

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



ISSUE 57—April 2022

LEAH WILLIAMSON

*On England captaincy,
Arsenal's season and the
upcoming European
Championships*

BARCELONA

*Jamie Davies looks at the
Spanish side breaking all the
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BURY FC

*Club set for monumental
return home*

LIVERPOOL CHAMPIONS

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



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Welcome

Hello and welcome to Issue 57!

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We are currently enjoying the international break but that doesn't mean that there isn't a lot of great football happening down the leagues as well.

As I write this both Wolverhampton Wanderers and Boldmere St Michaels have been promoted from their respective leagues—congratulations!

The 2022 TWFM Awards have launched this week. Nominations are open for:

- Grassroots player of the season
- Grassroots coach of the season
- Fan of the season (any club, any league, any country)

Grassroots counts as any team lower than the FA WNL but does include development teams and unders.

Go to the website to nominate now, you have until April 18.

Enjoy the issue!

Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Editor-in-Chief

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TWFM AWARDS 2022:

Nominations OPEN!

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE *Awards*

The TWFM awards are back and they are bigger and better than ever!

This year we are asking you to nominate the people you think should win:

- Grassroots Player of the Year
- Grassroots Coach of the Year
- Fan of the Year (From any club/league)

What are the prizes?

Both the Grassroots Player and Coach of the Year will win their team an annual TWFM season ticket.

Fan of the Year will win an annual TWFM subscription and a women's football bundle.

Last Year's Winners

Have a look at what was said by the nominators of last year's award winners

Grassroots Player of the Year

Abbie Chiverton

I have never seen a more dedicated player than Abbie. She puts everything into the game she loves so much and is such a team player. I don't know how she keeps up with all her games and practices!



Grassroots Coach of the Year

Brendan White

I wish to nominate Brendan, not because of how good a coach he is, but because he doesn't realise how good a coach he is. I have not met anyone in my football journey that genuinely does everything for everyone else other than himself. Behind the scenes, is a shy and humble coach. A coach that sets up an hour before and stays to support all age groups to train from U8-U16s. about him. I genuinely do not know of anyone who would be more surprised at being nominated let alone winning this award.



Fan of the Year

Isabelle O'Toole

Izzy is truly Lincoln City Women's number one fan. Her and her family are at every home game (despite relying on trains

followed by a long walk up hill). She made her own version of the team kit when they weren't available to buy and she used to stand right outside the changing rooms to get her programme signed after every game.



Izzy has become part of the team due to her enthusiasm and pure love of the players. She's only nine years old but the Lincoln City Women players have motivated and inspired her in her own grassroots games.

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE



Jill Scott's Coffee Club



Jill Scott will be hosting a new podcast with 5 Live Sport which will provide football fans with an intimate glimpse into the women's game.

In this new 5 Live Sport podcast, England legend and current Aston Villa midfielder Jill Scott will delve into life on and off the pitch.

Jill will be joined by 5 Live Football Daily's Ben Haines, who'll ask the questions.

Each week, Jill and Ben welcome guests from the world of women's football for a coffee and chat.

Whether they're teammates or rivals, they'll discuss what made them the elite athletes they are today, as well as talking about life away from football.

Launching on BBC Sounds, Episode 1 will be out on Wednesday April 13.

It will feature weekly episodes which will build up to this summer's Euro 2022.

Jill Scott said: "I'm so excited for all the guests we're going to speak to, and to share an insight into the lives of WSL

players – on and off the pitch.

"There will be plenty of stories.

"I want to get to know the players a little bit better too.

"Sometimes people have a perception of certain players because of the way they play, but I know they're often nothing like that off the pitch."

In the first episode Scott will speak to Manchester City forward Ellen White.

White has recently become only the second player in England history to reach 50 goals and has over taken Harry Kane on the leaderboard.

Other Upcoming guests include Ella Toone and Mary Earps.

To listen to the episodes go to

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/pobzmv49>

AWFC Academy: Expression of interest

Arsenal are now accepting applications to trial for the Girls Academy (RTC & Pre Academy) for the 2022/22 season.

Current and previous first-team players such as Leah Williamson, Lotte Wubben-Moy, Anna Patten and Teyah Goldie have all come through the youth development pathway.

Arsenal Women FC Academy are now accepting applications for players to trial for the following age groups at our FA Regional Talent Club & Pre Academy for the 2022-23 season:

- U9s – Year 3/4 Born September 1st 2013 – August 31st 2015
- U10s – Year 5 – Born September 1st 2012 - August 31st 2013
- U11s – Year 6 – Born September 1st 2011 – August 31st 2012
- U12s – Year 7 – Born September 1st 2010 – August 31st 2011
- U13s – Year 8 - Born September 1st 2009 – August 31st 2010
- U14s – Year 9 – Born September 1st 2008 – August 31st 2009
- U16s – Year 10/11 – Born September 1st 2006 – August 31st 2008

U16 and U14 age groups must meet specific criteria.

All information can be found at www.arsenal.com



Russo named Player of the Month

Manchester United's Alessia Russo has been crowned the Women's Super League Player of the Month for March 2022.

Russo put in a number of key performances finding the net in the 4-0 win over Leicester and the 3-1 victory at Reading.

To complete the month, Russo scored a brace in front of a 20,241 crowd at Old Trafford against Everton.

Also nominated were: Sam Kerr (Chelsea), Maya Le Tissier (Brighton & Hove Albion), Vivianne Miedema (Arsenal) and Guro Reiten (Chelsea).

Andersson to depart Chelsea

Chelsea star Jonna Andersson is set to leave the Women's Super League club at the end of the season.

The 29-year-old has been at the Blues for four-and-a-half years and will head to Hammarby IF in her native Sweden this summer.

Andersson moved to London and joined Chelsea midway through the 2017/18 season from Swedish side Linköpings.

Andersson has lifted a raft of trophies at the club including becoming champions of England three times, plus the FA Cup and Continental Cup twice, as well as the Community Shield.

Manager Emma Hayes told the official website: "Jonna has been an unbelievable professional during her time with us and instrumental in our success.

"Her level of commitment to this team has been unreal.

"I've no doubt she'll continue to better herself right to the end of the season and we'll be sure to give her the send-off she deserves."

Birmingham commit to women's team

Birmingham City have announced they will continue to play at St. Andrews next season—"regardless of what division" they will be in.

The statement read: "Despite a challenging season in the Barclays FA Women's Super League, the Club fully support the efforts of our Women's team. We have a proud history in the Women's game and hope that a second season at St. Andrew's will coincide with a campaign of positive results.



WSL Short of Europe Success Yet Again



By Jamie Davies

Arsenal's defeat at VFL Wolfsburg marked the end of the running for the WSL's involvement of this season's UEFA Women's Champions League.

At the end of March, Wolfsburg ended Arsenal's Champions League campaign after beating the Gunners 3-1 on aggregate.

The Women's Super League title contenders did not show much of a fight in the away leg in Germany, as Jonas Eidevall's side looked down and out before it was full time.

With Chelsea, last season's runners-up, going out before the knockout stages was seen as quite a surprise as Emma Hayes' blues have been fighting on the same level as Arsenal to compete for trophies.

Now with both London clubs eliminated from the biggest club competition for another, another season passes that the WSL fails to provide a European winning team.

The last time an English club won the European Cup in women's football was Arsenal back in 2007. An Arsenal side that featured the legendary faces of Kelly Smith, Alex Scott and Rachel Yankey that overcame Swedish club, Umea, to become the first and only women's English club to conquer Europe.

The dream of seeing another English side lift the Champions League once more must wait at least another 12 months from now.

Should we question that the WSL entries in Europe should do much better?

It was only 11 months ago where Chelsea found themselves in a Champions League final with Barcelona Femeni but would be a night to forget for Hayes' team by getting thrashed 4-0 to the deserved winners.

The conclusion made you think that the WSL is nearly there, they came very close but an English European cup is soon looking to be inevitable.

At the start of this current season, it did make you feel confident that Chelsea would learn from the big knockout in an empty Gothenburg stadium. Arsenal's early season form in the league would make them stand out in the group stages in which it certainly did. However, come the knockouts, Arsenal fell very short as the experienced Wolfsburg side yet

again proved that they could still compete in Europe.

Over The Years: Highest Finishes for English Sides in the Women's Champions League

- 2021-22: Quarter Finals - Arsenal
- 2020-21: Runners up - Chelsea
- 2019-20: Quarter Finals - Arsenal
- 2018-19: Semi-Finals - Chelsea
- 2017-18: Semi-Finals - Chelsea & Manchester City
- 2016-17: Semi-Finals - Manchester City
- 2015-16: Round of 16 - Chelsea
- 2014-15: Quarter Finals - Bristol Academy
- 2013/14: Semi-Finals - Birmingham City
- 2012/13: Semi-Finals - Arsenal
- 2011/12: Semi-Finals - Arsenal

The Women's Super League was formed in 2011 in an attempt to grow women's football across England.

In the 11 years we have had of the WSL, we have seen the English tier increase in quality, ticket sales and player wages. The competitiveness has always been there when you look at the WSL's record in the Champions League but the gap is getting longer and longer since Arsenal won the European Cup 15 years ago.

15 years is a long time in football so a sign of a WSL club

winning the Champions League has looked to have been delayed. I am not here to say the league had a target to achieve having one of their participants to be crowned champions in Europe by a certain date/year but that recent record has seen the likes of Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester City and Birmingham City come ever so close.

The question is how do the WSL clubs break the mold by beating the best to become Europe's best?

Jonas Eidevall spoke to the media ahead of the 2nd leg with Wolfsburg and made some good reminders to us on why it has been difficult to see an English team live the European dream in recent years.

He said: "The league is getting stronger. It is broadcasted in a way; it has competition in a way in which I think most European leagues would like to go to. But if you would compare it to wage budget perspective and seeing clubs like Barcelona, Lyon and Paris Saint Germain on how much money they are spending compared to English clubs. Then I think it's natural that you are still in a process where these clubs have had more success in the Champions League because they spend more money in players."

Eidevall became Arsenal manager last summer ahead of the current season kicking off after three years in charge of Swedish club FC Rosengard. He helped the Malmo based club win Damallsvenskan (Swedish League) three times and the Swedish Cup on one occasion.

Currently the FA imposes a salary cap on the WSL, whereby clubs can only spend up to 40% of turnover on salaries, but no minimum salary exists. There has been former WSL players such as Rachel Brown-Finnis and Chloe Morgan who have urged the FA to introduce minimum salaries to avoid pricing out young talent.

Eidevall made it clear in his pre-match press conference that in England there is a different structure that takes longer but it will have its rewards. He added: "It's a long term thing in growing the club game in England in order to get more resources, in order to compete with the top teams.

"I truly believe it's the best way possible to grow the game in what is being done in England by improving the league as a whole and improving the entire infrastructure including the academy system.

"It is long term and it's the right decision."

The short-term method of spending more money on players from Europe's elite has shown the consistent success of Barcelona and Lyon rule the continent.

WSL's wage structure is a current error and if this was to continue then you may see the likes of Vivianne Miedema (who nearly joined Lyon last summer) and Sam Kerr join European rivals to fill that empty spot on their medal shelf with a European winner's medal.

Leicester City announce Talent ID Day

Leicester City have announced their next post-16 Talent ID day which will take place on Monday, April 11.

Girls aged 16-21 can register their interest by signing up on the official website with a dual career pathway with an education provider as part of the offering.

A highly successful inaugural season for the new LCFC Women Academy has so far seen four first team debuts handed out and an excellent run to the final of the WSL Academy Plate competition for the youngsters.

The Foxes will once again enter an Under-21s team into the WSL Academy League for 2022/23, coached by Academy Lead, Louis Sowe, while also competing in the FA Women's National League Midlands Reserve Division with an Under-18s side.

The elite training facilities on offer at Belvoir Drive include use of several grass pitches, the indoor dome, an outdoor 3G pitch, an equipment gym and analysis and education rooms - all on site.

This ensures there is a comprehensive games programme across the season, alongside full -time training, which features four on-pitch sessions each week.

Any further information, contact louis.sowe@lfc.co.uk.

New date for North London derby

The Barclays FA Women's Super League fixture between Arsenal and Tottenham has been rescheduled.

The game, originally scheduled for Saturday, March 26, was postponed due to a Covid-19 outbreak.

The decision to postpone was taken by the FA following an application from Tottenham Hotspur.

It will now be played on Wednesday, May 4.

Kick-off at the Emirates Stadium is now at 7.15pm and the game will be broadcast live on BBC Two.



Natalie Minchey/SPP

Beckie departs for Portland

Manchester City have confirmed that striker Janine Beckie has joined the NWSL side Portland Thorns on a three-year-deal.

The 27-year-old returns to her homeland of the United States after almost four years in Manchester, having joined City from Sky Blue.

Playing in 90 games in all competitions and scoring 23 goals over the course of four seasons, the Canadian international also lifted four trophies during her stay, including two Women's FA Cups (2019 and 2020) and two Continental Tyres League Cups (2019 and 2022).

Speaking about her departure on the official website, Beckie said: "Finding the right words to say has been really hard.

"When I came to Manchester in 2018, I could have never imagined I'd stay for so long, but it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. In the last four seasons, the moments and memories I've experienced will be ones I hold onto forever.

"It has been an absolute honour to wear this kit. Every day I've stepped inside this building I have felt so much gratitude to be a Manchester City player, and I can only hope I'm leaving it in a better place than I found it.

"I came as a player and I'm leaving as a life-long fan. Once a blue, always a blue."

Hayes named best WSL manager in March

Chelsea boss Emma Hayes has been named as the Women's Super League Manager of the Month of March.

March was a perfect month for Hayes' side, who won all five of our WSL fixtures, scoring an impressive 17 goals.

The Blues boss beat off competition from Arsenal's Jonas Eidevall and Manchester City's Gareth Taylor.



A historic day at Old Trafford



Natalie Mincher/SPP

By Helen Rowe-Willcocks

On April 27, Manchester United fans flocked Old Trafford for a chance to be part of history.

The team at Old Trafford had clearly been working hard to make it an occasion fans would never forget. The giant poster in front of the Holy Trinity statue of George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton no longer showed players such as Cristiano Ronaldo but the women's stars such as Katie Zelem and Alessia Russo.

All around the ground were posters of the women's stars and fans were stopping too take pictures, take in the atmosphere and marvel at the work which had been done.

It felt like the women's side always played at Old Trafford, rather than they were playing at the men's stadium.

Watched by a crowd of more than 20,000, Russo scored twice as Marc Skinner's team beat Everton 3-1 to keep their hopes of qualifying for next season's Champions League alive.

It was the second time Old Trafford staged a WSL game but last season there were no fans present due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It was fantastic to be part of the atmosphere.

Behind us two Manchester United fans had taken their daughters to their first game. They spent the whole match pointing out players, explaining play and tactics and the more they told them the more their daughters fell in love with the game.

After the match Skinner said it was important United played a key part "in helping develop and push women's football forwards".

"Playing in big stadiums will expose us to better experiences," he added. "Do you do it all the time? Maybe not right now, but we continue to work towards where we can attract 20,000 people.

"Why can't we, in the future, fill Old Trafford and there be that many fans waiting for us?"

"I tried to speak to Zel afterwards," added Skinner.

"But, for her to score a penalty in the Stretford End, and then for Alessia to score as well when she's probably got a million dreams of that happening... what a wonderful way to seal a dream."



Adidas by Stella McCartney x Arsenal



Arsenal Women have been blazing a trail in the game for decades, and we are now proud to present the first-ever collaboration between adidas by Stella McCartney and a women's football team.

Designed to celebrate Arsenal Women on and off the pitch, the collection is bold, expressive and made to be seen. The 10-piece range features an adidas by Stella McCartney full zip hoody, an adidas by Stella McCartney tight and an exclusive colourway of the adidas by Stella McCartney Ultraboost 22.

To complete the range there is a gender-neutral pre-match jersey which will be worn by our women's and men's teams. It will be worn for the first time during the warm-up of our north London derby against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday. The men's team will also wear the gender-neutral pre-match jersey when they play in their Premier League fixture away at Crystal Palace on April 4.

The full range is available to pre-order now from Arsenal Direct, and officially goes on sale on Monday, March 28 at Arsenal Direct, The Armoury and adidas stores.

The collection features a distinctive mystery blue and scarlet red fused with a modern oversized leopard graphic synonymous with one of the world's most iconic designers. With sustainable innovation core to the creation process, the pieces are made with organic cotton and made in part with recycled materials, continuing the partnership's ambition to help end plastic waste.

Vivianne Miedema, who earlier this month became the first WSL player to reach 100 goal contributions, said: "It's great to have a collection created for our team, and even more so that Stella McCartney has designed it. The designs are amazing, and I can't wait to wear the pre-match jersey on the pitch as we get into such an important time in the season."

Stella McCartney said: "As the most decorated English women's football club, Arsenal Women is made up of incredible athletes, so to be able to celebrate them – especially in a year that is so pivotal for women in sport – is incredibly special. We're so excited to continue our journey into the world of football by creating our first travel wear collection for a team.

"Following our initial expansion into football last year with the design of the Predator Freak vegan boot, we're once again staying true to adidas by Stella McCartney's DNA of pushing boundaries in consciously crafted performance wear. I love that we have fused statement leopard print – an iconic adidas by Stella McCartney graphic – with distinctive colours to truly bring the two worlds of fashion and football together in an authentic way.

"We hope this collection inspires both current and the future generations of athletes as they make their mark on and off the pitch."

Sorensen to become new Everton manager



Everton has reached an agreement for Brian Sorensen to become the Club's new Women's manager ahead of the 2022/23 season, with the Dane signing an initial two-year contract with the Blues.

Sorensen will take up his position with Everton this summer, from Fortuna Hjørring, where during two stints at the Danish club, he has won two league titles, a domestic cup and established Fortuna as regulars in the knockout stages of the Champions League.

Sorensen's CV also includes a further two domestic cup triumphs during spells with Danish sides IK Skovbakken and FC Nordsjælland.

The 41-year-old, a UEFA Pro Licence coach since 2015, arrives at Everton with a reputation for developing young talent and forming tight-knit squads, founded on supportive and driven cultures.

Sorensen said: "I'm extremely excited to join Everton. It is one of the historic clubs in women's football and our backgrounds fit nicely, with common values, work ethic and ambitions.

"Having studied the squad in depth during this process, I feel there is massive potential, with players capable of making an impact on the biggest stages.

"I'm very thankful to Fortuna Hjørring for our journey together and their support for this

opportunity - and I now look forward to meeting with the Everton staff and players next week on Merseyside and getting to work on preparations for next season."

Everton Women Managing Director, Alan McTavish, who led on the recruitment process alongside Director of Football, Kevin Thelwell, said: "We are delighted to welcome Brian to the Club.

"Throughout the process to appoint a new manager there has been considerable interest in the role and after a great deal of consideration, we are confident we have found the best person to lead the team into next season and beyond.

"Brian was the outstanding candidate from a very strong field, and he is a proven winner.

"His vision for the team, along with his ambition and drive to move Everton Women forward, impressed us throughout the interview process.

"We look forward to Brian joining the Club in the summer and getting started on our work together ahead of the 2022/23 season."

Chris Roberts and Claire Ditchburn will continue to take interim charge of Everton Women for the remainder of this season.

West Ham agree deal for Ziu

West Ham United Women are delighted to confirm the agreement to sign Republic of Ireland international Jessica Ziu, subject to international clearance and a medical.

The highly rated 19-year-old will join up with the Hammers in the summer when the transfer window officially opens and, until then, will remain with reigning Women's National League (WNL) champions Shelbourne for the opening months of the 2022 season.

Ziu broke into the Red Pandas' first-team squad in June 2018, making her WNL debut just three weeks after her 16th birthday and scoring her first senior goal the following month. Since then, she has gone on to score 19 goals in 56 WNL appearances for the Dublin club.

The speedy teenager won her first WNL title last November, winning a penalty which was converted as Shelbourne defeated Wexford Youths 3-2 on the final day of the season to pip local rivals Peamount United to the title by a single point.

Flores departs for Ipswich

Silvana Flores has completed a move to Ipswich Town from WSL side Tottenham Hotspur.

The Academy player made one senior appearance during her time with Spurs Women in a pre-season friendly against Arsenal as part of the Mind Series at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Walsh hits double century

Keira Walsh is celebrating yet another Manchester City milestone, having made her 200th Club appearance against Reading.

The City and England midfielder has become the second female player to reach a 'double century' after captain Steph Houghton - her latest achievement in an incredible career which has seen the lifelong City fan accomplish so much with the Club she has supported since childhood.

Since making her debut as a teenager in 2014, the 24-year-old has won four Continental Cups, three FA Cups and the FA Women's Super League title - and has played a key role in that success.

"It's unbelievable," she told mancify.com. "I can't even put into words what it means to play 200 appearances for the Club I've always supported.

"I'm getting quite emotional actually and I don't tend to get like that, but especially for my family, it's such a nice moment."

Holloway transfers to Racing Louisville

Birmingham City defender Rebecca Holloway has completed a transfer to Racing Louisville.

The Northern Ireland international joins the National Women's Soccer League side for an undisclosed fee, having been at Blues since 2019.

Joining from Nashville Rhythm in the Women's Premier Soccer League, Holloway initially put pen-to-paper on a two-year deal in B9 and has since gone on to make 65 appearances for Blues.

The 26-year-old made her debut against Everton at the start of the 2019/20 season and made her final appearance for the Club at St. Andrew's against West Ham United in the Barclays FA Women's Super League in March.

Women's Super League

2021/22 Table

WSL

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Chelsea	18	14	2	2	45	44
2	Arsenal	18	13	4	1	40	43
3	Manchester United	19	11	5	3	22	38
4	Manchester City	18	11	2	5	19	35
5	Tottenham Hotspur	17	8	4	5	6	28
6	Brighton & Hove Albion	19	8	1	10	-7	25
7	West Ham	19	6	6	7	-6	24
8	Reading	19	7	3	9	-14	24
9	Aston Villa	19	6	2	11	-19	20
10	Everton	19	5	3	11	-20	18
11	Leicester City	19	4	0	15	-34	12
12	Birmingham City	18	1	2	15	-32	5

Top Goalscorers

1. **Sam Kerr** (Chelsea) - 16
2. **Viv Miedema** (Arsenal) - 12
3. **Alessia Russo** (Manchester United) - 7
4. **Beth Mead** (Arsenal) - 7
5. **Beth England** (Chelsea) - 7
6. **Leah Galton** (Manchester United) - 7
7. **Ella Toone** (Manchester United) - 6
8. **Fran Kirby** (Chelsea) - 6
9. **Lauren Hemp** (Manchester City) - 6
10. **Georgia Stanway** (Manchester City) - 6

CHAMPIONSHIP



Liverpool staff cycle for charity



Several staff from Liverpool Women are taking part in a fundraising challenge to raise funds for vital medical treatment for ex-professional Stacey Daniel.

Daniel, 40, is a huge Reds fan and former striker for Leeds Women for many seasons.

She is suffering from a debilitating form of MS and former colleagues hope to fund special treatment to slow down the progress of the disease through their efforts.

Staff will be cycling between Anfield and Elland Road.

Amongst the staff are regional talent club manager Julie Grundy, former Reds captain and now Academy education lead Leandra Little, and

Liverpool-born former England forward Sue Smith.

Smith, who also played alongside Daniel at Leeds, was determined to do her bit for her former teammate.

She commented: "It's the football family, isn't it?"

"Even when you leave a club you still look after each other.

"As soon as we heard the news, we all wanted to do something and this is our little bit.

"I remember Stacey as a flying centre-forward, quick, scored lots of goals, so it's nice to be able to do something to help her."

Match of the Month: Bristol City vs Liverpool



By Paul Donegan

The top two in the Championship played each other at Ashton Gate on Sunday, April 3 with Liverpool knowing that if they avoided defeat then they will be crowned champions and with it promotion to the WSL.

Liverpool started brightly and Leanne Kiernan had the first chance in the 4th minute when her shot from the edge of the penalty area was easily saved. A Megan Campbell long throw was headed just over by Kiernan in the 8th minute.

Liverpool did take the lead in the 13th minute when

another long throw from Campbell bounced around in the penalty area before falling to Niamh Fahey who scored from about 6 yards out.

Bristol City equalised straight away when Aggie Beever-Jones scored from an angle with the ball looping over the Liverpool goalkeeper and into the net.

Liverpool went close to regaining the lead in the 20th minute when Rachel Furness smashed a shot just wide. Campbell then saw her free kick saved.

Bristol City had a chance at the other end five minutes later when Beever-Jones saw her low shot saved by the legs of Rachael Laws with Liverpool then being stopped by a good tackle as they broke quickly. Furness had another effort for Liverpool that went over.

Liverpool went back ahead in the 39th minute when Jasmine Matthews scored against her former club from inside the area after a free kick had not been cleared.

Liverpool saw another opportunity go high and

wide in first half injury time as they went into the break ahead.

It was Liverpool who had the first efforts in the second half with Furness seeing her shot tipped over by Fran Bentley then they saw another shot go wide.

A misplaced pass from Liverpool was picked up by Abi Harrison but Laws rushed out and gathered as Bristol City went looking for an equaliser.

It was Liverpool though who scored the next goal when in the 59th minute, a Campbell long throw was flicked on and finished from close range by Katie Stengel to make it 3-1.

In the 69th minute, Bristol City got a goal back when Harrison's shot found the corner of the net from about 12 yards for her 15th league goal of the season.

It was 4-2 in the 79th minute when Missy Bo

Kearns finished a low cross from Stengel from close range.

Liverpool went looking for more goals and in the 86th minute, Carla Humphrey rounded the Bristol City goalie but saw her shot blocked. From the resulting corner Jade Bailey headed over.

In injury time, Liverpool saw a shot go over and Bristol City had the final opportunity of the afternoon when a long range effort from Jasmine Bull was tipped over.

As the final whistle went, Liverpool started the celebrations on the pitch having secured the title and promotion back to the WSL after two seasons away. All of this in front of a Bristol City and Championship record attendance of 5,752.

Bristol City:

Bentley, Cataldo (J. Bull

59'), Layzell, Aspin (Wilde 83'), Murray, Allen (Powell 59'), Davies, Beever-Jones, C.Bull, Morgan, Harrison

Unused substitutes

Whitehouse, Kuyken, Jhamat, Collis, Cook, Woolley

Goals – Beever-Jones 14', Harrison 69'

Booked – Wilde

Liverpool:

Laws, Roberts, Fahey, Matthews, Campbell (Wardlaw 67'), Hinds, Holland (Kearns 73'), Furness (Bailey 84'), Lawley (Humphrey 84'), Stengel, Kiernan (Daniels 67')

Unused substitutes

Clarke, Hodson, Moore, Silcock

Goals – Fahey 13', Matthews 39', Stengel 59', Kearns 79'

Referee – Lisa Benn

Attendance – 5,752



Durham sign Noonan

Durham have announced the signing of Saoirse Noonan.

The Republic of Ireland international joins the Wildcats after a successful 2021, which saw her achieve success at both domestic and international level.

Speaking to the official website, she said: “It’s brilliant to be here.

“This is a really competitive club and they’ve been up there, so I’m buzzing to get going and ready to compete.

“I’d say I’m quite a technical player and dangerous in and around the box – and I’m good in the air.

“I just can’t wait to get going now.”



Slovenian international joins Blackburn

Blackburn have announced the loan signing of Slovenian youth international Luana Zajmi. The 19-year-old joins on loan from Barclay’s FA Women’s Super League side Leicester City until the end of the 2021-22 FA Women’s Championship season.

The versatile midfielder joined the East Midlands outfit in the summer from ZNK Pomurje in Solvenia. Zajmi won the Zenska Liga with ZNK Pomurje in the 2020/21 season and also gained UEFA Women’s Champions League experience with her former team.

Herron signs new contract at Sunderland

Sunderland have announced that Neve Herron has signed a new contract with the club until the end of the 2022/23 season.

Upon agreeing the 18-month deal, Herron said: “I’m delighted to have signed a contract here.

“I feel like I’ve developed well across the season so far and adapted to Championship level, and I’m certain that Sunderland is the right club at this stage of my career.

“My teammates and coaches have helped massively this season, so I’m very grateful to them. I have a great support on and off the pitch here.”

Coan pens first contract

Blackburn Rovers have announced that defender Hannah Coan has signed her first contract with the Championship club.

Coan joined Rovers permanently in the summer after impressing on loan during the second-half of the 2020-21 season and now the 21-year-old has been rewarded for her fine displays in the blue-and-white halves with her first Rovers contract.

The defender, who has primarily been operating as a left-back this campaign, has played her part in 19 of Rovers’ 20 games this season as she has been a strong presence in the side’s backline.



Gane joins on dual-sign deal

Watford have announced the dual signing of Evie Gane.

The defender is a former Welsh Under-17 and Under-19 international. She has also previously played for Reading, Oxford United, Aston Villa and London Bees at club level.

The nature of the dual-sign deal will mean that Gane will be able to play for both Watford and Portsmouth for the duration of the agreement.

She will wear number 32 while with the Golden Girls, and is eligible for selection immediately.

Adebowale-Arimoro joins Watford

Watford have announced the signing of Juliet Adebowale-Arimoro on a dual-sign agreement with Brighton & Hove Albion.

A talented player who can play centrally or out wide, Adebowale-Arimoro has shone in the FA WSL Academy League so far this season.

Eligible to represent the United States of America and Nigeria at international level, the forward was recently a part of the Nigerian Under-20 squad.

The new addition will be available for selection immediately, and will wear number 33 during her time with the Hornets.

Noonan injury update

Durham have provided an update on forward Saorise Noonan.

The statement read:

Shortly after arriving in England in January, the Republic of Ireland international sustained a knee injury during training.

Durham Women immediately arranged a scan and diagnosis, and no surgery was required.

Since that point, Noonan has been undergoing rehabilitation in Ireland while also flying to England for further medical support from the club's multi-disciplinary team.

As she continues her return from injury, Noonan will register with Shelbourne in Ireland ahead of returning to Durham for the 2022/23 season.



Women's Championship

2021/22 Table

Championship		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
C	Liverpool	20	15	4	1	34	49
2	Bristol City	19	11	2	6	17	35
3	Crystal Palace	20	10	3	7	-5	33
4	Sheffield United	20	9	5	6	8	32
5	London City Lionesses	19	10	2	7	8	32
6	Durham	20	9	4	7	0	31
7	Charlton Athletic	20	8	4	8	5	28
8	Lewes	19	8	2	9	0	26
9	Sunderland	20	6	5	9	-6	23
10	Blackburn Rovers	20	5	2	13	-19	17
11	Watford	20	2	5	13	-26	11
12	Coventry United	19	3	6	10	-16	5



TheFA Women's
Championship

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE



FANWL Constitution and Reserve Season teams

Constitution

Northern Premier

AFC Fylde
Brighouse Town
Burnley
Derby County
Huddersfield Town
Hull City
Loughborough Lightning
Middlesbrough
Nottingham Forest
Sheffield
Stoke City
West Bromwich Albion
Wolverhampton Wanderers

Southern Premier

Bridgewater United
Cardiff City
Chichester & Selsey
Crawley Wasps
Gillingham
Hounslow
Ipswich Town
Keynsham Town
London Bees
Milton Keynes Dons
Oxford United
Plymouth Argyle
Portsmouth
Southampton

Division One North

Alnwick Town
Barnsley
Bolton
Bradford City AFC
Chester-le-Street Town
Chorley
Durham Cestria
FC United of Manchester
Leeds United
Liverpool Feds
Newcastle United
Norton & Stockton
Stockport County

Division One Mids

Bedworth United
Boldmere St Michaels
Burton Albion
Doncaster Rovers Belles
Holwell Sports
Leafield Athletic
Leek Town
Lincoln City
Long Eaton United
Peterborough United
Solihull Moors
Sporting Khalsa
Wem Town

Division One SE

Actonians
AFC Wimbledon
Billericay Town
Cambridge City
Cambridge United
Enfield Town
Harlow Town
Hashtag United
Kent Football United
London Seaward
Norwich City
QPR
Stevenage

Division One SW

AFC Bournemouth
Buckland Athletic
Cheltenham Town
Chesham United
Exeter City
Larkhall Athletic
Maidenhead United
Poole Town
Portishead Town
Southampton Women
Swindon Town

Reserve Section

North Division

Barnsley
Bradford City
Brighouse Town
Chorley
Durham Cestria

Huddersfield Town
Hull City
Leeds United
Liverpool Feds
Middlesbrough
Sheffield
Stockport County

Midlands Division

Bedworth United
Doncaster Rovers Belles
Leicester City
Long Eaton United
Lincoln City
Loughborough Lightning
Nottingham Forest
Solihull Moors
Sporting Khalsa
Stoke City
West Bromwich Albion
Wolverhampton Wanderers

South East Division

Cambridge City
Cambridge United
Hashtag United
Ipswich Town
MK Dons
Norwich City
Stevenage
Watford
West Ham United

South Central Division

Actonians
AFC Wimbledon
Billericay Town
Charlton Athletic
Crawley Wasps
Crystal Palace
Enfield Town
London Bees
London Seaward

South West Division

Bridgewater United
Chichester & Selsey
Keynsham Town
Lewes
London City Lionesses
Oxford United
Portsmouth
Southampton

Simon Says

By Simon O'Neill

This month I interviewed Evie Rose Michael, a Rotherham United and Manchester City supporter.

The best way to describe her? She is a big football fan!

How old were you when you first became aware of your interest in football?

I can't remember the exact age, but when I was younger, I used to watch my older brother play football every Sunday, and my dad sometimes took me to home games and I really enjoyed them, I've just recently become a season ticket holder for Rotherham United as I'm now old enough to go on my own with friends.

I have just started going to watch England play, and my second team Manchester City.

Did you kick a ball around when you were younger?

Not really, I wasn't very good at playing football I preferred to watch the games instead. But I did sometimes have a kick around with my older brother in the park.

Have you ever played for your school or an organised team?

I did once play for my primary school at the New York stadium and I was the

goalkeeper, but it was nothing serious.

Which team do you support?

I grew up to be a massive fan of Rotherham United just like the rest of my family, but my second team is Manchester City both male and female.

Are any of your family football fans?

My whole family apart from my stepdad are all Rotherham United fans, my stepdad supports Sheffield United, so we do have quite a bit of football banter. we also all support different second teams which is really funny especially when they play each other.

You support Rotherham United (men's), they are currently in League 1. Do you think they can soon return to the Championship?

Rotherham United are 3rd from the top of league one now, so there is every chance that they will go back up to the championship next season, but if not I will still be a loyal follower.

Who has been your favourite player?

My favourite player from Rotherham United has got to be Michael Smith, I think he's a great player overall.

For the men's Manchester City team I do love Jack Grealish, but my favourite has

to be Kevin De Bruyne.

For the women's Manchester City it's definitely Karen Beardsley, she's amazing in the net and doesn't concede many goals.

Which women's team do you follow?

Manchester City, I've watched a fair bit of womens football on t.v and they stand out the most for me, their games never get boring.

The growing interest in the women's game will see a huge increase in the Euro 2022 competition in the summer. Will you be watching all the England matches?

Of course, I will unless I'm busy with my studies. I'm glad that womens football is getting the recognition it's deserves.

How do you think the Women's Euro 2022 competition will benefit both the women's and girls grassroots football in the UK?

Easy question, the women's finals at Wembley sold out in a matter of hours which even the men's final didn't achieve that status, and it's going to be beamed all over the world which will generate huge interest in the women game so better money, sponsorship deals, TV and revenue which will filter down through every aspect of the game.

And finally what would be your dream job in football?

I think my strongest position in football would be the goalkeeper, has I'm tall and have the confidence to save the ball. I've also had a lot more practise in the net than I have in any other position. So that would be my dream job in football.



The FA and Leeds Beckett University Announce Innovative Project with Playermaker Exploring Demands of the Women's Game



The Football Association (FA) is pleased to announce that after a successful two years working with Leeds Beckett University on a project that explores the demands of the women's game, the partnership has been extended for a third year and will see further developments providing even more in-depth insights into the locomotor and technical demands of the game. Playermaker, a world-leader in football performance tracking technology, is providing support for the initiative.

The research aims to better understand the demands on players within the women's game, and

what learnings can be taken from the insights obtained to drive the game forward. The research programme instigated by The FA includes a collaboration with Leeds Beckett University to appoint a PhD student and a Post-doctoral researcher, who are using insights gathered from the data to answer performance questions the FA gave, whilst offering data insights directly back to clubs involved in the project to inform their training strategies.

As part of the project, players have been granted the opportunity to access and use the innovative

Playermaker wearable technology in matches through the FIFA Innovation Programme. Enabling a wealth of data and insight to be captured on match characteristics and leveraged to better understand how the demands of the women's game and to inform training prescription.

For the first year of the project, a number of Barclays FA Women's Super League Senior teams, Academies and FA Women's Championship clubs wore the Playermaker technology in training offering world first insight into how clubs train and prepare teams. Following acceptance into

the FIFA Innovation Programme, the second year of the project allowed clubs to use it in games giving a unique perspective of the demands of elite women's football and how we prepare and develop players to maximise their potential.

The project aims to better inform coaching staff, multi-disciplinary practitioners and athletes, who as a result will be able to make educated decisions about training priorities and managing injuries, and to better understand training load and match intensity. This is coupled with the ongoing club specific live data visualisation and feedback tools developed by Leeds Beckett (see images below) on a raft of performance metrics against the league averages. These provide live training insights which clubs can use to enhance physical development strategies.

Thanks to the work being conducted by the organisations, the resulting research programme and the participation of clubs; the data will help to innovate, support, and invest in the already phenomenal talent within the women's game.



Ryan King, The FA's Project Lead for the partnership, said: "Understanding the demands and developments within the women's game is crucial to offering the relevant support to players as they seek to fulfil their full potential.

"Our pioneering project looks to answer a key performance problem; How physically demanding is the game and how can we best develop and prepare players?

"Using the innovative Playermaker technology and the brilliant minds at Leeds Beckett we will be able to provide performance solutions that help maximise player potential and avoid load related injury issues – it is phenomenally exciting.

"This project alongside Leeds Beckett and Playermaker is designed to fill the knowledge gaps we have on how we prioritise the development of our players, and I am really looking forward to analysing the data we receive over the next season as we take the project to the next level."

Dr Stacey Emmonds, a Reader in Sports Performance at Leeds Beckett University's

Carnegie School of Sport, said: "This is a really exciting project to be working on with the FA and Playermaker.

"The acceptance of Playermaker into the FIFA Innovation Programme is a big milestone in the project as this allows us to better understand the physical demands of the game.

"As part of the research project, Leeds Beckett have developed interactive live training and match dashboards for each club in the project and an overall dashboard for the FA.

"These provide clubs with live analysis of their training and match data, and it also allows them to make comparisons to anonymised league averages.

"This enables the clubs to directly integrate the project research findings into daily training practices at the club and further develop evidence informed practice in women's football."

Guy Aharon, CEO and Co-Founder of Playermaker, said: "We are thrilled that professional female footballers will now be able to use Playermaker technology in both game and training

environments, as a result of the support and efforts of The FA, Leeds Beckett University and FIFA's Innovation Programme.

"The research that is being carried out is crucial to driving forward the women's game, and we are proud to play a part in investing in and raising the bar for female football athletes overall.

"Beyond this, having the Playermaker wearable device approved for the first-time in professional matches is a huge milestone as our vision is for our technology to be available at all levels of the game, providing the ability for anyone who is passionate about the game to improve using our insights and data."

Leeds Beckett University will be hosting a Football Exchange Research Conference on Saturday 21st May 2022, where further insights from this research and similar projects in other professional football organisations will be shared.

For further details please contact Dr Stacey Emmonds on s.emmonds@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.



AstroPay strengthens partnership with Burnley FC



AstroPay, the global leader in online payment solutions, has further strengthened its partnership with Burnley Football Club by becoming Burnley FC Women's front of shirt sponsor for the remainder of the 2021/22 season and sponsoring the newly installed dugouts at Turf Moor.

The strategic partnership was established at the beginning of the 2021 Premier League campaign, with AstroPay becoming Burnley FC's official sleeve sponsor.

The new partnership with the women's team further strengthens the company's positive relationship with the club.

As sponsor of the women's team, the AstroPay logo will be displayed on the front of Burnley FC Women's home and away shirts, with the range available to purchase in the Clarets Store soon.

In addition, Turf Moor has undergone a range of stadium developments and AstroPay have committed to sponsoring the newly installed dugouts, with their branding visible on headrests and in the technical area.

Mikael Lijtenstein, AstroPay CEO said: "We are pleased to strengthen our partnership with Burnley Football Club, through these new sponsorship deals.

"As two innovative organisations, we share a similar ethos of being forward thinking and creative, which is why the prospect of becoming Burnley FC Women's front of shirt sponsor was so appealing.

"The club are making great strides in women's football, and we wanted to be a part of the journey.

"We very much look forward to continuing to develop our partnership

with the club and achieving great things together.”

AstroPay, which is also the Official Payment Solution Partner to Burnley Football Club, was founded in 2009 and since then has been successful in providing efficient, secure and reliable digital payment solutions for business and individual customers across Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Carl Sanderson Head of Business Partnerships at Burnley FC said: “We are thrilled that AstroPay have further strengthened their support by becoming front of shirt sponsor for the women’s team and by sponsoring the new dugouts.

“The club are committed to growing the women’s game, as is demonstrated through exciting partnership and sponsorships such as this. Women’s football is on the rise and is reaching more people than ever before, it’s an incredibly exciting area to be a part of which is why we are pleased to collaborate with AstroPay on this deal.

“We’re also incredibly proud of the developments within the stadium in recent months and are pleased AstroPay, as a valued partner of Burnley FC, have committed to sponsoring the dugouts too. We look forward to continuing to work closely with them throughout the season.”





Northern Premier News

Brighthouse Town launch development centre

Brighthouse Town have launched their Girls Football Development Centre. The Academy will run every Monday starting on January, 10, 2022.

Information:

Girls aged 6-10

Lightcliffe Academy, HX3 8TL



Bee leaves Burnley

Burnley have announced the departure of first team manager Matt Bee.

The statement said: "As Burnley FC Women continue transitioning to a more professional level, Matt Bee will be leaving his post as first team manager.

We are grateful for Matt's time and achievements at Burnley and wish him the best for the future.

The Club will not be commenting further at this time but will communicate additional details in due course."

Greenhalgh re-signs for Burnley

Striker Sarah Greenhalgh has re-signed for Burnley as a dual registration with AFC Darwn.

Greenhalgh, was top goal scorer for the Clarets in their title-winning promotions in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Sarah Greenhalgh said: "I'm really excited about being back at Burnley. There are lots of new talented players who I'm looking forward to playing with.

"I'm looking forward to being back at this standard. I'm happy to pick up where I'm left off, after enjoying the promotion into this league with the girls, I'm happy to experience playing at this level and hopefully continuing to enjoy success with Burnley."

Derby and University launch scholarship

Derby County Football Club Women and the University of Derby are today launching their football journalism scholarship programme for 2022, with successful candidates having the chance to report on the UEFA Women's Euro 2022.

Three scholarships are available for students wishing to play football



for Derby County Football Club Women while studying on Europe's only dedicated Football Journalism BA (Hons) degree course.

Duncan Gibb, Chief Executive of Derby County Football Club Women, told the official website: "This is a fantastic opportunity for talented football players to join an ambitious club with facilities that are second to none while continuing their studies for a career in the media.

"There really is no offer like this anywhere else in the UK."

Punjabi Rams and Mitchell Promotions support Women's team

Derby County Football Club Women's CEO, Duncan Gibb has praised the recent support shown by long term partners, the Punjabi Rams and Mitchell Promotions, whilst also acknowledging the commitment shown by all of the clubs' partners during pre-season.

"The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the UK business sector has been widely documented and has led to companies that would normally look to invest finances on brand awareness having to cut their cloth accordingly. I've spoken to my equivalent at several National League clubs, and what has become apparent is that Derby County Football Club Women somewhat bucked the trend in reporting a record pre-season in terms of sponsorship revenues through our club partners.

"The Punjabi Rams not only held a major fundraising raffle that seemed to capture the Derby County supporter network imagination, three of their members (who also own businesses) provided added investment to help towards the final total."



Preston returns as manager of Huddersfield

Huddersfield Town have confirmed the departure of first team manager Steve Appleton.

Glen Preston, former manager of Guiseley Vixens, as he returns for his second stint in the role at Huddersfield.

Preston says he is ready to take up the challenge:

"It feels great to be back! It's been a crazy few days where everything has happened so fast. But ultimately, it's a great feeling for me and a big honour to be here.

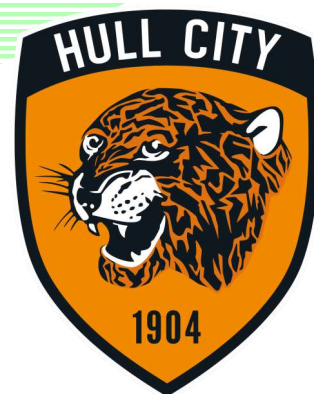
The first time I managed Huddersfield Town Ladies it was one of the best moments of my career, we had great success over two years and so it was not a difficult decision at all to come back and take on this great challenge."

Hull City ambassador inducted into Hall of Fame

Carol Thomas has been inducted into the National Football Museum Hall of Fame.

Hull City Ladies was announced in 2019 that Carol Thomas was the Tigress first club ambassador. The former England international women's defender succeeded Sheila Parker as captain in 1976, holding that position until her retirement in 1985.

In her time as captain she set some exceptional milestones; she became the first England captain to surpass 50 caps and also captained her side to their inaugural trophy.





Northern Premier News



Stewart departs Middlesbrough

Middlesbrough have confirmed defender Courtney Stewart has left the club.

The former Sunderland defender joined the club in the summer but has been advised to take a break from football on medical advice.

The statement said: "Everyone at the club wants to respect that and wish her the very best in the future."

"While Courtney has sadly been unable to make an appearance for the club, we have loved having her around the club and want to wish her the very best of luck in her future."

Sheffield FC team up with Her Game Too

Sheffield FC have announced a new partnership with Her Game Too to raise awareness of sexist abuse within the realms of football.

"It's brilliant to partner up with Sheffield FC, showing that the oldest club in the World is one of the most forward-thinking," said Victoria Wood of HerGameToo. "They are a club who do so much for equality in the community already so they match the values of HerGameToo perfectly."

"Discrimination has no place in football and we can't thank Sheffield FC enough for backing our movement and for helping us to stamp sexism out of the game."

"As the World's First Football Club we support the hergametoo initiative .



Walklett signs for Albion

Albion Women have completed the signing of Kerry Walklett from Southern Premier Division side Keynsham Town.

"We are delighted to add Kerry to the squad," said Head Coach Jenny Sugarman.

"She brings bags of experience both at this level and the level above, which will no doubt help us on our journey."

"I can already see the attitude and work ethic she possesses and we hope that she can also add to our attacking threat with goals and assists but also helping to bring the best out in her team-mates."





Southern Premier News



Bridgwater United announce new partnership

Bridgwater United has announced a new partnership with Body Mechanics.

Body Mechanics are a Bridgwater based pain and movement specialists providing injury care and performance improvement training to both the general public and sporting teams.

CEO Adam Murry remarked, "This is yet another partnership with a brilliant local company that provides further support to our First Teams in reaching our collective ambitions as a club.

"I'm really excited to be working alongside Laurence, Spence and

the team."

Chichester & Selsey defender in hospital

After a collision with a player during a Southern Premier Division game with Hashtag United, Emma Alexandre was sent to hospital.

The Chichester & Selsey defender had to have a second procedure on Tuesday, December 14.

Wishing her a speedy recovery.



Crawley Wasps partner with Crawley Town

Crawley Town have formed a 'long-awaited' partnership with Crawley Wasps.

Speaking on behalf of the partnership, Revenue Manager Alex Watts said: "We want football to be accessible for both men and women of Crawley and with the support of Jack and the team at Crawley Wasps we will be able to make this happen.

"As a club we are engaging with the key stakeholders in the area through initiatives such as our Crawley Town Gratitude Scheme. It is encouraging to see the response from people like Jack who want to become involved with the club for the benefit of the community.

"We plan to reciprocate the support to be in a situation where fans are coming to watch Crawley Town on the Saturday and then Crawley Wasps on the Sunday."



Peskett to undergo surgery

Ipswich Town winger Sophie Peskett has been ruled out indefinitely.

The 19-year-old winger, who became Ipswich's first ever professional player back in the summer, suffered a knee-injury in September.

After waiting for the results, it has now been confirmed that she has torn her ACL in addition to further damage to her knee.

Speaking to the club website, Sophie said: 'After suffering a knee-injury a few weeks ago, unfortunately it has been confirmed that I have ruptured my ACL and will require surgery.

"Obviously I'm absolutely gutted as this is a massive season for me, my teammates and the club as a whole, and I didn't see my season ending like this.

"I'm so grateful for the support I've received from the girls, the staff and everyone else at Ipswich Town - it's meant the absolute world to me.

"I'm ready to work as hard as I possibly can throughout my recovery so I can be back playing alongside my teammates as soon as possible.

"Finally, I'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has wished me well and supported me throughout this injury process. I honestly can't wait to be back playing in front of our incredible fans."



Bell joins London Bees

Jade Bell has joined London Bees in a new deal.

The experienced winger comes to the Bees after spending three seasons with MK Dons.

Whilst at Stadium MK, she played against the Bees as Sian Osmond's side ran out 5-1 winners last month.

Bell previously spent time at Cambridge United and also won back-to-back Championship titles whilst playing for Texas A&M University Commerce FC.



During her time in the States, the 28-year-old also turned out for FC Dallas.

Jade will wear the No. 20 shirt.

Oxford United call up women's player

Oxford United men currently have 13 first team players unavailable which has left an opening for one of the women's team.

Manager Karl Robinson asked Beth Lumsden, from the women's team, to train with the men's side.

The midfielder has been taking part in training sessions for the past few weeks.

"It's been such a good experience. I've done it for about three or four weeks now, once a week, there's a session in the morning, followed by a gym session and an evening training session with the women as well," Lumsden told The Mirror.

"We were talking and Karl was there and he was really encouraging, he's been brilliant. The men are a lot quicker, it's not so much physically but it pushes you mentally to make decisions quicker and then I take that into games."





Division One News



Walker earns 100 appearances

Chorley Women captain Laura Walker has made 100 appearances for the Division One North side.

The achievement came in their league game against Liverpool Feds on Sunday, November 7.

Debuting on August 6th 2017 in the away Friendly at Bury Development, these figures do not include 30 Friendly Appearances, with 6 Goals scored.

A statement from the club read: "Well Done to Laura, who works so hard for our club, both on and off the football field."

Surgery for Durham Cestria player

Durham Cestria reserve team player Cassie Donald has undergone knee surgery.

Donald ruptured her ACL in a recent game.

The statement from the club read: "Everyone at the club wishes you all the best of luck with your recovery, we're with you every step of the way."

Double knee fracture for Kennerley

FC United of Manchester's Eve Kennerley suffered a double leg fracture in their Vitality Women's FA Cup first round match against Brighouse Town.

Eve had successful surgery on the 16th November and is now beginning her recovery period.

She will be out for the rest of the season.



Nelson joins Newcastle United

Newcastle United have announced the signing of Erin Nelson from Durham Cestria.

The 20-year-old winger started her career at the Magpies and told the official website that she was happy to be back.

"I was in the academy when I was very young. It feels good to be back. I am excited to get started.

"I will bring pace to the side, and get at players and try to take them on. I will try to link up well with my other forwards."



Belles RTC sign Powell

Alexis Powell has joined Doncaster Rovers Belles Regional talent centre after a successful period in the Belles training centre.

Powell is the first player to make the switch from the Training Centre to the RTC after being identified as having elite potential.

RTC club manager Chantelle Haigh added: "Alexis has settled in really well and we're delighted to have her with us. We hope she's the first of many young players from across the borough that are able to find their way to Doncaster Rovers Belles via the Training Centre."



Vacancies at Leek Town

Leek Town Ladies are looking for a first team coach and a reserve team manager/coach.

Both roles require a certain level of qualification.

For more information contact leektownfcgirls@yahoo.co.uk

Bournemouth sign Bradley



Bournemouth have announced the signing of Jade Bradley to the club.

The experienced midfielder joins the Cherries from Portsmouth, having spent four years with the club.

Bradley told afcb.co.uk: "I had a good chat with Steve and he wants to see the club progress. The players have brought in to that and they know what we want as a club.

"Steve knows what we want, as do the backroom staff, so it's nice for all of us to be aligned with our goals and ambitions."



GRASSROOTS



Football returning to Gigg Lane



Following discussions between Bury Football Club Women, Bury Football Club Supporters Society and Gigg Lane Stadium we can confirm that a deal has been agreed for the Women's team to play their final 3 games of the 2021/2022 season at Gigg Lane.

Bury Girls & Ladies Football Club started in the summer of 1996 to provide a group of girls with an opportunity to play football. It was just one team at that time. An association with Bury FC was formed and plans put in place to grow the Club. Several years later and the Club boasted girls' teams at all age groups from U10s through to adult and became a big name in the region for providing a quality football provision for female football. The Club continues to expand and now includes a football provision for the whole community with boys, vets, walking and disability football, with it and an encompassing name Bury FC Foundation.

At the time of writing Bury FC Women are top of the Lancashire FA Women's County League with 6 games remaining.

Their top scorer Kimberley Tyson with 35 goals in 14 appearances, has just been nominated for Non-League Best Women's Footballer Tier 5 below in the nlbible awards 2022.

Diana Golding, Chairperson and Welfare Officer said, "This is a fantastic opportunity to

showcase our Club and return the Women's First Team to the stadium where they had great success in 2019. The players are very excited and we are sure this will give them the extra push to go on and win the league and promotion".

Colin Platt, Bury FC Women's 1st Team Manager added, "Having Bury FC Women returning to play on Gigg Lane after a few years away is a fantastic opportunity for our club and the Women's team. We are currently experiencing a fantastic season of football and this opportunity will only help us in the final months of the season. Myself, Luke Haughey (Head Coach) and the players are thrilled to have this opportunity to play at Gigg Lane and to represent the Club and the Bury community."

Daniel Bowerbank, Operations Director Gigg Lane added, "It is great that we have come to an agreement with Bury FC Women, they used to play some of their home games at Gigg Lane prior to May 2019. When we officially got the stadium back it was one agreement we needed to complete as soon as possible. We are in talks with the council to look at a reduced capacity of the stadium to allow supporters into the stadium to watch their remaining fixtures, any announcements will be made as soon as possible."

The 'Let Girls Play' Biggest Ever Football Session



By Jamie Davies

Back on March 9, The FA hosted a nationwide event across Primary and Secondary schools with over 61,000 children signed up to play football.

We took part in a roundtable discussion with the FA's Louise Gear, who is the Head of Development a week before the Let Girls Play Biggest Ever Football Session took place last month, alongside fellow members of the media to learn more about the campaign.

Campaign's Aim

'The FA, supported by Barclays want all girls to

have equal access to football in schools by 2024. We believe girls should have the same opportunities that boys currently have to play and we hope you do too. Show your support and help us to achieve our vision for girls across the country.

'Schools are ideal places to introduce sport to young people. That's why we've been working hard to support more schools to offer more girls' football across more of the country.'

Speaking to Louise Gear (Head of Development)

Interviewer: Jamie Davies

JD: With your campaign, has there been communication with other countries to find out how they've approached football in schools especially the USA since they have won the last two World Cups?

LG: "In terms of engaging with other countries, we're always in contact with our counterparts certainly through UEFA.

"I think the USA's model is a little different to ours because their education system is different to ours [the UK].

"But that's not to say that we can't and aren't learning from the profile

raising work that they are doing in the States.

“We talk to the Netherlands as well and interestingly our women’s coach (Sarina Wiegman) is from the Netherlands and she was a PE teacher.

“She has been a big influence and starting to have an impact on this since arriving and leading the Lionesses.

“We’re always learning and if I’m being honest, we’re also getting a lot of European nations reaching out to us and are following our journey with interest.

“We are constantly delivering study visits and sessions with our counter parts in different nations.

“I would say we are leading the way in this area.

“We know that in Germany that mixed football is part of their culture; they actually have mixed football in grassroots.”

JD: Has there been any young girls getting in touch with the FA, any in certain areas where they would love to play football but their school doesn’t offer it to girls?

LG: “Yes is the answer, we intend to direct them to either their school’s football partnership.

“We have 221 of these Barclays partnerships now or we direct them to their

county FA if they want to play affiliated football and find a club.

“The ambition that we’ve got isn’t just for girls to have the same access to football in schools but also for clubs as well.

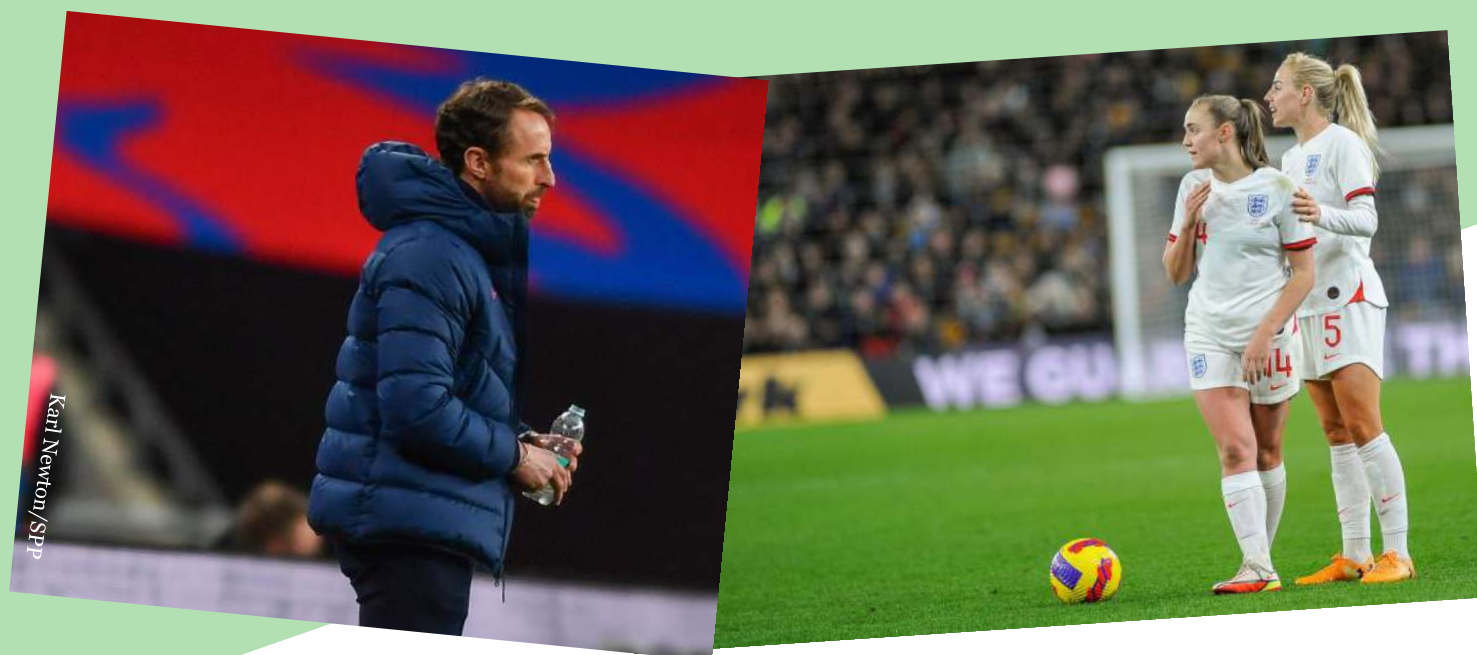
“The work that we’ve started to do in the club landscape is to build a pathway from under-10s right the way through to Under-16s.”

More Information

To learn more about the Let Girls Play campaign, simply visit the FA’s website link - <https://letgirlsplay.thefa.com/>



Southgate, Stanway, Ramsdale and Rutter call on parents to hand children their 'grassroots debuts' at McDonald's Fun Football sessions this year



- England manager Gareth Southgate is urging parents to take their kids to free Fun Football sessions being held across the country this Spring.
- Lionesses star Georgia Stanway reveals she made her grassroots football debut at an early age when she was called up to play in her eight-year-old brother's team.
- Former England and Paralympics GB captain, Jack Rutter, says playing grassroots football with his best mates are some of his favourite memories.

- Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale believes his experience and the joy he found in playing grassroots football is why he still always tries to play with a smile today.

- For more information and to find your nearest session, go to: mcdonalds.co.uk/football

England Manager, Gareth Southgate, Manchester City and Lionesses forward

Georgia Stanway, former Paralympics GB captain Jack Rutter and Arsenal and England goalkeeper

Aaron Ramsdale are calling on parents to give children their 'grassroots debut' this spring at McDonald's Fun Football sessions taking place across the country.

With registration for McDonald's free Fun Football now open, the stars were all on hand at special Fun Football sessions to give young attendees a football debut they will never forget - and to encourage parents across the country to kickstart their child's grassroots journey.

While attending a McDonald's Fun Football session in Wembley, England manager Gareth Southgate said: "I think all

parents want their kids to enjoy whatever they do, make new friends and to learn new skills.

“Fun Football is the perfect environment for that.

“Grassroots football is where every player falls in love with the game, which is why it is really important that we offer as many kids as possible the opportunity to play.

“I remember from an early age all I wanted to do was play football. I was lucky enough to go on and fulfil that ambition.

“We put a lot of emphasis on the England team’s role in inspiring the next generation and leaving the shirt in a better place.

“You can see first-hand how the current team is benefiting from a competitive player pathway and youth system.

“So It’s great to see so many players make their debuts at Fun Football sessions and fall in love with the game.

“You never know, we might have someone here making their first step towards achieving their international debut.”

Recalling his grassroots and international debut, Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron

Ramsdale said: “My international debut wouldn’t have happened without the support of my family and the hours they spent watching me play grassroots football.

“I remember the first time I picked up a ball as a kid, just running around playing for hours on end with my mates who I am still good friends with today and that’s what it’s about.

“If I was to go back and give myself advice before my first ever game, I would say take it all in, don’t worry about everyone else, and just enjoy it.

“It’s just football and that’s the whole reason we all started it. Grassroots football is why I still play every day with a smile on my face.”

Manchester City and Lionesses star Georgia Stanway said, “We had to travel hours for me to play football.

“I even used to eat my tea on my lap in the car to make sure I could get there on time!

“That’s why the McDonald’s Fun Football sessions are so vital.

“Providing hundreds of free, easily accessible, coaching sessions that give girls and boys the

opportunity to come and play together is massive.

“When you get to a session and cross that line nothing else matters.

“You’re just here to have fun. It’s what football is about and is the reason I am still friends with people that I played grassroots football with when I was younger.

In partnership with The FA, McDonald’s is providing hundreds of free sessions, all delivered by a team of fully qualified coaches in hundreds of locations across England during 2022.

To give your child their grassroots debut and for the latest information about McDonald’s Fun Football sessions which provide free football for children aged 5-11

Visit [McDonalds.com/FunFootball](https://www.mcdonalds.com/FunFootball) and follow @FunFootballUK on Twitter and Instagram.



CUPS



Champions League semi-finals:

All you need to know

Barcelona vs Wolfsburg

Barcelona (ESP, holders)

How they qualified: Holders, Spanish champions

Group stage: Group C winners (W6 Do Lo F24 A1)

Quarter-finals: W8-3agg vs Real Madrid (W3-1a, W5-2h)

Top scorer (group stage onward): Alexia Putellas—8

Previous European best: Winners (2020/21)

Semi-final record: W2 L2

Campaign a nutshell

Their group progress was never in doubt after the opening 4-1 defeat of Arsenal. In the quarter-finals against Madrid they had to come from behind in both legs, doing so in style and thrilling the record 91,553 crowd at Camp Nou.

Wolfsburg (GER)

How they qualified: German league runners-up;

Group stage: Group A winners (W3 D2 L1 F17 A7)

Quarter-finals: W3-1agg vs Arsenal (D1-1a, W2-0h)

Top scorer (group stage onward): Tabea Wassmuth—9

Previous European best: Winners (2012/13, 2013/14)

Semi-final record: W5 L1

Campaign a nutshell

Pegged back in the last minute at quarter-final opponents Arsenal, the German side conjured another fine performance at home to a London club to ensure progress.

Lyon vs Paris Saint-Germain

Lyon (FRA)

How they qualified: French league runners-up;

Group stage: Group D winners (W5 Do L1 F19 A2)

Quarter-finals: W4-3agg vs Juventus (L1-2a, W3-1h)

Top scorers (group stage onward): Catarina Macario—5

Previous European best: Winners (2010/11, 2011/12, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 – record)

Semi-final record: W9 L2

Campaign a nutshell

Came through a potentially tricky qualifying tie with Levante and, despite losing at Bayern, always looked on course for Group D top spot.

Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)

How they qualified: French champions

Group stage: Group B winners (W6 Do Lo F25 A0)

Quarter-finals: W4-3agg vs Bayern München (W2-1a, D2-2h aet)

Top scorer (group stage onward): Jordyn Huitema—6

Previous European best: Runners-up (2014/15, 2016/17)

Semi-final record: W2 L3

Campaign a nutshell

The first team confirmed as group winners following their home and away defeats of Real Madrid on Matchdays 3 and 4, Paris displayed the form that helped them knock Lyon out of Europe last term and depose them in the French league.

Barca's Record Attendance Signals a Potential Force



By Jamie Davies

Barcelona Femeni recorded the biggest attendance at a women's football match as 91,553 supporters attended their Champions League meeting with rivals Real Madrid.

March 30th, 2022 under the lights at the Nou Camp was surrounded by tens of thousands of supporters who are used to seeing their men's team week in, week out play in front of a big crowd whatever the occasion.

It was a very different scene however when Barcelona Femeni came out to play in one of the biggest and most spectacle venues in world football. It was a long time coming as last season's Women's Champions League winners should be playing in front of big numbers with their

recent success and dominance. Winning teams like Barcelona Femeni should be playing in front of big crowds; there should be no questions about it.

Manager Lluís Cortes and his side were not used to being watched and judged by huge atmospheres like the Nou Camp before their home match on March 30. But boy did they take up the opportunity of playing at the Nou Camp as they thrashed their El Clásico rivals, Real Madrid, 5-2 on the night as the aggregate score finished 8-3.

The huge win signalled a potential force of just how dominant Barcelona Femeni can become.

After the final whistle, the Barca players applauded the crowd for turning up. The

highlight was Ballon d'Or winner, Alexia Putellas, heading to the crowd behind one of the goal nets to slam a drum and sing with the supporters.

This is the kind of stage Putellas and her team have been hoping for.

Putellas said after the game: "I'm almost speechless, honestly. This has been utterly magical.

"When the match finished, the fans simply did not want to go home.

"There was such a connection between them and us while we celebrated.

"To hear them singing that they want to go to Turin was superb."

Last season, Barcelona won everything including the European Cup and the Spanish League title, losing only one game in the league all season, which saw a similar dominance as the men's team did under Pep Guardiola back when they won the Champions League in 2009 and 2011.

The comparisons are very similar if you think about it.

This season has been a tough one for the men's team after losing their greatest ever player, Lionel Messi, to Paris Saint Germain before being knocked out of the Champions League in only the group stages. It is fair to say the success of the women's side has been good escapism for the Barca fans.

Barcelona Femeni right now have the best team in women's football, they have the best player in the world in Alexia Putellas and now they have the best fans in the world by nearly selling out a stadium so close to six figures.

The league is pretty much wrapped up for another season as they are currently sitting at the top of the division with 26 wins, no defeats and are 22 points clear. Perfect excuse to put all your energy into the bid of winning the Champions League in succession.

After the Nou Camp win over Real Madrid, the club announced tickets for their new fortress for when they face, one of Europe's biggest clubs, VFL Wolfsburg in the home leg of the semi-finals. Within the 24-hour period of



tickets going on sale, they were sold out indicating bigger numbers outbid the 91,553 that attended the quarterfinals.

Highest Attendances at Women's Football Matches

- 91,553 – Barcelona vs Real Madrid (2022)
- 90,185 – USA v China (1999)
- 80,203 – USA v Japan (2012)
- 77,768 – England v Germany (2019)
- 60,739 – Atletico Madrid v Barcelona (2019)
- 57,900 – USA v Netherlands (2019)
- 53,341 – USA v Japan (2015)

50,000 free tickets were given out to club members, all of them taken straight away.

On the Tuesday, tickets were made available to the public before being sold out in the afternoon.

The official numbers are not available yet of how many supporters we should expect when Wolfsburg come to the city but we might see the current world record smashed in just a matter of weeks.

With Barcelona's win rate at 100% this season, the Catalans will no doubt be the favourites going into the semi-final tie both home and away.

Many expect Barca to be defending their European crown on May 21st in Turin.

The last time both Barcelona and Wolfsburg met in the Champions League was in 2020 when the Spanish side lost it by 0-1, in a match they largely dominated.

April's encounter is the perfect opportunity for the European champions to get some revenge over the Germans.

It is an all-French affair in the other semi as Lyon take on a much eager Paris Saint Germain side. Lyon are currently 5 points ahead of PSG in Division 1 Feminine with four matches to go but both sides do face each other in the penultimate round on May 28th, weeks after the semi-final tie is decided.

Lyon will be hoping to get themselves back at the top of Europe after winning five of the last six Champions Leagues. PSG have never won the biggest club competition in football, the closest they ever have is finishing 2nd place in 2015 and 2017.

The latter stages of the competition is heating up as the Juventus stadium will find out soon exactly which two teams will be in May's final.





Vitality Women's FA Cup prize fund increases



The Football Association has today announced a new landmark investment into the Vitality Women's FA Cup that will see the competition's prize fund receive a significant uplift to £3m per year.

The new agreement will be introduced from the start of the 2022/23 season and will see funds spread across each round of the competition, resulting in greater investment across both the women's

professional and grassroots game.

The FA Board signed off on the new proposals at a meeting last Thursday, highlighting The FA's commitment in continuing the impressive growth of the women's football – across every level of the game.

The Vitality Women's FA Cup has grown in stature, with 417 teams entering the competition this season, while

interest has significantly increased over the last decade, which resulted in the Final being permanently moved to Wembley Stadium connected by EE in 2015.

This new financial commitment from The FA looks to recognise and acknowledge that increased profile and commercial interest in the competition.

Now that the uplift in prize fund for the Vitality Women's FA Cup has been agreed,

work will begin on how that money is divided and allocated, with the aim being for all clubs that enter the competition to benefit.

One commitment that The FA will be making, is that a disproportionate amount of this new fund will be invested into the early rounds of the competition. This will ensure those clubs further down the pyramid entering those rounds, really feel the benefit of the prize money earned.

Sue Campbell, Director of Women's Football at The Football Association, said: "I'm delighted to be able to make this announcement of increased funding for the

Vitality Women's FA Cup because it's going to benefit so many clubs across the women's football pyramid.

"The FA Cup, whether men's or women's, is the biggest and best domestic cup competition in the world, and this increased investment from The FA highlights that we want clubs competing in it to be rewarded, while also highlighting our ongoing commitment to the women's game.

"Women's football continues to be in a growth phase and we are always looking to make improvements and investment to drive it forward and break new boundaries. This is certainly one of the most

pleasing during my time with the organisation, because I know it means so much to so many."

More details will be announced in due course on the structure of the new funding and how it will be distributed across the different stages of the Vitality Women's FA Cup next season.

This season's Vitality Women's FA Cup is at the Quarter-Final stage, with the Final to be played at Wembley Stadium on Sunday 15 May. Tickets can be purchased by visiting:
www.thefa.com/tickets



FA Cup Semi-Finals: All you need to know



The FA has confirmed the schedules, broadcast details and travel advice for the 2021/22 Emirates FA Cup and Vitality Women's FA Cup Semi Finals.

Emirates FA Cup

- Saturday 16 April: Manchester City v Liverpool at 15:30 on BBC One and BBC iPlayer
- Sunday 17 April: Chelsea v Crystal Palace at 16:30 on ITV, ITV Hub, STV and UTV

Comprehensive radio coverage of the Emirates FA Cup Semi Finals will also be provided by BBC 5 Live and talkSPORT.

Vitality Women's FA Cup

- Saturday 16 April: West Ham United v Manchester City at 12:15 on BBC One and BBC iPlayer
- Sunday 17 April: Arsenal v Chelsea at 12:30 on BBC Two and BBC iPlayer

Travel advice

The FA recognises the significant challenges that are being faced by

some Liverpool and Manchester City supporters with train services being severely limited due to essential engineering works being carried out over the bank holiday weekend by Network Rail on the West Coast Mainline.

On Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 April there will be no trains running between London Euston and Scotland on the West Coast Mainline. All services on this route will be affected, including between London and the North West. These planned works will also make services operated

by Chiltern Railways extremely busy.

Therefore, The FA, Network Rail and Chiltern Railways strongly advise that Liverpool and Manchester City supporters affected should avoid travelling from the North West by train wherever possible and seek alternative travel arrangements including those detailed below:

Free Bus Travel

The FA is pleased to announce that a limited number of free return bus services will be provided for both the Emirates FA Cup and Vitality Women's FA Cup Semi Finals involving Liverpool and Manchester City on Saturday 16 April to support fans from the North West who wish to travel to and from London.

The FA will charter 100 buses from Anfield and the Etihad Stadium respectively to Wembley Stadium and back. This will ensure that up to 5,000 Liverpool and

Manchester City supporters will be able to travel to Wembley Stadium free of charge for their Semi Final tie.

The FA is also committed to provide a number of free return bus services for Manchester City Women supporters travelling from the North West to East London.

These bus schedules are subject to availability, must be pre-booked, and the clubs will provide more information in due course.

In addition, The FA is working with its partners at National Highways to ensure that the road networks are running as efficiently as possible over the Easter period.

Hundreds of miles of unessential roadworks will be put on hold to help supporters enjoy the occasion and enhance their journeys, and these motorists are encouraged to make sure that their vehicles are roadworthy before setting off.

Car Parking at Wembley Stadium

Limited pre-booked car parking is available at Wembley Stadium and further details can be seen [here](#). Blue badge holders are advised to select the appropriate category when pre-booking to avoid long distances to and from the stadium.

Transport for London

Liverpool and Manchester City supporters in London can use any of the following underground and overground services and stations to access Wembley Stadium:

Wembley Park station – Metropolitan and Jubilee lines

Wembley Central station – Bakerloo line, London Overground and Southern rail services

Wembley Stadium station – Chiltern Rail services



HOME NATIONS



Williamson confirmed as England captain for 2022 EURO



Leah Williamson has been confirmed as the England captain for the 2022 UEFA Women's EURO.

Williamson was told the news by head coach Sarina Wiegman on the first full day of the camp at St. George's Park, with the rest of the squad informed later that evening. Millie Bright has been appointed the new vice-captain and Ellen White as the third in line. England are preparing for the resumption of FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 qualifiers later this week.

The 25-year-old had been wearing the armband in the absence of the injured Steph Houghton, who first captained England herself in January 2014 before being confirmed in the role in April that year.

Williamson, who led the team to success in the inaugural Arnold Clark Cup last month featuring Spain, Canada and Germany, said: "This is an incredibly proud moment for me and my family and I am honoured to be asked to lead us at the EUROs.

"Steph Houghton is one of this country's all-time greats and to follow in her footsteps – and all of those special names who have led the team in the past - means so much.

"Although I will be wearing the armband, I know we have a squad full of leaders who share my pride and passion in playing for our country. Whether I am captain or not, I will never take anything for granted and will

always do my best for England every time I pull on the shirt."

England are preparing for the forthcoming away FIFA Women's World Cup qualifiers against North Macedonia on Friday 8 April (7pm kick-off BST) and Northern Ireland on Tuesday 12 April (7.55pm kick-off BST).

Houghton has not played for England since February 2021 and is working hard on her return from an Achilles injury in a bid to be fit for this summer's finals.

Wiegman said: "This decision gives us continuity at this important final period as we build towards the tournament. It is important we give everyone clarity at this stage.

"Leah has been a great leader for us and I know she will continue to set the example we need in her work on and off the pitch.

"While I know this is significant news for our fans, for me the most important thing is that we work hard in training and perform to the best we can in our matches as a team.

"The main thing is we are ready for our World Cup qualifiers and then the EURO this summer.

"She joins a proud list of England captains and will be following in the footsteps of the likes of the first captain Sheila Parker but also her predecessor Steph Houghton who have all been integral for the women's game."

Interview: Ellen White



Lionesses Forward Ellen White has made history becoming on the second player to reach 50 goals for England.

In their 10-0 victory over North Macedonia in the Women's World Cup qualifiers White scored to surpass Sir Bobby Charlton and Harry Kane's scoring records in an England shirt.

The Manchester City star notched her 50th international goal with Beth Mead bagging four followed by an Ella Toone hat-trick and Georgia Stanway's brace.

White said: "I'm delighted to reach that milestone, but for me, it's all about winning and the team winning.

"I love playing for England and I'll do anything to contribute in any way to play for my country.

"I know my job is to score, but I want the team to win and the three points for us to qualify for the World Cup.

"I've been very blessed to have played with phenomenal players in England.

"Kelly Smith to name one, Rachel Yankey, Sue Smith and Fara Williams.

"I feel lucky I was able to be on the pitch with those talents and currently in a squad where I look around and just say to myself, 'wow'.

White now has the chance to become the first player to beat Wayne Rooney's record.

He scored 53 goals whilst in an England shirt, something which no other football has achieved.

White, who has been named vice-captain alongside Millie Bright for the Lionesses, will play in their Women's World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland on Tuesday, April 12.

Going back to the start of her England career, White made her debut in March 2010 at home to Austria and scored in the final minute as England won 3-0.

White made her 100th cap for England against Austria on 27 November 2021 and scored the only goal in a 1-0 win.

The Manchester City forward has also represented Great Britain twice at the Olympics in 2012 and 2020.

During the 2020 games, she scored six goals placing her second on the top goalscorers for the tournament.

Current England top goalscorers:

53 - Wayne Rooney

50 - Ellen White

49 - Sir Bobby Charlton

49 - Harry Kane

48 - Gary Lineker

46 - Kelly Smith

Interview: Millie Bright



England boss Sarina Wiegman announced that defender Millie Bright is second in line for the captaincy, ready for the upcoming European Championships this summer.

Speaking to the press ahead of England's World Cup qualifying match against North Macedonia, Chelsea centre back Bright briefly reflected on the exciting news.

"As a player there's no higher honour really, to, when needed, lead your country out," Bright started, "it's still a little bit of sinking in if I'm honest, but yes, really really happy."

The 28-year-old went on to applaud the appointment of Arsenal's Leah Williamson as the nation's skipper.

"I'm extremely proud of Leah. She's amazing and it's fully deserved."

Exuding positivity about the duo's leadership, Bright said, "it's just natural, we don't have to work too hard in being on the same page and I think we have the same mindset on the pitch - front footed."

"I might be a little bit louder than Leah," she joked, "so we work off each other really well and I'm looking forward to building that relationship on and off the pitch and hopefully bringing success."

Speaking about Wiegman's tenure, Bright noted a collective shift in mindset on gamedays and how this has transpired onto the pitch.

"There's been a massive improvement. I think we're harder to beat, certainly more ruthless down the other end and prioritising clean sheets."

On her individual game, Bright went on to speak about her goal-laden spell under Wiegman so far.

"It's something I've wanted to add to my game. I feel like I do have presence and it's something I've been lacking, providing goals for the team. In any way, shape or form I'll help the team be successful but I'm still going to strive to get on the scoresheet and put other people in positions to score as well."

April's camp marked the Lionesses' first outing since winning the inaugural Arnold Clark Cup in February, in which Bright was joint top goal scorer alongside Spain's Alexia Putellas. After revealing that Putellas kindly allowed her to keep the trophy, Bright insisted it is business as usual for the national side going forward.

"For us, the mindset remains the same. We want to go out there and have high standards, to win the game, but first and foremost we want a good performance and to show our qualities."

"When you come off a high, we have to be prepared to go out and play again. We can't just stay in that high moment. We have to come back down and get back to the hard work. So, for us, it's about going out there and doing the right things and getting the job done."

England U17s

England WU17s squad to face France, Croatia and mini-tournament hosts Poland has been confirmed as they to bid qualify for this summer's UEFA EURO.

The Young Lionesses begin their campaign against France on Thursday 24 March at Stadion Miejski Niepolomice (11.00am kick-off CET). They will then take on Poland on Sunday 27 March for the first of two matches at RKS Garbarnia Krawkow (2.00pm kick-off CET). England will round off the group at the same venue against Croatia the following Wednesday 30 March (11.00am kick-off CET).

The WU17 EURO will be the first major women's youth tournament since 2019 after the last two editions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The championship will be staged from 3 to 15 May in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Goalkeepers: Grace Pilling (Manchester City), Hannah Poulter (Reading)

Defenders: Brooke Aspin (Bristol City), Ria Bose (Chelsea), Jessica Osborne (Florida Elite Soccer Academy), Evie Rabjohn (Aston Villa), Katie Ramsden (Leeds United), Jessica Simpson (Manchester United)

Midfielders: Jemima Dahou (Manchester City), Keira Flannery (Arsenal), Shauna Guyatt (Chelsea), Lois Marley-Paraskevas (Manchester City), Lexi Potter (Chelsea), Mackenzie Smith (Leicester City)

Forwards: Michelle Agyemang (Arsenal), Ava Baker (Leicester City), Keira Barry (Manchester United), Aimee Claypole (Chelsea), Araya Dennis (Arsenal), Maddy Earl (Arsenal)

England U23s

England's next generation are preparing for action again with two WU23 fixtures confirmed against the Netherlands during a warm-weather camp in Spain.

Mo Marley will take a 24-player squad to the Pinatar Arena in Murcia for the matches against the Dutch on Friday 8 April, kick-off 3pm BST, and Monday 11 April, kick-off 11am BST.

Marley said: "We are really pleased to have lined up these two games against strong opposition. Every time we play it is a chance for the players to show what they can do and continue their development – while also building those close connections you need with team-mates on and off the pitch as you come through the pathway."

In February, the Young Lionesses played a double-header with France, drawing 1-1 after a 3-2 defeat.

Goalkeepers: Fran Bentley (Bristol City on loan from Manchester United), Sandy MacIver (Everton), Emily Ramsey (Birmingham on loan from Manchester United)

Defenders: Asmita Ale (Tottenham Hotspur), Megan Finnigan (Everton), Grace Fisk (West Ham), Gabrielle George (Everton), Taylor Hinds (Liverpool), Maya Le Tissier (Brighton & Hove Albion), Mayumi Pacheco (Aston Villa), Lucy Parker (West Ham), Poppy Pattinson (Everton)

Midfielders: Missy Bo Kearns (Liverpool), Melisa Filis (West Ham), Ruby Grant (University of North Carolina), Shannon O'Brien (Leicester), Molly Pike (Leicester)

Forwards: Rinsola Babajide (Real Betis), Ellie Brazil (Brighton & Hove Albion), Emma Harries (Reading), Lauren James (Chelsea), Jessica Park (Manchester City), Katie Robinson (Charlton on loan from Brighton), Ebony Salmon (Racing Louisville)

England U19s

England's next step on the road towards the 2021-22 UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship begins this weekend at St. George's Park.

Only the group winners will make it through to the tournament in the Czech Republic between 27 June and 9 July. The Young Lionesses' fixtures will begin against neighbours Wales on Wednesday 6 April before they take on Iceland on Saturday 9 April.

The group will conclude with a meeting with Belgium on Tuesday 12 April. All three matches will kick off at 1.30pm BST.

Head coach Gemma Davies said: "We are really looking forward to this camp and with a place in the tournament this summer up for grabs, the players know they have a great incentive to do well.

"Of course, qualification for the finals would be a great achievement as getting tournament experience and playing the strongest opposition in their age group is crucial in the development of players at this age.

"I know the players will also take so much from just being together as a group and participating in competitive international fixtures. To play at St. George's Park and use the wonderful facilities here is a huge privilege and we all can't wait to get started."

England won through to this stage after three wins from three in Round 1 with victories against Switzerland, Republic of Ireland and mini-tournament hosts Northern Ireland back in October 2021.

The competition is always keenly contested, with England memorably claiming the title on one previous occasion. In 2009, the UEFA Women's U19 EURO saw current England players Lucy Bronze, Demi Stokes and Jordan Nobbs all be part of the victorious squad.

Toni Duggan scored the opening goal before Nobbs clinched a 2-0 defeat of Sweden in the final in Belarus.

Goalkeepers: Eleanor Heeps (Tottenham Hotspur on loan at Blackburn Rovers), Khiara Keating (Manchester City)

Defenders: Tara Bourne (Blackburn Rovers on loan from Manchester United), Anouk Denton (University of Louisville), Jorja Fox (Charlton Athletic on loan from Chelsea), Neve Herron (Sunderland), Ruby Mace (Manchester City), Lucy Parry (Liverpool), Caitlin Smith (Clemson University)

Midfielders: Laura Blindkilde Brown (Aston Villa), Grace Clinton (Everton), Lucia Kendall (Southampton), Mia Ross (Charlton Athletic), Maisie Symonds (Brighton & Hove Albion), Charlotte Wardlaw (Liverpool on loan from Chelsea)

Forwards: Aggie Beever-Jones (Bristol City on loan from Chelsea), Missy Goodwin (Leicester City), Freya Gregory (Leicester City on loan from Aston Villa), Emily Murphy (University of North Carolina), Lucy Watson (Sheffield United)

Most successful Scottish women's football club calls for a ban on gambling advertising and sponsorship in the game



Glasgow City has become the first exclusively women's side to support The Big Step's campaign to end all gambling advertising and sponsorship in football.

The club, which has won the Scottish Women's Premier League 1 (SWPL1) a record 15 times, joins Partick Thistle, Tranmere Rovers, Luton Town, Forest Green Rovers, Edinburgh City, Dulwich Hamlet, Drogheda United and many others in calling for changes to football's unhealthy relationship with gambling.

Laura Montgomery, CEO of Glasgow City, said:

"Glasgow City is fully behind the charity Gambling with

Lives and The Big Step's campaign to drive gambling advertising and sponsorship out of football.

"As a club, we are completely against any form of gambling advertising at our games, and we ask the rest of football to join us in removing the betting industry from their matches.

"Football is such an incredible force for good and we must do all we can to positively influence the lives of our supporters. The effects of gambling are well known and can have catastrophic effects on mental health not just for the person suffering

addiction but for affected others."

Glasgow City is the highest-ranking side to back the Big Step's campaign, being SWPL1 champions and also having made it to the last eight of the UEFA Women's Champions League in 2019/20.

The SWPL has a firm, long-standing stance against taking sponsorship money from gambling companies. However, from the beginning of the 2022/23 season, administration of the SWPL will be taken over by the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL), potentially opening the door to centralised advertising and sponsorship deals.

The Big Step is a campaign led by people harmed by gambling and part of the charity Gambling with Lives. Gambling adverts are widespread across all levels of football in the UK, often acting as the hook that draws first-time gamblers in, with millions going on to experience harm.

Ronnie Cowan MP, Vice-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Gambling-Related Harm and MP for Inverclyde, said:

“The game of football is bigger than gambling and those that administer football must safeguard it for future generations. By enabling the close relationship with the gambling industry, they have tarnished the beautiful game.

“By allowing advertising on shirts, at pitchside and within the grounds they have reduced football stadiums, once the focus for sporting entertainment, to no more than gambling emporiums. We need to take back our

game and make playing and watching football the priority.”

Glasgow City’s announcement comes after The Big Step’s latest campaign in February, which saw over 40 people harmed by gambling walk from Edinburgh to Glasgow over three days. Along the way, they called at nine football grounds and met with decision-makers, MSPs and fan groups. Glasgow City is the second club to back The Big Step’s campaign following their February event, after Partick Thistle declared their support last month.

A landmark study released just yesterday estimated that there are 1.4 million adults in the UK being harmed directly by their own gambling, in addition to a further 1.5 million who are at risk of being harmed by their gambling. The same study found that there were also 3.3 million affected others in the UK – those harmed indirectly by someone else’s gambling.

Gambling addiction has the highest suicide rate of any addiction, with those addicted up to 15 times more likely to end their lives than members of the general population

Tragically, there are up to 650 gambling-related suicides every year in the UK.

James Grimes, who founded The Big Step after being addicted to gambling for 12 years said:

“Glasgow City is a fantastic club and that is setting a great example for others to follow.

“There is no justification to use football to promote gambling in front of young people and this announcement is timely, with the UK government reviewing our gambling laws.

“To have a 15-time league champion and former UEFA Champions League quarterfinalist back our campaign shows how high up the agenda this issue is within football.”



Scotland FA responds to backlash from Hampden Park ticket sales



The Scottish Football Association has expressed its disappointment over tweets from players criticising the ticketing for Tuesday's Women's World Cup qualifier against Spain at Hampden Park.

Last week some of the members of the squad, including captain Rachel Corsie tweeted the same message stating: "Following record attendances at recent women's football matches, the SFA have only opened a fraction of a 50,000+ capacity Hampden Park.

"How are we expected to grow the game when limited tickets are available for our supporters? Come on @ScotlandNT we can do better."

The SFA responded the day after with a statement clarifying the ticketing arrangements for the fixture and said it was surprised and disappointed by the tweets.

The statement said: "The ticketing sales process used at Hampden Park is identical to most across Scottish football, with tickets sold in blocks, in line with ongoing demand.

"This procedure is long-established for all events within our stadium – including the recent men's UNICEF friendly

against Poland – to optimise the atmosphere for each event.

"The Scottish FA was therefore surprised by the flurry of identical social media posts last night from members of the Scotland women's national team under the misapprehension that insufficient tickets are being sold for next Tuesday's vital FIFA Women's World Cup qualifier against Spain at the national stadium.

"Every seat in Hampden Park will be made available should the demand require it – and we urge football fans across the country to do their bit to support (Scotland head coach) Pedro Martinez Losa and his team.

"The timing was especially disappointing given the posts were published midway through the Scotland women's under-19 team's UEFA Euro round two victory against Kazakhstan in Edinburgh. That this match was streamed live, with dedicated production and commentary, should reinforce the Scottish FA's commitment to women's football at all levels.

"We hope the SWNT can refocus and inspire the nation against Spain on Tuesday."

Scotland name squad for Spain qualifier

Pedro Martinez Losa has named his Scotland squad for the forthcoming World Cup qualifier against Spain at Hampden Park.

There's a welcome return for Erin Cuthbert, who missed out on the recent Pinatar Cup campaign through injury.

Scotland were due to have a double-header that included a trip to Ukraine, but that was rescheduled until Friday 24 June by UEFA.

The squad will now instead concentrate solely on the visit of Spain and you can buy tickets for the big game.

The team will be sporting the new, special edition bespoke Scotland Women's National Team home kit, which was launched on International Women's Day.

Scotland Squad

Lee Alexander (Glasgow City), Eartha Cumings (Charlton Athletic), Jenna Fife (Rangers), Jen Beattie (Arsenal), Jenna Clark (Glasgow City), Rachel Corsie (Aston Villa), Nicola Docherty (Rangers), Leah Eddie (Hibernian), Sophie Howard (Leicester City), Chloe Arthur (Aston Villa), Lisa Evans (West Ham Utd, on loan from Arsenal), Lucy Graham (Everton) Sam Kerr (Rangers), Christie Murray (Birmingham City), Caroline Weir (Manchester City), Lizzie Arnot (Rangers), Lana Clelland (Sassuolo), Erin Cuthbert (Chelsea), Claire Emslie (Everton), Christy Grimshaw (AC Milan), Abi Harrison (Bristol City), Jane Ross (Rangers), Martha Thomas (Manchester Utd)

Ukraine qualifier date rescheduled

UEFA have confirmed that the Scotland Women's National Team's World Cup qualifier against Ukraine has been rescheduled for Friday, 24 June.

Pedro Martinez Losa and his squad were due to travel to Ukraine and play the hosts on Friday, 8 April ahead of the visit of Spain to Hampden Park on Tuesday, 12 April.

There will be no replacement game, with the coaching staff instead focusing on preparations for the head-to-head with Spain.

The Scotland Women's National Team Head Coach, Pedro Martinez Losa, said: "In light of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, we fully support UEFA's decision to postpone the match. Football, naturally, comes second at a time like this.

"Our thoughts are with everyone in Ukraine affected by this horrible situation.

"We look forward to playing them when the time is right, and in the meantime we reiterate our message of solidarity."

Interview: Ward 100 caps



Wales star Heleen Ward has become the latest member of the 100 cap club.

The country's record goalscorer, who also plays for Watford at club level, reached the milestone in their 2-1 defeat to France in the Women's World Cup qualifier on Friday, April 8.

She became the seventh Welsh player to join the illustrious hundred club.

Wales currently sit third in the group behind France and Slovenia ahead of their next game against Kazakhstan on Tuesday.

Speaking before reaching the 100 caps, Ward said, "The closer it gets, the more it's on your mind but because we're in the middle of such an important campaign, that's always the priority."

Speaking to BBC Wales, Ward said: Qualifying for a World Cup would mean everything. What else could beat that? It has to be the pinnacle.

"We want to get there and compete, that is the aim," Ward added.

"We have been building and we have learned a lot. We have a lot more in us than we believed before - our performanc-

es against top teams have been very encouraging.

"The squad is in a really good place now."

Ward openly admitted during lockdown that she was finding things tough and had considered retiring.

"I have had doubts, 100%. Ask Razza [Rhiannon Roberts, Liverpool and Wales defender] how many times I have sat in our room and 'retired' - it would add up to a lot of times.

"Covid was tough. The second big lockdown was a time I considered retiring, but I am so glad I didn't as I know I would have regretted ending my career.

"I am delighted to still be around."

After Ward came on as a substitute against France, teammate Tash Harding said: "What a woman.

"An incredible player but an even better human.

"A true legend of our game and this nation. We love you Wardie."

New licences confirmed

The First Instance Body (FIB) have met to assess and consider the UEFA, Adran Premier Licence and Adran North/South Licence applications.

Clubs are assessed on the following criteria: Sporting: Youth & Coaching, Infrastructure, Legal, Personnel, Financial and Codes of Practice.

The Club Licensing system aims to assist the continual improvement and development of football clubs at the top level within Wales. Licensing is a transparent process that enables clubs to demonstrate to their stakeholders that they meet quality standards.

The FIB Panel has decided on the following:

UEFA Licence for 2022/23 Season (3 clubs)

- Aberystwyth Town
- Cardiff City

• Cardiff Met
Adran Premier Licence for 2022/23 Season (6 clubs)

- Abergavenny
- Aberystwyth Town
- Barry Town United
- Briton Ferry Llansawel
- Cardiff Met
- Port Talbot

Adran North/South Licence for 2022/23 Season (7 clubs)

North

- Airbus UK Broughton
- CPDM Bangor 1876
- Llandudno
- CPD Y Rhyl 1879

South

- Pontardawe Town
- Swansea University
- Talycopa AFC

Refused Adran Premier Licence for 2022/23 Season (5 clubs)

- Cardiff City
- Cascade YC
- Pontypridd Town
- Swansea City
- The New Saints

Refused Adran North/South Licence for 2022/23 Season (8 clubs)

- Bethel
- Caldicot Town
- Cardiff Bluebellies
- Connah's Quay Nomads
- Llanfair United
- Newport City
- CPD Pwllheli
- Wrexham AFC Women

Those clubs who have been refused a Licence by the First Instance Body, have ten days in which to submit an appeal.

Cardiff lift FAW U16 Girls' Cup

Cardiff City lifted the FAW U16 Girls' Cup following a 3-1 victory over Penrhyn Bay.

The Bluebirds enjoyed the better of the chances early on but had to wait until the 20th minute to take the lead in Aberystwyth.

Madison Lloyd had set them on their way in the semi-final win over Caernarfon Town in February and she opened the scoring again with a header at Park Avenue.

Olivia Basham set up the opener and then grabbed her second assist of the day from another corner as she found Imogen Harris, who nodded past the Penrhyn Bay goalkeeper Millie Spencer.

Erin Doran halved the deficit for Penrhyn Bay shortly before the hour mark with a low shot that found the net through a crowded penalty area.

But Cardiff replied nine minutes later to restore their two-goal lead as Basham fired home into the top corner with a stunning strike, which ensured there would be no way back for Penrhyn Bay as the Bluebirds lifted the trophy.

Northern Ireland launch new shirt



Adidas have created a brand new kit for the Northern Ireland women's team to wear at this summer's Women's Euro 2022.

Each of the kits has a focus on performance and sustainability, with a consistent design approach that focuses on enabling players to be the best versions of themselves while proudly wearing the colours of their nation.

It is the first Northern Ireland kit designed solely for the senior women's team. And both the home and away kits take inspiration from previous iconic Northern Ireland jerseys.

Nick Craggs, general manager of adidas Football said: "We saw each kit as a canvas for creativity and an opportunity to capture and reimagine the DNA of each nation, connecting players and fans with a shared identity to feel a sense of belonging and confidence over the course of the tournament.

"This is a huge moment for football and our aim was to create kits that helped the players be the best versions of themselves as they step into the spotlight."

The new kits have been created using recycled materials made with Parley Ocean Plastic and feature the latest in adidas's fabric innovations. Its sweat-wicking Aeroready technology is designed to keep players and fans cool when the heat turns up.

As well as being available to pre-order at jdsports.co.uk, the new Northern Ireland tournament kit will be available to purchase at the Northern Ireland v England FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 qualifier at the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park on Tuesday (12 April).

After that it will be exclusively available online from JD and in-store from next Thursday (14 April).

EE teams up with Irish FA

EE is pledging new investment with the Irish Football Association over the next two years to support 200 women in becoming accredited football coaches.

The initiative is part of a wider new partnership through which EE, the BT-owned mobile and broadband network, is confirmed as the lead partner of the Northern Ireland senior women's team ahead of UEFA Women's Euro 2022.

Under the initiative announced EE and the Irish FA will provide bursaries for 100 women per year over the next two years – 200 in total - to achieve the Irish FA's National Coaching Certificate (NCC), preparing a new generation of women to facilitate and organise coaching sessions.

It represents a 25% increase on last year's cohort of NCC coaches. The NCC provides theoretical and practical content with a tutor plus online modules. The course includes aspects such as developing coaching session plans, first aid, nutrition and safeguarding. More details about the bursaries, including how to apply, will be announced in due course.

Pete Jeavons, Marketing Communications Director at BT, said: "EE is incredibly proud to

become the new lead partner for the Northern Ireland senior women's football team - we look forward to supporting an exciting period for the game in Northern Ireland.

"Our new commitment to supporting 200 aspiring football coaches in Northern Ireland will complement BT Group's long-term partnership with the Irish Football Association to upskill players, coaches and fans by using our technology and joint resources."

Angela Platt, the Irish FA's Director of Women's Football, said: "We are delighted to welcome EE as the lead partner of the Northern Ireland senior women's team.

"Interest in the women's and girls' game in Northern Ireland has never been higher and the introduction of 200 EE coaching bursaries for women as part of this deal demonstrates the appetite we have, along with our new partners at EE, in improving the gender representation across our coaching network and maximising the success of the senior women's team by translating it into opportunities both on and off the pitch in other parts of the game."

Northern Ireland squad to face England

Kenny Shiels has made a handful of changes to his squad.

Glasgow City striker Kerry Beattie and Glentoran Women forward Danielle Maxwell are not included this time due to squad rotation, while veteran Linfield Ladies defender Ashley Hutton is still recovering from a long term injury.

Also missing out are Crusaders Strikers pair Maddy Harvey-Clifford and Rachel McLaren, Louise McDaniel (Cliftonville Ladies) and Ciara Watling (Southampton Women), who were all in the squad that secured a 9-0 victory against North Macedonia,

Goalkeepers: Jackie Burns (BK Hacken, Sweden), Becky Flaherty (Brighouse Town).

Defenders: Julie Nelson (Crusaders Strikers), Rebecca McKenna (Lewes Women), Rebecca Holloway (Birmingham City Women), Sarah McFadden (Durham Women), Kelsie Burrows (Cliftonville Ladies), Demi Vance (Rangers Women), Abbie Magee (Cliftonville Ladies).

Midfielders: Nadene Caldwell, Chloe McCarron, Caragh Hamilton, Sam Kelly and Joely Andrews (all Glentoran Women), Marissa Callaghan and Toni-Leigh Finnegan (both Cliftonville Ladies), Rachel Furness (Liverpool Women), Megan Bell (Rangers Women).

Forwards: Lauren Wade (Glentoran Women), Simone Magill (Everton Women), Kirsty McGuinness (Cliftonville Ladies), Caitlin McGuinness (Cliftonville Ladies), Emily Wilson (Crusaders Strikers).



UEFA WOMEN'S EURO 2022 ENGLAND



Euro 2022 just around the corner



March marked 100 days to go until the UEFA Women's Euro 2022 kicks off at Old Trafford on July 6th.

Not long to go now until the homeland of the Lionesses witness Sarina Wiegman's team take on Austria at Old Trafford to mark the beginning of an exciting summer of football across England.

As the organizers celebrated the 100 days to go mark at Carnaby Street with huge football pieces hanging over the famous street, thousands of tickets sold online as the event build-up proves to be a great success.

Within an hour of the morning online sale, tickets for the final were a sellout.

The final takes place at Wembley Stadium on July 31st and many England supporters will be dreaming of a Lionesses final in front of a home crowd just 12 months after the men's team the final of Euro 2020.

It almost feels like this summer is a great opportunity for England to recover from the defeat to Italy of last summer. A European Championship victory for Wiegman and her team would mark the Lionesses first major trophy.

They have a manager who did it for the Netherlands five years ago when the Dutch

hosted the last edition of the tournament, beating England in the semi-finals.

The tournament will feature 16 of the best women's teams in Europe but recently Russia have been removed from the competition due to the invasion of Ukraine. A replacement has not been announced as of yet.

The ticket sellouts are also a sign at just how much more interest women's football is getting in England thanks to the growing numbers of attendances in the Women's Super League this season.

As a ticket buyer myself to a few games for this summer's Euros, the prices were incredibly affordable adding up that the 5 different match tickets I purchased cost me no more than £100. Perfect pricing to save some money for travel, food, drink and maybe a match day programme.

Over 350,000 tickets have so far been sold as of March 2022, which sees the tournament breaking new records in attendances.

Targets are already being met by the organisers and with a ball not being kicked yet, it's probably fair to say that this summer will be a great occasion for women's football and an opportunity that can't be missed for the Lionesses.

Final Euro 2022 tickets on sale



Tickets to the UEFA Women's EURO England 2022 are officially on general sale and to mark the occasion, tournament organisers celebrated by installing giant women's table football players on London's Carnaby Street.

The launch was a star-studded affair, with a range of celebrity women's football fans and players attending Carnaby Street supporting the launch. Football fans and Women's EURO ambassadors Rio Ferdinand, Fara Williams, Elz the Witch and Kirsty Gallacher were joined by England Women's stars Jess Carter, Millie Bright, French International Kenza Dali and German International Ann-Katrin Berger.

With 100 days to go until the biggest European women's sport event in history kicks off, the installation, featuring nine feet tall women's players, suspended five metres above Carnaby Street, celebrates the scale and importance of UEFA Women's EURO 2022 by repurposing the traditionally male-dominated table football game.

The eye-catching installation, which features players representing the top-seeded team in each group (England, Germany, Netherlands and France) will be live from 28 March to 10 April. A smaller traditional-sized Women's EURO table football game is also on display, which

passers-by are free to use, featuring teams from England and Austria, who kick off the tournament at Old Trafford on 6 July.

Rio Ferdinand, ambassador of UEFA Women's EURO 2022 said of the installation: "I'm really looking forward to the tournament – we've already seen ticket records broken and we are looking to break even more this summer. You just have to get down to a game and take in the atmosphere. We've seen in the past how tournaments bring families and nations together, so we're here to push and amplify the women's game.

"I want the players to enjoy it. They're the best days of your life and memories that will live

with you forever. I went to two games at Euro 96 as a fan and the energy and excitement around that tournament was amazing – that feeling has never left me.”

More than 350,000 tickets of the over 700,000 available have already sold for the tournament in the pre-sale, public ballot and group bookings stage. It means UEFA Women's EURO 2022 is set to be a record-breaking event already, beating the previous tournament record of 240,000 set at UEFA Women's EURO 2017 in the Netherlands.

With tickets to all 31 games going on sale, now is the chance for fans of football, women's sport, and big events to purchase a ticket and be part of a history making tournament that aims to unite football and communities and amplify the growth of the women's game.

England Women's player Millie Bright said: “It's incredible to know that there's going to be a huge amount [of support], hopefully sell-outs, and it shows how far the women's game has gone but also shows what sort of atmosphere people can expect at the EURO.

“I've always said the fans are the 12th man. Whether it's the 80th minute and you need that little spur-on, the roar of the crowd, they really make the atmosphere.

“I think in the women's game you have a really close connection with your fans and it's important that we keep that.”

16 nations take part in this year's tournament which will be played out across England. 10 venues in nine cities will play host to 31 games including Brighton & Hove, London, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Rotherham, Sheffield, Southampton, Trafford and Wigan & Leigh.

France midfielder Kenza Dali said: “England is the home of football, and it is a dream come true to play in a major tournament in this country”, whilst Germany goalkeeper Ann-Katrin Berger added: “We have Europe's finest at this tournament and you will see a lot of different playing styles, a lot of different cultures and football at the highest level. “

England's highest capped player Fara Williams said: “Every time you put on an

England shirt as a player or even as a pundit trying to promote the game, you're always trying to inspire the next generation of players to get them involved.

“It's going to be massive. We hosted in 2005 when the women's game was nowhere near as big as it is now, so this will rocket the game to another level. I played the game for 19 years and I've been to many tournaments, but this is the most competitive and the most open we've ever seen. Go and buy some tickets!”

This is your chance to be part of the action at UEFA Women's EURO 2022. For tickets, which are on a first come, first served basis, click here: <http://www.uefa.com/womenseuro/ticketing>



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**THE WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**

*Leah
Taylor*

UEFA Women's EURO 2025:

Nordic FAs bidding to light a way for the women's game in Europe

The Nordic countries bid for UEFA Women's EURO 2025 with a strong vision of involving and developing women's football. Nordic values and sustainable development are the core power of the joint bid.

The Nordic football associations have worked closely together for four years to make a joint bid for a major championship. Now Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden have announced their preliminary bid for the UEFA Women's EURO 2025 with support from the Faroe Islands and Iceland.

"Football is a powerful opportunity to make a change. Together with our Nordic allies we want to show the world through football we have a chance to enhance ethic, transparency and bright and diverse future of the sports", says president of the Finnish Football Association, Ari Lahti.

In Denmark, they draw on experiences from EURO2020, where four matches were very successfully staged in Copenhagen.

In the last few years, the Nordic Football Associations have researched for stadiums, host cities, base camps, and other facilities to form the complete picture of how to develop the best possible host for the UEFA Women's EURO 2025. This work will continue until October 2022 when a final bid should be submitted.

In December 2022, UEFA's executive committee will announce the host of the UEFA Women's EURO 2025. If awarded to the Nordic team, it will be a spectacular final at Friends Arena in Stockholm - the largest stadium in the Nordic region with room for 50,000 spectators.

Sweden President, Karl-Erik Nilsson:

"All Nordic football associations agrees about the importance of organizing major championships in our countries, and together

we have great ambitions for the development of women's football.

"We know that a UEFA Women's Euro in the Nordic countries will strengthen the women's football, and become an unforgettable experience for both players and supporters."

Denmark President, Jesper Møller

"The Nordic bid for UEFA Women's EURO 2025 is much more than a championship - it is a team work to ensure the continued development of women's football for more diversity across our common, Nordic visions and values.

"With EURO 2020 in fresh memory, where Denmark showed its event potential, we will reuse and refine all the good experiences.

"With a joint Nordic bid, we will display not just Denmark but the entire Nordic approach to women's football and innovative event management"

Norway President, Lise Klaveness

«UEFA Women's EURO 2025 in Norway and the Nordic countries will be a celebration of inclusion, tolerance, and community for all football fans at the stadiums and events in the hosting cities.

"The spectacle of the finals will be an integrated part of our strategy to strengthen the position of women and girls on and off the pitch in Norwegian football.

"Great progress has been made in Norway and internationally in recent years developing the women's game where we are proud to be a pioneer.

"A Nordic UEFA Women's EURO 2025 tournament will be a powerful showcase for even greater impact and legacy."

Around the World



Afghan team which fled Taliban beat Women's UK Parliamentary team



The Afghan National Team Development Squad beat the UK Women's Parliamentary football team in a thrilling football match played in support of Football Welcomes, an Amnesty International UK initiative to welcome refugees and people seeking asylum into UK communities through football.

The Afghan squad, who arrived in the UK last November after fleeing the Taliban, played the Women's Parliamentary Team of MPs - including Tracey Crouch, Kim Leadbeater, Alison McGovern, Louise Haigh, Kirsty Blackman and Wendy Chamberlain - at Dulwich Hamlet FC.

The game was played to kick-start Amnesty's annual Football Welcomes initiative, which celebrates the contribution players with a refugee background make to the 'beautiful game' and highlights the role football can play in creating more welcoming communities for refugees and people seeking asylum.

This year's campaign - which is in its fifth year and runs throughout April - comes during the biggest refugee crisis Europe has seen since the Second World War. Images and stories of people fleeing Ukraine have once again shown the plight of refugees, the trauma they face when fleeing conflict, and the need for countries and communities around the world to welcome them.

Khalida Popal, Afghanistan Football Development Squad's Team Director, said: "The team is a long way from home, but the cheering atmosphere today was what they needed. After a tumultuous journey to reach safety, there are still many obstacles they face. Football has a powerful way of bringing people together and is a crucial part of the team rebuilding their lives in the UK."

Tracey Crouch, Women's Parliamentary Team Captain, said: "We knew we were playing against pros, and we were up for the challenge. We got to know the Afghan team on the pitch, and they are remarkable players. It's an absolute pleasure to have them settled in the UK and we can't wait to watch them grow as a team."

Also playing in the match, Naomi Westland, Amnesty International UK's Head of Football Welcomes, said: "This match goes to the very heart of what Football Welcomes is all about - breaking down barriers and bringing people together from different walks of life. The refugee crisis in Ukraine shines a light on the importance of welcoming refugees wherever they're from, whether it's Ukraine, Afghanistan, Eritrea or elsewhere. We hope as many football teams as possible get involved this year to welcome refugees and show just how important they are to our communities."

Cruz and Wanchope announced as assistants for FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Official Draw



With just under one month to go until the Official Draw for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2022, Costa Rican legends Shirley Cruz and Paulo César Wanchope were announced as the draw assistants for the star-studded event, which will take place on Thursday, 5 May.

With the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 fast approaching, some of the world's best young players and future superstars of the women's game will showcase their skills in Costa Rica later this year at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup, which will take place from 10 to 28 August 2022.

Taking place at the Teatro Nacional in San José, the star-studded Official Draw for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Costa Rica 2022 will be hosted by athlete and TV host Johanna Solano.

The draw on 5 May will also coincide with celebrations in Costa Rica during the week around the "100 days to go" countdown until the opening match kicks off at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2022.

Cruz, who captained the Costa Rica women's national team at the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015, said:

"I am honoured to be part of the draw on 5 May and join some of the world's best young

players in the women's game and future superstars of world football.

"The FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Costa Rica will allow us to inspire all generations of footballers and create a lasting legacy.

"With the tournament just around the corner, we look forward to giving the warmest of welcomes to players, coaches and fans from around the world."

A total of 32 matches involving 16 women's national youth teams from around the world will be played in two Host Cities – San José (Estadio Nacional) and Alajuela (Morera Soto).

The match schedule for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Costa Rica 2022 is available [HERE](#).

Of the 16 teams, 14 have so far been confirmed for the tournament, including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Korea Republic, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Spain, the USA and hosts Costa Rica.

The two remaining teams from South America will be known on 24 April after the CONMEBOL Sub 20 Femenino 2022 in Chile.

The longest active, winning streak in women's soccer belongs to the Puerto Rico Sol



The longest active, winning streak in women's soccer belongs to the Puerto Rico Sol FC.

Puerto Rico's 6-0 win over Caribbean Stars at Mayagüez Stadium on Sunday extended its winning streak to a record-breaking 40 matches in top-flight Liga Puerto Rico.

Since October 18, 2018, Puerto Rico Sol FC has won 2 Liga Puerto Rico titles, 40 consecutive matches, and has outscored opposition 279-7.

Hegerberg scores on return for Norway

Ada Hegerberg scored a hattrick on her return to national team Norway.

Hegerberg last played for Norway at Euro 2017 -- where the much-fancied Norwegians exited at the group stage -- before announcing she would no longer represent her country.

The 2018 Ballon d'Or Feminin winner said her decision came down to frustrations with the way women's football was treated within the country and led to her missing the 2019 World Cup in France.



Formiga makes history again



Brazil legend Formiga became the first woman to have her footprints taken on Mineirao's Walk of Fame.

She is the only player to ever compete in seven World Cups.

Formiga first played for the Brazilian women's national team at the age of 17, as part of the squad for the 1995 FIFA Women's World Cup, playing as a substitute.

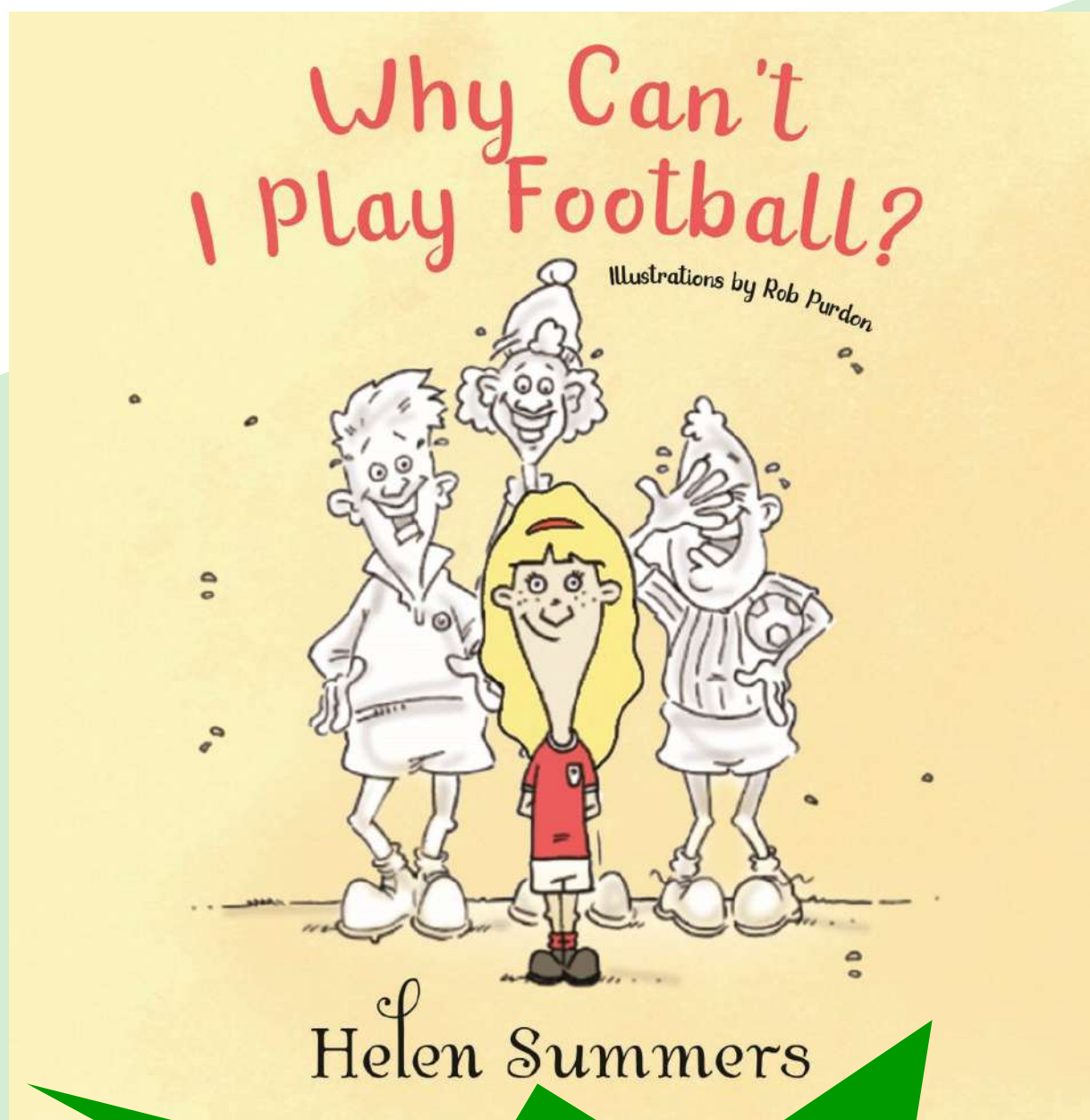
Dunn named CONCACAF Women's Player of the Year

Portland Thorns star Crystal Dunn has been announced as the 2021 Concacaf Women's Player of the Year for her contributions to the US women's national team.

Dunn was selected based on a football first voting system, which included the participation of coaches and players from Concacaf's 41 member nations and media members from the region. Fans were also allowed to vote.



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