

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

ISSUE 42 MAGAZINE OCTOBER 2020



HASHTAG HAPPY

This month we have two great exclusives with Hashtag United's Stef Paci and Canada international Shannon Woeller as well features, round-ups and news of all the leagues in the UK. We have the latest from the home nations and Ali Rampling looks at why British footballers chose to go to college in the US.

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



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Welcome

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Hello and welcome to Issue 42!

Hello everyone, welcome to our latest issue.

It's been so great to have regular women's football back on the television this month hasn't it? Just such a shame that we cannot have fans back in the stadiums, fingers crossed we will all be back supporting our favourite teams from the sidelines soon.

This month we have not one but TWO exclusive interviews for you. First we have a great interview with Stef Paci about all things Hashtag United. I am sure you have seen them popping up on social media and in the news. Secondly, Ali Rampling has a feature with Canadian international Shannon Woeller who is currently playing in Denmark.

We also have all the latest from the FA Cup—both this season's and last season's results from the month, a run down of the leagues and a look at how the four home nations clubs spent their international break.

Keep safe and enjoy the issue.

Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Editor-in-Chief

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WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE



WSL September round-up



By **Bridget Lockwood**

The WSL is back and there have already been some fantastic games. We look back at the September fixtures and see who has started strongly.



Arsenal

Arsenal had a great start to the season winning both games with class and style. Their first game of the season saw them face Reading; Kim Little gave the Gunners

a lead just fifteen minutes in with a well-timed volley. Miedema and Roord both scored to put Arsenal 3-0 up going into the break. Dutch international Roord completed her hattrick in the second half with two tidy finishes, and a powerful 20-yard strike from Miedema rounded off the scoring for the Gunners. However, Arsenal couldn't keep a clean streak as ex-Arsenal player Danielle Carter grabbed a late

consolation for Reading. Arsenal dominated their second game of the new campaign, scoring nine goals against 10-player West Ham. The goals coming from Miedema, Little, Mead, Williamson, Foord and Roord who scored her second hattrick in a row.

Results:

Arsenal 6-1 Reading

West Ham 1-9 Arsenal

Table standings: 1st

Aston Villa



Aston Villa had a tough start to their first campaign in the WSL. First facing a strong Man City side, they played well, however two silly mistakes at the back meant Stanway could pounce and put City ahead inside 21 minutes. The game could have changed for Villa as Larsen scored but it was wrongfully ruled

offside. Villa then faced Reading, with both teams looking for their first win of the season. Reading attacked from the off and scored three nice goals, Larsen's late strike was deserved consolation for Villa, but they'll need to produce more chances in coming games if they want to put points on the board.

Results:

Aston Villa 0-2 Manchester City
Reading 3-1 Aston Villa

Table standings: 10th

Birmingham City



Birmingham had a tough start to the season, in new boss Carla Wards first game in charge they faced Brighton. It was a fair contest in the first half, but the home side took advantage scoring two goals in as many minutes. Connolly broke the deadlock with a superb shot that floated over keeper Hampton, just two minutes later Kaagman scored the second from close range. A tough second half for Birmingham with their small squad meaning they only had four players on the bench. Birmingham started strong against United, going behind in the fifth minute they fought back to level through Walkers low placed shot into the bottom corner. Birmingham then got a lead when McManus appeared to put the ball into her own net after touching a freekick from Sarah Mayling. But the Blues couldn't hold onto their lead with Stoney's side going on to score three more goals, leaving the Blues still looking for their first point of the campaign.

Results:

Brighton & HA 2-0
Birmingham City
Birmingham City 2-5 Manchester United

Table standings: 10th

Brighton & Hove Albion



Brighton had a good start to the season, opening their campaign with a confident win over Birmingham. Hitting the crossbar twice in the first half Brighton finally broke the deadlock when Connollys shot from outside the box floated over keeper Hampton into the back of the net. Just two minutes later Kaagman doubled their lead from close range, to give Brighton all three points. Brighton's next game was a tough one against a strong Man City side. Despite being on offensive for most of the game Hope Powells side were resilient in defense, with keeper Megan Walsh producing several important saves. The game ended in a goalless draw giving Brighton a well-deserved point.

Results:

Brighton & HA 2-0 Birmingham City
Manchester City 0-0 Brighton & HA

Table standings: 5th

Bristol City



Bristol had a tough start to the season, losing both games. First, they faced the strengthen Everton side; despite having their moments with Aimee Palmers free kick just going over the crossbar and Wellings having a shot go just wide they couldn't hold back the attacking presence of Everton. Things got worse for Bristol as they were thrashed by Chelsea who had nine different goal scores in their first win of the season. Despite their best efforts it already looks like Bristol will be focusing on staying up this season.

Results: Bristol City 0-4 Everton
Chelsea 9-0 Bristol City

Table standings: 12th

Chelsea



It was an even opening for Chelsea's first game of the season, Kerr broke the deadlock after converting a low cross from Kirby. The Blues could have doubled their lead, but

Kerr slotted wide from 15 yards, and Ji So-Yun was also denied by a strong save from Earps in goal. These missed opportunities came back to bite Chelsea as Galton scored late into the second half to bring United level. In their second game of the season the champions came with something to prove as they annihilated Bristol. The goal scoring was opened by Kirby who scored her first goal in 16 months after making her return from illness. Chelsea then doubled their lead from the spot as captain Mjeldre calmly slotted the ball away. The goals didn't stop in the first half with new signing Leupolz, Cuthbert and Bright all getting on the score sheet in the before half times. In the second half substitute Charles came on to score the seventh goal, moments later substitute Harder scored her first for the club since signing from Wolfsburg with a cheeky backheel. Kerr wrapped up the scoring to give Chelsea their ninth goal of the game.

Results:

Manchester United 1-1 Chelsea
Chelsea 9-0 Bristol City

Table standing: 3rd

Everton



Everton started their campaign with a convincing win at Bristol City, scoring just seven minutes into the game as Magill calmly slotted the ball into the corner of the

goal. Toffees captain Graham netted the next two goals, one from a counter and the other from a spot kick. Everton weren't

finished there and on the ninetieth minute Valerie Gauvin scored to give Everton a comfortable win. Everton kept up their winning streak against Tottenham. An even game with both teams having chances on goal in the first half, but after the break Everton sub Sorensen made an immediate impact with a pinpoint cross which was met by the strong head of Christiansen to score the only goal of the game.

Results:

Bristol City 0-4 Everton
Everton 1-0 Tottenham Hotspur

Table standings: 2nd

Manchester City



City began the season away against newly promoted Aston Villa. Two terrible mistakes at the back from Villa meant City were able to capitalise inside the first

22 minutes. Both goals coming from Georgia Stanway who pounced on some sloppy play at the back. Despite being on in control most of the game Villa did have their chances with a goal from Larsen being incorrectly ruled out for offside. Manchester City's next game was a frustrating one for both the players and the fans. Despite their domination of possession, they could find a way past Walsh in the Brighton goal.

Results:

Aston Villa 0-2 Manchester City
Manchester City 0-0 Brighton & HA

Table standings: 6th

Manchester United



United's first game of the season against Chelsea was an exciting one for the fans to watch. Chelsea opened the scoring, but United fought back straight away

almost levelling with a header from Galton. However, United didn't get their equaliser until the second half when Leah Galton converted a cross from Groenen. The Reds faced Birmingham in their second game of the season, scoring early with a strike from Ross. But Birmingham equalised and then went ahead as Abbie McManus turned the ball into her own net. Zelem scoring a stunning free kick and Toone levelling from close range to put United back in front. Hanson scored their fourth on the hour and then again when new signing Russo kindly squared the ball for her to easily slot into the back of the net.

Results:

Manchester United 1-1 Chelsea

Birmingham City 2-5 Manchester United

Table standings: 4th

Reading



Reading had a tough start to the season facing the formidable side of Arsenal. Once Arsenal had scored their first it was hard for Reading to get back into the game. Despite their

best efforts the attacking prowess of Arsenal shone. Danielle Carter did grab a consolation for the Royals when she nabbed the ball off the Arsenal keeper. In their second game of the season Reading faced newly promoted Aston Villa. The Royals opened the scoring when Amalie Eikeland hit the net after a clever through ball from Williams. Reading then on the up scored two goals in quick succession the first from Bruton and the second a penalty converted by Willaims. Villa struggled to create chances but a late strike from Larsen gave them the consolation goal they had been searching for all game.

Results:

Arsenal 6-1 Reading

Reading 3-1 Aston Villa

Table standings: 7th

Tottenham Hotspur



Tottenham were unlucky not to score in the first half against West Ham as Kit Graham struck the woodwork twice, but their constant pressure payed off in the second as they were gifted a goal when Hammers defender Fisk headed the ball into her own net. While Tottenham were in charge for most of the game a superb individual run from Leon saw West Ham level. Everton were the brighter side as Spurs faced them in their second game of the new season. It took Tottenham 40 minutes to register a shot on target however they couldn't capitalise and Everton got their goal after substitute Sorensen precise cross was met by Christiansen whose header went passed the keeper to give Everton the win.

Results:

Tottenham Hotspur 1-1 West Ham

Everton 1-0 Tottenham Hotspur

Table standings: 8th

West Ham United



In their first game of the season the Hammers face fellow London side Tottenham. West Ham went behind after defender Grace Fisk headed into her own net, but Adrianna Leon produced magic to level the score after beating two defenders and then curling the ball into the top corner. Both sides pressed for the winner in the final minutes but neither prevailed. The Hammers faced a tough opposition in Arsenal, who thrashed West Ham scoring nine goals. After a close first half the game with both teams scoring the game changed when Hammers captain Gilly Flaherty was sent off for a second bookable offence. After this Arsenal dominated and West Ham couldn't find a way back.

Results:

Tottenham Hotspur 1-1 West Ham United

West Ham United 1-9 Arsenal

Table standings: 9th



The FA Women's Super League

| Table after September games | | P | W | D | L | GD | Pts |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| 1 | Everton | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 9 |
| 2 | Arsenal | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 6 |
| 3 | Chelsea | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 4 |
| 4 | Manchester United | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | Brighton & Hove Albion | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Manchester City | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| 7 | Reading | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -3 | 3 |
| 8 | Tottenham Hotspur | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | -1 | 1 |
| 9 | West Ham United | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | -8 | 1 |
| 10 | Birmingham City | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | -5 | 0 |
| 11 | Aston Villa | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | -10 | 0 |
| 12 | Bristol City | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | -13 | 0 |

October fixtures

Saturday, October 3

Aston Villa vs Everton (12:30)

Sunday, October 4

Manchester United vs Brighton & HA (12:00)

Manchester City vs Tottenham Hotspur (12:30)

Arsenal vs Bristol City (14:00)

Birmingham City vs Chelsea (14:30)

West Ham United vs Reading (15:00)

Saturday, October 10

Tottenham Hotspur vs Manchester United
(12:30)

Sunday, October 11

Brighton & HA vs Arsenal (12:30)

Everton vs West Ham United (13:00)

Bristol City vs Aston Villa (14:00)

Reading vs Birmingham City (14:00)

Chelsea vs Manchester City Women (14:30)

Saturday, October 17

Aston Villa vs Chelsea (12:30)

Sunday, October 18

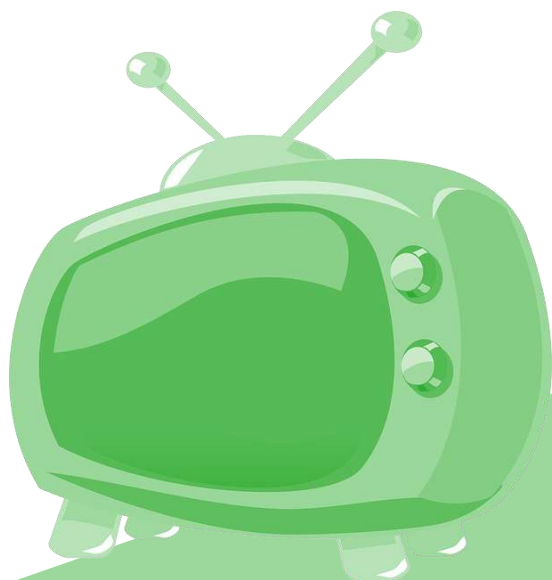
Everton vs Brighton & HA (13:00)

Arsenal vs Tottenham Hotspur (14:00)

Bristol City vs Birmingham City (14:00)

Reading vs Manchester City (14:00)

West Ham United vs Manchester United
(15:00)



October TV fixtures

Sunday, October 4

Man City Women v Tottenham Hotspur Women (12:30)

FA Women's Super League

BBC Red Button / BBC iPlayer / The FA Player

Birmingham City Women v Chelsea Women (14:30)

FA Women's Super League

BT Sport 2

Sunday, October 11

Brighton & Hove Albion Women v Arsenal Women (12:30)

FA Women's Super League

BBC Red Button / BBC iPlayer / The FA Player

Sunday, October 18

Arsenal Women v Tottenham Hotspur Women (14:00)

FA Women's Super League

BT Sport 1

Glasgow City v Celtic Women (16:10)

Scottish Women's Premier League

BBC ALBA

Tuesday, October 27

Germany Women v England Women (15:00)

Women's International

BBC TBC

Harder named Uefa Player of the Year



Chelsea forward Pernille Harder has been named the Uefa Player of the Year for 2019-20. She was selected from a shortlist which included Manchester City's Lucy Bronze and Lyon captain Wendie Renard.

The inaugural coach of the year award went to Lyon's Jean-Luc Vasseur for a stellar debut season with the club.

The 51-year-old led Lyon to only the second perfect campaign in Uefa women's club competition to clinch their fifth title in a row and seventh overall, as well as another French double.

He was chosen from a shortlist of three that also included Barcelona's Lluís Cortes and Wolfsburg's Stephan Lerch.

Lyon's victory in the 2020 Champions League

saw them dominate Uefa's positional awards, with Sarah Bouhaddi (goalkeeper), Renard (defender) and Dzsenifer Marozsan (midfielder) all selected.

Harder, named player of the year in 2018, was also named forward of the season.

Previous players of the year:

2013 Nadine Angerer

2014 Nadine Kessler

2015 Celia Sasic

2016 Ada Hegerberg

2017 Lieke Martens

2018 Pernille Harder

2019 Lucy Bronze

Catch Me If You Can



By Charlotte Stacey

Having already been named International Young Player of the Year in 2017, and the only player to have won the PFA Women's Young Player of the Year twice, in 2018 and 2020, Manchester City and England forward Lauren Hemp is fast cementing herself as a rising star on the football field.

Lauren Hemp is nothing if not a grafter. Her unbreakable can-do attitude and irrepressible energy has caught the eye of many, including that of England boss Phil Neville. At 19, Hemp has justly earned her first senior international caps, and played a fundamental part in the sell-out spectacular at Wembley Stadium.

Bearing an instinctively attacking mindset, and possessing a deadly speed, Hemp is somewhat of a nuisance for even the tightest

defensive line. With a natural agility, as well as some nifty footwork, Hemp is able to dart into positions that cause all sorts of problems for her marker. Her game is magnificently quick. In fact, the speed in which she covers a pitch seems inconceivable at times. It is her pace, alongside her gift to foresee and meet an incoming ball, that causes her to stand out amongst the rest.

No stranger to a shot, Hemp's scoring record for both City and England is growing. But whilst she may not be within top goal scorer territory yet, she is often involved in the build up of others. Hemp's mounting pressure on the wing frequently sees her put in a strong cross or two, and with her quick movement, she is already accomplished in championing a counter.

Yet, where she is without fear in attacking, she also demonstrates no fear in defending. Hemp is gritty. With a tenacious standpoint, she takes no issue with insistently retrieving a ball lost in possession. Neither with taking herself back to dispel a threat from the opposition, or to unify with her teammates when needed.

Harbouring an honest outlook that will take her far, Hemp herself recognises that there is still work to do in getting to the top, and in securing her permanency in the national side.

Hemp notes that she is "still not the finished article", and whilst this perhaps currently rings true, she is undoubtedly headed in the right direction. Being at one of the biggest female clubs in the country, and regularly playing alongside veterans of the game, will only quicken her journey in reaching her potent full potential.

Hemp is observably a player that takes everything on board. A player who actively uses her experiences to better her play, and one who is always looking to progress forward.

Her clear ambition and drive signifies that of a true go-getter. With Manchester City asserting themselves as a dominant force, and with the Lionesses gearing up for a busy couple of years, the future looks nothing but promising for Hemp.

Of course, whether she is able to secure a place in the international squad for their upcoming tournament remains to be seen. But reflecting on the season she has had so far, it certainly looks hopeful. However, speculation aside, what is clear, is that for Hemp, there is plenty more to come.

Lauren Hemp - one to watch.



Katie Robinson ruled out for rest of the season



Brighton and Hove Albion have confirmed that Katie Robinson has been ruled out for the rest of the 2020-21 WSL season.

The Brighton number 9 has suffered an ACL injury in training.

The 18-year-old joined Brighton in July after leaving Bristol City in the summer.

England Under-17 international made 17 Women's Super League appearances for the Robins after coming through their academy .

Taking to Twitter Robinson wrote: "I'm heartbroken and absolutely devastated to have tore my ACL and be out for the rest of

the season..

"Although I know this process is going to be hard and a long journey lies ahead , I'm lucky enough to be surrounded by the best teammates & staff I could ask for.

"I will be supporting the girls all the way and I know they are going to smash this season.

"I'm now focused on coming back stronger and being able to pull on a Brighton shirt next season in the best place possible."

Alex Scott opens up about social media abuse



Football pundit & former Arsenal defender Alex Scott has spoken of her ongoing experience of receiving social media abuse, saying that she has to remind herself that she takes the hit for the positive reason that other women of colour are gradually coming to the forefront of football broadcasting.

In a new episode of 'Between The Lines' podcast which explores the way in which hate speech on social media platforms has permeated football across all levels of the game, Scott spoke with host Melissa Reddy about her experiences of online abuse, in particular since she has transitioned from player to the role of pundit.

Alex Scott: "Before, when I used to see all the messages, I'd be like 'oh my gosh, I can't take this, I'm talking about something that I love, I don't get it'.

"For me, it's just reminding myself with that sometimes that I know I'm helping create this change and there's a bigger picture that I need to keep my head down and keep focused and keep working towards.

"I think, because I spoke out about it before, I went through a stage where it really did affect me.

"Some of the comments... I knew I couldn't tell my mum because then she'd be worrying, and I was taking all this negativity on to myself.

"I kind of lost myself and my personality because I knew everything that was going on around it.

"It's not until I actually got to a stage where I thought 'I can't take this anymore, it is becoming too much for me' that I spoke out about it.

"And when I did speak out about it, it helped, it changed, because people didn't realise that I was struggling with it. You can't help someone unless you actively speak out about it.

"What I've done now is that when I'm going through those times, I do, I say to people – I think we've just seen recently that I've gone through it again with everything that just happened – but I know it is changing.

"People know that we are ready for change in

this country, and in other countries too actually, all around the world.

“I’ve been at the forefront and I’m taking all the hit, but like I said, I remind myself that I’m doing it for a positive reason – there’s others coming through.”

Later in the interview, Scott went on to outline how, as a woman of colour working in football, there is more pressure on her to perform in her punditry roles, with the spotlight on any mistakes being more intense.

Alex Scott: “In the field that we’re in, we know if we do one mistake or we say one name that’s wrong, it’s going to be scrutinised.

“I think for me, I’m never in competition with anybody else, I’m in competition with myself.

“I always want to be the best that I can be, no matter what TV programme that I’m on.

“I know that when I come away, I analyse myself all the time – I should have said this, I

could have done that, I could have provided more insight there – so for me, no matter what job I’m doing, when I was a football player, I wanted to be the best for me or I felt I was letting myself down.

“Actually, I still pinch myself, to be honest, because I don’t think I transitioned into this thinking ‘I want to make headlines, I want to be that first female, I want to do this’ – I was thinking ‘why are there not more females?’ I couldn’t understand.

“I know about this sport, I talk about it constantly with all my friends, I’ve played at the highest level.

“In my head, I just couldn’t understand why not. That’s why I went into it, not for the headlines, but to be passionate about what I do.

“I was like, ‘you need more females, we need this representation.’”

You can listen to the episode now including on Apple Podcasts.



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), Lotte Wubben-Moy (UNC)

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), Melisa Filis (London Bees), Silvana Flores



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), Stine Larsen (FC Fleury 91)

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 (Blackburn), Kerri Welsh, Alice Hassall (Coventry), Phoebe Warner, Mel Johnson (Sheffield United), Charlotte Greengrass (Nottingham Forest), Sophie Maierhofer, Daniela Kosinska (Stoke City), Ashlee Brown (Coventry)

Birmingham City

In: Christie Murray (Liverpool), Rachel Corsie (Utah Royals—loan), Chloe McCarron (Linfield), Georgia Brougham (Everton—loan), Destiny Toussaint (unattached)



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

Transfer latest



City), Nora Heroum (AC Milan), Inessa Kaagman (Everton), Lee Geumin (Man City -loan), Rebekah Stott (Melbourne City), Denise O'Sullivan (NC Courage—loan)

Extended contracts: Danielle Bowman, Kirsty Barton, Jodie Brett, Emily Simpkins, Laura Rafferty, 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), Laura Hartley (Lewes), Ellie Hack (Lewes), Laura Rafferty (Bristol City—loan), Katie Startup (Charlton—loan), Bethan Roe (Charlton—loan)

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), Emma Bissell (Man City), Benedicte Haaland (Lugano), Laura Rafferty (Brighton—loan)

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

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

Chelsea



In: Melanie Leupolz (FC Bayern), Niamh Charles (Liverpool), Jessie Fleming (UCLA), Pernille Harder (Vfl Wolfsburg)

Extended contracts: Charlotte Fleming, Beth England, Guro Reiten, Millie Bright

Out: Adelina Engman (MHSC), Deanna Cooper, Anita Asante, Ramona Bachmann (PSG), Jamie-Lee Napier (Birmingham—loan)

Transfer latest

Everton



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

Wold (Madrid CFF), Nicoline Sorensen (Brondby), Rikke Sevecke (FC Fleury), Valerie Gauvin (Montpellier), Claire Emslie (Orlando Pride—loan), Damaris Egurrola (Athletic Bilbao)

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 (Man City), Georgia Brougham (Birmingham—loan), Hannah Coan (Sheffield—loan), Elise Huges (Blackburn—loan), Kika va Es (FC Twente)

Manchester City



In: Esme Morgan (end of loan – Everton), Chloe Kelly (Everton), Sam Mewis (NC Courage),

Rose Lavelle (OL Reign), Lucy Bronze (Olympique

Lyonnais), Alex Greenwood (Olympique Lyonnais)

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

Out: Pauline Bremer (Wolfsburg), Tessa Wullaert, Lee Geum-min (Brighton—loan), Matilde Fidalgo (Benfica), Emma Bissell (Bristol City)

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), Tobin Heath (Portland Heath), Christen Press (Utah Royals), Alessia Russo (UNC)

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

Out: Aurora Mikalsen (Tottenham), Aimee Palmer (Bristol City), Lizzie Arnot (Glasgow Rangers), Siobhan Chamberlain (retirement), Mollie Green (Birmingham City), Fran Bentley (Blackburn—loan)

Transfer latest

Reading



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

Woodham (end of loan – Charlton), Deanna Cooper (Chelsea), Erin Nayler (Bordeaux), Jess Fishlock (OL Reign—loan), Jeon Ga-Eul (Bristol City)

Extended contracts: Natasha Harding, Lily Woodham, Kiera 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), Mia Cruickshank (West Ham)

Tottenham



In: Megan Wynne (end of loan – Bristol), Kerys Harrop (Birmingham), Rachel Williams (Birmingham), Aurora Mikalsen (Man United), Alanna Kennedy (Orlando Pride – loan), Shelina Zadorsky

(Orlando Pride – loan), Alex Morgan (Orlando Pride)

Extended contracts: Rianna Dean, Anna Filbey, Ashley Neville, Rebecca Spencer, 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 Svitekova (Slavia Praha), Hawa

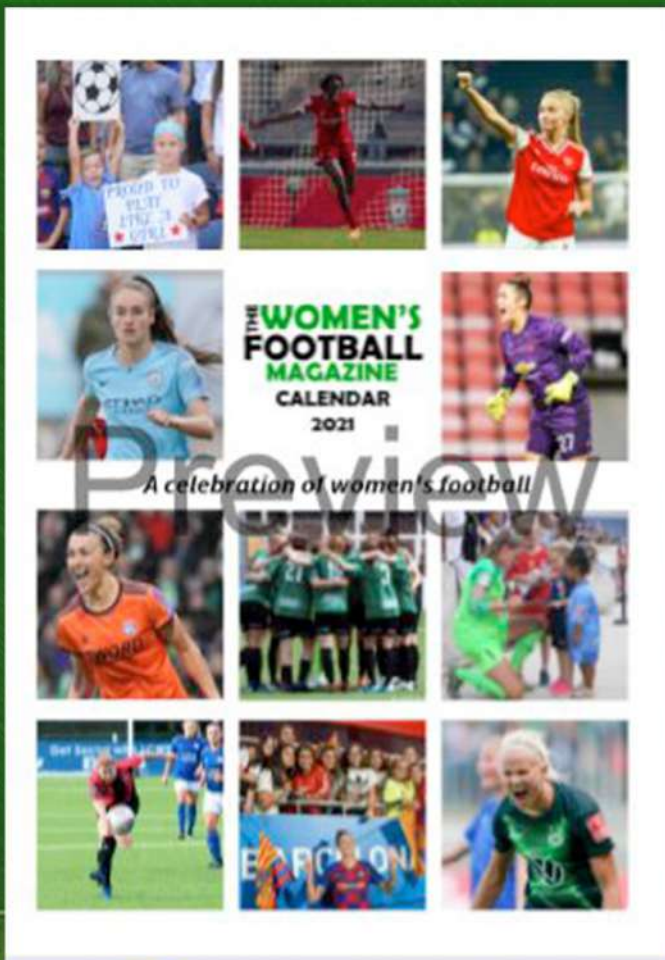
Cissokho (Soyaux), Nor Mustafa (Eskiltuna), Ruby Grant (Arsenal), Emily Van Egmond (Orlando Pride—loan), Mia Cruickshank (Reading), Rachel Daly (Houston Dash—loan)

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 Smith (London Bees), Julia Simic (AC Milan), Filippa Wallen (Apollon Limassol), Jacyntha Galabadaarachchi (Napoli)

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

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CHAMPIONSHIP



Sheffield United announce new partner



OFFICIAL WOMEN'S **SLEEVE SPONSOR**

Sheffield United have announced that Document Network Services (DNS) will be a new partner for the 2020/21 season.

DNS will adorn the sleeve of the Blades first team shirts.

Martin Lenton, Document Network Services' director, commented: "We are very happy to be a partner of Sheffield United Women for the upcoming season.

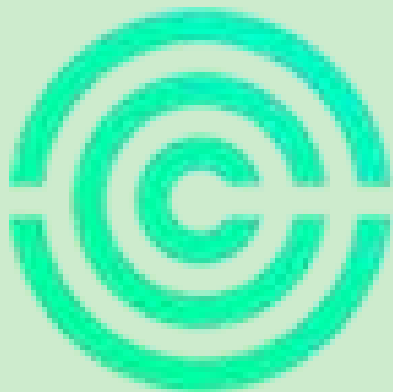
"Our aims as a business align perfectly with their supporter base and we look forward to building a mutually beneficial partnership over the next year.

"We are very much behind Neil Redfearn and the team as they hunt for promotion."

Zoe Johnson, SUFC Women's general manager, added: "We are delighted to add Document Network Services as a partner, and look forward to helping them grow their brand in the area over the coming season."

DNS are an independent supplier of managed services, specialising in managed print services, IT support, telephony and communications. They hold the designation as the clubs official managed services partner.

Their full offerings can be found here: www.dnslimited.co.uk



The FA Women's Championship

October fixtures

Sunday, October 4

Charlton Athletic vs Sheffield United (14:00)

Coventry United vs Liverpool (14:00)

Leicester City vs Durham (14:00)

London Bees vs Crystal Palace (14:00)

London City Lionesses vs Lewes Women (14:00)

Free Week: Blackburn

Sunday, October 11

Durham Women vs Crystal Palace (12:00)

Lewes vs Blackburn

Coventry United vs Sheffield United (14:00)

Leicester City vs Liverpool (14:00)

London City Lionesses vs London Bees (14:00)

Free Week: Charlton Athletic

Sunday, October 18

London Bees vs Durham (12:00)

Sheffield United vs Lewes (13:00)

Blackburn vs London City Lionesses (14:00)

Charlton Athletic vs Coventry United (14:00)

Crystal Palace vs Leicester City (14:00)

Free Week: Liverpool



Durham Women move to new ground



Durham Women have moved to a new ground for the 2020/21 season.

The Wildcats will now be based at Maiden Castle, Durham University Sport and Wellbeing Centre.

The club say the new venue will “enable the club to continue to provide the best match day possible for our supporters.”

The new home ground includes:

- A newly-built, 300-seat, fully covered stand
- Newly-installed, top of the range floodlights
- A vast amount of free car parking on site
- Improved public transport links and pedestrian access

- Enhanced media and press facilities, which will enable the live-streaming and broadcast of games
- A high-quality artificial pitch and new changing facilities

Manager Lee Sanders said: “Firstly, we would like to sincerely thank Austin Carney – the owner of New Ferens Park – for the warm welcome always shown to Dawn, the Players, match day staff and myself, and for his desire to work with the club.

“It’s a relationship we will strive to continue in the future within the wider club.

“However, there has been a plan to develop the Maiden Castle site at the university for a while and with the new changing facilities in place and the protocols surrounding COVID-19 it was felt by all parties – the FA,

the club and Durham University – that now was the time to move to ensure maximum risk mitigation for players, officials and fans on match days.

“The backdrop to the new ground is wonderfully picturesque, it’s in the heart of Durham and when completed in full will be somewhere I’m certain our fans will enjoy visiting.

“As we already train out of the state-of-the-art facilities, I know first hand the players are getting the best out there to support them and this is the next step in that support that the university is delivering – the investment has been significant as everyone will see.

“Fans will still see all the familiar faces and receive that warm welcome they’ve always had at New Ferens Park, and on behalf of

all the staff and players we can’t wait to see the supporters at the new ground soon.”

Durham University’s Head of Sport and Physical Activity Mark Brian added: “We are really excited to be able to welcome Durham Women FC to the Sports and Wellbeing Park.

“It is great that the partnership between the university and the club can become ever closer and hosting the team at our new £32m facility will ensure that we continue the support of players through access to our world class support structures.

“We are hoping that by having the team play out of the Park we will begin to generate a student following as well as continue to generate and build upon the already fantastic local support.”



Emile Heskey becomes Leicester City Ambassador



Leicester City have announced that former England player Emile Heskey has joined the club in an ambassadorial role that will see him support the women's game.

The former Foxes player, who came through the academy, will help the side with the transition to becoming a full-time professional team.

The appointment comes after King Power International underlined its commitment to the long-term development of women's football in Leicestershire with the acquisition of LCWFC – a move that marked the 10-year anniversary of King Power's Leicester City takeover.

As a Leicester City Academy graduate, Emile will also use his experience to support Russ Fraser, the Club's Head of Women's Football, to develop the women's academy setup and player pathway as part of a long-term strategy to improve opportunities for young female players in the region.

Heskey said: "I'm absolutely delighted to be back working for Leicester City.

"Everybody knows how I feel about this Football Club and to be able to have the opportunity to work on such an exciting project from its inception is fantastic.

"I'm looking forward to getting started with some great people and I hope that my experience, input and ideas can help LCFC Women transition to the next level."

LCFC Women General Manager Jade Morgan added: "There is nobody better than Emile to act as a mentor for our players with his wealth of experience at the very highest level and we're incredibly grateful to be able to call upon him.

"As well as the support he can offer to our players, having somebody of Emile's standing involved in such an influential way can only bring positive things to both LCFC Women and the wider women's game in this country."

Palace goalkeeper Morgan joins the Women in Football board

WOMEN IN FOOTBALL

Crystal Palace Women's goalkeeper Chloe Morgan has joined the Women in Football board.

Women in Football have also announced two significant additions to the board with Kelly Simmons MBE and Paul Barber joining as Directors.

Both Kelly, Women's Professional Game Director at The FA, and Paul, Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman at Brighton & Hove Albion FC, boast outstanding football CVs.

Chloe Morgan, lawyer and goalkeeper for Crystal Palace, and Jade Morgan, General Manager at Leicester City Football Club – Women, are also joining the board as joint recipients of the Vikki Orvice Director Development Scheme, set up in memory of Women in Football founder member Vikki, who was a trailblazer for women working in the game.

Ebru Köksal, chair of Women in Football, said: "I am thrilled to welcome Kelly and Paul

to the Women in Football Board. They will both bring their own tremendous scope of experience and expertise and will help us drive forward and execute our vision.

"As an organisation Women in Football is more relevant today than ever. Our membership has grown to a record high 4,150 and we are offering more opportunities in spite of the challenges of COVID-19.

"Our focus remains on supporting our members, while creating a pathway of opportunities for those who strive to flourish in football. As an organisation we want to keep moving, keep developing and keep on the front foot. The addition of Kelly and Paul will enhance those key objectives. We very much look forward to working with them both."

Both Kelly and Paul are looking forward to taking their place on the board.

Kelly said: "I am a great admirer of the work of Women in Football in promoting,

developing and championing women in the industry. I'm really thrilled to be joining the board and supporting the cause in any way I can."

Paul added: "I am delighted to be invited to join the board of Women in Football. I have seen first hand the work they do to promote women across all levels and different professionals within professional and grass roots football.

"My main motivation for accepting the appointment was helping to increase the profile of women's game in general, and women working in all areas of the game.

"This supports Brighton & Hove Albion's equality policy, and our aims and objectives in this area. On a personal note, I have two daughters working in professional football, with aspirations to build their own careers in our industry."

Speaking about Chloe and Jade, who will take

up their role on the Vikki Orvice Memorial Directorship Scheme, Women in Football CEO Jane Purdon added, "Such was the high quality of applicants we are delighted to offer both Chloe and Jade the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to seek a board position by working closely with our board for one year.

"We would like to place on record our thanks to Poonam Majithia, the inaugural recipient of the Directorship Scheme. Poonam's input was as valuable for us as we hope the learning experience was for her."

All four new board members will join our current directors, Prof. Sue Bridgewater, Ben Carter, Monique Choudhury, Liz Ellen, Hala Ousta, Lungi Macebo, Lisa Parfitt, Jo Tongue, and Chair, Ebru Köksal, with immediate effect.





Transfer latest

Blackburn Rovers



In: Emma Bradley (Manchester City), Charlotte Newsham (Huddersfield Town), Alex Brooks

(Birmingham), Emma Doyle (Everton), Issy Dean (Everton), Meg Boydell (Liverpool), Leah Embley (Fylde), Fran Bentley (Manchester United—loan), Jade Richards (Aston Villa), Elise Hughes (Everton—loan)

Extended

contracts: Saffron Jordan, Ellie Stewart, Natasha Fenton, Kayleigh McDonalds, Chelsey Jukes, Lauren Thomas, Ellie Fletcher, Ria Montgomery, Georgia Walters, Millie Robertson, Hope Knight

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

Charlton Athletic



In: Ella Powell (Lewes), Jess King (Lewes), Beth Lumsden (Enfield Town), Eartha Cumings

(Bristol City), Shauna Vassell (Arsenal), Ella Rutherford (Bristol City), Bethan Roe (Charlton—loan)

Extended contracts: Grace Coombs, Lilli Mapple, Alice Griffiths, Rachel Newborough, Charley Clifford, Ellie Dorey, Jenna Legg, Ciara Watling, Jamie Gotch, Rea Laudat

Out: Charlie Estcourt (end of loan – Reading), Lily Woodham (end of loan – Reading), Katie Startup (Brighton), Riva Casley, Lise Janbu Eide (AAfK Fortuna), Sara Eggsvik, Georgia Evans (Yeovil), Pernille Gardien, Maddie Phillips

Coventry United



In: Georgia Popple (Leicester), Olivia Clark (Huddersfield), Alice Hassall (Aston Villa), Phoebe Warner (Aston Villa), Ashlee Brown (Aston Villa)

Extended contracts: Katy Morris, Helen Dermody, Amber Hughes, Shannon O'Brien, Susan Wood, Nikki Miles, Jenna Roberts, Holly Chandler, Alanah Mann, Jodie Whiteman, Maz Gauntlett, Rebecca Anderson, Chelsea Weston, Amy Wathan

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

Transfer latest

Crystal Palace



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

Jade Haines

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, Charlie Goad (Kent football United – loan)

Durham



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

Extended contract:

Emily Roberts, Nicki Gears, Sarah Wilson, Rebecca Salicki, Beth Hepple, Ellie Christon, Kathryn Hill, Sarah Robson, Megan Borthwick, Iris Achterhof, Abbie Holmes, Molly Sharpe

Out: Eleanor Dale, Danielle Cox

Leicester City



In: Kirstie Levell (Everton), Sophie Howard (Reading), Samantha Tierney (Sheffield), Esmee de

Graff (West Ham), Remi Allen (Reading), Sophie Barker (Sheffield), Ruesha Littlejohn (West Ham), Millie Farrow (Reading), Natasha Flint (Blackburn), Hannah Cain (Everton), Olivia Fergusson (Sheffield)

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

Lewes



In: Laura Hartley, (Brighton), Ellie Hack (Brighton), Georgia Timms (Oxford),

Hannah Griffin, Sarah Kempson (Portsmouth), Simran Jahmat (Coventry), Tatiana Saunders (Thonon-Evian G)

Extended contracts: Fillipa Savva, Charley Boswell, Paula Howells, Samantha Quayle, Rhian Cleverly, Katie Rood, Emma Jones, Emily Donovan, Sophie O'Rourke, Danielle Lane,

Transfer latest

Ellie Leek, Ellie Noble

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

Liverpool

In: Missy Bo Kearns (end of loan – Blackburn Rovers), Rachel Laws (Reading), Taylor Hinds (Everton), Amalie Thestrup (AS Roma), Meikeyla Moore (MSV Duisburg)



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



In: Sophie McLean (Tottenham), Charlie Estcourt (Reading), Marianne Taho (Arsenal)

Extended contracts: Sarah Quantrill, Megan Alexander, Hayley West,

Georgia Roberts, Lauren Pickett, Billie Brooks, Bonnie Horwood, Brooke Nunn, Courtney Ward-Chambers, Georgina Giddings, Nicola Gibson, Mathilda Finburgh, Mollie Dench, Florence Gamby, Amelia Hazard, Merrick Will, Faye Hazelton, Evie Gane, Millie Constantine, Nikita

Whinnett

Out: Eloise Wilson (Sheffield United), Taylor O'Leary, Connie Forman, Mollie Dench (QPR—loan)

London City Lionesses

In: Allison Murphy (UMF Selfoss), Shae Yanez (Santa Teresa), Lilly Pursey (Chelsea), Hailey Nolan, Atlanta Primus (California State Uni)



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

Sheffield United

In: Mel Johnson (Aston Villa), Eloise Wilson (London Bees), Sophie Walton (Nottingham Forest), Nathalie Johnson (Leicester City), Fran Kitching (Liverpool), Hannah Coan (Everton—loan), Olivia Chance (Bristol City)



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, Charley Docherty, Ali Johnson

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 (Leicester)

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE



HASHTAG HAPPY:

Stef Paci On Joining The Hashtag Revolution

Back in April, YouTube superstar Spencer Owen officially announced the expansion of his one-of-a-kind football club as Hashtag United FC completed the merger with women's side AFC Basildon to form Hashtag United Women ahead of the 2020/21 season. It is undoubtedly one of the most exciting developments to ever race the fourth tier.

As the Park Lane club prepares to open its Women's National League Division One South East campaign on September 20th, exactly five months after the big announcement, manager Jason Stephens will be ecstatic with his summer recruitment following the arrival of several players who were previously on the books of clubs in the Women's Championship. One such starlet is deep-lying midfielder, Stef Paci.

The beaming 22-year-old, who signed from Crystal Palace's Development A side, is joined

at the new look Tags team by Ella Hill, Katie Pounder, and Evie Clarke to complete a formidable foursome of fresh faces.

While she was inundated with several offers following an extremely impressive 2019/20 season, the Italian midfielder is thrilled to be at the Essex club, where she felt an immediate connection following the early summer advancements.

Paci explains: "I think Hashtag United stood out as the best option for me because, after the first few sessions with Jason and the rest of the coaching team, I felt that it was the place I felt could develop me as a player.

"Playing in the National League was always the aim for me this season. I have played for some

big names, but now I really want to develop my game and confidence on the pitch. I feel that I can do that within this league. It will be a good challenge for me, so I'm looking forward to the season ahead."

The summer signing's buoyant mood is justified. Through a combination of inheriting the most successful women's club in Essex and Hashtag's unique presence, particularly in the digital arena, the newest members of the Tags family already find themselves hotly tipped to challenge the likes of Ipswich Town, AFC Wimbledon, and local rivals Billericay Town for the Women's National League Division One South East crown over the coming months.

Paci, whose ability to dictate the play from a central role is certain to provide ample ammunition for the likes of the division's 2019/20 Golden Boot winner Kelly Weathall and the imperious Holly Turner, is optimistic about the chances of individual and collective triumphs. Nonetheless, she is equally determined to put in the graft needed to build on her

“ I felt it was the place I could develop as a player ”

progress from last term and repay the faith shown in her as soon as the big kick-off arrives.

She says: “It [her signing] was announced fairly quickly. I think the club felt that I could fit in well with their philosophy and the way they like to play - now I just need to show it.

“After not playing for three years whilst at university, I had a great season with Crystal Palace. To come back into football and be playing for a club like Crystal Palace was a great feeling, everyone at the club made me feel so welcome. Then, to be given the captain's armband felt amazing.”

Of course, as new players up and down the country have experienced this summer, the impacts of COVID-19 have posed some obstacles both on the training pitch and in regards to integration. Despite the modified training routines and weeks of ambiguity surrounding the new season's start date, Paci is pleased with how quickly she has acclimatised, explaining: “The girls have been really welcoming, and I feel like I'm starting to settle really well now.

“It was strange at first, as our training consisted of just technical sessions, which I actually enjoyed as I feel that my technical ability is a big part of my game. Then, once we were given the all clear for contact sport again, we were able to start knuckling down to



prepare for our pre-season fixtures.

“The set up at Hashtag United has really impressed me so far. The coaches and players maintain a professional attitude to everything we do. The coaching team all know their stuff, and I’m glad to be a part of a team that work hard for each other.”

A robust work ethic is an attribute that has been ingrained in the side's DNA both on and off the pitch since long before this unprecedented pre-season. It is a club that had flirted with folding at several stages in recent years under its previous guises due to a lack of funding, and had to show its resilience on more than one occasion just to stay afloat.

The start of a new era brings a level of financial stability that finally allows the squad to concentrate solely on enjoying the ride rather than being trapped by the unrelenting fear that it could come to a crashing end at any stage.

Behind the scenes, the whirlwind transformation has turned the club on its head. While Paci herself was not around for those extended periods of uncertainty, she certainly appreciates the unique opportunity that Hashtag United's draw brings and is eager to capitalise by proving her worth both on and off the pitch.

The talented midfielder elaborates: “I have known about Hashtag and the club for quite some time now. I first started watching when they had their first academy series, so to now be a part of the journey is incredible! When they announced they were forming the women’s team, and I received the email from Jason, I was buzzing to be a part of the Hashtag family.

“The cameras are a new environment for me and all the girls, but we’re starting to get used to seeing LP, Stampy and Neil [Hashtag United's media team] at sessions now. It’s one of those things you have to embrace and get stuck into. So, that’s what I’m doing; I like to get involved with as much as I can as it’s a great opportunity for us.”

Thanks to the monumental success of the Hashtag United story, which is currently followed by almost half a million subscribers on its globally recognised YouTube channel, the women's team's popularity has exploded. Its social media followings swelled from a few hundred to over 10,000 within 48 hours of the merger being announced while over 100,000 tuned into the club's video announcement.

The almost overnight transformation has catapulted them into the digital spotlight, giving them a presence that (on some fronts) competes with the visibility of some WSL sides.

Furthermore, the almost unrivalled 'access all areas' documentation of the club's every move is sure to capture the imagination of women's football fans throughout Essex and beyond.

Whilst the bright lights of digital notoriety are a flattering feature of Hashtag's quirk, as well as one that helps stabilise and guarantee the future of the women's team, Paci and her now teammates are aware that any triumphs off the pitch will only occur as an upshot of success on it. There's every reason for their legion of new fans to feel buoyant about those prospects.

After all, as AFC Basildon, the Essex side were unbeaten in the calendar year prior to the enforced expungement as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, sitting third in the table at the point of the anticlimactic climax following a run of seven league wins that had produced 32 goals.

Their growing swagger had additionally culminated in progress to the Essex Women's Cup final, which was subsequently scrapped following the season's abrupt end. Paci acknowledges that this rich form, along with the weight of carrying the Hashtag brand, will bring heightened expectation. Nevertheless, she remains confident in her new team's credentials to mount a serious challenge for promotion to the Women's

National League South.

The former Palace midfielder, who previously spent several years at West Ham United's academy before university, explains: "After seeing how well the girls did as AFC Basildon last season before the league finished, I believe that we can do the same again. We have added some quality players to our squad now, so that can only make us stronger. We will try our very best to make sure the games are a good watch too.

"I think there will be added pressure for us. However, as Jason says, we just have to play our game and show them what we can do. We have a very talented side and we're working hard. Hopefully that will be reflected in our results!"

While those inside the club have the crosshairs targeted on

fighting for a league title, there is no escaping the fact that the journey has already captured the imagination throughout the lower leagues and beyond. In addition to gaining an army of social media fans, the team has gained national press coverage along with public support from a string of famous faces from both the men's and women's game.

It's a situation that would have seemed unfathomable at the start of 2020. Paci, who is used to looking at the long road ahead after completing the London Marathon in 2019, is enthused by the club's chance to pave the way for even more girls to join the 3.5 million females currently playing the game, both locally and further afield. She says: "I think with the exposure we have, we're in a great position to promote women's football.

"I hope that we can get lots of people through the doors to come and support us and hope that we can also support the younger generation of female footballers. The club has a youth set up with girls' teams involved too, which is fantastic."

The Hashtag United Women's project offers a highly attractive proposition right now, and it's one that Paci is fully appreciative of as she embarks on the next chapter of her career. With eager eyes in anticipation for the fascinating season that lies ahead, she concludes: "If you're a football fan, you definitely need to follow our story!"

You can follow that story by checking out [HashtagWomensFootball.com](https://www.hashtagwomensfootball.com).



Getting to know: Hashtag United



- Originally launched in 2002 as Basildon Ladies before subsequently becoming C&K Basildon, and then AFC Basildon in 2019/20.
- Have won five Essex Women's Cups, alongside multiple league titles.
- Rebranded as Hashtag United Women in April 2020, and will continue to play in the fourth tier in the 2020/21 season.
- Their home ground is Park Lane, Canvey Island, which is also the home of Canvey Island FC men's side.
- They boast two of their division's top five goalscorers for 2019/20 in Kelly Wealthall and Holly Turner.
- Have had several players that have gone onto play at a higher level on their books, including Tottenham Hotspur's Angela Addison.
- Boast former Manchester United and England #1 Siobhan Chamberlain as a club ambassador.

Prem North Round up



By Emily Cassidy

With COVID-19 Restrictions loosening, this meant that the FA WNL Northern Premier could finally return. All statistics such as goals and assists were wiped from last season due to the 19/20 season ending early with no way of finishing it. With an official start date of 20th September given, all 12 Northern Premier Division teams finally had something to look forward to.

The opening fixtures saw lots of goals and a lot of draws. The biggest shock was 19-20 league leaders Sunderland losing 2-1 away to Burnley. New Signings Katie Thomas and Sarah Agger both got on the score sheet to secure the win for the Lady Clarets. The first draw of the week saw Huddersfield Town draw 3-3 to Fylde at home. With new signing Fay McCoy getting a brace and a MoM performance, but it wasn't enough to take all three points back to western Lancashire. A

positive for Huddersfield was 3 goals by three different players.

Another 3-3 draw occurred when West Bromwich Albion played Nottingham Forest in a 2-2 draw which saw 4 different players get on the goal sheet, including unlikely goal scorer Georgia Hewitt for Forest. Hewitt gave them the lead early doors in the 2nd half. Pressure from Albion seemed to be too much for Forest when Leigh Dugmore converted from the penalty spot in the 82nd minute to share the points.

Returning to Billingham Town with great excitement saw Middlesbrough Women host 19-20 league strugglers Hull. Another two teams sharing the points, which seemed to be not likely throughout as Middlesbrough dominated the game but could not convert their chances. Against the run of play, Hull took the lead from a dubious goal from Tanser, that seemed to be a push on the

keeper but was not given. Olivia Dixon got off the mark with a tidy finish in the 67th minute for Boro to share the points.

In the final fixture of the opening weekend, Stoke took all three points from Sheffield FC in a 1-0 win at home. With Nicole Kemp sent off for the away side, they seemed to have a mountain to now climb, to try and take something from the game being one nil down already. Stoke held out comfortably to take all three points.

The second week of the WNL Northern Premier, once again brought a boat load of goals and some unexpected results. Burnley took the top spot with a 2-1 victory over Huddersfield Town, making it 2 wins out of 2.

With what looked a comfortable 3-0 win on paper, Fylde took all 3 points from opposition Middlesbrough. With a very even first half, Boro went on to dominate the 2nd half but could just not finish their chances like Fylde did.

In an unlikely win, Hull beat Sunderland 2-1 at home, a Kiera Ramshaw penalty wasn't enough to get any points from this fixture for the Lady Black Cats. Sunderland controlled the game, although a brilliant defensive performance from Hull soaked up all the pressure from the opposition side to seal their win.

The points were shared between Loughborough Foxes and Stoke City in a 2-2 draw. Rebecca Knight gave The Foxes the lead in the 18th minute, taking them 1-0 up. Stoke grabbed an equaliser in the 29th minute thanks to their MoM Amy Hughes. Stoke then took the lead in the 2nd half thanks to Meesha Dudley-Jones, but Loughborough never seemed to give up, and their pressure paid off when Laura Steele grabbed a late equaliser.

In a derby game, Nottingham Forest hosted rivals Derby County at home, with a 2-0 win to take not just the 3 points, but the bragging rights that go with it. Forest set the standards and drive to get 3 points with an early goal by Charlotte Steggles in the 6th minute. Forest added another in the 77th minute thanks to Rosie Axten to kill the game off.

In the game with the most goals, West Bromwich Albion hit five against current bottom of the pile Sheffield FC. Jade Arber grabbed a brace, and a goal each from Leigh Dugmore, Natalie Murray and Shannon Stamp sealed a comfortable day at the office for WBA.

Future September fixtures include midweek games, including Sunderland Hosting Middlesbrough at the Stadium of Light.



Match of the Month:

Crawley Wasps 0-1 MK Dons



Picture: Ben Davidson Photography –
www.bendavidsonphotography.com

Crawley Wasps suffered only their third league defeat in 54 matches after a 1-0 loss to MK Dons on Sunday (September 27).

Mollie Coupar scored the only goal of the game for the Dons in the second half of Wasps' first fixture at Horley Town's New Defence ground.

Wasps boss Dave Cole made three changes to the side that beat Hounslow 5-0 on opening day. New signings Holly Talbut-Smith and Immy Lancaster made their first starts, while former Wales international Emma Plewa also came in.

Plewa was later named Wasps' player of the match by the club's travel wear sponsors, Crawley Carpet Warehouse.

Wasps started brightly, Talbut-Smith testing Dons keeper Chloe Sansom after two minutes. At the other end, Wasps keeper Megen Lynch

comfortably grasped Rhianne Rush's long-range effort.

Crawley's newcomers linked up well when Lancaster flicked through a pass to Talbut-Smith, who beat Sansom to the ball but sent her shot just wide of the right-hand post.

Plewa rifled a shot from the left-hand side at a tight angle, which skimmed the crossbar. Just before the break, Talbut-Smith had the ball in the back of the net but the goal was chalked off for offside.

Wasps also looked sharp after the restart and chances from Plewa, Lancaster, Rachel Palmer and skipper Naomi Cole all fell just shy of the target.

But it was Milton Keynes who broke the deadlock with 13 minutes to play, Coupar latching onto the ball after a defensive mix-up and fired home.

Crawley Wasps agree deal to play at Horley Town



Crawley Wasps will play their first-team home games at Horley Town this season.

The deal begins this Sunday (September 27) when MK Dons visit The New Defence (kick off 2pm).

Wasps host title rivals Watford on October 11, with the likes of Portsmouth, Cardiff, Plymouth, Oxford, Gillingham and Yeovil all to visit Horley later in the season.

Wasps chairman Jack Ayles said: "I'm delighted we've got an agreement in place with Horley, a club very local to Crawley, with a fantastic pitch and facilities.

"I'd like to thank everyone at East Grinstead Town, where we played last season, for the support we received.

"The talks between ourselves and Horley have been very positive and we're all excited for the season ahead at The New Defence, starting with the visit of MK Dons this weekend."

Horley Town chairman Mark Sale added:

"Crawley Wasps have created a buzz locally with their performances over the last couple of seasons.

"We're thrilled that they will be bringing the third tier of women's football to Horley, and I know our club and our town will get behind them.

"Jack and his board and Dave Cole and his players have been very complimentary about what we have to offer, and we're looking forward to seeing them in action."

The New Defence, off Court Lodge Road in Horley, opened in 2003 and has a capacity of 1,800. The club play in the men's Southern Combination League.

Wasps – who have played at Oakwood and Three Bridges in recent years – won back-to-back promotions in 2018 and 2019, and now play in the FA Women's National League, two divisions below the Women's Super League. They were top when the 2019-20 season was voided.

FANWNL 2020/21

September Tables

Northern Premier Division

| | P | W | D | L | GD | Pts |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| 1 West Bromwich Albion | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 7 |
| 2 Nottingham Forest | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 7 |
| 3 Fylde | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 7 |
| 4 Burnley | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 5 Derby County | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| 6 Huddersfield Town | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| 7 Hull City | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| 8 Stoke City | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | -1 | 4 |
| 9 Sunderland | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | -1 | 3 |
| 10 Loughborough Foxes | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | -3 | 2 |
| 11 Middlesbrough | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | -4 | 1 |
| 12 Sheffield FC | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | -9 | 0 |

Southern Premier Division

| | P | W | D | L | GD | Pts |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| 1 Watford | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 9 |
| 2 Crawley Wasps | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 3 Oxford United | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 4 Yeovil United | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 5 Portsmouth | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| 6 Cardiff City | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 |
| 7 Keynsham Town | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 8 Gillingham | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 9 Chichester & Selsey | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 10 Milton Keynes Dons | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | -4 | 3 |
| 11 Plymouth Argyle | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | -11 | 0 |
| 12 Hounslow | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | -15 | 0 |



TheFA Women's
National League

FANWNL 2020/21

September Tables

Division One North

| | P | W | D | L | GD | Pts |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| 1 Chester le Street Town | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 |
| 2 Brighouse Town | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 Norton & Stockton Ancients | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| 4 Barnsley | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 Liverpool Feds | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 6 Chorley | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 Stockport County | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 8 Durham Cestria | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 9 Leeds United | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 10 Newcastle United | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0 |
| 11 Bradford City | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0 |
| 12 Bolton | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | -5 | 0 |

Division One Midlands

| | P | W | D | L | GD | Pts |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| 1 Wolverhampton Wanderers | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 9 |
| 2 Lincoln City | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 7 |
| 3 Solihull Moors | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 4 Sporing Khalsa | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | -1 | 6 |
| 5 Long Eaton United | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 Doncaster Rovers Belles | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | -2 | 4 |
| 7 Wem Town | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 8 Holwell Sports | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | -5 | 3 |
| 9 Boldmere St Michaels | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 Bedworth United | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | -4 | 0 |
| 11 Leafield Athletic | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | -9 | 0 |
| 12 Burton Albion | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | -12 | 0 |



TheFA Women's
National League

FANWNL 2020/21

September Tables

Division One South East

| | P | W | D | L | GD | Pts |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| 1 AFC Wimbledon | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 7 |
| 2 Actonians | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 3 Enfield Town | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 4 Ipswich Town | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| 5 Hashtag United | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 Cambridge United | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 7 Billericay Town | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 8 Norwich City | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -1 | 3 |
| 9 Kent Football United | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | -1 | 2 |
| 10 Leyton Orient | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | -2 | 1 |
| 11 Cambridge City | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | -6 | 1 |
| 12 Stevenage | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | -13 | 0 |

Division One South West

| | P | W | D | L | GD | Pts |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| 1 Southampton FC | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 9 |
| 2 Exeter City | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| 3 Swindon Town | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 4 Chesham United | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 Larkhall Athletic | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| 6 Cheltenham Town | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 7 Buckland Athletic | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | -7 | 3 |
| 8 Maidenhead United | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | -1 | 1 |
| 9 Brislington | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | -3 | 0 |
| 10 Poole Town | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | -6 | 0 |
| 11 Southampton Women's | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | -8 | 0 |



TheFA Women's
National League

GRASSROOTS



Millwall Lionesses announce partnership with 'be my eyes'



be my eyes

Millwall Lionesses have announced a new partnership with visual assistance app, Be My Eyes. Be My Eyes is a fantastic free app that connects blind and low-vision people with volunteers who assist with any of their needs through a live video call, and the brand logo will feature on the Millwall Lionesses' shorts for the remainder of the 2020/21 campaign.

Since the app was launched in January 2015, Be My Eyes has had more than four million volunteers sign up to assist those with sight deficiencies and blindness, and has won awards such as "Most Innovative", "Best Daily Helper" and "Best Hidden Gem", and in May 2018 Be My Eyes won the Google Play Award 2018 for "Best Accessibility Award".

Speaking on the new partnership opportunity, Millwall Community Trust CEO, Sean Daly said, "Everybody knows just how important community is to everyone at Millwall, and when the chance came along to partner with such a creative company, there was only one answer. Be My Eyes is an amazing organisation who do so much for those who need assistance in everyday life, so we at Millwall Lionesses are proud to have their logo on our kits and help boost awareness."

Be My Eyes CCO, Alexander Hauerslev Jensen also shared his delight at the new

agreement with the club, "Millwall Lionesses are a football club who are rich in history in the women's game, but more importantly, their community values and determination to be role models for everyone to look up to makes them a fantastic partner. We work hard to be recognised as a company which puts helping people at the forefront of everything we do, so to have this agreement with an establishment who share a similar vision is something we are delighted to have in place. We wish the girls the very best for the rest of the season and it'll be great to see our brand logo at St Paul's Stadium!"

The Millwall Supporters' Club (MSC) have kindly donated to pay for the logo printing on this season's kits for Be My Eyes. MSC Chairperson, and proud Be My Eyes app volunteer, Kathryn Gale said, "Having helped several people through this app, I can't think why anyone wouldn't download it and be ready to help. By simply answering a phone call, you can make someone's life so much easier."

Be My Eyes is an app that can be downloaded from both the iOS App store and Google Play. For more information on Be My Eyes, make sure you visit: <https://www.bemyeyes.com/>

NEW PROUDCT LAUNCH: CALLING ALL FOOTBALL TEAMS!



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- **A team article in The Women's Football Magazine.**

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Simon Says

This month, I have interviewed Freya Louis - Head Coach of Football Fun Factory and Girls and Women's Development Manager.

Did you start playing football with friends and boys first or did you start in a girls' team?

I started playing football at the age of eight after watching my older sister play for a season before that. I used to have to attend her training and matches during the week, luckily her teammates had sisters who were a similar age, so we used to have a kick about on the sidelines. One of the parents decided to set up training sessions for us as we seemed eager to enter the world of football.

From that, our all-girls Saturday morning sessions were born, and we used to enter tournaments for matches. We didn't enter a league until (I believe) we were U10's and that's when we joined the Suffolk Girls and Women's County League. As many of my teammates were 'the younger sisters', our training fell on the same day and time, so we didn't have to be bored on the sidelines anymore! The team then grew as we invited our friends from school and we pretty much stuck together right up until U15's.

How did you progress through the age groups and did you choose a playing position or was it more of an evolving situation?

In youth football, positions are always an evolving situation. We used to take it in turns to play each position each week, even goalkeeper until one of the girls decided she wanted to stay in goal which I think quite a lot of us were glad about! It was always really important to our coach that we learnt the various roles, and that's something that's

stuck with me today when coaching our youths at my current club!

Of course, we had our favourite positions, but I don't think we started to focus on them properly until we were U12. I soon became a central midfielder and captain - due to my ability not to keep quiet I think! I stayed in this position right up until U15's, but occasionally had a shift on the right-wing as and when I was needed.

As well as playing you are now involved with the off-field work such as administration and more recently development. How did that come about?

I carried on playing up until U15, then with school, friends, and other hobbies, I decided to take a break from the sport. Can you believe I choose to carry on ballet and netball over football? I think I reached the age where I wasn't necessarily getting teased at school for being heavily involved in male-dominated sports, but I know a lot of the girls in my year group were more focused on makeup and girly things shall we say and I didn't want to be seen as the outsider!

Truth be told, I missed it heavily and when I turned 18, I decided to go back to my original club and join their women's team and carry on where I left off!

In 2018, I was then given the opportunity to be a part of setting up a new women's team at Needham Market FC. Originally the plan was to be a player/manager, but I got injured preseason which took me out for the entire campaign. From this, I threw myself into the management side and the passion for football off the pitch grew from there. If anything, it opened my eyes to the inequality female footballers can face, especially at grassroots

Simon Says

level. Being involved with such an inclusive and progressive club, I knew I had to use my platform to make a stand, set a standard and voice my concerns to help the wider female football community in Suffolk. Therefore, I started the Happy Gaffer blog.

It's been an incredible couple of years and the Happy Gaffer is not only a voice for Suffolk, but it's now a voice for grassroots female football across the UK.

Due to my passion and knowledge of the female game, I was then appointed the Girl's and Women's Development Manager for our Academy/Club.

Football has often been seen as a male dominated industry. How have you been received, and have you had to overcome barriers?

At the start, there were a few times where opposition managers on match days would ask where the manager is and my response would be 'right here'! Or they'd introduce themselves to my male counterparts for them to point at me and say, 'she's the manager'.

I'd also often get asked if I was just there as pitch side first aid. It never made me angry as I knew we're in the process of an evolving sport, perceptions are changing and thankfully, females in football is becoming the

norm.

There's still a long way to go, but positive changes are happening! It's like the saying 'Rome wasn't built in a day' and I think it's really important to remember this.

On the whole, my experience has always been really positive. I think that's because I surround myself with incredible support from our coaching staff at the club. I'm pretty thick-skinned so I don't take too much to heart so when there's the odd dinosaur giving me grief, I take great pride in showing them I mean business and that silly comments will never get in the way of what I love doing.

I think females often feel like they have to prove themselves within the game and go above and beyond to showcase their knowledge. I really hope this stops because it just creates unnecessary added pressure.

Putting all your energy into proving your worth to someone who disagrees with women in the sport is like trying to run up the escalator the wrong way. It's slow, tiresome, and when you do reach the top you actually wonder if it was worth it. The majority of the time, the answer is no. So remember to focus on what's important, those who support you, your team, self-development and happiness.

Simon Says

What area of women and girls' football would you want to see improved?

The girls and women's game still has a lot to improve on, but I think we're well on our way!

Something that's really important to me is seeing clubs treat their female provision as equal to the men. A club that fully supports their girls and women's teams will see positive results. It's all about giving females the same opportunities in regard to facilities, kits, officials, and most importantly giving them the same respect.

If someone wanted to get involved in football development

how would they best get involved and experience?

I would start by volunteering as a coach with your local club. You learn so much by being on the ground and surrounding yourself with the players and club officials.

From this learn what's going well and what could be improved - then offer additional support to the club in regard to developing their female programmes. This could include anything from coaching quality, player pathways, welfare and facilities, marketing, and commercial aspects. There are so many aspects of the game and it's important to include these in helping provisions develop.



CUPS



Holders Manchester City Face Everton as 2019/20 FA Cup Reaches Conclusion



By Jessica Chandok

Manchester City and Everton booked their places in the 2020 Vitality Women's FA Cup final at Wembley after the quarter-final and semi-final rounds of the competition were played over five days in late September. The original fixtures scheduled for March were postponed when the coronavirus pandemic locked down the country but the FA opted to resume last term's cup after the start of the new league campaign.

Quarter-Finals

The North London derby between Arsenal and Tottenham kicked off the restart and ended in a 4-0 victory for the hosts. Spurs held the competition's most successful side at bay for 73 minutes until a mistake from defender Ashleigh Neville gifted possession to Jordan Nobbs, who opened the scoring with a sublime lob. The floodgates soon opened and a late hat-trick from Lisa Evans sealed their place in the final four in style. Spurs' new marquee

signing, US striker Alex Morgan, was on the bench for the visitors but did not come on for her debut as she works to build up fitness after giving birth in May.

Manchester City joined Arsenal in the semi-finals with a narrow 1-2 victory over Championship side Leicester. The Foxes were the only remaining second-tier team in the last eight after they knocked out top-tier opposition in Reading in the previous round, way back in February. It wasn't to be this time around, as England winger Chloe Kelly scored a penalty and her first goal for the visitors before in-form Georgia Stanway doubled their lead with a fantastic finish. Charlie Devlin pulled a goal back from the spot in the second half but it wasn't enough for the valiant hosts to rally an equaliser.

The biggest upset of the round came at Goodison Park, where Everton came from behind to beat league champions Chelsea 2-1. It looked set to be a long day for the hosts as Scotland international Erin Cuthbert opened

the scoring for the favourites inside five minutes after a cut back from world record signing Pernille Harder. Harder, Fran Kirby and Sam Kerr all went close in the first half and were kept out only by the heroics of Toffees' goalkeeper Sandy MacIver.

Willie Kirk's side equalised before the break through Lucy Graham's brilliant diving header and improved significantly in the second half. As Chelsea's stars faded, Everton's pressure paid off and they took the lead in the 63rd minute through substitute Valerie Gauvin. The new French signing headed Hayley Raso's cross beyond Ann-Katrin Berger and ended Chelsea's hopes of a clean sweep of domestic trophies in 2020.

A dramatic afternoon of fixtures was rounded off with a penalty shootout between Brighton and Birmingham City. City opened the scoring early through Sarah Mayling before a Danielle Bowman spot-kick brought the Seagulls level. The visitors went ahead again with Mollie Green's second half penalty before Denise O'Sullivan's late header sent the tie to extra time. With neither side able to break the deadlock, City sealed the win 4-2 on penalties through Georgia Brougham's deciding spot-kick.

Semi-Finals

Birmingham City's FA Cup journey ended with a 3-0 semi-final defeat to Everton. The Toffees continued their fantastic form with a dominant performance that sent them through to the final for the first time since 2014. Moments before half-time, Everton opened the scoring in Solihull as Izzy Christiansen clipped a clever ball into Northern Ireland forward Simone Magill, which she controlled beautifully before smashing it past Hannah Hampton. Just as City were starting to get back into the game in the second half, Norway right-back Ingrid Moe Wold's perfect cross gave Nicoline Sørensen a simple tap in at the back post and her first goal for the club since signing from Danish side Brøndby. Super sub Valerie Gauvin was played through late on and sealed the victory with Everton's third.

Everton's opponents in the final on 1 November will be holders Manchester City as Gareth Taylor's side knocked out record 14-time winners Arsenal. City were the stronger side in the opening exchanges and controlled the game from midfield through summer signing Sam Mewis. Their dominance led to the first goal inside 20 minutes when captain Steph Houghton looped a free-kick into the top corner. Arsenal drew level through a screamer from Jordan Nobbs before half-time but Mewis restored City's lead within minutes. A determined Ellen White set the World Cup-winner up for her first goal in English football, which capped off a fine display by the American. Controversy over a hand-ball from White in the build-up weren't followed up on with the absence of VAR and City saw the game out well, defending resolutely against the threat of Vivianne Miedema and co.

City now join Everton in a battle to add to their previous two FA cup triumphs. Who will make it to three first? Find out at 14:30 GMT on 1 November, live on BBC One.





Getting to know: Everton



- Everton Women were formed in 1983 as Hoylake WFC
- They play their home games at Walton Hall Park (as of February)
- The team are two time winners of the Women's FA Cup—last winning in the 2009/10 season
- They have also been Women's FA Cup runners-up three times (1987-88, 2004-05, 2013-14)

Other Honours

- **FA WSL 2 Spring Series: Winners (1):** 2017
- **FA Women's Premier League National Division:**
Winners (1): 1997–98
Runners-up (5): 2005–06, 2006–07, 2007–08, 2008–09, 2009–10
- **FA Women's Premier League Cup:**
Winners (1): 2007–08
Runners-up (2): 1996–97, 1998–99
- **FA Women's Community Shield: Runners-up (2):** 2006–07, 2008–09
- **Liverpool County FA Cup: Winners (3):** 2006, 2007, 2008

Getting to know: Manchester City



- Manchester City Ladies were formed in November 1988
- The side, although associated with Manchester City FC throughout its history, was announced as an official part of the club on August 28, 2012
- The side are two time winners of the FA Cup—winning both finals they have reached (2016-17, 2018-19)

Other Honours

- **FA WSL 1:** 2016
- **FA Women's Premier League Northern Division:** 2011–12
- **Northern Combination Women's Football League:** 2000–01
- **North West Women's Regional Football League Premier Division:** 1999–2000
- **North West Women's Regional Football League Division Two:** 1997–98
- **FA WSL Continental Cup: (3):** 2014, 2016, 2018–19
- **North West Challenge Trophy:** 1999–2000
- **North West League Cup:** 1999–2000

Trebles

2000: North West Women's Regional League, North West Challenge Trophy and North West League Cup

Doubles

2016: League and League Cup

2019: FA Cup and League Cup

20/21 FA Cup Preliminary round results

Games to be played Sunday, September 20 (2pm KO)

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| Lumley | 0-1 | Spennymoor Town | SK Vipers | 0-8 | Warrington Wolves Fn |
| South Shields | 3-1 | Gateshead Rutherford | Crewe Alexandra | 14-1 | Accrington Stanley CT |
| Blyth Town | 7-1 | Guisborough Town | Leicester City | 7-1 | Oakham United |
| Washington | 0-7 | Alnwick Town | Woodlands | 0-2 | Oadby and Wigston |
| Sunderland West End | 7-0 | Carlisle United | St Joseph's Rockware of Worksop | 1-3 | Lincoln Moorlands Railway pens |
| Durham United | 3-4 | Workington Reds | Grimsby Town | 5-1 | Ollerton Town |
| CLS Amazons | 1-2 | Penrith | Cleethorpes Town | 1-2 | Dronfield Town |
| Hartlepool Pools Youth | 0-9 | Wallsend BC | Beaumont Park | 2-1 | Grimbsy Borough |
| Redcar Town | 6-1 | Bishop Auckland | Rise Park | WO | Allexton and New Parks |
| Thackley AFC | 3-4 | Ripon City pens | Belper Town | 0-3 | Sherwood |
| Hull United | 2-1 | Millmoor Juniors | Nottingham Trent University | 1-2 | Lincoln United |
| Bradford Park Avenue | 1-4 | Ossett United | Westfields | 1-2 | Worcester City |
| Sheffield Wednesday | 3-2 | Harworth Colliery | Stockingford AA Pavillion | 0-3 | Droitwich Spa |
| Farsley Celtic Juniors | 3-1 | Harrogate Town pens | AFC Telford | 2-3 | Knowle |
| Brighouse Sports | 6-1 | Appleby Frodingham | Cookley Sports | 2-1 | Sedgley and Gornal |
| York City | 4-0 | Rotherham United | Tamworth | 3-2 | Solihull Ladies United |
| Altofts | 3-4 | Wakefield Trinity | Hereford Pegasus | 0-7 | Coventry Sphinx |
| Curzon Ashton | 2-5 | Blackburn Community Sports | Kiddminster Harriers | 0-1 | Crusaders |
| Morecambe | 3-0 | Salford City Lionesses | Lye Town | 1-4 | Sutton Coldfield Town |
| Rylands | 0-14 | Fleetwood Town Wrens | Stourbridge | 8-1 | Wryley |
| AFC Darwen | 6-4 | Sir Tom Finney LFC | Shifnal Town | 3-5 | Redditch United pens |
| FC United of Manchester | 9-0 | Ashton Town Ladies | Desborough | 0-10 | Netherton United |
| Altrincham | 0-5 | Norwich Vixens | Peterborough United | 2-4 | Royston Town pens |
| Mossley Hill | 1-2 | Wythenshawe Amateurs | Waveney | 4-5 | Brett Vale pens |
| Merseyrail | 7-3 | Cheadle Town Stingers | AFC Sudbury | 3-1 | Needham Market |

20/21 FA Cup Preliminary round results

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Peterborough Northern Star | 13-1 | March Town | Steyping Town Community | 1-8 | Worthing |
| Histon | 2-4 | St Ives Town | Seaford Town | 1-2 | Badshot Lea |
| Bedford | 1-3 | Northampton Town | AFC Acorns | 4-5 pens | Lancing |
| King's Lynn Town | 3-7 | Wroxham | Chichester City | 0-3 | Eastbourne Town |
| Bungay Town | 0-5 | Newmarket Town | Woking | WO | Godalming Town |
| Bexhill United | 1-4 pens | Sutton United | Eastbourne United | 0-2 | Dorking Wanderers |
| Regents Park Rangers | 2-1 | Phoenix Sports | Walton Casuals | 3-5 | Saltdean United |
| Haringey Borough | | Fulham | Sherbourne Town | 3-0 | Redlands |
| Comets | 4-3 pens | Herne Bay | Alton Ladies | 2-5 | AFC Stoneham |
| Millwall Lionesses | 0-8 | New London Lionesses | Shanklin | 0-8 | Moneyfields |
| Islington Borough | 1-4 | Ashford | New Milton Town | 0-5 | Winchester City Flyers |
| Dartford | 8-0 | Ramsgate | United Services Portsmouth | 0-9 | AFC Bournemouth |
| Hackney | 2-6 | Dulwich Hamlet | Pen Mill | WO | Ilminster |
| Southend United Community | 3-1 pens | Houghton Athletic | Weston Super Mare | 2-3 | Portishead Town |
| Wodson Park | 1-2 | Watford | Middlezoy Rovers | 4-3 | Bishops Lydeard |
| Chelmsford City | 1-2 | Leigh Ramblers | Oldland Abbotonians | 2-0 | Almondsbury |
| Rayleigh Town | 1-9 | Luton Town | Chipping Sodbury Town | 2-4 | Bristol Rovers |
| Bowers and Pitsea | 5-0 | Garston Ladies | AEK-Boco | 4-3 | Paulton Rovers |
| Colney Heath | 3-4 | Harlow Town | Helston Athletic | 5-4 | Saltash United |
| Denham United | 5-3 pens | Queen's Park Rangers | Callington Town | 2-1 | Bideford |
| Ascot United | 6-0 | Swindon Supermarine | Torquay United | 4-0 | RNAS Culdrose |
| Brentford | 1-6 | Ashford Town (Middx) | AFC St Austell | 1-6 | Marine Academy Plymouth |
| Wycombe Wanderers | 2-1 | Eversley and California | Abingdon United | 6-0 | Newbury Ladies |
| Tilehurst Panthers | 7-1 | Slough Town | Woodley United | 5-3 | Milton United |

First round qualifying fixtures

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|----------------------|---------------------------|----|------------------------|
| Penrith AFC | vs | South Shields | Royston Town | vs | Brett Vale |
| FC United | vs | Wakefield Trinity | Peterborough Northern Str | vs | Southend United CS |
| Fleetwood Town Wrens | vs | AFC Darwen | Luton Town | vs | Wroxham |
| Brighouse Sports | vs | Blyth Town | AFC Sudbury | vs | Newmarket Town |
| Hull United | vs | Sunderland West End | Ascot United | vs | Denham United |
| Farsley Celtic Juniors | vs | Warrington Wolves Fn | Moneyfields | vs | AFC Bournemouth |
| Morecambe | vs | Workington Reds | Lancing | vs | Dulwich Hamlet |
| Blackburn Community | vs | Alnwick Town | Watford Ladies Dev | vs | Ashford |
| Wallsend Boys Club | vs | York City | Eastbourne Town | vs | Tilehurst Panthers |
| Spennymoor Town | vs | Wythenshawe Amateurs | Badshot Lea | vs | Saltdean United |
| Redcar Town | vs | Ossett United | Comets | vs | Wycombe Wanderers |
| Ripon City | vs | Merseyrail | Worthing | vs | Sutton United |
| Sutton Coldfield Town | vs | Lincoln United | Regents Park Rangers | vs | New London Lionesses |
| Lincoln Moorlands Railway | vs | Beaumont Park | Fulham | vs | Woodley United |
| Oadby & Wigston | vs | Rise Park | Callington Town | vs | Ilminster Town |
| Crusaders | vs | Cookley Sports | Bristol Rovers | vs | AEK Boko |
| Tamworth | vs | Dronfield Town | Torquay United | vs | Portishead Town |
| Leicester City | vs | Grimsby Town | Sherbourne Town | vs | Oldland Abbotonians |
| Sheffield Wednesday | vs | Northwich Vixens | Marine Academy Plymouth | vs | Helston Athletic |
| Crewe Alexandra | vs | Coventry Sphinx | Middlezoy Rovers | vs | AFC Stoneham |
| Knowle | vs | Stourbridge | Dartford | vs | Winchester City Flyers |
| Redditch United | vs | Sherwood | Bowers & Pitsea | vs | Harlow Town |
| Netherton United | vs | Leigh Ramblers | Dorking Wanderers | vs | Ashford Town (Middx) |
| Northampton Town | vs | St Ives Town | Worcester City | vs | Droitwich Spa |



THE WOMEN'S FA CUP ROUND DATES 2020/21

Extra Preliminary

Round: Sunday 6

September 2020

Preliminary Round:

Sunday 20 September 2020

First Round Qualifying:

Sunday 4 October 2020

Second Round

Qualifying:

Sunday 18 October 2020

Third Round Qualifying:

Sunday 1 November 2020

First Round Proper:

Sunday 15 November 2020

Second Round Proper:

Sunday 29 November 2020

Third Round Proper:

Sunday 10 January 2021

Fourth Round Proper:

Sunday 31 January 2021

Fifth Round Proper:

Sunday 28 February 2021

Quarter Final:

Sunday 21 March 2021

Semi Final:

Sunday 18 April 2021

Final:

Saturday 22 May 2021

Conti Cup round one fixtures



| Group A | | | Group D | | |
|--|----|-----------------------|---|----|-------------------|
| Aston Villa | vs | Sheffield United | Brighton & Hove Albion | vs | West Ham United |
| Wednesday, October 7, 19:30, Banks Stadium | | | Wednesday, October 7, 19:30, The People's Pension | | |
| Durham | vs | Coventry United | Reading | vs | Charlton Athletic |
| Wednesday, October 7, 19:30, Maiden Castle | | | Wednesday, October 7, 19:30, Madejski Stadium | | |
| Group B | | | Group E | | |
| Tottenham Hotspur | vs | London City Lionesses | Blackburn Rovers | vs | Birmingham City |
| Wednesday, October 7, 15:30, The Hive | | | Thursday, October 8, 19:45, Bamber Bridge | | |
| Chelsea | vs | Arsenal | | | |
| Wednesday, October 7, 19:00, Kingsmeadow | | | | | |
| Group C | | | Group F | | |
| Liverpool | vs | Manchester United | Bristol City | vs | London Bees |
| Wednesday, October 7, 14:00, Prenton Park | | | Wednesday, October 7, 19:30, Twerton Park | | |
| Manchester City | vs | Everton | Lewes | vs | Crystal Palace |
| Wednesday, October 7, 19:00, Academy Stadium | | | Wednesday, October 7, 19:45, The Dripping Pan | | |

HOME NATIONS



Lionesses compete against each other at England training camp



England Women's head coach Phil Neville named a 30-player squad for the Lionesses' September training camp at St. Georges Park.

The squad are starting preparations ahead of next year's Tokyo Olympics and are already looking ahead to the 2021 (in 2022) European Championships and the 2023 World Cup.

Neville, who remains in charge of the squad until Sarina Weigman joins as head coach next summer, chose a number of uncapped players to be included.

Among the players receiving their first senior call-ups were defenders Lotte Wubben-Moy, Millie Turner and Esme Morgan, midfielders Niamh Charles, Ella Toone and Katie Zelem, and forward Rinsola Babajide.

Due to quarantine restrictions in place for travel from certain countries, a small number of senior players, including Rachel Daly, were not included in the squad.

Speaking about the training camp, Neville said: "This is a critical moment in our development of England Women,

"Every camp from now on is aimed at building a team capable of competing for the highest honours in world football, including the prestigious home EURO in 2022 and, ultimately, the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023.

“It's important that we offer as many opportunities as possible for some of the country's best young talent to stake their claim for a place in the senior England squad for this exciting three-year period.

“All of the young talent who have been given their opportunity today are extremely deserving of their senior call-ups, having performed strongly at club level and through England's development teams. Now is their opportunity to prove themselves at senior international level and I'm excited to see the blend of youthful ambition and senior experience.

“Introducing greater competition for places and providing opportunities for young players to develop is absolutely key to taking England Women to the next level as we begin the long build towards the home EURO and FIFA Women's World Cup.”

11 v 11 results

Game One: Home 3-0 Away

Goals: White 17, 29; Toone 51

Home team: Maciver, Morgan, Stokes, Christiansen, Fisk, McManus, Mead, Nobbs, White, Kirby, Russo

Subs: Turner, Roebuck, Toone

Away team: Hampton, Charles, Greenwood, Walsh, Houghton, Bright, Daly, Scott, England, Stanway, Kelly

Subs: Wubben-Moy, Roebuck, Babajide

11 v 11 Game Two: Home 1-2 Away

Goals: (H) Kelly 31 ;(A) Morgan 50; Christiansen 53

Home team: Telford, Charles, Greenwood, Walsh, Houghton, Bright, Daly, Scott, England, Stanway, Kelly

Subs: Wubben-Moy, Hampton. Babajide

Away team: Roebuck, Morgan, Stokes, Christiansen, McManus, Mead, Nobbs, White, Kirby, Russo, Turner

Subs: Maciver, Fisk, Toone



England announce coaching restructure



England Women assistant coach Beverly Priestman has been appointed head coach of the Women's Under-18s for the 2020/21 season, following a restructure of key roles within The FA's women's technical division.

Priestman, who has been Phil Neville's assistant coach since rejoining The FA in 2018 from Canada Soccer, was keen for a return to a head coaching role. The move will see her lead the squad to the postponed FIFA Women's U17 World Cup in India early next year.

Priestman said: "I've enjoyed every minute working with Phil and the senior squad, however the chance to be a head coach again was very important to me and my future career path.

"I'd like to personally thank Phil for his support in this and allowing me to make this move.

"This new role will see me head to my fourth U17 World Cup, and my third as head coach, and I want to give this my best shot to bring home a trophy for England.

"I've had some of the best times of my career with the senior squad; we've shared some very special moments together and I always felt welcomed from day one.

"I truly believe they can go and achieve something special in the near future."

The FA's women's national head coach (U18-U21s), Rehanne Skinner, has been appointed Neville's assistant coach for the 2020/21 season and will join up with the senior squad next week at their St. George's Park training base.

At the end of Neville's term as England Women head coach, Skinner will return to her role as head coach within the women's professional development phase. The move reflects The FA's commitment to providing development opportunities for its talented coaches across the pathway.

Speaking of her appointment, Skinner said: "The opportunity to work with Phil again with the senior Lionesses is an exciting opportunity, particularly in preparation for a major tournament.

"It's important as a coach to continually challenge yourself at the highest level of the game and I have no doubt that the experience will challenge me and support my role as a head coach in the Lioness pathway in the future

"Having led the development of the U19s and U21s teams over the last few years it is really pleasing to see so many of them called into the senior squad and shows the exciting future of the game.

"I know many of the senior players well having worked with them at club level or in the England youth teams over the years, so I am very excited to work closely with them again at the highest level for the next 12 months."

Mark Mason remains England Women goalkeeping coach and will now assume additional responsibility as strategic lead for The FA's women's goalkeeping and set-play programme across all national teams.

Leading on the restructure, Kay Cossington, The FA's head of women's technical, explained the purpose behind the changes: "This is an opportunity for women's international football to refocus and realign our resources to best meet our overall mission of winning a major tournament with sustained success.

"Our principles of team success and performance remained at the very heart of every decision we made through this restructure.

"We are striving to be the best in the world; clear in our vision and supported by a driven and passionate workforce. This is an extremely exciting time for the women's game."



Scottish Women's League to return



The Scottish Women's Football League (SWFL) will return on Sunday, October 18.

Each Regional League will play one round of fixtures up until the end of December.

As announced before the suspension of football, the three SWFL leagues sit as part of the new 'Regional Pathway' which is separate from the 'Performance Pathway'.

This means there is no promotion or relegation from these leagues and there is the opportunity for more flexible rules and formats to be used.

These leagues will continue to provide an enjoyable and competitive environment for senior players but is focussed on teams who have a recreational centred philosophy.

The Highlands and Islands League has been a part of the 'Regional Pathway' since its creation in 2019.

The clubs within this league have opted to continue to playing friendlies where possible without a set fixture list.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIXTURES - SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER



CENTRAL / SOUTH EAST

Borders v Lothian
Motherwell Dev v West Park United
Murieston United v Musselburgh Windsor
Rutherglen v Murrayfield

NORTH / EAST

East Fife Dev v Westdyke Thistle
Jeanfield Swifts v Buchan Youth
Dryburgh Athletic v Dunfermline 21's
Bayside v Leven

WEST / SOUTH WEST

Giffnock v Mid Annandale
Ayr United v Bishopton
Stewarton v Harmony Row







Norway

1-0

Wales



An impressive display from Wales was not enough to stop them from falling to a 1-0 defeat to Norway in their European Championship qualifying game.

Guro Reiten gave the hosts the lead in the first half following a mistake from goalkeeper Laura O'Sullivan, who missed a punch from a short corner routine.

Wales, who are aiming to qualify for a first major finals, impressed in periods and Natasha Harding fired over, but Reiten's goal proved decisive.

Wales, who saw a late penalty appeal for a handball waved away, are now seven points behind Group C leaders Norway and in a straight battle with Northern Ireland for a runners-up berth.

The nine group winners and three best runners-up qualify automatically for the tournament, with the remaining six runners-up entering play-offs.





Faroe Islands

0-6

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland put on a superb display in their comfortable win over Faroe Islands in their Uefa Women's Euro 2021 (2022) qualified.

It was a fourth seeds (NIR) v fifth seeds (FRO) clash in Qualifying Group C but an energised Northern Ireland showed they are on the rise under Kenny Shiels with a commanding performance.

Lauren Wade and Simone Magill both helped themselves to doubles, while Rachel Furness and Kirsty McGuinness also got on the scoresheet.

Northern Ireland were three up within half an hour – and they dominated the game.

Captain Sarah McFadden and Nadene Caldwell, back in the side after a lengthy sojourn, both had strikes at goal before fellow midfielder Furness, who had earlier hit the woodwork, opened the scoring with a left foot thunderbolt on 19 minutes.

Then striker Magill doubled the lead with a tidy finish just five minutes later. Winger Wade hit the woodwork with a rasping drive and Magill was on hand to steer in the rebound.

Shortly after that Wade got in on the act, cutting in from the right to smash the ball into the bottom corner, making it 3-0 to Northern Ireland in the 27th minute.

The prolific McGuinness, playing her first match for Northern Ireland in over two years, added the fourth 11 minutes later with another neat effort. Magill slipped the ball to her inside the area and she clipped it into the net.

Northern Ireland extended their lead on 56 minutes. McCarron floated in a free-kick which was headed on by Furness to Wade and she provided the finish.

Down the other end Sevdal had a shot blocked before normal service resumed and Northern Ireland continued to boss the match.

Magill grabbed her second of the game, and Northern Ireland's sixth, on 90 minutes. McCarron delivered the ball towards goal and the striker headed it into the net from six yards out.

The win means Northern Ireland have leapfrogged Belarus to move up to third in the Group C table. Their next qualifier is another must-win away to Belarus on 27 October. Games at home to Belarus on 27 November and the Faroese on 1 December will complete their Group C qualification campaign.

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS



2021 Championship chatter

| Thursday, September 17 | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----|------------------|
| B | Bosnia & Herzegovina | 0-4 | Denmark |
| F | Sweden | 8-0 | Hungary |
| F | Iceland | 9-0 | Latvia |
| Friday, September 18 | | | |
| B | Czech Republic | 0-0 | Poland |
| D | Montenegro | 1-3 | Ukraine |
| E | Serbia | 0-2 | France |
| A | Russia | 0-1 | Netherlands |
| H | Croatia | 1-1 | Switzerland |
| H | Belgium | 6-1 | Romania |
| C | Faroe Islands | 0-6 | Northern Ireland |
| A | Kosovo | 2-0 | Estonia |
| A | Slovenia | 3-1 | Turkey |
| Saturday, September 19 | | | |
| I | Germany | 3-0 | Ireland |
| D | Moldova | 0-9 | Spain |
| Tuesday, November 22 | | | |
| A | Estonia | 0-3 | Russia |
| I | Montenegro | 0-3 | Germany |
| D | Ukraine | 4-0 | Greece |
| B | Bosnia & Herzegovina | 0-5 | Italy |
| F | Latvia | 0-5 | Hungary |
| B | Malta | 0-8 | Denmark |
| F | Iceland | 1-1 | Sweden |
| G | Kazakhstan | 0-5 | Austria |
| C | Norway | 1-0 | Wales |
| B | Poland | 0-2 | Czech Republic |
| C | Faroe Islands | 0-2 | Belarus |
| H | Romania | 4-1 | Croatia |
| H | Switzerland | 2-1 | Belgium |
| G | North Macedonia | 0-7 | France |

2021 Championship chatter

| Group A | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|----|
| | Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | P |
| 1 | Netherlands | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 3 | 26 | 21 |
| 2 | Russia | 6 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 3 | 10 | 12 |
| 3 | Slovenia | 7 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 20 | 11 | 9 | 12 |
| 4 | Kosovo | 6 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 14 | -8 | 9 |
| 5 | Estonia | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 18 | -17 | 1 |
| 6 | Turkey | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 22 | -20 | 1 |

| Group B | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|----|
| | Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | P |
| 1 | Denmark | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 0 | 41 | 21 |
| 2 | Italy | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 2 | 22 | 21 |
| 3 | Bosnia & | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 16 | 17 | -1 | 15 |
| 4 | Israel | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 11 | -3 | 4 |
| 5 | Malta | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 30 | -25 | 4 |
| 6 | Georgia | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 36 | -34 | 0 |

| Group C | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|----|
| | Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | P |
| 1 | Norway | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 1 | 32 | 15 |
| 2 | Wales | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| 3 | Belarus | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 6 |
| 4 | Northern | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 14 | -6 | 5 |
| 5 | Faroe | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 33 | -33 | 0 |

| Group D | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|----|
| | Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | P |
| 1 | Spain | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 1 | 17 | 10 |
| 2 | Czech | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 5 | 9 | 10 |
| 3 | Poland | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| 4 | Moldova | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 22 | -19 | 3 |
| 5 | Azerbaijan | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 16 | -15 | 0 |

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

2021 Championship chatter

| Group F | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|----|
| | Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | P |
| 1 | Sweden | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 25 | 2 | 23 | 13 |
| 2 | Iceland | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 21 | 2 | 19 | 13 |
| 3 | Hungary | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 17 | -7 | 7 |
| 4 | Slovakia | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 9 | -7 | 4 |
| 5 | Latvia | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 30 | -28 | 0 |

| Group G | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|----|
| | Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | P |
| 1 | Austria | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 21 | 15 |
| 2 | France | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 18 | 12 |
| 3 | Serbia | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 17 | 10 | 7 | 9 |
| 4 | North Macedonia | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 28 | -23 | 3 |
| 5 | Kazakhstan | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 24 | -23 | 0 |

| Group H | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|----|
| | Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | P |
| 1 | Switzerland | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 2 | 16 | 16 |
| 2 | Belgium | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 24 | 5 | 19 | 15 |
| 3 | Romania | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 14 | -6 | 6 |
| 4 | Croatia | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 18 | -12 | 4 |
| 5 | Lithuania | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 18 | -17 | 0 |

| Group I | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|----|
| | Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | P |
| 1 | Germany | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 0 | 37 | 18 |
| 2 | Ireland | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 13 |
| 3 | Ukraine | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 20 | -11 | 6 |
| 4 | Greece | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 11 | -6 | 4 |
| 5 | Montenegro | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 25 | -24 | 0 |

Around the World



SHANNON WOELLER

By Ali Rampling

Footballers often cite a certain major tournament as the catalyst for their love affair with the game. For many USA internationals, the 1999 World Cup win on home soil was a watershed moment, while for players in the UK and Canada, the 2012 London Olympics are regarded as the first time that women's football tapped into the mainstream conscious.

Fewer players attribute a youth tournament as to why they chose to pursue the beautiful game, but for Canadian international Shannon Woeller the 2002 Fifa Under 19 Women's World Cup, which was held in Canada when she was 12 years old, was her epiphany.

"I'd played a lot of sport and I'd always been really into the Olympics and the idea of playing for Canada but I'd never realised I could do that playing football," explained Woeller, "Just seeing women's football in person for the first time really opened my eyes and I was like: 'this is exactly what I want to do'."

Just seven years later, Woeller's dreams had become a reality. She earned her first senior cap at the 2009 Cyprus Cup, aged 19.

Numerous members of the Canadian Under 19 side - who had finished as runners up at the 2002 World Cup - were part of the Canada squad when Woeller made her debut, including Brittany Timpko-Baxter, Melanie Booth and the 2002 Golden Boot winner Christine Sinclair.

These were some of the players who had inspired Woeller to chase a career in football in the first place - did she get a bit star struck at first?

"100%," the 30-year-old laughed. "That group of girls were on the national team for a long time, a couple of them like Christine Sinclair of course still are. For sure the first couple of camps when I was only 19 I was

like: 'whoa this is crazy, this happened quick'."

By the age of 22, Woeller was already on the cusp of achieving her lifetime ambition when she was part of the Canada side that secured qualification for the 2012 Olympics in her home city of Vancouver.

However, the defender was not selected as part of the 18 who travelled to London for the games. She subsequently did not receive another international call up for a further five years.

"That was definitely really difficult for me," Woeller admitted. "I was so close to doing everything I'd always wanted to do and I didn't do it but the rest of the team did and that was hard.

"Originally I thought: 'okay I'm young, I can get back in there, I'll get another chance'. And then I didn't really get another chance and those years were even harder, feeling like all I wanted was another chance and I maybe wasn't going to get it. That was hard, it honestly took me a number of years to get through that."

Her five-year hiatus from the national team meant that

“I’ve ended up more places than I expected but it’s helped me grow”

The Big Interview

Woeller missed out on the once in a lifetime opportunity of playing at a World Cup on home soil when Canada hosted the tournament in 2015.

Although initially devastated, she then took a step back to appreciate what she did have; a professional contract with Icelandic side Stjarnan and a full-time football career. This enabled Woeller to move on from the disappointment, and she even made peace with the fact that she may never play for her country again.

“Obviously I would have loved to play at the World Cup in Canada,” she added. “I was playing in Iceland and I remember being quite upset that I wasn't at the World Cup.

“Then I just had this moment where I was like 'yeah, but you're living in Iceland playing football professionally and this is really cool. Just appreciate that and realise there's other things you can do. You can still play football and that's amazing in itself.' It helped me change my perspective and helped me enjoy football again.

“I think right around that time in 2015 I was like 'it's (an international recall) not going to happen now'. And then I tore my ACL right at the end of 2015 and I think at that point I was like 'there's no way'.

“But at the same time I think that recovery allowed me to realise I just wanted to play football, and it didn't so much

matter who it was for. So when I came back from that I obviously never expected to play for the national team again.”

But in April 2017, with Woeller resigned to her international being as good as over, she received a call up out of the blue for Canada's friendly against Germany. She has been a mainstay in the squad ever since, and her five year absence has made her fully cherish representing her country.

“It really changed by perspective and I've tried to keep that going forward,” said Woeller. “Especially the first year I was like: ‘I'm just going to enjoy this and value every moment of being in camp’. It's really allowed me to enjoy that national team experience even more.

“When I was younger there's obviously a lot of pressure in those situations and I think I let that get to me and I didn't enjoy it as much as I should



have, so the last three years to jump at,” the centre back have definitely been a lot of fun.”

As part of the Canadian national team, Woeller was one of 15 players to simultaneously sign up for Common Goal - Juan Mata’s campaign whereby players donate 1% of their salary to charity - in May 2019.

In doing so, Canada became the first national team - male or female - to pledge their support for the campaign as an entire squad.

“Erin McCleod started to get involved with them and she came to us as a group and suggested it could be a cool thing for us to do and help outside of sport,” Woeller explained. “We all jumped on board and thought that was a great idea.

“As you can see everything going on in the world today; it’s magnified in the US in the way athletes are using their platforms to help further change. Some people don’t have the opportunity to help others, so if you can use your platform to help others it’s definitely something you should do.”

Ahead of the 2020/21 season, Woeller signed for Primera Division outfit Valencia - and is hugely enthusiastic about her first foray into Spanish football.

“I was really excited when this opportunity came about and I just thought it was a good thing

“We’ve got quite a young group which is obviously going to have some growing pains, but it’s also really exciting that there’s some really skilful players here.

“I’m super excited to see the level in the Spanish league, I’ve heard really good things especially in the last few years it’s just been getting better and better.

“It’s definitely fun to be at a big club. There’s a big men’s team here and a big following and that comes with pressures but I feel I’ve never played at a truly big club and so I think it’s a fun challenge to experience that.”

Although new to Spain, Woeller is very familiar to European football. Valencia are her fifth different European club - in a fifth different European country.

The well-travelled Canadian has already played for Norwegian club Idrettsklubben Grand Bodø, Stjarnan in Iceland, German outfit FC Carl Zeiss Jena and Swedish side Eskilstuna United.

Although playing abroad was always an ambition, Woeller admits she did not anticipate she would represent such an array of sides across the continent.

“I’ve probably ended up more places than I expected,” she said. “I definitely think it’s

helped me grow as a person and as a football player, just getting to experience all these different places.

“I think it also helps keeps me grounded sometimes if I’m frustrated with football I can step back and think ‘you’re getting such a cool experience’ and just appreciate that.”

While Woeller has jetted off left, right and centre playing domestic football, her thoughts never stray too far from home. The defender has shown her support for the NWSL Toronto movement - a campaign that aims to bring an NWSL franchise to Toronto.

In the same way that the 2002 Under 19 World Cup was so influential to Woeller because it enabled her to see women’s football in the flesh in the first time, an NWSL side in Toronto would enable children to grow up with visible female football role models on their doorstep.

“It’s really too bad Canada doesn’t have professional women’s football because there is so much interest,” Woeller added. “It’s so hard for kids if it’s not there; they don’t really have access to seeing that.

“As a group of footballers around my age we want to make sure that in the future the girls coming up have somewhere to play and that the younger girls have someone to watch.”

The American Dream:

Why do British female footballers go to college in the USA?



By Ali Rampling

In March 2016, Ele Catchpole was playing for Bacton United on the lowest rung of the football ladder. Hungover centre halves, halftime cigarettes, reluctant substitutes running the line; this was women's Sunday league football at its finest.

Come August, Catchpole was following the path once tread by icons of the English game - Kelly Smith, Lucy Bronze and Jess Bhamra from Bend It Like Beckham - by jetting off to the United States to play college football on a sports scholarship.

"I clicked on an ad on Facebook by accident," said the 22-year-old from Bury St Edmunds, explaining how the prospect of going to the States had arisen. "I filled out the form because I was bored and didn't want to study. And they (a US scholarship agency) invited

me to a trial game in Northampton."

Catchpole had been intending to go to university in the UK and as luck would have it the University of Northampton was pencilled in as her insurance option.

Killing two birds with one stone, she attended the trial game out of mere curiosity. She then visited the University of Northampton for an open day but by that point had already been sold the American dream.

"I went and looked around Northampton the next day and the whole time I was like 'no, I'm going to America,'" she recalled.

Despite the trial consisting predominantly of academy calibre players, Catchpole held her own and went on to earn a scholarship to Grand View University in Iowa. She is one of

hundreds of British female footballers who journey across the pond every year because of the limited opportunities to play professionally in the UK.

The Women's Super League is the UK's only fully female professional division and consists of just 12 teams - a far cry from the hundreds of professional male sides in the country.

In contrast, the States has boasted a formidable reputation for women's football since their 1999 World Cup win on home soil triggered the country's love affair with the sport. Although they too only have one professional league - the National Women's Soccer League - the sophisticated college football system towers above anything the UK can offer.

"Women's football's absolutely huge in America," explained Liam Barrett, managing director at U.S Sports Scholarships. "It's just an unbelievable opportunity to carry on playing at an unbelievably high level and get a degree in the process."

Loughborough University - the UK's most prestigious sporting educational institution - only classified women's football as an elite 'performance sport' in 2020. A minority of players receive scholarships and training is rarely more than twice a week.

Meanwhile, college football in the USA involves training everyday, a personalised strength and conditioning programme and an intense fixture schedule.

"You're basically treated like a professional," said Catchpole. "I think girls are seeing going to the States as the opportunity to have that pro experience but also get a degree at the same time and build for a life after football."

While the football side can be all consuming, players are students first and foremost. The educational aspect remains vitally important - one reason Catchpole chose Grand View University was because of its strong reputation for business, the subject she wished to major in.





The academic side is crucial even before players go out to the States. Entrance exams are a requirement and strong grades can influence the volume of scholarship an individual receives.

“We’ve got good players who are out in America on a full academic scholarship, so the fact they play for the football team doesn’t even come into it,” said Barrett. “If you’re a really strong student it does give you the best possible chance of minimal costs.”

Going through a scholarship company is a common route among US college hopefuls. The process involves a trial, followed by paying the company a lump sum of money (often between £1,000 and £2,500) for them to utilise their contacts and find the university and scholarship that meets the player’s needs.

This is not always a smooth process.

Molly Hall had dreamed of playing in the United States for as long as she can remember.

“My mum keeps like a box of our kid’s stuff, and in there was one of my drawings that said ‘when I’m older I want to play football in America’,” the 22-year-old striker recalls.

Having gone through a similar application process to Catchpole, Hall received eight offers and was poised to go to a university in Mississippi in the summer of 2016.

However, with her outward journey on the horizon, she was informed that the university did not have the paperwork to accept international students.

Hall had to wait until January 2017 before eventually flying out. By this point she had taken matters into her own hands and had singlehandedly organised her own scholarship at Campbellsville University, Kentucky.

“I actually asked the company for a refund,” she said. “They taught me how to do it but then I made my own video and sent it out to loads of different coaches. I ended up getting about 50 offers back from across the



States - so I did better than them!"

Likewise, Barrett endured a frustrating experience before earning a place at Illinois Institute of Technology in 2009. He was one of 300 players being looked after by his particular scholarship firm, but has used the lessons learnt from his ordeal to ensure others have an easier time going through the process.

U.S Sports Scholarships instead sign just 25 female footballers to their programme per year, allowing for a more tailored, individualised approach.

"I got pretty much little to no service at all really," said Barrett. "I didn't have a clue which colleges were good or have any knowledge of divisions so I ended up having to figure out all of that myself.

"We keep it quite selective, which is good because you get a reputation for signing and sending the very best athletes so coaches are more inclined to come to us when they're looking for a player, but also we're able to offer that personal service."

The initial financial commitment to a sports scholarship firm is one of the many considerations a prospective player must weigh up before committing to go to the States.

It involves travelling halfway across the

world, leaving friends and family and moving to an alien country for the sake of chasing a dream.

"Looking back on it I feel like it should have been scarier than it was, but it just didn't seem to be that scary," Catchpole admitted. "Now I'm like: 'I really did that? I just packed up and left?'

"I think you just know sometimes if it feels right to go or not."

However, it is not the distance from home, the long months without seeing loved ones or the acclimatising to a new culture that Hall or Catchpole found the hardest.

The real challenge? The style of play.

"Back home it's very technical but here it's fitness, fitness, fitness," explained Hall. "It took a lot of adjusting. My first year I struggled a little bit, but from then I took it in my stride and worked out how to play their game."

"They're all athletes," Catchpole added. "Athletes first and footballers second. That's what I really struggled with to start with. In terms of my football brain and my technical ability I was up there but in terms of being an athlete I was right at the bottom.

"Yeah, very different from Sunday league."



elecatchpole

James Cownie Soccer Complex



Australia announce Gustavsson as new head coach



Tony Gustavsson has been announced as the new head coach of the Australian Women's National side.

The experienced former US women's national team assistant coach will lead the Matildas to a World Cup on home soil.

The Swede, 47, has signed a deal that runs through to 2024.

Speaking to the Guardian, he said: "One of the key reasons I'm here is that I believe a lot in this playing group.

"There's a lot of potential here, they have shown their qualities but I also think that together I can take them to the next level."

Along with the 2023 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, Gustavsson will head the Matildas' charge towards silverware at next year's delayed Tokyo Olympics, the 2022 Asian Cup in India and the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

He joins the Matildas following the departure of Ante Milicic in July.

Milicic stepped down from the coaching role because of the delay to the Tokyo Olympics amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

He had been contracted to the Matildas until after the Games in Japan but in May 2019 agreed to lead the A-League expansion club Macarthur FC, who are scheduled to join the competition in the 2020-21 season.

FFA chief executive James Johnson said of the new appointment: "We believe that in Tony, we have appointed a coach who will not only surpass the benchmarks and criteria we set as an organisation, but the standards that are expected by our players, football community and fans.

"Throughout the process it was evident that Tony is eager to buy in to what we are working to build with the Matildas – a uniquely Australian team with a strong identity that is recognised as world class both on and off the pitch."



News from around the world

Angel City announce front-office signings

NWSL expansion team Angel City have announced three front-office appointments ahead of the team's inaugural season in 2022.

The LA based team, which has a star-studded ownership group including Natalie Portman, Serena Williams and a host of former USA players, will be the NWSL's first team in California.

The club has brought in Jessica Smith as head of corporate partnerships. Her initial focus is to build out the club's partnership portfolio, starting with securing jersey partners – first team, training, and sleeve.

Also brought in is Kim McCauley as director of recruitment and analytics, as well as Catherine Davila as head of community.



NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

Women's football match in Cyprus marred by violence

The women's football game between AEL Limassol and Omonia Nicosia that took place on Sunday in Ypsonas was marred by serious incidents as several home fans entered the pitch after the game and started a violent altercation with members of the visiting team as well as with other fans.

The number of fans at the match was higher than normal for a women's football game, as beforehand AEL had called on fans to go to the stadium and show their support.

Omonia won 3-2 and when players approached the stands to celebrate with their friends and family, some AEL fans started throwing beer bottles, lighters and other items on the pitch.

The police had to intervene to stop the incidents and to safely escort the Omonia players out of the stadium.

"We have never experienced anything like this," Omonia's Marianna Nicolaides told radio station Super Sport after the game.

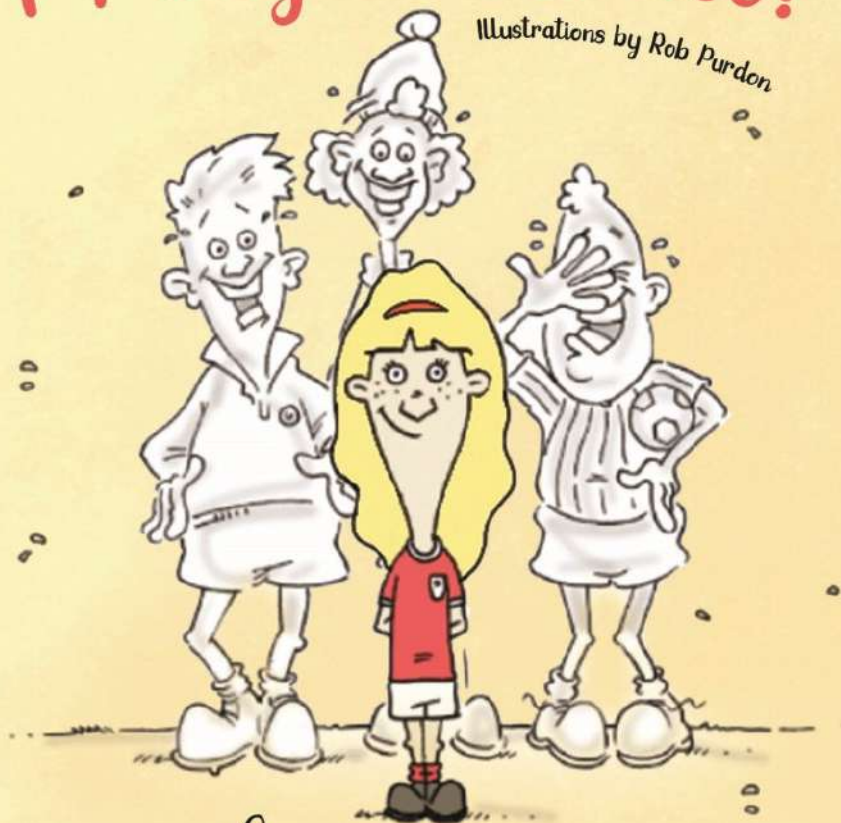
"Home fans started taunting us with heavy insults from the start of the game. Apart from what happened at the end of the match, they also tried to push our own fans away from the stands saying the stadium was their home and they could do what they wanted.

"Our team member should not have provoked the home fans but that cannot be an alibi for what happened. Our physio was badly beaten and one of our players was hit by an object thrown from the stands. This is unacceptable."

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