real treat this year just working with her and hopefully learning from her."

Cardiff followed up the signing of Dykes by raiding Bristol City once more, this time for midfielder Holly Reed.

"We're really excited to see Holly in a Cardiff shirt," added Fishlock.

"She's got really good experience in the WSL, she's well thought of at Bristol but she's looking to play more first team football and we're excited to have her."

Cardiff have also recruited Rhianne Oakley from Cardiff Met, and one more signing is in the pipeline before the club return for pre-season.

In addition to the new arrivals, Cardiff have also retained the bulk of the side that had sat sixth in the Southern Premier Division - just three points off second spot - before the 2019/20 season was curtailed.

"Last season the club were successful, and it was important to me to keep the majority of those players, if not all of those players, at the club, because there was no reason to not keep them," Fishlock explained.

"I was over the moon with the response of all the girls wanting to stay.

"The expectation from me when I took the job was that we'd hit the ground running, I've had good conversations with Charlotte (Preen) and Jess (Walkley) the assistant coaches, and we've set out our vision with the type of players we want.

"We've all got good contacts in the game and Cardiff City is a big name anyway so we've had a lot of interest from players.

"We wanted to get our business done early because we want all the girls together for pre-season, and it's been positive.

"We're still looking to strengthen but I think after our two newest additions I don't think there'll be many more, maybe one or two after that."

Fishlock intends to take his maiden campaign in charge

The Big Interview

one game at a time, with the aim to improve on last season's position and gradually build a side capable of challenging for promotion to the WSL in the next couple of years.

Such an achievement would make Cardiff the first ever Welsh women's side to play in the English top flight, and Fishlock admits flying the flag for Wales acts as an added motivation for the team.

"The Welsh are passionate people anyway so the fact that we're the sole representative of Wales drives us on a little bit more.

"And it's exciting - we've got a big challenge ahead of us but I think by working together we'll be successful."

If anybody is looking to sponsor a Cardiff City Ladies player, please get in touch with the club on social media: @CardiffCityLFC





INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS



**THE WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**

Sport England fund £1m legacy investment into Uefa Women's Euro 2022



Sport England has awarded £1m of National Lottery funding to England's hosting of the UEFA European Women's Championship in 2022 (WEURO2022) with a view to increasing the number of adult women playing football in England.

In keeping with Sport England's continued commitment to women's and girls' sport, the investment will support the development of local plans within the proposed EURO 22 host cities: London, Trafford, Manchester, Sheffield, Rotherham, Milton Keynes, Wigan & Leigh, Brighton & Hove and Southampton.

Eight Host City Legacy Groups have been established with key partners from Football, Local Authorities, Active Partnerships, Education, Public Health and Culture coming together to work towards a common EURO 2022 Legacy Plan.

These groups will be awarded approximately £100,000 to create a recreational women's football offer in each of the nine host cities – currently being reconfirmed to deliver the tournament - so that when EURO 22 arrives the right opportunities and structures are in place to capitalise on anticipated interest.

The offer will include female activation in the regions to support new playing opportunities, with this being led by female 'Playmakers' following The FA's new entry level course aimed at getting more volunteers into grassroots football in a safe and welcoming way.

The investment will also pilot a new programme in each of the host cities to explore whether parents and carers attending The FA's Wildcats sessions, aimed at girls aged 5-11, have a desire to take part in adult sessions that would run simultaneously alongside the Wildcats sessions.

Sport England's EURO 2022 project aims to capitalise on the proven impact of major events on grassroots interest in the game, with research undertaken during and after the FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 revealing significant rises in women playing following the tournament.

In the younger age brackets, 31.0% of girls aged 12–15 were regularly playing football after the 2019 Women's World Cup compared to 26.0% before, with the pattern continuing in the 16 – 24 age bracket (35.0% after WWC compared to 27.8% prior) and the 25 – 34 age bracket (31.3% to 26.5%). Overall, 460,000 more women aged 25+ were playing football after the World Cup than before, the biggest increase of any age group.

The UEFA Women's EURO was initially due to be played in summer 2021, however following the COVID-19 pandemic the tournament was rescheduled and will now take place from 6-31 July 2022.

Phil Smith, Sport England Director of Sport, said: "EURO 22 will be a significant and exciting event, and we are delighted to be working with The FA to use it to grow the women's game. We believe a 'place-based approach' – working with local stakeholders to develop a recreational football programme for the right place, at the right time - can be instrumental in making this happen and ultimately developing women's and girls' football in England.

"We know from data collected during the 2019 Women's World Cup that there was a significant increase in the number of women playing football both during and after the tournament.

"For EURO 22 Sport England and The FA are trying to get ahead of the game. We know the Tournament will excite the fans and the public, so we want to use that excitement to support even more women and girls to start playing."

Louise Gear, The FA's Head of Women's Football Development, said: "UEFA Women's EURO 2022 is set to be a record-breaking tournament, and one which offers us huge opportunity both to continue building the profile of women's football and to inspire more women and girls to get involved in the game.

"As we approach two years to go until the showpiece final takes place at Wembley Stadium, we are delighted that Sport England has announced this significant investment. By supporting the development plans of each of our nine dedicated host cities, we hope that we can build on the energy and excitement that comes from a home EURO to turn these regions into hubs for increased activity and opportunity in the wake of the tournament.

"We look forward to working with Sport England and our eight Host City Legacy Groups to ensure that this investment translates into real playing opportunities for thousands of women, in turn driving participation in the game and benefitting local communities long after the tournament has concluded."



A Euro 2021 (2022) update



Chris Bryant, Head of Tournament Delivery at the FA, who is in charge of the Uefa Women's Euro 2021, has provided an update for the tournament with two years to go.

He provided updates in a number of areas, so here is the latest from Bryant...

Postponement

When considering whether to postpone the event by a year, it was always our intention to put the best interests of the tournament first. Between ourselves and UEFA, we were focused on how and when we could give the players, fans, host cities and venues the best opportunity to participate in the tournament we set out to deliver.

The additional year would allow us more time to adjust our planning, grow the fanbase, and for venues and cities to recover and adapt to the 'new normal'. We very much hope the tournament can play a part in the recovery of our host cities and the wider nation.

Scheduling

Once postponement was confirmed as the best option for the tournament, we then needed to revisit scheduling. Agreeing the specific dates required significant discussion and agreement with multiple stakeholders – UEFA, venues, cities, broadcasters and other event owners – most notably the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), who themselves were having to look at scheduling, given the postponement of the 2020 Olympics.

We are extremely grateful for the collaboration and support shown by the CGF. The respective new dates (6-31 July for the Women's EURO and 28 July-8 August for the Commonwealth

Games) mean that only our final, at Wembley, overlaps with their competition. We will continue to collaborate with the CGF and Birmingham Organising Committee in the lead up to 2022, for what we hope will be a truly special summer of sport.

Tournament Name

On 6 July – two years to go until the start of the tournament – we confirmed that its name would officially be updated to ‘UEFA Women’s EURO 2022’. Unlike the men’s EURO, which will remain UEFA EURO 2020, both UEFA and ourselves felt we had enough time to make the change and that it would allow us to communicate with clarity over the next 24 months.

Venues and Cities

We are in the process of officially re-confirming all cities and venues and hope to conclude this process by the end of August, whilst fully appreciating the difficulties both clubs and cities are facing with the impacts of COVID-19. Therefore, we are taking a flexible approach to this, with the aim of supporting our stakeholders as best we can to ensure that all can play their part in the tournament, as previously agreed. I hope to update you on this process when we next meet, but we remain hopeful that all cities and venues will recommit.

Tournament Planning

Whilst the first few months of lockdown focussed on the postponement, we are now taking the extra time afforded to us to review the key planning foundations of the tournament – such as budget, workforce, governance, and ensuring we have a better understanding of our opportunities, risks, and the impact of COVID-19 on the event. The FA and UEFA remain firmly committed to delivering the tournament in line with previous plans, and as such our objective across this extra year is to maximise the additional time afforded to us both from a planning and engagement perspective.

Legacy

Creating a legacy to the tournament in terms of growing the women’s game has always been one of our key priorities. It was recently announced that Sport England has awarded £1m of National Lottery funding to our hosting of the tournament with a view to increasing the number of adult women playing football in England. In keeping with Sport England’s continued commitment to women’s and girls’ sport, the investment will support the development of local plans within the proposed EURO 2022 host cities (London, Trafford, Manchester, Sheffield, Rotherham, Milton Keynes, Wigan & Leigh, Brighton & Hove and Southampton) and will ensure local communities continue to benefit long after the tournament has concluded.

Next steps

Qualifying games for the tournament are planned to start again from September, and our next significant milestone is a repeat of 500 days to go, in February 2021. Between then and now we hope to reconfirm all cities and venues and continue detailed planning, as well as reviewing our ticketing roadmap and marketing strategies.



MANCHESTER



UEFA
**WOMEN'S
EURO 2021
ENGLAND**



MEGASTORE

ENTRANCE

UEFA
**WOMEN'S
EURO 2021
ENGLAND**

Around the World



Jack of All



By Charlotte Stacey

With only limited sports restarting due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the NWSL Challenge Cup has been a tonic for fans of women's football. Although many players have stood out, there has perhaps been one that has particularly caught the eye.

Houston Dash and England powerhouse, Rachel Daly, has been the talk of the tournament, and has finally been able to show her supporters on both sides of the pond what she is really made of.

Rachel Daly is about as versatile as they come. Typically positioned as a fullback for England, but a forward for the Dash, she can play at the front, back and everywhere in between. Her adaptability often alluding to the fact that Daly could, quite comfortably, occupy any of the ten outfield positions on the pitch. And frankly, if her goal line clearances are anything to go by, she would most likely have a good old go

with the gloves on as well.

Whether she is attacking the goal or defending it, she is a player that will keep you on your toes. Defensively, Daly is willing to do the dirty work. She will go toe to toe putting the pressure on, almost wrestling to win the ball until the very bitter end. Yet where Daly is adept in holding a back line, her yearning to press forward is always apparent. In fact, it is when she is on the attack that she really comes alive.

As a striker she is gutsy, yet composed. Assured, yet unpretentious. Selfish when she needs to be, but unselfish for the good of the team.

A defensive mistake? She will pounce on it.

Unmarked space? She will exploit it.

A shot on goal? She will score it.

Putting it quite simply, Daly harbours all the attributes of a rather proficient forward player, and it is a crying shame she has not

been able to exercise these with the national team more often.

But whilst she has perhaps been underutilised for her country, she is absolutely a vital piece of the puzzle for the Dash. With a tireless work ethic, a sedulousness that seldom falters and a lengthy personal history with the club, Daly lies at the very heart of the Houston Dash.

It is fitting therefore, that she now wears the armband as one of Houston's captains. And my, doesn't she wear it well. Daly's play has seemingly elevated since taking on the captaincy. Her impassioned leadership another string to add to her bow.

She does not however, just draw command from her teammates. As a spectator, it is difficult to resist the charms of Captain Daly. Whether she starts a match or is substituted on, she makes an impression. With no time to sit and stare, Daly's game is quick, and she brings an instinctive urgency to get things moving. She possesses a pace that is somewhat nightmarish, often appearing to be everywhere all at once.

Speed, of course, is advantageous, yet it is

of little use without a certain timing acumen. Daly here, is skilled. She is able to time her runs to perfection and habitually finishes them off with accuracy. Yet, she is capable in assisting others. With an eye to spot a goalscoring opportunity, Daly will knock out a cross, a through ball or a square pass effortlessly. Likewise, this is seen in her taking of set pieces, of which she delivers with a pinpoint precision.

On and off the pitch, Daly is a risktaker; she has gone against the grain. But she has done so with a moral mindset and a true self-belief that have led to both individual and collective successes. After her recent performance in the Challenge Cup, what is clear is that Daly has not yet had her day with the Lionesses. But with managerial changes on the horizon, and a hoard of international tournaments on their way, her time is surely just around the corner.

With a fully rounded skillset and a passion that radiates; world, you best take note of Rachel Daly.

Our Lioness to flaunt, all Daly long.





Houston Dash win 2020 NWSL Challenge Cup



Houston Dash have been crowned 2020 NWSL Challenge Cup champions.

Dash beat Chicago Red Stars 2-0 in the final to clinch the first NWSL for the club.

Dash, who have been impressive for the whole tournament, started strongly and just five minutes in when they were awarded a penalty.

Midfielder Kristie Mewis won a foul in the box against Red Stars defender Kayla Sharples.

Canadian international Sophie Schmidt stepped up to give them the lead.

Shea Groom added an insurance goal in the 91st minute on a breakaway.

Groom and Dash captain Rachel Daly both ended the tournament with three goals -- tied for the most by any player.

Daly, the tournament MVP, won the NWSL Challenge Cup Golden Boot with three goals and two assists.

The Red Stars had shot opportunities

throughout, but could never find an equalizer.

It was the second consecutive loss in a final for the Red Stars, who fell to the North Carolina Courage in last year's Championship game.

NWSL Challenge Cup stats:

Champions: Houston Dash

MVP: Rachel Daly, Houston Dash

Golden Boot: Rachel Daly (three goals, two assists), Houston Dash

Golden Glove: Jane Campbell (four),
Houston Dash

Yellow cards: 35

Red cards: 0

Most fouls won: Rachel Daly (15)

Most fouls committed: Raquel Rodriguez (11), Portland

Most saves: Jane Campbell (21)

NWSL Challenge Cup Matches



Qualification Round

North Carolina Courage	2-1	Portland Thorns
Chicago Red Stars	1-2	Washington Spirit
Orlando Pride	CANCELLED	Chicago Red Stars
Houston Dash	3-3	Utah Royals
OL Reign	0-0	Sky Blue
Portland Thorns	0-0	Chicago Red Stars
Portland Thorn	CANCELLED	Orlando Pride
Washington Spirit	0-2	North Carolina Courage
North Carolina Courage	CANCELLED	Houston Dash
Utah Royals	1-0	Sky Blue
Houston Dash	2-0	OL Reign
North Carolina Courage	1-0	Chicago Red Stars
Portland Thorns	1-1	Washington Spirit
Utah Royals	0-1	OL Reign
Sky Blue	2-0	Houston Dash
Washington Spirit	1-0	Houston Dash
Chicago Red Stars	1-0	Utah Royals
Reign	0-0	Portland Thorns
Sky Blue	0-2	North Carolina Courage

NWSL Challenge Cup Matches



Quarter-finals

North Carolina	0-1	Portland Thorns Weaver, 68
Houston Dash Pens scored: Daly, Nairn, Schmidt Pens missed: Visalli	0-0 (3-2)	Utah Royals Pens scored: King, LaBonta Pens missed: Boquete, Corsie, Rodriguez
Washington Spirit Pens scored: Dougherty Howard, Hatch, Lavelle Pens missed: Staab	0-0 (3-4)	Sky Blue Pens scored: Eddy, Zerboni, Viens, Woldmoe Pens missed: Woldmoe
OL Reign Pens scored: Balcer, Cox, Momiki Pens missed: Barnes	0-0 (3-4)	Chicago Red Stars Pens scored: Hill, Watt, McCaskill

Semi-finals

Portland Thorns	0-1	Houston Dash Daly, 68
Sky Blue Viens, 72; Ertz, 77 (OG)	2-3	Chicago Red Stars St. Georges, 8; Hill, 11; McCaskill, 60

Final

Chicago Red Stars	0-2	Houston Dash Schmidt, 5 (P); Groom, 90+1
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JEREMY MEYER

The Front Office: Taking you off the pitch and into the hallways of ADC Esteponense Femenas

Apperal Sponsorship

I currently work with a women's team in Spain that play in the 4th division of women's football. We just signed a new apperal deal with Bee Sports based in Mexico for them to provide our team with clothing for our senior women's team, training staff and management.

This was one of the few things that we had to get done, and we had to do it in the middle of a pandemic worldwide lockdown. It's like someone told me once and that is nothing is impossible, impossible just takes a few extra phone calls and that is exactly what we did while trying to build a team from scratch.

The deal is exclusive to our women's side and

does not include the clubs men's or lower division teams.

Bee Sports in return designed our own bespoke game jerseys and worked with the team for all the designs, sizes etc.

It is a great deal for the team as we will be provided with all the clothing that the team requires at no cost to the team.

The apperal deal business is massive and can be done as many different ways as cutting a pizza. We have the major league contracts that include a clothing allowance plus payment from the company. You have deals were the team pays either cost or retail price that

can also happen in the first option, and would be specified in the contract. A lot of smaller teams get a percentage deal of the price I.e. 60% off again this can be retail or cost prices.

Our deal with Bee Sports is mutually beneficial for both the team and the apperal company and also opens the door for them to enter the Spanish sports market at a relatively low price.



Pending... Angel City

ANGEL CITY

Unapologetic | Undeniable | Unstoppable



It was revealed on 21st July that Los Angeles based team “Angel City FC” have been given the go ahead to join the NWSL ranks in 2022.

Avid speculation of an LA side has been rife amongst NWSL supporters for some time. Certainly the (naturally Hollywood-esque) announcement finally declaring the fact, did not disappoint. With a star-loaded ownership and an escalating media presence, Angel City have already shown up, and shown up in a big way.

The club boasts a founding ownership of no less than 34 members, the majority of whom are female.

Amongst the names spearheading the club are: actors America Ferrera (Ugly Betty), Eva Longoria (Desperate Housewives), Jennifer Garner (13 Going on 30), Jessica Chastain (Zero Dark Thirty), Natalie Portman (Black Swan) and Uzo Aduba (Orange is the New Black); talk show host Lilly Singh; tennis legend Serena Williams and her two-year old daughter Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr.

If these headliners weren't enough, fourteen former USWNT players have also invested, including Mia Hamm and World Cup winners Lauren Holiday and Abby

Wambach.

“Today we take an exciting step by announcing the first women majority-owned and led ownership group,” stated leading founder Portman, “I am thrilled by the opportunity to partner with this incredible group of people to bring a professional women's soccer team to Los Angeles.”

NWSL commissioner Lisa Baird also remarked on the news, “we've long sought the right partner in LA considering the NWSL fanbase that already exists in the region and the massive interest in women's soccer in general. Those factors, along with an incredible ownership group make this an ideal situation and we couldn't be more thrilled to move forward.”

Provisionally named Angel City FC, the club will release its official name and home venue towards the end of the year. It also remains to be seen whether the club will bear any affiliation with either of the LA MLS teams.

Angel City FC are the second expansion side announced this year. Racing Louisville FC will be taking the NWSL's cohort into double figures as the league's 10th team, joining in 2021.



News from around the world



Daly open to WSL loan move

Houston Dash forward Rachel Daly says she would be open to a loan move to the Women's Super League.

Daly, 28, helped her side lift the NWSL Championship title and the new season is not scheduled to begin until April 2021.

She told the BBC: "There might be a loan opportunity for a few months until January. I can't not play for eight months."

Quinn joins Fiorentina

Louise Quinn has joined Italian side Fiorentina on a one-year contract.

The Republic of Ireland defender became a free agent after her deal with Arsenal expired.

She told Fiorentina Femminile's social media channels she is "really, really happy" to sign for the side.

Quinn scored seven goals in 76 appearances for Arsenal after joining from Notts County in the summer of 2017.



Milicic departs Australia post



Football Federation Australia have announced the departure of Ante Milicic.

Milicic has stepped down from the role of Head Coach of Australia's senior women's football team.

He has decided to honour his pre-existing three-year contract with incoming Hyundai A-League club Macarthur FC.

Milicic was appointed to the role of Head Coach of the Westfield Matildas in February 2019, and over the past 18 months oversaw Australia's successful qualification for the women's football tournament at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, and helped Australia reach the Round of 16 at the FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019.

Milicic signed on to become the inaugural Head Coach of Macarthur FC in May 2019 prior to last year's FIFA Women's World Cup™, and while he was due to complete his time with the Matildas at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the rescheduling of the Games to 2021 due to the unprecedented, global COVID-19 pandemic has regrettably forced a decision on Milicic's coaching future to be made.

"FFA respects Ante's decision to honour his contract with Macarthur FC," FFA Chief Executive Officer, James Johnson, said.



News from around the world



Pina joins Seville on loan

Claudia Pina has signed a new deal with Barcelona which will see her stay at the club until 2023.

The 18-year-old has also gone out on loan to Sevilla FC.

Pina was the youngest player to debut with Barca's first team during their professional era and has played 23 matches, scoring five times.

Hong Kong footballer Wai Yuen-ting leaves Vllaznia

Hong Kong women's footballer Wai Yuen-ting leaves Albanian champions Vllaznia.

The 27-year-old attacking midfielder helped the reigning champions achieve Champions League qualification and became the first Hongkonger to win a European football league title.

Former Citizen player Wai has since returned to Hong Kong after playing her final game in the Albanian Cup competition as they could not reach an agreement for next season.



Riley signs for Fortuna Hjørring

Brisbane Roar youngster Indiah-Paige Riley has signed a long-term deal with Danish side Fortuna Hjørring.

The 18-year-old has spent the last two seasons playing in the W-League making 20 appearances, scoring three goals.

Riley was most recently nominated for W-League Young Footballer of the Year, losing out to Eli Carpenter.

It is reported she has signed a three year deal with the Danish Elitedivisionen side.

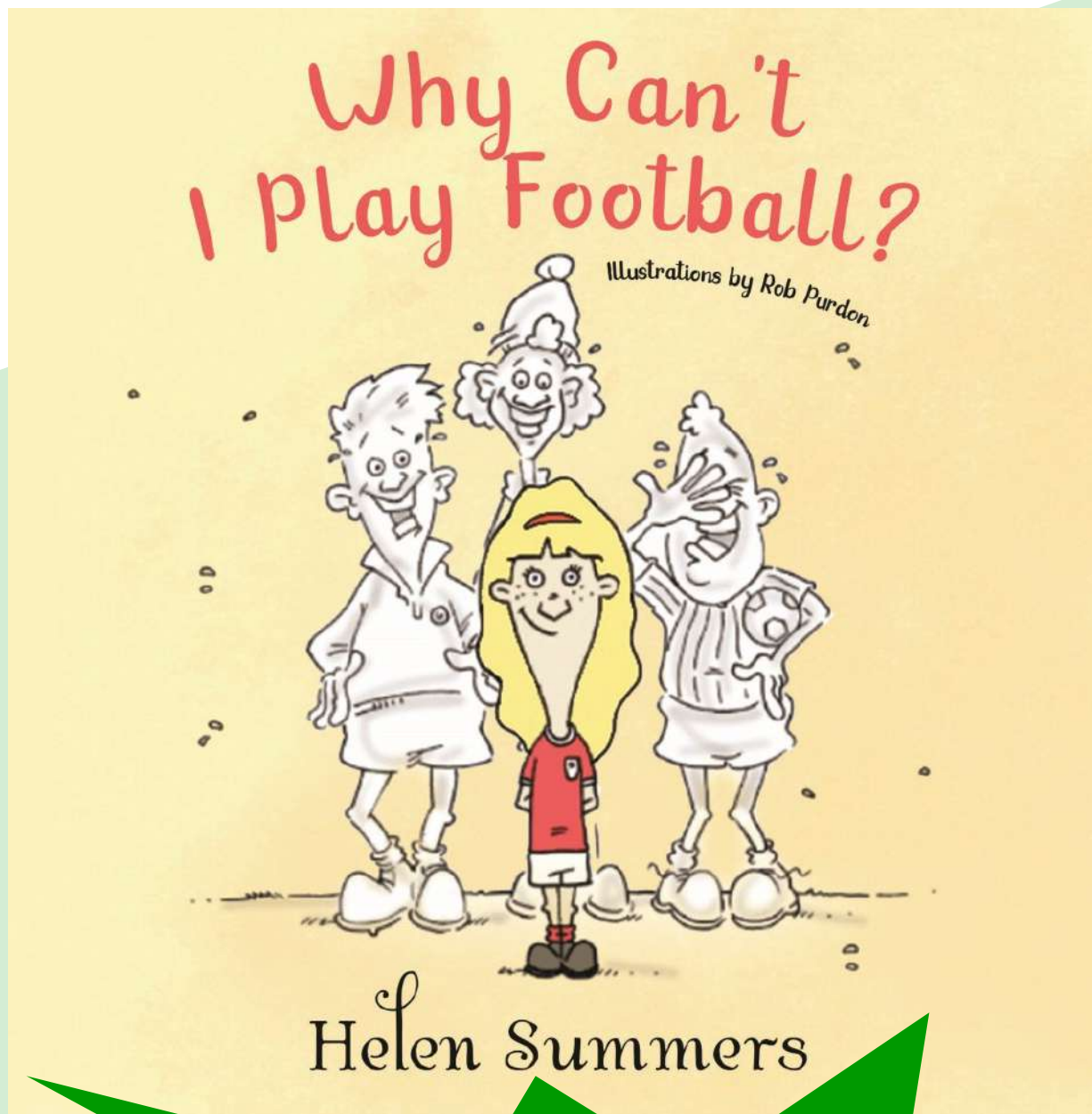
The club are current Danish champions have qualified for next season's Champions League.

When speaking about the acquisition to the Fortuna club website, head coach Niclas Hougaard stated:

"She (Riley) is a very exciting player, who contains many of the qualities that have been in demand on our team. Indiah is explosive, fast and she gives us even more weapons in the offensive game."



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